

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eric Rudnick [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 3:24 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: This bill...

... is a cynical sucker's bet opposed by every health organization, patients rights group, & insurance co.
This is not the win you're looking for. Please vote no.

From a Buick 6

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jim Valko [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 3:24 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

James Valko
Oakland, Michigan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tawana Manning [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 3:26 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Tawana Manning
New York, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jaya Manske [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 3:27 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: public commentary for Graham-Cassidy hearing

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Since the ACA, I have found out that I have two autoimmune diseases, neither of which have a cure and need ongoing medication to keep me alive and healthy. Because of this, not only do I need to maintain insurance, I am extremely concerned about the rising cost of premiums for people like me who have what would have been considered a pre-existing condition before the ACA was passed. Additionally, my spouse has an autoimmune kidney disease and is on Medicare. He has had a transplant and is doing well, but without ongoing medication, he would lose his new kidney and die. He is a veteran to our nation. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Jaya Manske

Henderson, Nevada 89074

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Felts [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 3:28 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senators:

Health care legislation should only be voted on through the normal process, after extensive hearings, debate and amendment. But that has not been the case with Graham-Cassidy. Instead, the bill is being rushed through to beat the September 30th budget reconciliation deadline.

The issue of health care is too important, and too many lives are at risk, for us to leave the American people uncertain and unable to access the health care they need. A bill of this impact requires at least a sincere attempt at a bipartisan approach.

And finally, we need a full CBO score in order to know how much it will cost, how it will effect insurance premiums, and how many people will be helped or hurt by it. Without a full CBO score, we won't have reliable answers to any of those questions.

Sincerely,
Sarah Felts
St. Louis, Missouri
63116

Sarah Felts (she, her, hers)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 3:28 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

I am very lucky. My family gets healthcare through my husband's work. But I care about my fellow Americans whose lives will be devastated if the ACA is repealed. How ridiculous to have this vote on the Graham/Cassidy bill before the Congressional Budget Office can analyze it! It might look good initially for the federal budget, but wait until every uninsured person shows up at emergency. Wait until families are bankrupted trying to cover medical bills. Homes are lost, neighborhoods are abandoned and local economies suffer. Then state and national economies will suffer. Penny-wise and pound-foolish to think any other way!

Nancy Rohr

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Tim Cameron Ryan [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 3:30 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not vote on a bill that lacks a CBO score while impacting 1/5 of the economy

Hello GCH,

I was promised, repeatedly, by the GOP caucus that a bill would be voted on with a CBO score to understand its impacts. The latest version of the healthcare bill even lacks that.

THIS is not how legislation should be written. Three days before its attempted passage with no independent expert input. We aren't in the stone ages; we don't make policy out of sand. Experts provide valuable insight into how policy text translates into real world results.

Unless a single senator has presided over a block grant health care system, you do NOT have more context than experts who can review policy for how it impacts the real world.

You are selling out your own citizens presuming you have their faith. Their vote didn't entrust you with faith that you would remove all guardrails from the impact of major legislation.

Tim

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: James Poulette [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 3:34 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy is garbage and everyone knows it.

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.

James Poulette
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wilton, New York 12831

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mel Leviton [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 3:35 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy comments

Members of the Senate Finance Committee

Seventeen years ago I had recently landed a good job at the Idaho Department of Labor. Several months into the job, I became ill and could no longer work. I used all my leave, secured short term disability and could not afford COBRA to continue medical care.

I was a single parent. I was very ill. I didn't have a diagnosis. Without a clear cause of my condition, I was unable to get long term or Social Security Disability Insurance benefits.

I eventually got a job washing dishes at a summer camp and later got a full time job providing direct care. I obtained health insurance again, but the damage had been done. I was eventually diagnosed with a neurological disorder that's hereditary. It resulted in total paralysis of both my legs. I've used a manual wheelchair for 15 years. I've moved up to a professional level in my field. I have good, private health insurance through my employer for my wife and I.

My wife has MS and is no longer able to work. We both, obviously have preexisting conditions. I am 55. She is 62. Should I lose my health insurance or the good coverage we have, I would also be unable to work. Should our premiums or deductibles substantially increase, we would lose our healthcare. I would be unable to work. We pay taxes. We support our community through purchasing goods and services we need. We do this with income from my job. We do this without public benefits.

If I had had insurance during those first years of my illness, I might still walk. I don't know that. But, I do wonder. And now I wonder what will happen if Graham-Cassidy or some other poorly constructed bill to repeal and not even replace the ACA passes. What will become of us. We both have more days behind us than ahead of us. We've both worked very hard to have a modest, healthy life. We've raised children who contribute.

I ask that you please vote against Graham-Cassidy or any such bill. I ask that you commit to finding a bipartisan solution to the parts of the ACA that need repair.

I ask that you reauthorize the children's healthcare program.

I ask that you not cut Medicaid programs for low income elderly and the disabled. That program was not part of the ACA. That program has been around for 50 years. We are not a country that turns its back on children, the elderly, the disabled and the chronically ill. We are better than Graham-Cassidy. We must and we can do better.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Marie Leviton
Boise, Idaho

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: ACA Consumer Advocacy [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 3:38 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please table and withdraw the Graham-Cassidy bill

To the Members of the Senate Finance Committee

Dear Senators:

The proposed Graham Cassidy amendment is a dangerous and reckless piece of legislation that not only jeopardizes the access to affordable healthcare to almost one tenth of Americans, it further endangers the current health care system as we know it in this country. The proposed elimination of Medicaid within the next ten years endangers the health of millions of Americans who rely on the largest health care program in this country - men, women, and children in lowest economic strata who are the most vulnerable for even simple medical care, those who live with disabilities everyday, the education of children living with challenging or fragile medical conditions, and our parents and grandparents who rely on Medicaid for care in their twilight years. Among other things, this is a shameful way to treat the remnants of the Greatest Generation.

The pursuit of a plan to destroy the current national health care program simply to offset proposed tax cuts for the wealthiest members of our country is contemptible, and to make sure it is passed simply to make sure that campaign funding from large donors is a stain upon the body of the U.S. Senate.

While the ACA may not be perfect, it was a good start. This country would have been better served if the last six years the House and Senate had pursued true bipartisan work to improve the system that we have in place. To seek to strip healthcare from those who need it most is shameful.

Those promoting this bill frequently tout the importance of entrepreneurs in our country. Passage of this bill, not to mention the simple threat of it, will lead millions of Americans who were able to leave their jobs and start small businesses with the passage of the PPACA, to close their businesses and once again seek employment somewhere with benefits, depriving this country of new ideas, new growth and potential new employers.

As consumers of the ACA, as well as consumers of employer-based benefits that are endangered by this callous, heartless, and vicious bill that has been opposed by major medical associations, physicians groups, and the insurance industry, who stand to lose benefits or be priced, once again, out of access to affordable healthcare, we implore you, members of the Senate and those who have taken an oath to protect and defend the Constitution, and by inference the very well-being of this country, to defeat and withdraw this amendment, and seek to improve the current system in a fair, bipartisan manner. This country is better than the political gamesmanship that has been on display in Washington over the last several years. It is time to return to regular order and true governing.

Sincerely,

Miranda Wilgus and the leaders and members of
ACA Consumer Advocacy

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stephen Wright [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 3:39 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: OPPOSE Graham-Cassidy

Dear Chair and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject the Graham-Cassidy bill proposed on Sunday night. In its place, I urge your consideration of the bipartisan legislation that was being developed in the Senate HELP Committee was considering. Graham-Cassidy would cause 32 million people to lose their health coverage while destroying Medicaid and harming some of the most vulnerable members of our communities: seniors and people with disabilities.

Stephen Wright
Madison, WI

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michelle Pitts [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 3:38 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy-Graham Bill Hearing
Attachments: Graham- Cassidy Bill.docx; cassidygraham senate (2).docx

Greetings Honorable Senate Finance Members:

Thank you for taking the time to consider my attached comments regarding the Cassidy-Graham Bill Hearing.

Best regards,

Michelle Pitts, Concerned Citizen & Personal Care Attendant to a Disabled Army Veteran.

--
Michelle D. Pitts [REDACTED];o)

Love is a TREASURE for
which we can never pay
The only way we can keep it
is to GIVE IT AWAY!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Smita Avasthi [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 3:41 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Graham/Cassidy

I am writing to express my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill. This bill will kill Americans. It will kill two of my best friends.

I know it all sounds like an abstraction to you. You don't think of people as people until you meet them. But this isn't a game to us. It is literally about life and death.

Politics is not a sport. This is not a playground. You should not want a win for your party but a win for your constituents.

And your constituents will lose under this bill.

And after they lose, they won't think of you as a person who kept a campaign promise; they'll think of you as a person who killed their best friend.

And they wouldn't be wrong.

Do what is good for the citizens of your nation, not the good of Mitch McConnell. He treats you like you are one of his minions, as if you are at his beck and call. You aren't. You can vote for what is right. Mitch McConnell and the GOP don't own you.

Or do they?

I'll guess we will see when you vote. Will you vote to protect your constituents or will you decide to kill them?

How will you defend that? Will you say "I'm sorry your mother died because of me, but I was scared I'd lose my job if I didn't kill her"?

Our lives are worth more than your job.

Vote against Graham Cassidy.

Sincerely,
Smita Avasthi
Rohnert Park, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gina di Grazia [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 3:41 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Respectfully, please vote NO on Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senator and/or Finance Committee Member or Representative:
As a person with a chronic illness/disability and as an educator (R1 medical school), I respectfully request a "no" on the Graham-Cassidy legislation seeking to make significant changes to the ACA.

Before working for UC San Diego, I paid (out of pocket and pre-ACA) into an individual Anthem Blue Cross PPO insurance policy that amounted to 1/3 of my net wages, and, if I had co-insurance or co-payments, the PPO amounted to 1/2 of my wages--the latter more often.

I understand and appreciate that the ACA isn't perfect. Nevertheless, our representatives *should* be working on improving, rather than dismantling, the existing law. As someone who has, until 5 years ago, always paid out of pocket for individual insurance (and currently pays substantially into a group policy and attendant medical co-insurance costs), I cannot imagine being able to afford my regular surgical treatments and medications for several chronic illnesses absent the guidelines of the ACA. I work as a TA at UC San Diego and full-time as a PhD candidate. I'm an active member of my university community as well as my hometown in North County San Diego--having regular medical interventions and apt medication enables me to fully participate in my career, education, and community. Dismantling and repeal the ACA (as well as making proposed changes to the ADA), will only make full civic responsibility more difficult, as well as innumerable friends and fellow disabled people. I appreciate your thoughtful consideration of the ACA, and hope you'll vote in favor of honest enhancement of existing legislation rather than dismantling the ACA in the Graham-Cassidy proposal. Thank you.

Best Regards,

Gina M di Grazia (Altavilla), MA
PhD Candidate, Literature Department
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David Gross [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 3:43 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My siblings and nieces and nephews born and gestating in this country will need healthcare to not just survive but thrive in this country. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

David Gross

Livermore, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathy Lawton [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 3:46 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no on Graham Cassidy

I'm writing to express my outrage, disgust and dismay that wealthy white men (and how women can be behind this legislation is unimaginable) are contemplating removing the safety net of health care that has finally been granted to the American people. The public has placed their faith in their electorate to do the right thing for the people of this country. That means retaining the provisions of ACA and continuing to provide guaranteed affordable coverage, with no pre-existing restrictions, gender based differences, or annual or lifetime maximums.

How many Senators won't be able to get or pay for coverage for themselves or their families? How many senators will reach their life time max or have a disabled child who has no further ability to get coverage? How many of them will not be able to get antibiotics or cancer treatment? Why is it that every other 1st world country takes care of all their citizens?

We can be better. We can do better. We didn't hire you to destroy our families in the name of tax cuts to the wealthy. You can reduce the suffering of millions of people. Why can't you see this?

Kathy Lawton

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laila Azzazy [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 3:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA.

Improving ACA and not gutting it is what is needed. Have mercy on the 25 million plus people who will lose their insurance. Put country before party and don't lie about what Graham/Cassidy bill is.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 3:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: CANCER ?

My family relies on affordable healthcare coverage. We oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My situation is that this last Monday I had a surgery to get a biopsy sample from way back in my left nostril. Without this coverage, I would have been forced to "wait and see" if it developed into a large cancer, and been an obvious problem. Doing this now led to a situation where if it were cancer, it would be an early detection, and much more likely curable! Waiting to see would have maybe been even worse, wasting time while it grew worse, perhaps leading to death, not knowing if it was cancer or not !!! I was lucky because 1) I could afford this procedure because of my coverage, and 2) It turned out to be a benign growth after the biopsy, eliminating the mental torture!

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. This is the only proper way to treat health coverage, unless maybe Medicare for all.

Please also carefully note that any campaign promises to repeal the ACA are now way out of date, as the public now overwhelmingly desires to keep it !

Roger Davis
Whittier, CA

The reasonable man adapts himself to the world.
The unreasonable man persists in trying to adapt the world to himself.
Therefore, all progress depends on the unreasonable man.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kristi Dittmann [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 3:54 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy vote NO

Hello Committee,

It's not feasible for states to design healthcare systems from scratch in a timeframe necessary to keep people covered during the process. It greatly burdens the states.

Many people have preexisting conditions, which quite often means they cannot work full time, or at all. GC can cause their premiums to be unaffordable to them, which means they will have to choose between their health, and money to eat or pay rent.

Obamacare has given us a strong start on how to solve healthcare issues in America. Let's fix the pieces wrong with that, and not ask the states to reinvent the wheel.

In addition, I strongly ask you to quit sabotaging Obamacare.... and please override the president in this matter as well. Inform the public about open enrollment, prop up the weak spots, and give it every chance to succeed. People's lives depend on it right now.

My husband worked many years for the Federal government as a Director in Social Security, and we are lucky to have the same healthcare as you do. Please do not deny this basic right to our fellow Americans. I ask for them, not for myself.

Kristi in Colorado

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lotus Rani [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 3:55 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I Oppose the Graham Cassidy Bill

As a neurologist practicing in Phoenix, I am asking that you please oppose the Graham Cassidy Bill for the following reasons:

\$4 trillion in federal funding cuts
32M more Americans uninsured
20%+ premium increase (higher for women, elderly)
No guaranteed protections for pre-existing conditions
Zero \$\$\$ after 2026!

Opposed by: AMA, AHA, AARP, Children's Defense Fund and patient advocacy groups as well as BC/BS insurance company, and increasing GOP governors.
1/6 of the economy would be affected on a vote pushed through without debate, comment, discussion, CBO score, without regular order about which Sen McCain gave an impassioned speech.

The one reason to vote yes would be to play political games with people's lives.

States would be allowed to let insurance companies price patients out of coverage for having pre-existing conditions. Even insurance companies like Blue Cross Blue Shield say this will lead to increased premiums and unstable insurance markets.

Patient and physician groups oppose this bill:

American Medical Association, the American College of Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Hospital Association, the American Cancer Society, the American Diabetes Association, the American Heart Association, Lung Association, Arthritis Foundation, Cystic Fibrosis, ALS, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, and the March of Dimes, among many others, all vehemently oppose this bill.

History is watching: Why are you trying to bypass regular Senate order in order to speed up the passage of a last-ditch ObamaCare repeal bill? What happened to 'decorum' in the Senate? This ACA repeal effort is a gift to insurance companies. They can now raise my premiums as much as they want if I get sick. Why are you working for them? I thought you worked for the American people? And how can you call yourself pro-veteran when so many veterans will lose coverage under the Graham-Cassidy bill? Stop playing political games with peoples' lives. Bipartisan solutions have been proposed to fix the ACA. If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem.

Vote no on the Graham-Cassidy bill.

This is not a political game. Lives of millions of Americans are at stake.
History is watching!

Padma R. Mahant, MD

But we are living in a time when legislators are preying on people's fears and anger by making, and then trying to sweep through, broad stroke gestures without consideration of the very real human toll it would take on the entire nation, including those who voted for the current GOP majority.

Access to affordable healthcare should be, and thanks to this law currently is, a basic human right in our country, independent of how or where someone works. That is worth fighting for.

Do we really want to take that away and leave millions of our friends and neighbors without a viable option for care?

Are you OK with my family being forced into higher priced coverage for the same care?

Please consider carefully to who you are giving control over the future of healthcare - the citizens or wealthy insurance companies. Please stand up for people over party and do not allow this bill to pass in its current condition.

Thanks,
Sara Betnel
Shoreline, WA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sara Betnel [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 3:57 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Why this bill is about more than healthcare

Dear Senators, Aides, and Staff,

I am writing to share with you my family's ACA healthcare story and how having access to affordable care while living with a pre-existing condition is not just what is helping me stay alive, but also is the #1 thing that is letting our family make decisions about our lives that are not solely based on what job can afford us insurance.

Ensuring access to affordable care for all Americans, particularly those with disabilities or pre-existing conditions, is central to supporting the American Dream,

Last year I was laid off from my job of 8 years and, after much soul searching and discussion with Mark, decided to launch my own independent consultancy as a private business - one of the things many people dream of doing and look to as one of the hallmark opportunities we have as part of the American dream. Everyone was congratulatory and supportive when I announced it - wishing me all the best on the endeavor.

Part of what let me take this step was having the ability to get *affordable* health care for me and the kids that didn't exclude pre-existing conditions. ('cause I was diagnosed with ulcerative colitis at age 15 - something which can become colon cancer if not properly treated with preventative medication, which is easily obtained when one has regular access to a gastroenterologist).

Often when I say "Obamacare" (which is the ACA) was how I could take this step many people reply, "Couldn't you have just gotten insurance through Mark's work?"

The answer is "Yes, I could." And we looked at that. And when we did we found that it was 2-3 times (!!!) as expensive as similar plans we could get from the exchange. That right there would have been the deal breaker for whether we could afford for me to take this personal and career leap. The choice was clear - the kids and I could have solid coverage staying with our existing providers at a reasonable cost.

So we had a great year where I was able to do my work while managing my own schedule (which is what let us continue with homeschooling and let me get involved with several other activities important to me and our community, but which wouldn't be possible in a 9-5) and had no worries when anything came up (like when one doc diagnosed me with lupus - !!! - spoiler alert: I don't have lupus - and I had to go to a new specialist to have that investigated, or when Gbuddy had three cavities and we needed to go back to the dentist for additional care, or when Gbright fell off my shoulders landing head first on concrete and we had to go to urgent care on a Sunday evening to make sure she didn't have a concussion or worse - she didn't). And I didn't have to think twice about getting back to a gastroenterologist to get a colonoscopy scheduled for this year when I've been overdue for one to get back on track with caring for my colitis (that's on me, not the government).

And that's all easy stuff - nothing like how two of my friends are alive today because they were able to have ACA plans while they were fighting cancer or the dozens of others I know who had insurance *at all* because of the ACA and went to see a doctor when they wouldn't have otherwise because they could continue on their parents' plans or the millions of people I don't know who have now been able to get coverage because individual access separate from employment is now possible - one of the most important steps our country has taken to bridge the gap between the rich and the poor.

Plus, outside my personal experience, the data shows how effective and impactful this legislation has been:
[https://www.washingtonpost.com/.../the-success-of-the-affor.../...](https://www.washingtonpost.com/.../the-success-of-the-affor.../)

Did everyone have a great experience with it? No. My parents had a horrible time with it, though some of that is, from what I can tell, implementation by the insurance companies, not the legislation itself. Could we make it better? Totally - let's do that.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chelsea Vukovich [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 3:58 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

To Whom it may concern,

My name is Chelsea Vukovich and I live in Alaska. I am writing to you today to implore you to oppose the Republican repeal of the Affordable Care Act, known as the Graham Cassidy Act.

This bill would be devastating to millions of Americans and their ability to get medical care for themselves and their families. My husband would be one of those affected. Five years ago he was diagnosed with cancer. After two surgeries and two rounds of radiation he is on a "wait and see" plan. This means there is still cancer in his body but it is not responding to radiation and is too small to remove surgically. So we get to wait, and see if it grows or spreads. This means that every 6 months for the foreseeable future my husband has an ultrasound. As you can imagine this is pretty stressful on him and me, wondering if this will be the time its grown.

There is a lot of uncertainty when dealing with a disease like cancer. However we do know that at some point my husband will need another surgery. It took us two years, with insurance, to pay off the first two surgeries. Without the protections of the ACA and the security of knowing he will be covered by insurance despite his pre existing condition I am certain that the next surgery would destroy us financially.

Our story isn't unique, and isn't as tragic as many others. But to my husband and I it is our life. We want to be able to give our son a secure childhood. We want to be able to help him go to college and pursue his dreams (he's already declared at age 8 that he's getting degrees in paleontology, marine biology and zoology). We want to know that when that ultrasound comes back showing growth that my husband will still be able to get the medical treatment needed to ensure he's present for our sons triple graduation without crippling us financially.

With everything I am I ask you to oppose any bill that would risk my husband's life and our families future. This isn't about politics, it's about people.

Thank you,
Chelsea Vukovich
Anchorage, AK

National Association of School Nurses
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship
National Down Syndrome Congress
National Health Council
National Institute for Reproductive Health
National Kidney Foundation
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Organization for Rare Diseases
Planned Parenthood
Public Health Institute
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Trust for America's Health
Women Hear

On the other hand, there are no healthcare organizations that are urging passage of this bill.

A bipartisan group of governors including (but not limited to) John Hickenlooper (CO), Bill Walker (AK), John Kasich (OH), Steve Bullock (MO), Tom Wolf (PA), John Bel Edwards (LA), Charles D. Baker (MA), Terrance R. McAuliffe (VA), Brian Sandoval (NV), Phil Scott (VT), and Chris Christie (NJ) have urged that this bill be defeated.

Public Policy Polling found only 24 percent of respondents favoring Graham-Cassidy, and 50 percent opposing it, with 27 percent "not sure". This poll also finds that **68 percent are opposed to holding a vote on Graham-Cassidy until the Congressional Budget Office has had a chance to assess the impact.**

In a new ABC News/Washington Post poll "Fifty-six percent of Americans surveyed said they preferred the current health-care law to the latest repeal-and-replace legislation put forth by Senate Republicans, while only 33 percent of those polled said they supported the new legislation."

The Business Insider reports that passage of this bill would deliver "unprecedented' chaos in the health system". According to The Hill that chaos would extend to the 50 states charged with implementing the new law.

This piece of legislation violates the social contract that we have with each other as Americans. It also violates the 'fairness doctrine', in that it takes federal dollars from states that allowed medicare expansion and gives them to states that did not. It is in truth NOT a healthcare bill, but a backdoor attempt to strip healthcare from millions of Americans in order to fulfill a campaign promise to wealthy donors.

Graham Cassidy is bad policy in that it does not fix those things that are not working with the ACA, but instead creates a whole new set of problems.

For the above mentioned reasons and many more, I urge you to no vote on this piece of legislation.

Thank you for taking my concerns into consideration. I look forward to continued discussions with you, your committee colleagues, and your staff on this very important topic.

Sincerely,

American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Diabetes Association
America's Essential Hospitals
American Foundation for the Blind
American Health Care Association
America's Health Insurance Plans
American Heart Association
American Hospital Association
American Liver Foundation
American Lung Association
American Medical Association
American Nurses Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Society for Addiction Medicine
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Amputee Coalition
The Arc
Arthritis Foundation
Association for Community Affiliated Plans
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Autism Society
Autism Speaks
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Big Cities Health Coalition
Blue Cross Blue Shield Association
Catholic Health Association
Children's Hospital Association
Center for Medicare Advocacy
Coalition to Stop Opioid Overdose
Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities
COPD Foundation
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Family Voices
Federation of American Hospitals
HIV Medicine Association
Infectious Diseases Society of America
JDRF
Lutheran Services in America
Kaiser Permanente
March of Dimes
Medicare Rights Center
National Association of Medicaid Directors
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Wind Eagle [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 3:59 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Senate Finance Committee Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Comments

September 25th, 2017

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chairman
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am writing to you today to express my concerns with the Graham-Cassidy legislation currently before you.

No good result will be achieved utilizing a bad process. Yet many persist in the effort to strip 32 million Americans of their healthcare without public hearings, a markup, bipartisan amendments, debate, a committee vote, a CBO score or any real idea of how this legislation will impact 20% of the US economy, the healthcare industry as a whole or their constituents.

Every major healthcare organization is opposed to this bill. They include (but are not limited to) the following :

Adult Congenital Heart Association
ALS Association
Alzheimer's Association
Alzheimer's Impact Movement
American Cancer Society
American College of Emergency Physicians
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Diabetes Association
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Cancer Society
American College of Emergency Physicians

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Angela Abeyta [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 4:01 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators,

I currently rely on the ACA for my health insurance. I don't earn a lot of money, and the payments are already expensive for me. I also know people who forgo health insurance because they can't afford the monthly payments. We live in the wealthiest country in the world, and yet healthcare is not a guaranteed right for all citizens. This is not just, and it must change. Rather than making it more difficult and expensive for people to get health coverage, your priority should be to make it easier and more affordable for *everyone*. Don't dismantle the ACA; build on it and improve it.

Sincerely,
Angela Abeyta

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sherry Poplin. [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: dpoplin1@yahoo.com; Dawn Allen; Sherry Poplin
Subject: Medicaid services and proposed cuts

My name is Sherry Poplin and I am a parent of a 22-year-old son who has a diagnosis of mild mental retardation and autism. He has required Medicaid services since the age of three including three hospitalizations, an extended one-year stay in a state facility, two years in a children's mental health treatment facility, and group home placement for the last nine years with GHA Autism Supports in Albemarle, NC. While we are fortunate to carry him on our private insurance, he receives many services, including group home placement, that are not covered by Insurance. We rely on Medicaid to cover what our insurance will not, including his group home placement. We are very concerned about the upcoming legislation that will be voted on in the near future, specifically the Graham-Cassidy Bill. Our son requires extensive structure in his day and care provided by those who specialize in autism. We are very grateful for the funding that has been provided for him as his quality of life has improved greatly since being with GHA. We are asking that you worked together in a bipartisan way to insure there are no Medicaid cuts that could jeopardize the services our son receives. We are also aware of the many people who are on an extended waiting list for much-needed services for autism as well as mental illness and developmental disabilities. We believe our child deserves the best life he can have and we must advocate for his needs as long as we are physically and mentally able. Thank you for your service and your consideration of our comments as you vote on this bill and any future deals that could jeopardize the services for these persons who are dependent on others and Medicaid for their developmental and mental health needs.

Sincerely,
Sherry Poplin
[REDACTED]
Albemarle, NC 28001
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rae Calvary [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 4:04 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham-Cassidy Health Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

As an independent voter in the state of Washington, I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill. The impact this bill would have on my family would be devastating. I feel I have lived a responsible life. I am female, have given birth, and am thankfully aging gracefully. Along with aging and my gender come medical issues that are no fault of my own. I fear I will not be able to have preventative care such as mammograms. My mother died from cancer four years ago and my father has been living with cancer for four years. I cannot afford high premiums. I don't understand the rush effort to get rid of the ACA. You are in a position to truly make history and place our country above other nations by improving on the ACA and giving U.S. citizens more benefits that are truly affordable, if you would just take time to research and come up with a real plan. Right now these changes are simply about tax cuts for the wealthy. This is not about U.S. American citizens.

I am certain you can come up with something amazing if you would slow down, allow public hearings, debate, consultations, and reviews. Stop putting party before people, please. Work bipartisan and put people before profits.

Sincerely,
Rachell Calvary-Reeves

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: john rankine [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 4:04 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Senator Tom Cotton (Cotton); Representative Steve Womack; Senator John Boozman
Subject: health care

During the recession I lost my job along with my healthcare benefits. Jobless, I could not afford the \$600 a month they wanted for a similar healthcare plan and so, like most people in my situation, gambled for years I would not get sick. When Obama Care came along I signed up and had health insurance for the first time again in several years.

It was also the year I had a major fall and broke my hip and shoulder. Fortunately I had a partner and several close friends who were able to help me recover.

It was months of physical therapy and severe pain that still gives me trouble on occasion.

I was grateful for friends who helped out, but most grateful I did not have to declare bankruptcy or mortgage my home to pay for medical bills which came close to \$90,000.

The ACA saved my life.

I will be one of the 32 million people in Arkansas and the country who will lose their coverage if this current bill passes.

It's hard to explain the security one feels knowing one won't lose their home if some accident should occur.

Please do not support the Graham/Cassidy bill.

We are suppose to be the greatest nation on earth and yet we are the only country who does not provide health care for it's people.

This makes no sense. Please work on a bi-partisan solution to provide Medicare for all.

Sincerely

John Rankine

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lindsay Clegg [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 4:06 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Graham Cassidy

NO NO NO NO NO!!!!!!!!!!!!

As an RN and medicaid recipient the ONLY new option I will accept is a single payer healthcare system. I injured my back at work, disability ran out, my Cobra plan was \$750 a month, my only option was Medicaid and MediCal. DO NOT even consider Graham Cassidy. We are mad and paying attention that this is even on the table.

This is your chance to be on the right side of history. We are paying close attention and will how you vote will determine how hard we either campaign for or against you in your upcoming re-election cycle.

--
Lindsay Clegg

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: marylynn crandall [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 4:06 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

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.

I would also like to see procedures and the regular rule of order being followed in the Senate. This includes public hearings with experts in the field, and allowing the CBO to score the bill before voting on it. It means Senators going to their constituents and hearing their concerns.

Sincerely,

Mary Lynn Crandall

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tyler Laitinen [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 4:07 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Tyler Laitinen
Salt Lake City Utah

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: yael wagner [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 4:16 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller completely, in favor of the bipartisan bill the Senate HELP Committee was considering. Graham-Cassidy-Heller would cause 32 million people 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 a cynical, cruel bill that harms millions of the citizens of this country, and benefits only few.

It is a bill that puts politics ahead of what's right and good for the people.

yael wagner
Santa Clara, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eric Weisz [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 4:20 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement in opposition to Graham Cassidy

I write to publicly state my opposition the the Graham Cassidy bill and other attempts to repeal The Affordable Care Act.

In 2015, I lost the job I had had for almost ten years. Unable to afford COBRA coverage, the Affordable Care Act was the only thing that made it possible for me to find affordable health coverage for my family and me until I was able to qualify and enroll for health insurance with my new employer. I shudder to think what works have happened if someone in my family had suffered an expensive medical emergency during that period had I been unable to secure coverage through the ACA.

I know many others in my community that have directly benefited from the ACA, including a number of the provisions slated to be repealed by Graham Cassidy. Its provisions unfairly target the poor and middle class and unfairly target the very states that have worked the hardest to ensure health coverage for their citizens.

My own opposition notwithstanding, implementation and consideration of legislation impacting so many people and such a significant portion of the economy needs to be done through regular order, not as part of parliamentary games disguised as budget reconciliation. It should not be pursued without receiving a proper CBO score.

Sincerely
Eric Weisz
Alexandria VA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sam Inderias [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 4:24 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Samuel Inderias
Antioch, CA

Medicaid and Social Security disability. One brother who has severe persistent asthma has prohibitively high copays and often foregoes treatment because of the expense; this is despite the fact that he works full time supporting his family and paying for his daughters college education. One of my nephews needed to go to a 330 federally funded site in order to pay for his mental health medication.

So you see, the benefits of Medicaid and federally funded basic health care affects people in all spheres of my life. I believe that it is our duty to work hard, teach our children to care for themselves and their neighbors, to be compassionate and help others when they need help. In return, our government, who from the time we start earning our first paycheck, and continue to send one third of our income for all of our working lives in the form of taxes, should be there to be our safety net to help us stay out of poverty, to help with health care needs. This way we stay united in our sense of relationship to one another. This social contract is the basis for my getting through my day. It is now continuously threatened by those who care only about their own enrichment and see Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act as an unnecessary burden to the rest of us. I believe I speak for the majority of Americans when I say that in order to stay together as a country, we have to take care of the myriad needs of all of us in varying degrees, depending on what life throws at us. Our constitution spells it out in the first few sentences:

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, **promote the general Welfare**, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

We must keep these principles in mind as we find a way forward with health care. 32 million people will suffer if the Graham Cassidy Bill goes forward. We are capable of so much more than this. We must do better. #Kill the Bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judy Fletcher [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 4:27 AM
To: Ann Corrigan
Cc: Eileen O'Connor; gchcomments; Kami Seligman; Peter Beitchman
Subject: Re: Graham-Cassidy Comments

Thanks for your good example, Eileen!

On Sun, Sep 24, 2017 at 10:47 PM, Ann Corrigan [REDACTED] wrote:

Wow. Beautiful. And thanks, Eileen.

On Sep 24, 2017 10:09 PM, "Eileen O'Connor" [REDACTED] wrote:

To the Health Finance Committee:

I am a family nurse practitioner working in the Bronx, where I work with many families struggling to hold themselves together. Examples include:

- The mother of 4 who was in a domestic violence situation. Her children witnessed this and suffered because of it and are in need of mental health services;
- A patient with cerebral palsy who has a 5 year old daughter and needed the help of a home health aid because she could not walk and hold her baby. She is unable to take public transportation and depends on her transportation to get to appointments;
- I have many elderly patients who are able to stay in their homes because their home attendants help with cooking, cleaning, bathing, and shopping.

I am a mother of a 23 year old daughter, who worries about paying for her health care premiums; I am one of 6 children, 2 of whom are beneficiaries of

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Wendy Weil [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 4:26 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Save Medicaid
Attachments: IMG_20170925_0001.pdf

Please see my comments in attached letter about the importance of strengthening, not cutting Medicaid.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Theresia Shearer [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 4:29 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Cost

It's unsavoury to bring the Graham-Cassidy bill to a vote without the due process of hearings and a complete scoring by the CBO.

If this bill was anything but an attempt to roll back an Obama era regulation it would go through a rigorous financial review. What is the Senate (and the House) trying to hide by not including health care organizations in the design and review of this bill? Get the profit centers of insurance companies and the dark money of the Koch brothers out of health insurance decisions.

Health care is a 6th of our GDP. The Senate (and House) should be looking into why this once-great nation is ranked so poorly on the quality of our health care and has the highest costs in the world.

The Graham-Cassidy bill should not be brought to the floor for a vote.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ellen Lewis [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 4:32 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please don't take away my health care

Dear Senate Finance Committee members,

I've been afraid since March 1st of this year, when I was diagnosed with breast cancer, and the actions of the Republican-led Senate are making me more afraid.

I am a playwright — an independent contractor, working regularly, but not for any one business long enough to qualify for health insurance. The Affordable Care Act helped me to get health insurance for the first time in more than five years. With my first mammogram, they found that I had cancer. It was caught early enough that my doctors feel positive about my prognosis. But I need to continue to follow up with them. And if the cancer comes back, I need to have access to health insurance

I can't be without health insurance.

And everything I read about this new scheme to destroy the Affordable Care Act without replacing it with a real, viable alternative terrifies me.

The following medical organizations are against this new bill:

- The American Medical Association
- The American Psychiatric Association
- The American Public Health Association
- The National Institute for Reproductive Health
- The American Academy of Pediatrics
- The Association of American Medical Colleges
- The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
- The Federation of American Hospitals

They recognize the dangers of taking away the health care of millions of Americans and gutting Medicare. Of taking away annual cost caps and protections for those of us with pre-existing conditions.

Please don't take away my health care.

Please.

Sincerely,

~Ellen M. Lewis
Monitor, OR
[REDACTED]

Without access to insurance, I cannot afford the inhaler I take daily for my chronic asthma. My insurance currently does not cover the entire monthly payment. I'm lucky in that my parents and I can continue to buy the medication I need in order to live my day to day life. However, many Americans are not so lucky. No one should be denied healthcare coverage simply because they are sick, underemployed, or otherwise disadvantaged. This is, quite frankly, un-American.

I look forward to watching how your Committee challenges the fiscal impact of this bill, which cuts at least \$239 billion from health programs and marketplace subsidies, and how you work to foster productive discussions in the Senate on fixing our healthcare system.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,

Anna Hegland

Kenosha, Wisconsin
53140

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anna Hegland [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 4:38 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCHJ Comment from Wisconsin

Dear Committee Members,

I am relieved that the Senate's efforts to repeal the ACA have failed thus far. I support quality, affordable healthcare for all Americans and want to see my representatives lead collaborative, bipartisan discussions on improving the parts of the ACA that are not working, so that it works for everyone.

I absolutely do not support - and urge you all to reject - the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson healthcare bill.

I am against the elimination of premium and cost-sharing reduction subsidies, and the fact that block grants would provide \$239 billion less than projected federal spending for existing Medicaid expansion and subsidies.

I am very concerned that GCHJ would allow individual states to redefine what constitutes an "essential health benefit." In the past, this has been nothing more than a means for stripping women and minorities of healthcare access. Insurers cannot be allowed to simply not cover pregnancy, newborn care, mental health services, and birth control. Not only is this unhealthy, it is costly in the long term. Women in low-income communities and those who live in poverty are unlikely to have access to contraceptives, and when these women need pregnancy care, they rely on local and state resources, which experience cuts to federal funding through this bill. This is not what I expect from a party which calls itself pro-life. In my church, pro-life means caring for both mother and child, before, during, and after birth. Pregnancy is not a pre-existing condition and should not be treated as such.

Finally, I am horrified that this bill contains even harsher cuts to Medicaid, which is a lifeline for many children, seniors, and people with disabilities, and removes protections for people like me who have pre-existing conditions.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Vicky Mattson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 4:39 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Experts on health care, from medical providers' associations, to state Medicare directors, to the insurance industry have been overwhelmingly clear that this bill would be a disaster for Americans. It is unconscionable that any elected representative would support a bill that would, without exception, worsen health care coverage in every state. Sadly, there are unethical republicans who will support the bill nonetheless. As an American, I urge you all to vote NO on this harmful legislation.

Vicky Mattson
Monte Sereno, CA

That life is everything to me. Please don't make us go back there. I beg you.

Sue Herndon

[REDACTED]
Charlottesville, Virginia

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sue Herndon [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 4:41 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Medicaid/GAP in Virginia

My beautiful, vibrant daughter has suffered from mental illness for years, though it went undiagnosed and untreated for most of her life. Her first suicide attempt was when she was 15. I had just lost my job at the University of Virginia, but fortunately was still able to have insurance through COBRA-at a cost of over \$1100/month. My only recourse was to put that on a credit card, and am still paying off that debt. But the cost of her stay in the PICU as she recovered would have been much, much more.

A few years later, when she was a pre-law student at JMU, she had a debilitating episode. She was then diagnosed as bipolar. That began a struggle that has lasted years. She has swung from violently manic episodes to depression so severe that death seemed to her the only option. She kept up a valiant struggle against both her disease, and a health care system that continually denied her service due to the fact that she was unable to afford insurance. At one point, she was arrested for violent behavior (want to have your heart broken? Look into the eyes of your child after she has assaulted you and watch her realize what she has done) Instead of being taken to the ER and processed for the psychiatric ward, she was put in jail. I had filled out the paperwork for a Temporary Detainment Order, but was unable to have it served, because I was told you can't have someone committed from jail. At that time, she had finally gotten an appointment and was immensely hopeful that she would get some help. At her hearing, the judge told her she was clearly unmedicated and sent her to jail "until she got herself together." As a result, she missed the appointment and was dropped from that therapist as a result.

She was on the wait list for an appointment at the UVa Psychiatric clinic for THREE YEARS. Apparently, they keep rolling the uninsured patients down the list in favor of the insured. Four days after Creigh Deeds issued his report on the state of our mental health services, she was given an appointment. She asked me to accompany her so that I could help her communicate to the resident in charge of her care. The resident asked me what her current mental health care plan was. I told her, "I go down to the magistrate's office and fill out the paperwork for a TDO on each shift so that when she becomes a danger to herself or others, I can try to get her some help." I don't know why the woman looked so shocked. It was the only recourse I had.

Once, desperate for help, she went to the ER and told them she was going to kill herself. She was put in the psychiatric ward for 72 hours and for a brief time, was able to get some help. But her doctors have been residents, and when they leave, she has to start all over again to get a new doctor.

This struggle has gone on for years. She is fortunate to be very intelligent and naturally tenacious. That is the only reason she has been able to get as far as she has. She finally found out about the Medicaid/GAP program. Through that, she was able to procure a therapist who is helping her. She is medicated, and is in a therapeutic program that is getting her on the track to once again being a productive and sometimes even happy, human being.

What would she do without that Medicaid program? Will we go back to a time where she swings between violent episodes and abject, suicidal misery? Will I go back to having to call the police as my only recourse to prevent her from hurting me or herself? We live in a world where my child's pain is nothing to our legislators, who seem to be able to look her in the eye and tell her to suck it up. Legislators whose own health care is completely taken care of. They have theirs, I guess. What's one young woman's life to them?

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judy Fletcher [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 4:46 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments for hearing on the Graham Cassidy Bill

My daughter is about to finish college, where she has had healthcare coverage through the University. She is a bright, productive member of society who has a great deal to contribute. She also has several pre-existing conditions for which she will not be able to be treated if she can't get a job that provides her with an excellent healthcare plan or truly affordable and comprehensive insurance through the open market. I worry every day about what will happen to her if a bill like Graham Cassidy goes through. Will she have to choose between eating and paying rent and getting medical treatment, without which she might die? Will she be able to afford birth control so that she can plan her life and career? Will she be able to afford the medical costs of having a baby?

Contrast that with her sister, who lives in Scotland. She had a dangerous pregnancy that was well-managed and not compounded by the stress of worrying about how she would be able to access and pay for the healthcare and hospitalization she needed. When her child became deathly ill, she was able to get her to hospital and treated without being badgered for paperwork or questions of whether she could cover the costs. Her contraceptives are free, so that she can plan the spacing of her children to accommodate her ability to support her growing family. Her prescription meds are covered.

And I worry about my husband and me. We have worked hard throughout our adult lives at jobs that we chose because of the ways we can help others through them. They don't make us wealthy. We are looking to retirement within the next few years. We are looking ahead to a likely time when one or both of us will need long-term care. We can't afford long-term care insurance. We are likely to run out of money. What will we do if we don't have access to Medicaid if we run out of money in our final years?

Judith E. Fletcher
[REDACTED]

Bronx, NY
10463

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ryah Belford [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 4:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

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,
Ryah Belford
[REDACTED]
Arlington MA 02476

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sherry Bellamy [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 4:50 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stop Graham-Cassidy

All,
You must realize that fewer than 25% of Americans approve of Graham-Cassidy. Please do not allow passage of this terrible bill.

Even without a CBO score, independent analysts say at least 30 million Americans will lose Heath insurance coverage. Why? To insult President Obama? To destroy his legacy? You need to worry about your own legacies as you try to sentence people to die or go bankrupt all to fulfill an empty "campaign promise."

This is no way to address such a serious issue that affects one-fifth of our economy. You had eight years to develop a viable alternative Heath insurance plan. You failed to do that. These ridiculous, hastily written proposals are only serving to make all but a small handful of Republicans look like fools.

Stop the insanity. Go back to regular order, fix the problems with the Affordable Care Act, stop trying to destroy Medicaid. The first rule of medicine is "do no harm." Perhaps you should adopt that rule for the Senate?

Join the rest of the developed countries across the globe and make certain ALL of your citizens have real, affordable and reliable access to health care. In that way you could truly make America greater, rather than tearing it apart, rather than destroying lives.

Sherry Bellamy
[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nathaniel Osborn [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 4:50 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Testimony for Graham-Cassidy Hearing

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have friends on Medicaid and personally have a pre-existing condition. The fear of losing my and their coverage is very real and very stressful. Going through this stress every couple of months is becoming exhausting. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal and replace it.

Sincerely,

Nathaniel Osborn

Henderson, Nevada

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Liv Isacson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 4:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Liv Isacson
Greensboro, NC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 4:54 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

All 50 Governor's are against this plan... That should be very telling to you. Please just ask yourselves, would in want this for MY healthcare? Simple test.

From a NH RN

Sent from XFINITY Connect Mobile App

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Monica [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 4:55 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Monica Ohakwe
New Orleans, LA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dan Dassow [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 4:58 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do Not Pass Graham Cassidy

I've been handicapped since 8 months when I had polio. My wife has had diabetes since she was 15. Until I was forced to retire due health reasons I had excellent health care through my employer. The Affordable Care Act has allowed me to continue to have affordable health care for me and my wife. Graham Cassidy will make it impossible for me and my wife to have affordable health care. Passing this cruel ill considered bill will lead to our deaths.

Dan Dassow [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Daniel Imamura [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:05 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Daniel Imamura
Mililani, Hawaii

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carolynn ní Lochlainn [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:07 AM
To: gchcommen@...
Subject: Healthcare

So. Are you seriously content to pass a bill without a CBO score?

Just checking.

My LIFE is on the line. My health is my productivity in the GNP and GDP, and things are bad enough right now.

I am in New York and I am having trouble finding Medicaid-accepting doctors.

I can't find a job to give me insurance despite my two degrees, one of which is a JD. I want to work, I am physically able to work in an office setting, but there is nothing for me.

I live on a \$600-per-month stipend. Exchange insurance, at minimum, costs over \$350 per month. I can't afford that.

I take thousands of dollars' worth of medications that I will not be able to afford without medicaid. Without appropriate medical supervision and prescription, I won't be able to afford them anyway.

I am 52 years old, but I have been rendered unemployable by a job market that uses any excuse to hire underqualified people half my age to do what I'm trained, and more experienced, at doing.

My health renders me unable to take physically exhausting part-time work like restaurant service or retail, which neither provides health insurance, nor sufficient income to afford it from the marketplace.

I do not need to be further hobbled. I need improved coverage under the ACA. I donot need repeal.

I don't care about the gloss of what was promised to whom, or when - the plain fact is that America will suffer horrendous loss of income and life if you insist on passing any form of repeal.

Work with your fellow senators and representatives. Do what you are paid AND INSURED, for life, to do.
HELP PEOPLE.

Help me.

Stop trying to repeal the ACA, and repair it instead.

Sincerely,

Carolynn ni Lochlainn

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marsha Tudor [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:06 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Graham-Cassidy

Such legislation will cause major economic disruption besides the obvious huge human cost.

Imagine all the lost work days caused when people can't get treatment for illnesses.

Imagine the healthcare workers who lose their jobs because so many fewer people can seek healthcare. This will be true for drug companies, hospitals and small doctor offices etc.

Just the simple chaos from implementing an unvetted program is unconscionable.

Do the right thing.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rich Lalley <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:54 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Collins comments

Dear Senators:

I am writing to express my grave concerns with the health insurance legislation you are discussing this morning. I believe it will endanger the lives of millions of citizens with chronic health issues, citizens who develop catastrophic illnesses like cancer, and children and seniors living in poverty with no means to fend for themselves.

We frequently claim to be the greatest of all nations. Yet we don't provide an adequate level of health care for all of our citizens like all other developed countries. The legislation you are examining today will only make our dubious position more sad.

The obvious money grab underway- bigger tax cuts for the wealthiest and transfers of federal support from blue states to red, is shameful.

Rather than working to endanger lives, why not work to save lives by providing the massive aid urgently needed by US citizens in Puerto Rico and UVI? That is what a great America would do.

Sincerely,

Richard Lalley
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Lincolnshire, IL 60069

Sent from [BlueMail](#)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David Hoff <davidhoff@venz.com>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 6:00 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Letter in opposition to Graham Cassidy Bill
Attachments: Hoff Letter - Graham Cassidy.pdf

Attached please find comments in opposition to the Graham Cassidy bill.

David Hoff
<davidhoff@venz.com>

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bart Smaalders <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:42 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

This country needs basic health security, and the Graham-Cassidy-Heller proposal threatens to take that away. All of us need to be able to buy insurance, even those with pre-existing conditions, and we need to make sure that our rates will not skyrocket when we become ill or injured.

Health care is NOT something to be reserved only for the wealthy or those lucky enough to work for a large corporation. There are millions of small businesses in this country, and your proposal will make it impossible for those businessmen and women to keep themselves and their employees insured.

Let's NOT repeal the ACA but instead work in a bi-partisan manner to strengthen and improve the protections it affords everyone in our country. I know there are rich donors who have stated that they will not make political donations unless the Republicans repeal the ACA. Have we really come to this, that we're going to deprive millions of Americans of essential healthcare and thus cause untold financial hardships and even death in order to secure additional funds to win an election?

At what price power? Step away from the brink, and put the health and safety of millions of Americans above the wishes of the powerful plutocrats that have been calling the tune.

Sincerely,

Bart Smaalders

[REDACTED]
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Priya Shyamsundar [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:07 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable Care Act

Dear Senators

I am writing to request you to please not repeal the Affordable Care Act.

I have several middle class friends and family members who were unable to obtain regular and routine health checks before ACA. I understand that ACA has its problems and needs to be reformed. However, the solution is in reforming ACA and NOT in repealing it and replacing it with a policy that will leave millions of Americans without health care. Please move any discussions forward in a regular fashion and do not rush such a major policy change through before the end of September.

Thank you
Priya Shyamsundar

[REDACTED]
Arlington,VA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Davis <barbdavis63@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:08 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCHJ

I'm sending this email to become part of the official hearing record. As a 2x cancer survivor i am sick and tired of living in fear of the bullseye that this bill will put on my back and the backs of millions of Americans like me with a pre existing condition. GCHJ is not a bill to improve and or provide healthcare for the American people. It is a bill that is being forced upon us by a group of big money GOP donors who want the ACA repealed at any cost, including lives lost. The audacity of these donors to hold our electorate hostage and put their needs over those of the masses is a real and present danger to our democracy. When we hear those in the house and senate standing by this bill exclaiming "we must keep our promise to the American people and repeal and replace Obamacare" the people know that this is a lie. The majority of people do not want you to repeal and replace. They want you you to function under regular congressional order to stabilize and improve the ACA in a true bipartisan effort. It is for the greater good, not the egos and pocket books of the few GOP puppet masters using their purse strings to make supposed statesman of the congress dance. You disgrace the offices you hold when you dance for money. Since when did this nation become only for those with money. You rely on the poor and middle class to serve and protect. To defend our honor and our constitution. And in turn we expect those elected to serve ALL people and to follow the same code of honor. I ask you to stand with the American people over the money you've succumbed to previously and vote NO GCHJ. Otherwise we'd like you to go home.

Sincerely,
Barbara Davis
Missouri

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Steve SILBERBERG <steve@npacking.com>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:10 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Aca

Please do not repeal the ACA.

Sent from my ... who really cares?

It is an embarrassment to this country and those like my father who have served it that our elected representatives would consider replacing essential federal health care programs with block grants that leave the states with fractions of pennies on the dollar to dole out for health care needs. Cutting programs that help citizens to obtain medical care is just mean. You cannot make this nation greater by impoverishing its citizens through unregulated costs, stripping them of care, and leaving them to die.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Holland

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:09 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Wright, Kevin (Finance)
Subject: Testimony for Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, September 25, 2017, 2:00 PM.
Attachments: Graham-Cassiday testimony.pdf; Graham-Cassiday testimony.rtf

Dear Mr. Hatch and staff for the Senate Finance Committee,

Attached please find my views for inclusion in the hearing record on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal which the committee will be considering this afternoon.

Due to the time sensitivity of the comment and the short time frame for its submission, I am submitting an electronic copy to be entered for the hearing today in addition to sending the original in the mail, as per your instructions.

Please acknowledge receipt and let me know where I can find evidence that my comment was submitted to all committee members for their consideration.

The content of my comment, in its entirety, also appears below my signature.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to our country.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Holland

re: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, September 25, 2017, 2:00 PM.

Senator Hatch and members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing to give my perspective on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill.

It is a pretense for anyone in Congress to pretend that Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson is the benign repeal of an unpopular program when it destabilizes not only the Affordable Healthcare Act but also Medicaid.

My father was a high school teacher who served in the Army Air Force in WWII. On September 8 we celebrated his 94th birthday in the nursing home that he moved into about a year and a half ago. Dad outlived his income in that when he was 93, the unregulated escalation in medical costs finally exceeded the meager increases in his teacher's pension and he went on Medicaid.

My dad served his country and he served his community and he maintained his independence for as long as he could, even well into the age-related decline of his cognitive functioning. Needless to say, this was preceded by a series of excruciating decisions for our family. We simply could not provide the level of care that he gets through Medicaid.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Juliana Engel <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:11 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Action: Public Testimony for Today's Hearing - Illinois

To whom it may concern,

Our family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with pre-existing conditions is tested to an accident I was in seven years ago, through no fault of my own. We are otherwise in great health, have our own insurance, eat well and take preventative measures to preserve our wellness. Increases in expense for medical care will limit or access if not deter treatment and deny care. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Juliana Engel
Berwyn, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mike McIntosh <mikemcintosh1979@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:15 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Against the Graham/Cassidy Health Care Bill

I am against any new Health Care Bills that would repeal and replace Obamacare. Obamacare should be fixed rather than repealed and replaced. There's a big chance that this bill, if passed, would put millions of people out of insurance. That is a very cruel thing to do. Health Care is a right rather than a luxury or pleasure. It is our right to have life and well-being rather than to be sick and have to pay everything out of pocket. Many people aren't able to pay everything and they would have to stay sick or die rather than have insurance and stay well. My parents have both recently been diagnosed with cancer. Health Care shouldn't be a partisan issue. It should be common sense with everyone willing to accept it as a right Republicans, Democrats, 3rd parties and Independents. Wanting to put anyone off insurance is a cruel and evil ideology. This is what will happen if this bill is passed. No one should be discriminated against because of a pre-existing condition. No one should have to pay higher premiums because of a pre-existing condition. Not many people would be able to afford insurance if they had to pay the premiums that this bill would create. The easiest circumstance for Congress to take upon Health Care would be to fix what is already in place. I believe when Obamacare was first submitted, it was a lot different and acceptable for all citizens in America but after it ran through changes from Republican Congress, Supreme Court and Governors who made changes to it, that's where these issues began. Conservatism isn't always the right ideology and it shows when it comes to issues. Conservatism shows greed, cruelty and evilness when it comes to issues like this. Congress should show love and respect for the citizens of the United States rather than showing politics. Put your people first rather than your political party. I know that many members of Congress and the president have listened to people with these cruel and evil ideologies who have been deceived by the Republican Party. These (wrongful) opinions of these people shouldn't matter either because they're not right. I'm sure the reason that these people are against Obamacare is because President Obama wanted it and passed it. It became a partisan issue rather than what is best for the people of the United States. The issue has been misleading to many gullible people who have been deceived by many people of the Republican Party. I have great respect for the Republicans who have voted against repealing and replacing. I have no respect at all for the ones who voted to repeal and replace for it is cruel and evil to do so. Please put the citizens of the United States over the Republican Party. That is called being American. Anything otherwise is cruel, evil and un-American.

Thanks, Mike McIntosh

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Clark, Cheryl A [HS EO] <~~ccclark@istate.vt.gov~~>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:16 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: comments for Graham-Cassidy hearing

Graham-Cassidy is not the solution to health care for this country. It removes protection for pre-existing conditions, putting too many people at risk. It makes affordable care inaccessible to millions and once again, favors the wealthy. Women are left particularly vulnerable.

It's time to continue with the bipartisan discussions which were halted to consider Graham-Cassidy. The real solution lies in working together, including women in the planning, and making improvements in ACA instead of pursuing repeal and replace. The majority of Americans now agree that repeal would make the situation worse. It's time for Republicans to move beyond their bitterness as it will not benefit their party nor the country.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Wanda Sevey <wsevey@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:17 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Wanda Sevey
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.

Wanda Sevey
Delanco, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Wanda Sevey <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:18 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Wanda Sevey
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

[Your name]

[City, State]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:22 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The ACA saved my son's life.docx
Attachments: The ACA saved my son's life.docx

The ACA saved my son's life.docx [0B]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Douglas McMorris <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:25 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Douglas McMorris
Austin, TX

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gordon Widener <gwidener@redfordmi.com>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:27 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.

Gordon Widener
Redford Township, MI

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: T McCormick <[REDACTED]@t>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:28 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fix ACA

My family relies on quality, affordable health care: my spouse and I as we near retirement, our elderly parents and our children who are just starting out on their own.

We all oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

We made steps towards appropriate health care with ACA, now we need our representatives to work together (which is what we sent them to Washington to do for us) to fix the shortcomings of ACA, not gut it at the expense of our citizens.

We urge the Senate to do the right thing, not the politically expedient. Americans depend on you.

Ms. T. McCormick

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
407-777-7777

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: lena cosme [mailto:lena.cosme.15@gmail.com] >
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:29 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.

Lena Cosme
Brooklyn, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lena Cosme <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:32 AM
To: gchcomments

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.

Lena Bagwell
Queens, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Caryn Rogers <carynrogers@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:32 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Maternal mortality

Please coordinate with the experts at the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine to improve our maternal mortality rates. Our numbers are worse than almost all other developed countries and are rising.

Cuts to the funding to provide that care and changes that worsen delivery of that care, especially in rural areas, will make those numbers even worse. As currently written, both ACOG and SMFM oppose the bill.

This is one of the first healthcare issues developing countries address: not only is it wrong to allow women to die because they are pregnant, but every dollar invested returns a huge savings for the state in other spending.

--

Take care, Caryn

"Negation is the origin of content."

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Everdove [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:33 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

Dear Senators, Please do not gut Medicaid in order to give oligarchs a tax cut. You think you owe your donors what you promised them. But you took an oath to us, the people, that far outranks any campaign promise. The Preamble states clearly that one purpose of our government is to provide for the general welfare. If you forsake the gains we have made in working toward achieving health care for all Americans, you forsake your oath to the people to help us reach minimum standards that other Western nations enjoy.

Ignore the Kochs and the Mercers. Look down Main Street of one of the little towns in your state. Look at the young couple wanting a first baby, and the old Nana in the nursing home. Look at the Army vet and the guys driving the big rigs. The Koch Brothers have plenty of money, but these people live month by month. All these people in all these towns and cities across America are looking to one hundred people, our Senators, to decide if we become a healthier nation or a meaner one.

I beg you to work together in a bipartisan fashion with emphasis on finding a fair and equitable path, giving the best health insurance possible to the most people.

I beg you to forget the Koch Brothers and all of your donors. Don't worry, there will be plenty more lining up to try to buy influence.

For once, please just live up to your oath and protect your people. Thanks for your service.

P.S. Help Puerto Rico.

Donna Miller

Greenville South Carolina

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: RICHARD K. GREENSTEIN ~~richard.k.greenstein@comp~~
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:33 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill in the strongest possible terms. I support bi-partisan efforts to improve the Affordable Care Act.

Richard K. Greenstein
Philadelphia, PA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Melissa Goldbach <melissa.goldbach@state.ma.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:36 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am writing in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

My family and I all depend on quality, affordable health care, including the continuation of coverage for pre-existing conditions.

In addition, as a psychotherapist, I am acutely aware of the importance of coverage for behavioral health treatment. My suicidal patients, and those with severe eating disorders, would be negatively impacted if outpatient and inpatient treatment for psychological issues were to be curtailed. I also know that many of my patients would have difficulty paying for insurance if state block grants were decreased or disappeared.

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

Sincerely,

Melissa Goldbach,
Plymouth, Massachusetts

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: ~~non-fraud@earthlink.net~~
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:36 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy opposed

Re: 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,
Pamela Freyd
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David Hoff <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:34 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham Cassidy
Attachments: MA-APSE Comments - Graham Cassidy.pdf

Attached please see the comments from Massachusetts APSE in opposition to the Graham Cassidy bill.

--
David Hoff
Board President - Massachusetts APSE

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Vivian B <[REDACTED]@gch.com>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:37 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Bill

Dear Sir/Madame,

I vehemently oppose the above bill. Due to having lymphoma and sleep apnea, if it passes, essentially, I will be uninsurable due to the horrific costs I would have to pay as the result of having preexisting conditions and being 62. That is, if I can even get insurance.

There are many people who would be in my situation.

I beg you to do the right thing and reject this bill. This isn't an issue of Democrat vs. Republican. It is an issue of people's lives which sadly so many politicians have seen to have forgotten.

Vivian Buc

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathleen Gannon <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:40 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to the Cassidy-Graham bill

I am a voting constituent from Maryland, and I am writing to share my deep concerns about the Cassidy-Graham bill to repeal the ACA. I believe that the bill as proposed threatens to take away life-saving protections for the nation's most vulnerable and would result in devastating coverage loss for many Americans. I urge you to vote against the bill.

Thank you,
Kate Gannon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Melissa Levitt Seldin [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:41 AM
To: gchcomments

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Melissa Seldin
Potomac, MD

Sent from my iPhone

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Sent from Gmail Mobile

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathryn O'Connor [mailto:kackys@ny.gov] >
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:40 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.

Kathryn
New York

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Melody Williams <melwilliams@ny.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:50 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
....

Why are you trying to use parliamentary tricks to push this bill through without debate. These tactics are used by despotic governments. If you truly wanted to fix healthcare you would have wide debates with open forums instead of constantly trying to push through your partisan agendas.

Melody Williams

17701
5704236457

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Montgomery [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators,

I am a cancer survivor. My sister is a stroke survivor who is confined to a nursing home because she cannot care for herself. She is paralyzed on her right side, has lost her memory, and struggles with her speech. Would you put her out on the street?

If you allow the Graham-Cassidy bill to pass, you might be doing just that.

You see, she relies on Medicaid to pay for her care. After having worked all of her life, she has been reduced to this. And your vote could propel her toward a gravely uncertain future.

In the United States, we care about our *people*. Or at least I thought we did.

Do you want your legacy as lawmakers to be one of sweeping children, the chronically ill, the poor and the elderly under the rug? Left to die?

You decide.

Sincerely,

Carol A Montgomery

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kelly McAndrew <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:50 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy NO!

My family relies on affordable healthcare. My sister and I both inherited two chronic conditions from our parents and therefore have pre existing conditions. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA not repeal it with this hateful proposed legislation.

Thank you,
Kelly McAndrew
Astoria, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mitchell, Julie A <julie.mitchell@vt.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:50 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GC-bill

Many Americans rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. This bill ignores people who rely on medicaid, or have pre-existing conditions, disabilities and are barely able to pay for groceries, let alone medical care.

Any bill brought forward for consideration, needs to represent a majority of Americans and should incorporate a bipartisan congressional effort to *improve* the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Julie Mitchell
Monkton, VT.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lawrence Carlbom <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:28 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Rebecca Carlbom
Beverly, New Jersey 08010.]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susanna [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Susanna Coit
Boston, Massachusetts

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margaret [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:54 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Why Graham-Cassidy is terrifying to us

To: the Senate Finance Committee, The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch Chairman and The Honorable Ron Wyden Ranking Member

We are a family of 3 that are very fearful of what our future will look like if the Affordable Care Act ceases to exist. I am a cancer survivor and was not able to get on any insurance plan after I started my own business. My son is autistic and was also uninsurable given his condition. But even given my son's and my situation, my fiance is in a much more desperate situation. He has a genetic condition where his blood clots too easily so since the age of 19 he has had to be on blood thinners at levels that basically make him a hemophiliac. He had several episodes during his life that put him in the hospital for weeks at a time. He has worked hard all his life, founded several IT businesses and at one time had good health insurance that he was slowly priced out of and had to drop it when the premiums went up to 3100.00 a month. That was 2 years before the ACA started and in the interim he was in the hospital for his condition and he is still paying off that bill 9 years later. Under the ACA he has good comprehensive insurance that he can afford. But now he is 60 and looking at further complications in his condition, gastric issues that have required several procedures, prostate issues that are going to require surgery and retinal problems that are potentially blinding. He has no idea what he will do if his insurance goes away and he is thrown to the private insurance industry. He has always taken excellent care of himself and is amazingly healthy given his issues—but still is basically uninsurable in a commercial market. I'm so afraid that he will have to become a medical refugee. Oh and he also keeps the internet running (not an exaggeration—Google Network Time Foundation), so keeping him healthy and functional is in all our best interest.

Please consider all families like ours in similar (and worse) situations. We are relying on you to make good decisions.

Sincerely,

Margaret Clark
Talent, Oregon

--

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeffrey Townsend [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:54 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Senate Finance Committee hearing on the Graham-Cassidy bill Monday, September 25th at 2:00pm EDT

*Senate Finance Committee hearing on the Graham-Cassidy bill
Monday, September 25th at 2:00pm EDT*

From: Jeffrey [REDACTED] Esq., Woodbridge, CT 06525

This bill should not even be considered for a vote. It is terrible legislation. Here are a few reasons why:

1. pre-existing conditions are not actually guaranteed to be covered. Under this bill, individual states have the option to obtain waivers that then would allow insurance companies to raise premiums by potentially 10's of thousands of dollars for any number of pre-existing conditions, including pregnancy.
2. currently, under Obamacare, insurance companies can charge the elderly up to 3x as much as the young. Under the new bill, this ability to ramp up charges on the infirm increases to 5x.
3. the timing of the vote with enormous consequences before the CBO can give an estimate on its impacts is incautious at best, vehemently unpatriotic at worst. The Brookings Institute estimates that 21 million fewer people will have health coverage by 2026 under this plan. That is regression, and not what is needed in America today.
4. this bill is opposed by the AARP, American Heart Association, March of Dimes, National Health Council, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, and many many other respectable, non-partisan health organizations - (<http://money.cnn.com/.../obamacare-repeal-oppose/index.html>...). These organizations know how bad for America this bill is.
5. I would like to see congress work together on improving (or replacing, if that's the way it has to be) Obamacare. Hastily destroying it with a bill whose only real goal is to give a political party the ability to say they fulfilled their (now 7 year old) vows to repeal Obamacare is not what is good for America. How can it be, with a consequence of 21 million uninsured Americans? Unaffordable healthcare for people with preexisting conditions or the elderly? Possibly the complete collapse of non-employer-purchased insurance markets in some states?

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Wendy Scharfman <wendy@wendyscharfman.com>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:55 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: As a citizen, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. As a middle class American who works hard and has On my way! Health issues, it is essential to be able to receive good affordable and accessible healthcare. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Wendy Scharfman
New York, NY

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carolyn <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:56 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Dear Congress,

My family and I rely on decent, affordable healthcare to stay healthy and to protect us when we get sick or injured.

The Affordable Care Act has improved the quality of our health insurance. It's something that we really noticed when we had our babies in 2013 and 2016, after requirements for preventive care were in place under the ACA.

When my husband and I got that first pregnancy test in 2013, we jumped up and down. We were so excited to be having a baby. And we were just as excited in 2016 when we learned that our second child was on the way.

Under the ACA, if we chose an in-network provider, we would have no out of pocket costs for prenatal care, labor and delivery, newborn care, and breastfeeding help and supplies. We could focus on saving money to cover my unpaid maternity leave (members of Congress, I hope you will cosponsor the FAMILY Act - paid leave would have helped our family tremendously), rather than shelling out for copays, coinsurance, and our deductible.

The Affordable Care Act also provided an important back up plan. My husband is self-employed and we get our health insurance through my job. If I ever lost my job, decided to go free lance, or switched to a part time schedule, we would still be able to buy good health insurance at a price we could afford. Knowing this gave us a great sense of security and freedom. It has been life saving for everyone who has ever dreamed of starting their own business.

We love the Affordable Care Act, and we hope Congress will focus on making it even better rather than dismantling it. I would love to see a public option or Medicare for All. In the meantime, I would like to see increased funding for Medicaid and Medicare, and for increased subsidies to make it easier for families to buy good health insurance.

Please do the right thing. Your constituents will remember that you protected their healthcare.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Kelly

[REDACTED]
New York, NY 10026

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maria G Pollock [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:16 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

The Graham Cassidy Bill will not work in Illinois because our state is essentially broke.

States can already regulate healthcare and health insurance. We do not need a Graham Cassidy Bill for that. We hold our Federal Government to their duty: To do what we paid for with our taxes: Ensure adequate healthcare for everybody: Kids, Students, working people, disabled, sick, old and retired folks!

Health is a public concern. Everybody needs access to sufficient healthcare. Is it fair to lay higher premiums on people who are born with a genetic disorder? It would render our family uninsurable.

My children and I have Ehlers-Danlos-Syndrome. It is so rare, that the insurance does not even have codes for some of the issues we face.

We are glad that we have private insurance through my husband. But what if he became sick? You see, healthcare is not something that you are in the market for. Healthcare for sale has failed us many times over. Our free market ideals don't support quality of life. Quality of life must not be a capital good that some can afford and others can't.

It is easy to make decisions about people with illnesses as long as you don't have that dilemma, choosing between food or healthcare.

The burden of healthcare has to be shouldered and shared nationwide. We must not allow some states to bear the brunt of the cost for healthcare while others indulge because they are less populous, or are in a healthier climate zone.

We the people... establish this Constitution ... to promote the general Welfare.

....NOT the welfare of some.

Keep us healthy, support socialized medicine and regulated health insurance.

Sincerely,
Maria G. Pollock
Chicago, IL
Citizen since 2009
paid healthcare premiums since out of College.

Maria G. Pollock
Registered Piano Technician
[REDACTED]

The best way to get things done is do them.

copied to: Senator Dick Durbin, Senator Tammy Duckworth

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Erin Conroy [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 6:00 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

To the 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 at least 32 million Americans to lose their health coverage, while destroying Medicaid and harming some of the most vulnerable members of our communities, seniors and people with disabilities.

The Senate should not be engaging in last-minute legislation as if it is a college student caught flat-footed before a mid-term exam. The health care industry represents a massive *one-sixth* of the American economy. It is a radical enterprise to massively restructure the American economy on the basis of a bill that was resubmitted with major changes only yesterday, a Sunday. This is *not* conservative lawmaking. It is irresponsible and insulting to the American people, who have not been given sufficient time to review the Amendment or to analyze it with the benefit of scoring by the Congressional Budget Office. We have been deprived of the opportunity to meaningfully discuss this proposed legislation restructuring 1/6 of our economy with our Senators. For that matter, all 100 Senators from all 50 states are unable to participate in an intelligent and informed debate, or make a responsible vote, without the benefit of such time and information.

Furthermore, American voters oppose this amendment. Only 23% support it, and fully half of those voters do so under the false understanding that it keeps the ACA's federal protections for people with pre-existing conditions. (The amendment's proponents have repeatedly lied to the public and claimed that it retains those federal guarantees.) The GOP demands to pass some kind of "repeal and replace" of the ACA are coming directly from Republican mega-donors such as the Koch brothers, who have threatened Republican lawmakers that they will withhold payments to Republican congressmen for 2018 midterm election campaigns, unless repeal is rammed through of the ACA (styled "Obamacare" by GOP opponents). The vast majority of American citizens oppose this amendment.

Finally, the lack of regular order in this slapdash legislation is shockingly irresponsible and a departure from Senate business. It is not befitting the greatest deliberative body in the history of the world, but a banana republic led by a strongman who demands his will regardless of the good of the whole people.

I ask you to reject this bill, return to regular order, and engage in responsible and sober assessment of the needs of the American people, and a bipartisan process at least as robust, long-lasting and serious as that which produced the ACA, which contains dozens of Republican amendments and concessions by the sponsoring parties.

Sincerely,
Erin Conroy
Portland, Oregon

--
Erin Conroy

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judith Christie <gchristie@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:57 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Here we go again. It seems that the GOP continues to be deaf to the cries of mercy from their constituents.

Incredibly, the Graham/Cassidy bill is even more devastating than AHCA or BCRA were. Phasing out Medicaid altogether? NO! Defunding Planned Parenthood? NO! Tearing away healthcare for veterans, women, elderly, poor, children, disabled? NO! Making coverage for pre-existing coverage optional for states? NO!

All without a CBO score. How can you, in good faith, vote on a bill without knowing the true impact on millions of Americans? It will affect 1/6 of the US economy, and without knowing *how* it will affect the economy, it is unconscionable to push this monstrosity through.

Why? WHY won't the GOP hear the people? WHY do they insist on hurting Americans, especially the most vulnerable of our population? STOP THIS MADNESS!

32 million. These are the reasons.

You have 32 million good reasons to vote NO on the Graham Cassidy bill.

Don't vote to throw them all off of their insurance/healthcare plans.

Vote NO on Graham Cassidy "healthcare".

Vote NO on the Graham/Cassidy bill!

Judith Christie
[REDACTED]
Largo, FL 33770

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jamie's Gmail [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 6:02 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Last October my father had a stroke. Luckily he recovered, but couldn't take the time off he needed for fear of losing his employer-sponsored healthcare. Now he's struggling at work but can't find a less demanding job without health insurance because he's only 59. Moreover he cannot even use his employer-sponsored insurance with many providers because his employer is based out of Florida and he works and lives in New York State.

My husband is 32, a black belt in jiu jitsu who also works full-time and just completed his second Masters degree. He used to do mud runs like Spartan for fun and pays out-of-pocket to see a nutritionist to build up his endurance through diet. We also spend thousands per year on co-pays and deductibles for his physical therapy. You see he had an unnecessary knee surgery when he was a kid and is paying for that now in the form of arthritis.

The Affordable Care Act didn't cause either of these issues, but Graham-Cassidy-Heller (GCA) would make them worse. My father already has a high-deductible plan. With GCA he could be charged astronomical premiums due to his pre-existing condition. The same goes for my otherwise healthy husband due to the arthritis in his knee.

Oh and did I forget about myself? No. Before the ACA, my employer-sponsored health insurance limited me to 25 therapy sessions per year. That was extremely stressful considering I started going to therapy to cope with a demanding job where I regularly worked 60-70 hours per week and was verbally and emotionally abused by my supervisor. Thanks to the ACA, I could book a session with my therapist and not worry that I would run out of covered visits before the plan year ended. GCA could put an end to that and, since I'm a woman, jeopardize my access to maternity care should I ever get pregnant.

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, people with disabilities and those with pre-existing conditions.

Sincerely,

Jamie Gordon
Watertown, MA

Sent from my iPhone.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shari Winebarger <shari.winebarger@j...>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 6:02 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

Dear Mr. Warner,

My name is Shari Winebarger. I am asking you to please fight to keep coverage for my family. My daughter, Maci, was diagnosed with a brain tumor when she was six years old. She was given little chance to live. We did not have insurance. Thanks to ACA we were able to acquire her insurance regardless of her pre existing condition. We were able to take her to Johns Hopkins and 6 1/2 years later she is still here. Without insurance we would have been at the mercy of whoever would see her and surely would have not survived.

Also, we need coverage to go out of state. It has become almost impossible to get out of state coverage. We found a policy this year but have paid out thousands out of pocket. We have a private policy because my husband has his own small business. It is harder and more expensive every year.

Thank you,

Shari Winebarger

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shorner-Johnson, Kevin [mailto:shornerk@etowah.edu]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 6:05 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Improve the ACÁ

I am writing to speak in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill. Our family feels the very real impact of dramatically rising healthcare prices as we struggle to pay higher bills with no increase in our income. Just one trip to the emergency room cost us around \$3000 on a high deductible plan.

It would be wonderful if the Graham-Cassidy bill was a step toward improving these problems. But rather than working to improve ACÁ, it seeks to destroy the equality of access to quality healthcare regardless of socio-economic class.

Kevin Shorner-Johnson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joanna Hoyt [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 6:05 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Concerns about Graham-Cassidy

Please do not support this bill, which would make it nearly impossible for low-income citizens, senior citizens and those with pre-existing conditions to obtain necessary health care. That's obviously inhumane; it's also not good for the nation's economy in the long run, as health care jobs would be lost immediately, while unfunded ER visits would rise and productivity would fall in the long term.

Joanna Hoyt
[REDACTED]
Lacona NY 13083
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Geri as grab [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 6:06 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Mon Sept 25, 2017

My family, brothers and sisters and their children rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My nephew was born with autism, a pre-existing condition. He and his family need for him to have quality health care. My sister has bi-polar that she battles daily, a pre-existing condition. She needs quality health care. Three of my brothers have cancer. Although one has "beat" it, I expect it is still a pre-existing condition. My mother and one of my brothers has diabetes, a pre-existing condition. All will be priced out of the market and likely end up without healthcare. For some of them, passing this bill could ultimately bankrupt them and/or hasten their death due to lack of adequate healthcare.

Financially hobbled constituents due to unaffordable health insurance cannot contribute to the consumer vitality this economy needs to succeed.

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

Sincerely,
Geraldyn Schrab
[REDACTED]
DeForest, WI. 53532

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sara Hudson [mailto:shudson@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 6:06 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham/Cassidy

We are a healthy American family, living in Richmond VA. My husband and I have two young-adult daughters, and I am terrified of what Graham/Cassidy would do to my family. Here are a few ways that the uncertainty about pre-existing conditions could harm my family, even though we look like a healthy family.

Eight years ago at the age of 45, my husband had a stroke while we were celebrating the bar mitzvah of the son of good friends. He has never smoked, is not over weight, and is a dedicated road cyclist who logs thousands of miles on his bike every year. It turns out that he has a protein deficiency in his blood that caused the stroke. Luckily, we got him to the hospital quickly and the amazing professionals there were able to bust the clot and he made a full recovery. He works at his IT consulting job to this day with no lingering ill effects of the stroke, except for the mark of a pre-existing condition. We were fortunate that he was insured through his employer at the time, so we did not go bankrupt with his initial care. But, would he be insurable in the future without the Obamacare provisions?

Our two daughters carry the same protein deficiency. They are just beginning their adult lives, and they have amazing potential to change the world. Will they be insurable without the Obamacare provisions? Will they have the freedom those provisions provide to find their own paths to making their unique contributions, or will they have to take jobs that provide insurance that does not discriminate against people with pre-existing conditions?

One daughter sought the help of an on-campus counselor to help with some strategies for coping with stress and depression. Will that forever mark her as uninsurable? Should I have told her to just gut it out and not go seek help to preserve her ability to get coverage in the future?

Another daughter had an atypical PAP smear that meant she had to have more extensive testing done. She is fine, but will that mean that she can't get insurance in the future.

I had two miscarriages and two healthy pregnancies. I had an ovary removed for a benign cyst over 20 years ago. Will those mark me as uninsurable?

This is the story of a healthy, American family. We eat well, exercise, do not smoke, and are not obese. We have followed the rules and made a life for our family. We contribute to our community and are engaged citizens. But, will insurers see us merely as a bundle of pre-existing conditions? I cannot imagine how families currently facing cancer, lifelong disabilities, and other more immediate medical needs must be feeling to watch the ACA's provisions in jeopardy. But, this affects us all, and all of us must fight it.

Thank you to Senator Warner and Senator Kaine for standing up to this dangerous bill. All of America owes you a debt of gratitude for looking out for our families. I hope you will find the votes necessary to stop this bill and get us back to "regular order" where the process can be used to improve the ACA without destroying the good it has done.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michelle Adler [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 6:06 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill testimony

Hello,

I am Michelle Adler from Terre Haute, Indiana. My mother and father have directly benefited from the ACA. My mother has diabetes and has been dealing with it since she was in her 40's. Before the ACA, she saw her insurance premiums skyrocket to the thousands per month for high risk coverage. Eventually, she couldn't afford that and went without insurance for many years. When she had insurance before the ACA, she was afraid to go to the doctor, even for a general check up because she couldn't let the insurance company know she was having chest pains, for fear of losing her insurance. Eventually, she did lose it because of her diabetes. When the ACA became law, she was so happy. She was able to afford insurance and because she knew she couldn't be kicked off of her insurance because of any pre-existing conditions, she was able to regularly go to the doctor for preventative care. She felt safe getting her regular colonoscopy, which found small polyps, a heredity condition for our family, before they became worse. She is able to afford her diabetes medicine and go in for her regular mammograms.

My father was also always afraid to go to the doctor. He was self-employed and had to purchase his own insurance through the marketplace. Before the ACA, insurance rates went up by the thousands every year. Eventually he couldn't afford to buy insurance anymore. Luckily, the ACA happened and he was able to purchase health insurance that was affordable. Right after that, he went to his doctor for chest pains and found out his arteries were 99% blocked and was minutes away from a massive heart attack. He was admitted to Methodist hospital and was able to get a stint into his arteries before major damage happened. Because of the ACA, my parents are not bankrupt from this stay in the hospital. My dad feels safe to go to his regular heart check ups without fear of being kicked off of his insurance plan for a pre-existing condition.

If the ACA is repealed. If the Graham-Cassidy bill is passed. My family will actually be sentenced to death. They will see their rates sky rocket once again. They will be afraid to go to the doctor for fear of being kicked off of their insurance and they will stop going to preventative care appointments. They will die before their time. They will suffer at the hands of the GOP. My parents are not the only people who will suffer, or be afraid to go to the doctor if the ACA is repealed. Millions of people will suffer just like my parents, and some will suffer more. Children will suffer and die young.

Sincerely,
Michelle Adler
Terre Haute, IN 47805

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 6:07 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Karen Schymanski
Midland, MI

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Meghan Dillard <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Regarding your proposed bill

To the Republicans in both the House and Senate,

Kindly take this bill and throw it in the trash. The fact that you are willing to deprive 26 million Americans of health insurance and deny them coverage due to preexisting conditions when they attempt to get a new policy is abysmal. It is a reflection on your character and what everyone already thinks of the White House. This administration is embarrassing everyone.

Thank you,
A concerned citizen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: James Luby [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: info@pahealthaccess.org
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am deeply concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate, because this latest amendment to H.R. 1628, the "American Health Care Act of 2017" is the worst repeal plan yet. How bad? So bad that included in Graham-Cassidy is a little-noticed provision which makes clear that some states are expected to see an increase in the uninsured under this bill because of the funding cuts. In fact, this two-prong attack on Medicaid and the ACA will result in roughly 32 million people losing their healthcare coverage.

Block grants block access!

Graham-Cassidy ends Medicaid by block granting the program. At the core, Graham-Cassidy repeals Obamacare tax credits for middle-income individuals, subsidies for lower-income Americans, and the Medicaid expansion. It replaces all of these provisions with an ever-shrinking block grant that is smaller than the total amount of the money it takes away. The block grant then expires in 2027, causing health care spending to fall off a cliff - even for children, the elderly, and those with disabilities .

Like millions of other Americans, Medicaid is my ONLY lifeline, and ONLY means of access to care. I have Asperger's Disorder, a condition that, for adults, is NOT covered by ANY private insurer in PA. Please vote NO on any bill that takes away access to healthcare for even ONE American.

Thank you,
James Luby,
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carmen Welton <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Support for the affordable care act

Hi,

My family depends on health care provided by the affordable care act and we are deeply concerned about the Graham-Cassidy bill that will be voted on next week. I strongly urge you to prevent the repeal of the ACA and to instead begin working on a bipartisan effort to improve the existing programs.

Thank you
~Carmen Welton

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jenn [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

I oppose the passing of the Graham-Cassidy healthcare reform bill.

I rely on access to quality, affordable healthcare. As a youth, I was diagnosed with asthma. As a young adult, I had difficulty securing health insurance once I was no longer covered by my parent's health insurance. For years, my symptoms were poorly controlled, as I attempted to manage my condition with over-the-counter medications. The lack of access to health insurance also meant that I did not have access to other forms of routine, preventative healthcare.

I have been exceedingly lucky over the past ten years to have full time employment with the state of Connecticut, and have very good health insurance now. I depend on this coverage, as I require twice yearly specialist visits, pharmacy coverage for the half dozen medications that are required to keep me stable, and coverage for sick visits when all the prevention can't stop a "cold" from laying me flat.

I'm 45 now. What happens as I get older? If I ever lost my job and health insurance?

Also, my oldest son was just diagnosed with asthma last year, at the age of 18. The Affordable Care Act guarantees him coverage until the age of 26. Without this protection, the cycle would just continue on.

Thank you for your attention.

Jennifer Uttley-Rosado
Gales Ferry, Connecticut

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Priscilla Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

To whom it may concern:

Members of my family have relied on quality, affordable healthcare through the Affordable Care Act in the past and currently. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband was on insurance through ACA when we lived in Oklahoma, after I retired, since he had depended on my benefits prior to that. His employer (at that time) did not provide any benefits. We are fortunate that his current employer does provide health benefits - but not everyone is so lucky. I know the ACA needs improvement, therefore, I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Priscilla Smith

Prineville, OR

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bridget Hankin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: A plea for actual policy making

to whom it may concern,

If you cannot be compelled by morals or decency to table this "bill" that will take a challenged healthcare system and make it worse for millions of Americans including our most vulnerable - can you be compelled by ego? Because you should be ashamed to call this legislation - there is no sound policy, no thoughtful deliberation, no CBO score, no debate, no bi partisan input or support.

How do you even begin to consider yourself legislators? You are bringing shame to the great past legislators of the GOP.

Get out of the trap of Obama = bad. The ACA had 150 republican amendments. It can be fixed, you have the power to fix it. Instead you want to blow up the whole system? Why? To what end? As a physician Senator Cassidy should be appalled with where we have ended up. If he truly believes that states that are traditionally on the receiving end of disproportionate federal dollars "the takers" can support a state led health care system that actually provides more than catastrophic insurance he is out of touch with the realities facing his state and others.

Do the hard work of policy making and legislation. Bullying and tricks are for school yards. You are grown men and woman. Do your jobs - if you have the answers to Make America Great Again - prove it. This bill shows me and millions others that you haven't got a clue how to Make America Great Again.

Sincerely

bridget hankin

(PS - my preexisting conditions prior to ACA that led to my inability to get individual coverage included pregnancy and infertility - yep, insurances companies got away with that type of ridiculous pricing. Why did I need individual coverage? Because I wanted to be a stay at home mom. Thanks to your version of family values and our terrible health insurance system pre-ACA I couldn't do that. I cannot reconcile your "family values" platform with this crap you are currently peddling. How do you do it?

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Ann Kwiatkowski <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy opposition

Many friends of mine as well as family members rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I know families who have children with disabilities who need health coverage. We cannot lose coverage due to pre-existing conditions or have to pay much more. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.
Mary Ann Kwiatkowski

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Greta Myers <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing

Hello,

Families and their rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham- Cassidy bill. With the need for the inclusion of preexisting conditions, the use of Medicaid and healthcare being affordable. the Graham-Cassidy bill will leave people without health care. Please form a bipartisan Congressional committee that will work to improve the ACA, not repeal it and leave people with no health care.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Greta Myers
Willow Springs, MO

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jim Collings [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fwd: Graham-Cassidy

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

- > This bill is heartless, poorly thought out and would devastate the lives of millions of Americans.
- >
- > Please consider returning America to the great nation we were. Please.
- >
- > Jim Collings
- > [REDACTED]
- >
- > Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Katherine M. Hamilton [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: What the destruction of the ACA would mean for me and my family

To whom it may concern:

I would like my testimony added to the record for the Finance Committee hearing on the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Like millions of Americans, I have pre-existing conditions. Mine are well-controlled, not life-threatening, and can be managed at a fairly moderate cost even at the inflated drug prices that are the norm in the United States. Thanks to the ACA, my family of three is able to get coverage under an HSA-eligible Bronze plan in Texas for a reasonable \$646 per month. I would estimate that the typical monthly cost to my insurer for the care my family receives under this plan is around half of our monthly premium. We receive no subsidies towards our insurance premium as our income exceeds the threshold for subsidies.

If the Graham-Cassidy Act passes, however, I expect to see my premiums skyrocket, regardless of what our medical care actually costs. I live in Texas, and our state government will unquestionably request a variety of waivers from HHS, including waivers to allow insurers to charge more on the basis of pre-existing conditions and to cherry-pick which essential benefits their plans will offer. (Further, the massive uncertainty introduced by requiring all 50 states to completely revamp their individual insurance markets in a 2-year timeframe will drive premium rises for individual policies even in states with no waivers.) In order to get a comprehensive policy equivalent to our current one, that I would be comfortable relying on if one of us were diagnosed with a complex, catastrophic illness, I expect that I would have to spend 3 - 4x what I spend currently, and probably more if I want my current conditions and medications covered.

Do I trust my state to protect my interests and ensure that I will be able to access coverage that is genuinely affordable and adequate? Unequivocally, no. No, I absolutely do not. I remember the days of the high-risk pool in Texas, how incredibly expensive it was, how poor the insurance was, and how difficult it was to even qualify. I have zero interest in seeing increased supervision of the individual insurance market returned to the Texas state government, which does not deserve and has not earned that privilege. Further, I fail to see how it is a responsible use of taxpayer funds to require 50 states to set up 50 individual policy marketplaces with different rules, regulatory oversight, and IT systems, rather than having a consistent nationwide marketplace framework under ACA.

I am a stay-at-home mother right now, and my husband works for a small startup which does not offer an employer-based health plan. If Graham-Cassidy becomes law, we will be moving to whichever state makes it possible for us to buy the health insurance we need at an affordable cost. We are privileged -- relocation is a fairly straightforward option for us. But it is absurd and unacceptable that we may become economic refugees in the United States of America because the Republican Party apparently believes it is more important to slash and burn healthcare funding in order to hand out tax cuts, than to ensure a functioning healthcare system that addresses the needs of all Americans. My family's roots in Texas go back to the very earliest days of statehood, and I am infuriated that I may be forced out of my own state by this Congress's feckless, reckless misadventures in healthcare policy.

The ACA is far from perfect, but overall it has created a better situation than existed before it. Graham-Cassidy would not only undo the positives of the ACA, but actually take us to a worse position than if the ACA had

never existed at all.

The ACA can be fixed. Do your jobs: get to fixing it, and kill this bill.

Sincerely,
Katherine Hamilton

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rebecca Segars, [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Please kill the horrible Graham Cassaidy Bill. This bill leaves millions without coverage. How can you even be considering this??? All major medical and hospital associations oppose this bill.

Rebecca Segars

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Vicky Jaque [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement against Graham-Cassidy Bill
Attachments: Graham-Cassidy Bill Statement Against.docx; ATT00001.txt

I have copied the text of the attached file below, for easier access to the text. Please feel free to reach out to us for additional information [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: T.A. Mahan [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:50 PM
To: GCHcomments@finance.sen.gov
Subject: TrumpCare

Please save the ACA!

Just like all the other bills, Trumpcare will kill millions of people! I don't know why Republicans keep making us fight for our lives. WE THE PEOPLE know that Republicans are only doing this because they dreamed of it for many years, and GOP donations are not going to continue without repeal and replace. It is not fair to all the sick people that depend on Medicaid. I have disabled family members on Medicaid. They don't know how this will affect them and it scares them.

I have pre existing conditions due to hyperthyroidism that has made my blood pressure sky high since, and this stress is certainly not helping me. We are a poor family, barely making ends meet, and if anything is changed, we do not know how it will affect the price of our insurance and medications

I have a daughter who is having her first child. She and her husband can barely afford the insurance payments and her blood pressure is very high, and they are worried about being unable to afford her insurance, not to mention the fact that pregnancy may not be covered. My family, like most Americans, are desperately worried about what TrumpCare will do to our lives. Republicans have shown that they do not care about our health or they wouldn't be doing this.

We want the ACA fixed, along with 80% of Americans, not repealed and replaced. It is time that Republicans face that fact and put human lives first and their party second! Thank you!

T.A. Mahan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elva 11 Stacey [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

OPPOSE. It is irresponsible to attempt to hastily shove through such far reaching legislation without adequate due process and review. There has been practically zero analysis on the impact or consequences.
Thank you,

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Samantha Dorr [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham-Cassidy

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I strongly urge you to vote NO on Graham-Cassidy. As a health advocate and parent, I do not support this legislation that will gut Medicaid, eliminate essential health benefits, and remove protections for preexisting conditions. Instead of undoing the progress made by the ACA, please work to fix its existing issues in a bipartisan effort - this will ensure no one loses coverage and Americans will not have to face the pain, hardship and debt of unaffordable health care.

Thank you,

Samantha Dorr
[REDACTED]
Midlothian, Va 23112
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laura DeClet [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

PLEASE do not repeal and replace the ACA!! All of my family and every family I know have family members with pre existing conditions. And are on medications to stay alive. Both diabetic and cardiac medications which are extremely serious medications that we cannot live without. We were born here in Brooklyn New York and have worked and lived here all our lives.

Please do see if you can improve on the ACA. The premiums are very high and have gone up each year. But there are NO restrictions with regard to pre existing conditions, NO cap of usage, we get prescription medications and have mental health coverage etc. We the American people deserve all that you have in your health insurance package, why would we not? That is another option, that we be given the same health coverage that you have. That would be fair and just.

Thank you very much. Please
Always Remember the Golden Rule: Do unto others...

Regards,
Laura DeClet

Sent from my iPhone

--
Best Regards,
Laura DeClet

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David Isaacs [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: REJECT GRAHAM CASSIDY!!!!

Finance Committee,

DO NOTHING TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED.
DO NOTHING TO DECREASE FUNDING OF HEALTHCARE FOR PEOPLE LIKE ME.

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 Isaacs
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wausau, Wisconsin 54401

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David Brody - Home [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: 95 Health Care Stories and Reasons to Reject Graham-Cassidy B
Attachments: 95 Health Care Stories and Reasons to Reject Graham-Cassidy B[1].pdf

Please see the 95 attached health care stories that demonstrate the need for the Senate NOT to vote for Graham-Cassidy. The Senate should undertake a bipartisan effort to improve ACA without throwing people off health insurance coverage

David Brody

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: tova stabin [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

I know so many who rely on the Affordable Health Care Act to get quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I vehemently oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Pre-existing conditions for me and my family, such as asthma, fibromyalgia, spinal stenosis would mean we would be ineligible for health care. This bill would mean people would literally die and it needs to be stopped. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

tova stabin
Eugene, Oregon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hun Ter [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare Bill

The Graham healthcare bill is horrid. We need a Medicare for all system stat. Universal healthcare us become more and more accepted, and if you don't want us to vote your ass out of office, I suggest you do everything in your power to make it a thing. Just like women's suffrage, the civil rights movement, gay marriage, and abolition, universal Healthcare WILL eventually be a no-brainer. Don't be on the wrong side of history.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ginette Prestipino [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:58:PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: G-C bill/koch"care"

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to urge the senators to take the time and get this health care bill right i fear the transition of its implementation will lead to many Americans falling through the cracks. I am not just talking about those able-bodied, childless Americans but also Americans who lose their employer sponsored health coverage due to no fault of their own (i.e. layoffs).

Before Obamacare, the only choice was COBRA, which is not a realistic choice for most people due to monthly premiums ranging from \$800-\$1000 Also, it is a little disingenuous to say that government funding of healthcare is not feasible, yet its is somehow the costs of healthcare are supposed to be absorbed into the budgets of families and employers without some kind cost regulation or subsidy.

There is no price transparency in healthcare as well. It is not like hospitals , doctors , and insurance companies advertise their rates, so how can it be market driven? How can there be competition to drive rates down? We do not even know what something will cost until we get the bill in the mail. Case in point, I had a cystoscopy one year which went to my \$3000 deductible. I had way of knowing how much it could be since finding the contracted rate on my insurance companies website was impossible.

I recall President Trump had a family that was suffering due to Obamacare, a woman stating she had to cash out her 401k to pay for medical bills. Pre-Obamacare, she would have had to sell her house and lose everything to pay for medical bills due to lifetime limits and non-covered service

Please remember taxes paid through healthcare circulate, meaning funds contribute to creating many nursing technologist, administrative and clerical jobs.

Thanks for Hearing me out,
Ginette Prestipino

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stan Pollock [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

This bill is a disaster for millions of Americans who rely on Medicaid, half of whom are children. It should not be left to individual states to compete for \$\$\$. CBO says 22 million will be left without healthcare. Every healthcare organization and provider is against this bill.

Fix the ACA. Don't destroy it. We have a good foundation. Any savings by making our healthcare system more efficient should not go to tax cuts for the wealthiest. But, should be put back into the system to provide quality healthcare for more Americans.

Sent from my iPhone
Stan Pollock
Philadelphia, Pa

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Betsy Denhart [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Free Enterprise and Health Care

I am a registered voter in Vista, California and I strongly oppose this health care bill. It would not affect me directly, as I am privileged to receive medical benefits through the V.A. But whether or not something affects one personally should never be the measure of whether or not it is a decent bill.

Please stop this nonsense and repair Obama Care. Yes, it has problems and is in need of changes. So make those adjustments.

It's very obvious that the continually rising costs of medical care in the United States are due in large part to the unmitigated greed, and lack of conscience, on the part of pharmaceutical, medical instrument, and insurance companies. It's becoming obvious that these moral deficiencies also apply to many senators, as demonstrated by this bill.

I believe in free enterprise. Profit motive is a powerful tool and a catalyst to build great things that benefit many. Government is a tool through which citizens can agree to pool our money and provide certain services. The people of the United States have been clear: we would like to pool our money and provide health care for each other. There can always be a second tier of luxury health care services, and making a profit on those would be appropriate. But the basics should not be profit-based.

Stop second-guessing your constituents or you will be voted out. The majority of Americans like Obama Care, despite our current president's efforts to ensure its failure (which will result in death for many.)

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Denhart

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eliza Marie [REDACTED] * *
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: RE: Graham Cassidy Bill is awful

I agree with Sen. John McCain. Get back to regular order and don't ram this bill that favors tax breaks for the rich and insurance companies while leaving more than 30 MILLION NOTE: MORE THAN 30 MILLION Americans without healthcare.

How can @GOP claim they are pro-life while throwing children off healthcare? Why does this bill give insurance companies great berth in determining cost of healthcare for those with pre-existing conditions? This is not protecting those with pre-existing conditions.

Why is this healthcare bill a tax break for the rich? Insurance company CEOs make millions a YEAR. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Awful.

DO not pass this bill. Why is GOP ramming it down our throats? You had 7 count them 7 SEVEN years to come up with a plan.

Why don't you work with Democrats to hammer out best plan for Americans? ACA may not work for everyone but it's better than this bill. Work in regular order of congressional business to get something that works for America. And not cuse you campaigned on it. You campaigned on REPLACE with something better... well you are not replacing it with something better.

Get to working together and not for your party or for Donald Trump who is in Russia's pocket.

Elizabeth Somers
Colorado

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Polly Cullen [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: McCain, Senator (McCain); Senator (Flake)
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Greetings,

This bill makes no sense and is being pushed way too fast. It should have to go through a thoughtful process with lots of discussion from all types of groups.

I am on Medicare so I am ok. But I have 3 children, 8 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild and 100s of other people that I care about who will be basically dumped and without the means for affordable and adequate coverage. A number of them have preexisting conditions that will affect them for the rest of their lives.

I strongly urge you to remodel and improve the ACA with post-partisan input. Let's stop calling it Obamacare and let's not call it Trumpcare. With a more neutral name we are more likely to work together cherry-picking the best ideas from our medical leaders. AND picking and choosing aspects from other countries that might serve us well: a kind of melting pot of researched and tested ideas.

We can DO this!

Thank you all for your efforts.

Bill and Polly Cullen

Sedona, Az.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill and Medicaid

The importance of MEDICAID and not cutting services for the disabled !!!!!

I am a 49 year-old female, severely disabled with motor neuron disease, dysautonomia, colonic inertia, gastroparesis, cerebellum atrophy, neurogenic bladder and several other disorders. Other than approximately three hours a day, I am bedbound. I leave my house for doctor appointments and hospital admissions.

I have had 3 surgeries for neurogenic bladder and have a neuro stimulator placed in my lower back. I have a port in my chest where I receive hydration twice a week in my home. I am on a special liquid diet. My body is unable to process solids. I have lost eighty pounds and am trying to avoid the use of a feeding tube.

I have a porch lift to be able to leave my home, I have a wheelchair, adaptive bathroom, many things that help me day today that is paid for by Medicaid, last year alone I had four to five hospital admissions, I rely on Medicaid as I am a single woman with no one to help me financially, this has to help me pay for these things, for my life. To be alive.

My sister found that she could be my Independent Provider and care for me and allow me to stay at home. I live on the first floor with her above me on 2nd floor . It makes caring for me more personal and allows me to stay in my home. Otherwise, I would need 24 hour care in a nursing facility.

If I was not on a waiver I would have nowhere else to go as my sister would have to have another job. My sister provides a majority of my hours (and then some as in during night) with an extra aid covering evening shift and occasional Saturday evenings. Otherwise my sister handles it all.

She washes me, dresses me, feeds me, positions me in bed, washes my clothes, prepares my food, cleans my room, my bathroom, takes me to doctor appts. The list goes on and on.

I need around-the-clock care for my bladder and colon issues. I never know when I'm going to need to use the restroom or other assistance.

At the age of 49, I do not want to have to live in a nursing home. Would living in a nursing facility with many people several much older at 49 be anyone's choice?

Would it be yours?

My mother just passed in October due to cancer. And my dad presently has cancer. So I can't turn to family for help.

I have no one except my sister. I trust and rely on my sister for the constant care I need.

I live on SSI and Medicaid. I, along with many others, do not have the luxury of hiring private care in case of illness.

I am not speaking for just myself. I am speaking for many others that are unable to speak for themselves.

Where would all of the individuals that would be displaced without Medicaid and waivers. There will be a multitude of individuals that will be pulled from their homes. Is there enough proper housing to meet the individual needs like Independent Providers currently do? What would that housing look like? How would they be staffed? Most importantly, who will explain to these individuals why they can no longer live with those they know.

No one is immune to disease or disability. As a nation we are responsible to help others that cannot help themselves. We cannot fail people with disabilities and their families. We cannot allow greed to destroy the lives of millions. We must stand together and demand better for all families.

Vote NO on this negatively life altering bill.

Sincerely,

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rebecca K [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: This is what healthcare means to me!

As a single woman in the U.S., I rely on insurance from the exchange market to provide me with a decent level of healthcare that I pay for out of my own pocket. I am satisfied with my plan and its options. Being able to afford decent healthcare is critical to taking care of myself as I carve my path in this world. By repealing and replacing healthcare, you are telling me that you don't care about hardworking, independent entrepreneurs in this country who are actively pursuing the American Dream. If you take away my healthcare, I am left with nothing. Without health insurance, if I become really sick, or have an accident, the burden of that insurmountable cost will ultimately be passed along to tax payers – and you know that.

Additionally, bankruptcies due to medical costs will return to pre-ACA days (a la Michael Moore's *Sicko*). Your plan to repeal and replace not only harms the millions who will be left without coverage, but you harm the entire country by foisting the cost of all of the inevitable bankruptcies that will most certainly arise from the newly uninsured onto the American public – forcing the entire country to foot the bill.

As a public servant it is your responsibility to take care of your people. A healthy society is a robust and productive society. As the party of fiscal responsibility, perhaps it would behoove you to know that the most fiscally responsible thing a country can do is to provide healthcare coverage for everyone. It saves money, standardizes care and pricing, and provides equitable access for all. Oh, and did I mention, it's far more cost effective than the cobbled together hybrid system in place right now?

Thank you for your time. I hope that you do the right thing today, and you know what that is.

Kind Regards,

--

Rebecca Krueger, MPH

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cynthia B. Meyers [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Hello,

The Graham Cassidy bill should be stopped. It is not a way to improve access to health insurance.

We need to find ways to make health care more accessible, not less. This bill would guarantee that millions of Americans would go without necessary care. The ripple effects--in medical bankruptcies, in unpaid bills, in career choices made based on insurance, in being treated differently because of which state you happen to live in--would be horrible and widespread.

Please stop this bill.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Meyers

[REDACTED]
NY NY 10027

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeremy Doniger [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:10 PM
To: gchcomments; Pearson, Beth (Warren); Hurt, Nikki (Markey)
Subject: Please OPPOSE Graham-Cassidy

Members of the Senate Finance Committee, Massachusetts Senators:

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

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

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

Thank you,

Jeremy Doniger, MD, MPH
Brookline, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hilary Schlinger [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare Bill

The proposed bill would be devastating in my state of New Mexico. Block grants, as outlined, would mean a decrease of funding in a state where Medicaid has already cut payment to providers "to the bone."

I am a midwife, and have been one for 35 years. There are many positive changes which came with the ACA that the general public is generally unaware of. For example, it mandated facility-fee reimbursement for licensed birth centers. Birth centers have been demonstrated to lower maternity costs significantly while improving outcomes for low-risk mothers. High maternity costs are listed in the "top 15" of healthcare spending - without much to show for this money, as we are the only developed nation with a rising maternal mortality rate, and an abysmal infant mortality ranking.

Prior to ACA, it was legal in many states (mine included) to offer "bare bones" policies which didn't include maternity care. Many a time I would have a woman call me in tears after she tried to add maternity care to her plan, but tried to do so once she was already pregnant - to have her request denied because now her pregnancy was a "pre-existing condition."

Prior to ACA, CNMs (certified nurse- midwives) were paid 65% of physician allowable per Medicare requirements. One provision of the act mandated 100% reimbursement - meaning I actually get paid a living wage for my work.

As for other aspects of reproductive healthcare: I had lots of new patients show up after ACA and Medicaid expansion...including one woman who hadn't had a pap for 14 years. And yes, she had cervical cancer, which I found on a pap, and yes, she got treatment.

I implore you not to pass this abysmal excuse for a healthcare bill; instead, make improvements to, and permanently fund, the ACA.

Sincerely,
Hilary Schlinger, CNM, RN, MS, CPM

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Peter Covitz [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposed to Graham Cassidy

Dear Senators,

Please reject the appalling Graham Cassidy bill. It will result in a massive loss of healthcare coverage by tens of millions. It will allow premiums to skyrocket. It will leave states without money or time to construct an alternative system. Many, many will die because of it.

And shame on you for pursuing it without proper hearings or CBO scoring. Republican donors are NOT the most important constituency you represent.

Peter Covitz
Massachusetts

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Suzy Peers [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:06 PM
To: gchcomments; PPeers3759@aol.com
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

A surgeon in Boston makes a compelling case to oppose the Graham-Cassidy health care proposal. The last paragraph makes a strong case against this bill.

"Every major group representing patients, health-care professionals, health-care institutions, and insurers has come out vociferously against this plan. Governors from Alaska to Ohio to Virginia have opposed the bill. In a highly unusual, bipartisan statement, the national association representing the Medicaid directors of all fifty states has also opposed the bill. The top health official in Louisiana, Cassidy's home state, has opposed the new plan. There is not a single metric of health or health care that the Graham-Cassidy plan makes better. This bill is a national calamity. It should not even come to a vote."

[REDACTED]

Suzanne Peers
Louisville, KY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Deb Polich [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:05 PM
To: gchcomments; Senator,
Subject: Healthcare

Re: September 25th hearing
United States Senate Committee on Finance

Dear Members of the Committee:

I am a 64 year old retired public school teacher from Iowa. I have been appalled at the attempts that have/are being taken to repeal the Affordable Care Act.
This last attempt at repeal/replace is being done without a full CBO score detailing the impact on how many consumers will lose coverage. This hearing is nothing more than a distraction from what is really happening- the gutting of Medicaid and the stripping of health care from millions of Americans.
How can any of you think this will help the vulnerable people in this country?

- 32 million of your constituents may lose coverage within 10 years.
- Ends Medicaid expansion for 11 million low-income adults.
- Ends all subsidies for the exchange and replaces that with a smaller declining "block grant".
- Cuts coverage for low income seniors, children, and people with disabilities by 7% by 2026 with a cap!
- Ends federal protections on pre-existing conditions, lifetime caps, and essential benefits. (Half the states are expected to do this) Likely a 20% hike in premiums next year.
- Average state cut of 17% through 2026, 100% after that.
- Averages would be dramatically different: 20 states estimated to lose 35-60% of funding to move money to rural, red states.
- Provides NO funding for recessions, natural disasters, public health emergencies, or price spikes.
- Ends all cost sharing payments to low income Americans.
- Targets women's health/ family planning.

AND THIS LIST GOES ON!

Wouldn't your time and my tax dollars be better spent crafting a bipartisan bill that would stabilize the ACA marketplaces and improves the ACA as a whole?
I'm sick of hearing how the Koch brothers are stuffing the pockets of many of you. Do what's right for your constituents!

Debra Polich
Garwin, Iowa
50632

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: personal [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote to repeal Affordable Care - No!

I no longer have confidence that theirs Congress is working on behalf of the people. Rather, I see that you are guided by long time, single party interests.

As a citizen, I ask that you follow Senator McCain's wise and courageous lead in bringing this to a bi-partisan Committee, take the time to educate yourselves and the people of this nation.

Also, I request that your insurance no longer be paid and that you be dependent on the state, including Medicaid, for your health care.

Before this happens, I will no longer believe that we have a government for the people.

I do not support this Congress, which is only a Congress for special interests. I hope that the public is awakened to your abuse of powers.

Many blessings,
Mary Elyn

Spiritual guide and coach -
Individuals, retreats, classes, rituals, healing
[REDACTED]

Read my blog at: thewisdomyears.wordpress.com

"Trust in the slow work of God." Teilhard de Chardin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sbc [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Please do not vote for this bill. It is estimated that 21 million people will lose their health insurance if this bill is passed. I am 1 of that 21 million.

I am single mother of 3 wonderful children and 5 equally wonderful grandchildren, 3 of whom are a sibling group that was adopted through my state's Dept of Children and Families (CTDCF) by my oldest daughter and her husband. All of my children and their families are contributing members of society, from teaching and business to hospitality and more. As a mother, I sacrificed so they could have better.

I am currently working part time through a recruiting agency and looking for full time work. Most jobs are taken by someone who is younger and more skilled than I am. I am on my state's expanded Medicaid program. I have asthma and a severe allergy which requires me to carry an epi pen. I also have PTSD. Having affordable access to my therapist has saved my life numerous times. If this bill passes I will not be able to afford the insurance premiums for the conditions I have. I will have to choose between my medications and food and no one should have to choose between eating or breathing.

This bill takes away my right to life. This bill takes away the right to life for 21 million people or more. Everyone has a story. Real people with real health issues. Please think about the impact this bill would have on this country as a whole. Please vote no.

When did a person's health become a commodity?

When will the CBO score/report be out?

There has to be a better way.

Thank you,
Lisa Angelica
New Haven CT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jackie Thiry [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care bill

I am opposed to the Graham-Cassidy Health care bill. The uncertain of premiums for people with pre-existing conditions, the increase in cost to Seniors, The loss of medicaid coverage, the elimination of guaranteeing basic coverage are the reasons. Everyone is entitled to affordable, adequate insurance. The two parties should be working together to find the best health care system possible. This is not it.

Thank you,

Jackie Thiry

[REDACTED]
Green Bay, WI. 54301

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Dr. Amanda Van Emburgh
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

My family relies on affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My son and husband both have a pre-existing condition (hearing loss). I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA -- not repeal it.

Sincerely,

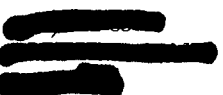
Amanda Van Emburgh

McLean, Virginia

--
Amanda Van Emburgh, PsyD, RPT-S
Licensed Clinical Psychologist
Registered Play Therapist - Supervisor



www.FamilyAndChildTherapy.com



Vienna, VA 22180

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: STEVEN KILLOUGH [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:02 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 take care of many children in your area who count on Medicaid in many forms. Please do not abandon children in your quest to save a buck.

STEVEN KILLOUGH

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chris Holly [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Regarding the Graham Cassidy Repeal

America and Americans deserve better than this awful and partisan effort to engage 1/6 of the American economy as well as the industry that so many will need help from through their lives. Let the bipartisan process work and reject this awful bill immediately.

Yours

Chris Holly, LCSW

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: yuet [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy
Attachments: ravi kite.jpg

I am writing to share the story of my friend Ravi who because of the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid, gets to stay alive and attend school like any other third grader. Attached is a photo of Ravi and his warrior mom. I beg you ...

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.
While imperfect, it is better than anything that's been proposed.

Thank you.
Yuet Chu

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Bauer [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect us! Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

I'm a senior female, with high blood pressure. My oldest sister is 80, low-income and has osteoporosis. The Republican medical plans would allow insurance companies to price insurance beyond my means. With no insurance, no lifesaving blood-pressure medication, I'm at great risk of life-threatening stroke or heart attack. With Republican cuts in Medicare, my sister's broken bones would go unrepaired, killing her.

We voted to elect you to protect us and pass legislation that serve the best interests of the American public, the Republican medical plans do neither, please show compassion & humanity, reject them.

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

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

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

Mary Bauer
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Clarkston, Michigan 48346

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Griffin Cupstid [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

I join my professional association, the American Academy of Family Physicians, in urging you to soundly reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller because it would result in tens of millions of Americans losing health insurance, destroy the Medicaid safety net, push many rural hospitals into bankruptcy, and destabilize the individual insurance market. Please resume work on the bipartisan fixes to the ACA that were being considered by the Senate HELP Committee.

H. Griffin Cupstid, MD, FAAFP
Family Physician
Spartanburg, SC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Cohen [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham Cassidy bill

I rely on affordable healthcare. Because of that I strongly oppose the Graham Cassidy bill.

I have a 2 year old and another on the way. Under this bill, maternity care would not be covered. This is the best way to ensure a healthy pregnancy.

I had a c-section during my previous pregnancy which would be considered a pre-existing condition.

The fact that this bill would not cover mental health and other essential benefits. I am also someone who has benefitted from treatment for anxiety. The idea that this would not be covered is really dangerous to me.

Please strongly consider all of the millions Americans who would loose coverage. Someone will end up paying the price and it's likely to be the people who are most vulnerable

Sarah Cohen
Chicago Il

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Frank L. Topping [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy healthcare bill

I'm a pre-existing condition destined to die early if the Graham Cassidy bill confounding our Healthcare is approved.

The best interests of the American people are served by killing this bill!

Thank you!

Frank L. Topping, Sacramento

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

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shelly Blades [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Grahn/Cassidy

Don't you see that the majority of Americans are against this bill??? The majority of us want you to fix ACA. It troubles me that GOP only wants the bill passed because KOCH brothers threatened to cut funding to GOP. OMG! How horrible. GOP more worried about campaign money then the US people. Time for many selfish representatives to leave. They are supposed to be working for us not against us.

Shelly Blades

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: LuAnn McKee [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

The Graham Cassidy bill would ring a death toll for rural Northern California. Please do all you can to work in a bipartisan way to provide affordable healthcare for every American. We're just asking for help when we are sick 🙏
A basic need for every human being.
Please Do the right thing.

LuAnn McKee
Yreka,CA

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julie M [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

My family relies on quality, affordable health care. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My family all have preexisting conditions, and some of us depend on Medicaid. I would like to see a bipartisan congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Julia F Morez
Sierra Madre, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Baxter [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy = Bankruptcy or Death. Not a good choice.Linda Baxter 95030

NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Schulze [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Cassidy-Graham Bill

Please vote NO on the Cassidy-Graham Bill. This bill would drastically affect those of us that rely on this to help with the ever increasing healthcare needs of our special needs children. These are children that did nothing to deserve the health issues they face on a daily basis, as most were born with their conditions, as was my son. Cuts to these programs would force many of us who work to help support our families out of jobs and into bankruptcy. Please do not take away the funding for these programs that our families rely on to help our children thrive.

These children and their families are not abusers of the system. Most of us want to do the best for our children, and that is all that we are asking for ours.

Please vote NO TO THIS CASSIDY-GRAHAM BILL. Reform is needed, but not at the expense of our fragile children!!!!

Thanks for your consideration of my opinion,
Jennifer Schulze

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ray Lauren [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Rachel Jones brain injury assistance
Attachments: 4723941C-2003-42EC-84FF-929343205DF2.MP4;
4723941C-2003-42EC-84FF-929343205DF2.MP4

Good evening

I had a stroke in my sleep on September 19, 2015 and I had a bleeder on my right side of my brain. My brain was swelling the Dr. removed part of my skull in my belly to preserve it, that was to reduce the swelling... I didn't wake up for a couple of weeks after the surgery. I am now paralyzed from the left side. I'm lucky to be here. I talk in circles getting the conversation out, sometimes I stutter, I notice when I read the words are scrambled, This injury has done a lot to my self esteem I was very talkative very sociable I kinda loss my voice. I have been having a hard time to get on Medicaid and food stamps \$16 a month,I pay out of pocket insurance and my nurse, I'm trying to get through Shepherd Center it's an exceptional place. I am now transitioning on a cane. I haven't completely recovered but I'm working hard towards my goal. I read a lot, cognitive games, crossword puzzles exercising my brain. I really hate I'm going to have a brain injury for life.

Yours truly,
Rachel jones
--
Rachel Jones

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christine Elgin [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. All citizens rely on quality healthcare that is affordable. This bill takes more away from Americans than it provides, as it gives states the right to let insurance companies opt out of providing many areas of what most people consider basic care (maternity, mental health services, drug addiction treatment, and far more) AND charge more for pre-existing conditions. The term "adequate and affordable care" which appears in the bill can mean anything and what insurance companies consider "affordable" is usually not what many citizens CAN afford. We must protect the health and lives of our people.

I want to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, but not to repeal it. Take time, hold hearings, learn from the stakeholders (citizen patients, AMA, American Heart Association, insurance industry, nursing organizations, etc), most of whom have publicly indicated that this bill will be a disaster for Americans.

Sincerely,

Christine Elgin

San Carlos, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Baxter [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO

Graham Cassidy = Bankruptcy or Death. Not a good choice.

Linda Baxter 95030

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eric R. Christiansen [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing MONDAY on #GrahamCassidy

I am unalterably OPPOSED to GrahamCassidy. You must not pass this abomination.

Eric R. Christiansen
414-963-9211

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: KATHY SCHIPMA [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

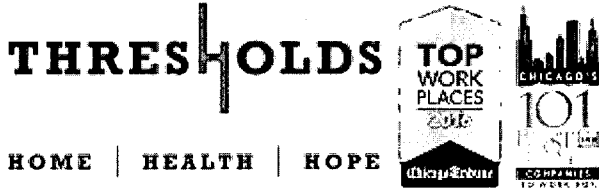
Mrs. KATHY SCHIPMA

[REDACTED]
STEGER, IL 60475
7087439058

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mark Amdur M.D. [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I am a physician. I STRONGLY oppose Graham-Cassidy. Vote it down. I support bipartisan efforts of Sen Alexander.....mark a. amdur md



Mark Amdur M.D. | Psychiatrist
Mark.Amdur@thresholds.org | www.thresholds.org
773-537-3676 | Main Office (773) 572-5500 | Fax 773-537-3498



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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Aleta McClenney [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Why I oppose Graham-Cassidy

It will hurt people. As a person of faith, I believe we are called to care for one another. This deeply flawed bill will reduce access to and the affordability of health care. For people with pre-existing conditions and the most vulnerable among us, it will be devastating. We need a true bipartisan effort to strengthen the ACA and less political rhetoric about repealing Obamacare. This is not something to be checked off a to-do list – people's lives are at stake.

Very personally, my husband is a Navy veteran who is now self-employed and insured through the ACA. He is also a Type 2 diabetic. Loss of his health insurance, which is almost certain in NC under Graham-Cassidy, would greatly reduce his quality of life and certainly shorten his life. Beyond that, the practical implications are the loss of his economic contribution to society while he would gradually become more and more dependent on health care through emergency rooms. That's a cost to the state.

In addition, our second son is now a healthy 23-year-old, but he was premature at birth. He spent weeks in the NICU and six months on a pneumocardiogram. We were fortunate to have insurance. If we had not, I am confident that we'd still be paying his bills more than two decades later. In addition, if he had developed any chronic illness or disability as a result of his prematurity, he would face being uninsurable under Graham-Cassidy. All those Senators who consider themselves pro-life need to explain what happens if those babies arrive early or with congenital health challenges. Do we not care about them once they get here? And what about their parents? If the adults in their lives have chronic, untreated illnesses or suffer for lack of preventative care, the children will suffer as well.

This bill helps no one. Please work toward a real, bipartisan solution that will benefit us all.

Thank you,
Aleta McClenney
Cary, North Carolina

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christopher Blaylock [mailto:ChrisW@blaylock.com]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My family wants a No vote

Dear Senators,

My wife and I have a 20-month old girl. Our family is terrified that Graham Cassidy could become law. We both have pre-existing conditions, and while we believe California would not seek a waiver, we understand the funding that would be lost under the legislation. It is egregious.

Please join all major doctor, hospital, nurse, healthcare organizations in opposition to this bill. Our country is in desperate need of a bipartisan solution to strengthen our current system.

Do not put donors ahead of Americans. Thank you for your time.

Chris W. Blaylock, Esq.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Portia Cooke [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

My family and friends -- and Americans in every state across the country -- rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My brother has asthma, my boss has a physical disability, my pastor's daughter has an auto-immune disease, my best friend has scoliosis... I could go on and on because pre-existing conditions are common conditions that insurance companies use to deny everyday Americans affordable care.

Quality, affordable healthcare is a right, not a privilege.

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

Sincerely,
Portia Cooke
(Trophy Club, TX)

Sent from my iPhone

Proverbs 3:5

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mike Ponsford [redacted] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cost question

What is the net cost of Obamacare versus the projected net cost of GCH? shouldn't the public have some frame of reference here?

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lynnette Adams [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA Make it work

Script: I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I work freelance and do not have insurance with an employer. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely distressed about this,

Lynnette Adams
Altadena, CA 91001

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elizabeth Wagner [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

This bill will severely and negatively impact a significant number of Americans. Just the parts that remove the ban on lifetime caps and remove protections for people with pre-existing conditions, are sufficient to make it a clear detriment to the health of the American people. But the block grants, the redistribution of funds bring, and the cuts to Medicaid are simply cruel. Tens of millions of Americans will find health care unaffordable if not impossible to access, if this bill is implemented in any way.

The icing on this horrible cake is the way in which it was written and presented to the public (I.e. Not at all). It's un-American to vote on a bill without hearings, conferences, time to let people read it, a CBO score. The authors and advocates of this bill should be ashamed and removed from office.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: The Mandersons [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy "Health Care" Bill

I'm a nurse. I work in a highly specialized field of nursing, and I'm well compensated for my knowledge and expertise. Maintaining the status quo (multiple payor, highly competitive, profit driven health care) is in my financial best interest. HOWEVER, my conscience does not allow me to support huge profits for the insurance companies, pharmaceutical companies, and their CEOs, just as it does not allow me to support a "health care" bill that rips coverage away from millions of Americans.

I know what people say. "I PAY for my health coverage. Why should my tax dollars go to pay for theirs? When they don't even work?" Why I've even got friends and family who share that sentiment. So how do we solve this problem? I think the only rational solution is for NO ONE to have to pay premiums for insurance coverage. We should ALL have coverage through a single payor system funded by federal tax dollars. Will our taxes go up? YES. Will our taxes increase faster than our premiums, deductibles, and copays do? I believe not.

I have both Canadian and British friends. They all speak highly of their health care systems. (In fact, a British friend was appalled to find out that people with cancer in the U.S. still have to pay medical bills.) Are these systems perfect? No. Are they better than what the U.S. currently has? Absolutely.

I urge the U.S. Senate to tread carefully. If you pass this bill and it becomes law, you are handing out a death sentence to hundreds of thousands of Americans. And if you're doing that for selfish, greedy, or political reasons, may God have mercy on your soul.

Pam Manderson, RN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lise <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Keep the ACA

I used to have trouble finding health insurance to buy. Most places want large groups and we had only a "group" of 3 staff at our small charity.

Most wouldn't bother with us. Those thst did were pricey.

Even without the help, we saved money JUST by being able to buy in from a pool.

The ACA matters. Fix, don't fidget.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Janice S. Mahaffey [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

How can you ignore the only two words that this bill is about! HEALTH and CARE, with each attempt you delve deeper into ignoring your constituents, and kowtowing to financiers. You have ignored the people and the best way to regain their trust is to IMPROVE, not REMOVE AHC.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lila Guterman [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please don't pass the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Good day,

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,

Lila Guterman

Washington, DC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bob Goldberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: schumer@senate.gov; gillibrand@senate.gov
Subject: hearing to consider the graham-cassidy-heller-johnson proposal monday sept 25, 2017

Dear Senators:

As a concerned citizen, I urge you not to support the proposed repeal of the Affordable Care Act. It would be disastrous to the millions of Americans who depend on it for their health and their lives.

I would welcome improvements, considered through bipartisan deliberation, that would make health care more affordable and easier to access, but this bill does not do that.

Respectfully
Bob Goldberg

[REDACTED]
Brooklyn NY 11218

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: BAC Yahoo [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Preservation of Health and Healthcare for US citizens.

As a healthcare professional (a respiratory therapist since 1982) I have seen what the quality of healthcare in this country and its availability due to insurance or lack of insurance does to families and individuals. In the country providing some of the highest quality healthcare available in the world for over the last five or six decades the access to it by our citizens varies from exceptional to zero. I recently heard one of the more foolish statements about healthcare insurance “no one ever died of not having insurance”,

The truth is people die from a lack of insurance coverage in this country and others every day. It is caused by the lack of access to good health care for simple maintenance treatment. While it’s true that in this country most people can get access to urgent or emergency care, it is often simply the first step in what’s necessary to keep them healthy and alive. Without insurance they don’t get any of the second step.

All of us rely on quality, affordable healthcare. I developed diabetes, high blood pressure and a requirement for a kidney transplant, all because I followed the doctor’s orders to take a medication for an injury to my back that produced a toxic reaction destroying my pancreas. It was through no fault of my own, it was not due to negligence, it was not due to bad habits, it was due to a simple injury and a medication to treat it, that’s no longer allowed to be given to people in this country. I need good health care insurance or I need free healthcare sort of your choice.

As a result of these truths - for me and so many others, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with pre-existing conditions, disabilities, affordability, medication needs are significant ... I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Everyone knew it had flaws when it was past, but everyone also knew it was far better than what wasn’t being done, let’s make a serious effort to get it right.

Looking at Vermont you have an example of a state that was able to implement the system and do it well, hold costs, and give good benefits. My insurance through the state is exactly the same as my insurance through my employer was before it and cost less PLEASE read that word carefully LESS then when I was working for the company.

Sincerely,

Bruce A Carr

Jericho Vermont

From iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bill Hudacek [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: my subject

/Title: Senate Finance Committee

Date: Monday, September 25th at 2:00pm EDT/ Submitter name/address: William Hudacek, 1875 N. Twp. Rd. 179, Republic, OH 44867

Politicians who rely on election hacking may think they operate with impunity. Be soulless - even have your record displayed for millions to see! You think you will never face repercussions. However, you are making a very very high-risk bet: that the hacking will not be effectively countered (it's already been proven). That every polling station will not use paper ballots.

You are betting your future - not your party's future (though that is on the table too) - your personal future. You Will Be Wearing a Target.

Your role in all that has occurred, is occurring, and will occur - will be writ large in history. Think of the stain you will leave for your family to inherit, for generations. Though you will die, your lineage is also what you are risking.

All this for MONEY? For billionaires and billion-dollar businesses to have you on puppet strings?

There's no need to continue to publish "favorability" figures for Congress. Not until the revolution is over, and we've made constitutional changes to the very foundations of our structure of government.

I'm counting on the fact that some of you, a very precious few, will act to save your behinds. But I realize it will have to get very close to you - so you start feeling the heat.

That day is coming. Some quotes:

"Conscience is the still, small voice that makes you feel even smaller." - James Sanaker.

"The human voice can never reach the distance that is covered by the still small voice of conscience." - Mahatma Gandhi

"Through pride we are ever deceiving ourselves. But deep down below the surface of the average conscience a still, small voice says to us, something is out of tune." - Carl Jung

"Your conscience is the measure of the honesty of your selfishness. Listen to it carefully." - Richard Bach

"The greatest want of the world is the want of men - men who will not be bought or sold; men who in their inmost souls are true and honest; men who do not fear to call sin by its right name; men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole; men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall." - Ellen G. White

"There is a higher court than courts of justice and that is the court of conscience. It supercedes all other courts." - Mahatma Gandhi

"No fundamental social change occurs merely because government acts.

It's because civil society, the conscience of a country, begins to rise up and demand - demand - demand change." - Joe Biden

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Baxter [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham Cassidy

This bill could take away my pre existing health coverage. That will mean BANKRUPTCY OR DEATH.

No, no no no on this bill. Linda Baxter 92030

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: John K Arnold [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy Graham Is Horrible

Stop Seeing Healthcare as a right or a privilege. Healthcare is integral infrastructure for a thriving 21st century country.

John K Arnold

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christopher Siek [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect & improve healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

This new repub plan is more of the same BS. Please throw it out accordingly.

Christopher Siek

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Naperville, Illinois 60563

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Baxter [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: no on Graham Cassidy.

Graham Cassidy = Bankruptcy or Death. Not a good choice.

Linda Baxter 95030

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Leigh Barlow [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

The bill includes skyrocketing premiums for those with pre-existing conditions. Very few people over the age of 50 do NOT have a pre-existing condition. Is this bill health care for the healthy or for those who actually might need some health care?

I detest everything about this bill.
Sincerely,
Leigh Barlow
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Artley [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassiddy

To whom it may concern,

I wish to let you know that I have ACA and yes, it needs a few fixes short of becoming single payer for all. However, the new option from the Senate is totally unacceptable.

The new bill will knock many people off the insurance rolls by being unaffordable because everyone won't have to carry coverage. Insurance has always been based on those who are healthy and paying for coverage helping out with those who need the most coverage. Medicaid will be dead, as we know it, along with many children and elders who will no longer get coverage. How would your Mother have felt if she was told her pregnancy was a pre-existing condition(?) Look, I could go on and on but I will just say that this bill will not be good at all for the constituents. It was hurried through even though there was 8 years to work on it. It was not given enough thought. There were no hearing and talks with CBO and Drs. and hospitals, nurses and caregivers. What is the hurry now? Let's, for just once, try a bi-partisan approach so that at least someone will do the right thing!

Sincerely,
Linda Artley
Bloomsburg, Pa. 17815

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eileen Shenker [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-cassidy

Please do not pass this bill. Humanity before politics as this will hurt many of our citizens. We have lived long enough to know that the only thing that matters is our health and the ability to take care of an illness when necessary. If you lose your health (and healthcare), you really have nothing. This bill is cruel and will devastate many Americans. Put yourselves in the place of someone who loses their healthcare and then vote no.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: John K Arnold [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy Graham Is Horrible

I have 35 years in the insurance business as a General Agent for domestic health insurance and a Managing General Agent for international health insurance. I owned the agency.

You can't solve the healthcare problem with health insurance. Insurance is a distribution of risk. It can't have certainty of loss and unlimited liability. That is why health insurance as the solution to the national healthcare issue will not work. What is needed is not insurance but a national plan for all people that must have public option and public funding.

Healthcare is a primal human relationship. It is not like other insurance relationships. An enormous problem with the US is our extraordinarily high cost of healthcare. We are 2 to 12 time higher in cost than anywhere else. We excel in trauma care and are miserable in chronic care.

In order to have something that works we need to establish a baseline of care that no one falls under.

We must address these two questions.

1. What is the role of government?
2. What is the role of the private sector?

If we don't answer these questions we will never figure it out.

There is a lot more to discuss but at the core of this is how we want to relate to others.

There was this case where the Christians and Republicans came out in force to not let Terri Schiavo die.

"The Terri Schiavo case was a right-to-die legal case in the United States from 1990 to 2005, involving Theresa Marie "Terri" Schiavo, a woman in an irreversible persistent vegetative state. ... Schiavo had a cardiac arrest in her St. Petersburg, Florida, home on February 25, 1990. She was resuscitated, but had massive brain ..."

Now we have Tr*mp and the Republicans wanting to cut off healthcare and in doing so sentence people to suffering and death.

What kind of people are we? What are we willing to pay and to do for others? What kind of country are we? How can we objectively handle how costly our healthcare is?

Here is an article I wrote. There are real things we can actually do right now.

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/us-health-insurance-economic-genocide-obamacare-what-john-k-arnold>

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: ANDREW CHAREST [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mr. ANDREW CHAREST

[REDACTED]
TUCSON, AZ 85742
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: KATHY JONES [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing on Monday for Graham-Cassidy bill

The Graham-Cassidy bill is the worst in a long line of bills that have only one goal: repeal the ACA so that the Koch Brothers will donate more money to the GOP. What a horrible lesson for our young people to learn about the government that should have only one goal: to protect and promote the needs and interests of their constituents. Almost no GOP members of Congress held town halls this year, for fear of being called to task over their support of horrendous healthcare legislation that was put together in the 11th hour, with no democratic partnership, with no expert hearings, with no public hearings, and no CBO score. Every Medicaid Director in our 50 states has opposed this horrific bill. The AHA, AMA, AARP, and ANA have opposed it. Governors oppose it.

Here's why I oppose it. It will leave millions of people uninsured. When people are uninsured, the death rates and bankruptcy rates go up. Most importantly, this is cruel and anathema to a country who values life. Decimating medicaid will crush our elderly, disabled, and children. Loosening the definition of EHBs will allow all kinds of cruelty to be inflicted upon us, including losing our coverage for pre-existing conditions. I am retired, on a fixed income, and cannot afford the higher premiums and deductibles in Graham-Cassidy. I cannot afford the surcharges for my asthma & rheumatoid arthritis. But I can definitely afford to vote.

If you are going to inflict this kind of barbaric and cruel healthcare on us, I can assure you that I am not delighted to learn that large medical device companies will receive a huge tax cut. How dare you?

I want you to think about how angry we are. Now think of the exact opposite. Think about your constituents being so devoted to you that you need zero dollars for your re-election campaign. So devoted that they will not only be 100% loyal to you, but they will also tell all of their friends that they must vote for you. That kind of loyalty cannot be funded by the Koch Brothers. It can only come from your loyalty to your constituents by voting no for this bill that will bankrupt or kill us.

We have had to seriously disrupt our lives over the past 7 months to rally, march, protest, call, fax, email, and tweet to get you to do the right thing. Protecting ourselves from our members of Congress shouldn't be so ridiculously hard.

Vote no on this bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julie Balutis [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please stop Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

I am writing to express my sincere fear about the passage of Graham-Cassidy. This bill would strip my brother of his healthcare. He has epilepsy and could not get affordable coverage before the ACA due to his preexisting condition. He works three jobs and while his premiums are high now, he would go broke trying to remain insured if this bill becomes law.

This bill is being rushed through without a full CBO score and analysis of coverage impacts or premium increases. Improvements need to be made to the ACA, via bipartisan legislation in committees with jurisdiction (HELP & Commerce). Please resume the bipartisan process of fixing the ACA's problems. Please save the healthcare of millions of Americans and stop Graham-Cassidy from passing.

Respectfully,
Julie Balutis

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David O'Connor [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Dear Senator Grassley and Distinguished Members of the Judiciary Committee

It is my understanding that the committee will hold a hearing on the Graham-Cassidy bill. I write this email to you and ask that it be added to the record. I am a citizen of the great state of Connecticut, but more importantly of the United States of America. This bill should not be allowed to move forward for a number of reasons.

First, any health care effort like this affects 1/6th of our economy and has not had the benefit of a CBO score. Pressing forward without a clear understanding and cost to the American people and to their healthcare is not responsible.

Health insurers are opposed as the bill will destabilize the markets.

Healthcare groups are opposed because millions of individuals will lose their insurance. This includes the AMA, American Hospital Assn., American Cancer Society and the American Heart Assn. Other groups opposed include AARP, Assn. of American Medical Colleges, the Children's Health Assn. and the March of Dimes.

Second, the Senate has long held traditions for normal process which include comprehensive hearings and bipartisan agreements. The rush to approve this bill bypasses that important process.

Please stand for a bipartisan approach to improving the nation's healthcare as Senator McCain has so aptly stated.

Sincerely,

David O'Connor

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Mohr [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not pass Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senators:

Like virtually all Americans, I rely on quality, affordable health care. Because of this, I STRONGLY OPPOSE the Graham-Cassidy bill. As a soon-to-be senior I'm concerned about higher costs if the ACA is repealed. Though I am currently lucky enough to be covered by employer insurance, many of my friends are not. Many were finally able to get insurance, and thus care that they had been delaying, under the ACA. I don't want to see them lose it again. I don't want to live in a country where people regularly suffer, die, and go broke because they can't pay for health care.

We all know there are problems with the ACA. I would like to see Congress make a serious, committed, bipartisan effort to improve the ACA, not take a huge step backwards by repealing it.

Thank you,
Carol Mohr
Ann Arbor, MI

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Andrea Brady [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Don't do it!!

My father died at age 39. Following a horrific accident, he reached his 'lifetime' cap and was unable to get a life saving transplant. No one should ever die this way. It was cruel and unjust. Young, father of 4. Never had a chance. If there were no caps, I feel strongly that he would still be here today. Could have seen me graduate from college, watched my siblings grow up and achieve milestones, and met his grandchildren. He would have been an awesome grandpa.

Please don't vote to take us backwards! Don't allow another family to suffer the way mine did- watching someone we love die because he couldn't get the care he needed.

It's un-American!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gloria Rosenzweig [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Gah bill

I have family who h will be effected by this bill. How can Congress in good conscience send , good people who worked hard all their lives to what is essentially their death beds to give multi millionaires more tax breaks.
SHAMEFUL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Annie Toliver [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:45 PM
To: gchcomments

I vote NO. A ridiculous bill aimed to drop so many citizens.
Please be honorable!

Ann Toliver
Phoenix Oregon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laurie [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE NO

VOTE NO ON ACA REPEAL SO MILLIONS OF PEOPLE CAN RETAIN INSURANCE AND LIVE!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kenneth Krause [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Oppose Graham-Cassidy. Not a good deal for the most needy patients.

Kenneth Krause, MD

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michael Freetage [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: 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.

Michael Freetage
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dover, Ohio 44622

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kelly McMahan [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Americans deserve better than this manipulated hearing process.

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Finance,

Monday's hearing on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill will not provide the time necessary for experts in the many aspects of the healthcare system to share their expertise. This "kangaroo court" of a hearing merely provides the sponsors of Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill the ability to say "We *had* a hearing." It's a shame that you assume Americans won't know the game you are playing with their lives! As a member of the Committee on Finance, you have a responsibility to ALL Americans to honor the Senate committee rules. (see below)

Sincerely,
Kelly McMahan

[REDACTED]
Alameda, NM 87114

*"Committee membership enables members to **develop specialized knowledge** of the matters under their jurisdiction."
"Hearings are a method by which committee members gather information to inform committee business."¹*

*"Congressional committees customarily **summon to their hearings a wide range of witnesses, including members of Congress, cabinet officers and other administration officials, representatives of business and labor organizations, and members of the general public.**"²*

If I read the Congressional Record accurately, and this hearing was announced on September 21st, witnesses would have little to no time to submit their written testimony to the staff director by the deadline.

*Rule 14. Witnesses at Hearings. —(a) Each witness who is scheduled to testify at any hearing **must submit his written testimony to the staff director not later than noon of the business day immediately before the last business day preceding the day on which he is scheduled to appear.** Such written testimony shall be accompanied by a brief summary of the principal points covered in the written testimony. Having submitted his written testimony, the witness shall be allowed not more than ten minutes for oral presentation of his statement.³*

*"Although a committee chair determines the agenda and selects witnesses, the minority typically works informally with the majority to invite witnesses representing its views. **Senate rules allow the minority-party members of a committee (except Appropriations) to call witnesses of their choice on at least one day of a hearing.**"⁴*

It seems to me that Chairman Hatch may be trying to hotline this bill. Yet, this is a controversial issue!

*"When a bill goes through the "clearance" or "hotlining" process, it may bypass a Senate committee, or truncate the amount of time spent in committee. "Hotlining" or "clearance" is when senators are notified of pending, **noncontroversial measures**, and if no senators object, the measure can be passed by unanimous consent."*⁵

¹https://www.senate.gov/general/common/faq/committees_faq.htm

²<https://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/common/briefing/Committees.htm#4>

³https://www.senate.gov/general/resources/pdf/authority_and_rules_of_senate_committees.pdf

⁴https://www.senate.gov/legislative/common/briefing/Senate_legislative_process.htm#2

⁵https://www.senate.gov/general/common/faq/committees_faq.htm#committee_bypass

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Denise Houchins [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

This bill does not represent the American people. Rather, it represents the concerns of big business. I urge you to vote no.

Denise Houchins
Smiths Grove, KY

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shelley Diekman [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I know people who have died because they had pre-existing conditions and could not afford insurance or healthcare.

I do not understand how you fail to see that denying medical care is tantamount to murder.

Please demonstrate your common decency.

Thank you,

Shelley Diekman
[REDACTED]
San Francisco CA 94110

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joan Kristensen [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Graham Cassidy

It's no better and a bunch worse than the other repeal attempts. Please, NO.

Joan Kristensen
Millington, NJ 07946
(Rep. Leonard Lance)

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sharon Howell [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

I lost my job and insurance so I couldn't afford medications for high blood pressure. As a result I had a stroke that change my life forever. While I'm glad I'm alive I can't do without insurance and meds. Without insurance I will be dead. So please don't vote against ACA. Lots of people like me depend on it.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathy K [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with includes several kinds of cancer and the loss of my daughter (20 at the time; would now be 27 if she had lived, with a major pre-existing condition) to cancer. Because of this loss; my heart is with millennial cancer survivors (and other major illnesses) who are not well taken care of by the entire medical system. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Kathy Kerdus

Sacramento, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Leigh Barlow [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please this bill is a mockery

The Graham-Cassidy bill should NEVER come to a vote. The rules of the Senate are there to protect us from rogue senators trying to ramrod legislation through for their own gain. I understand that their lobbies are screaming at them, that is no reason to skip debate and the Budget Office from estimating the impact such a bill would have on the populace.

I tired of the executive office signing orders as a way of circumnavigating the legislative process, and I detest how this bill is coming to a vote improperly.

Let Washington please return to the proper legislative process, even if it means this president cannot get his agenda accomplished even with Congress tipped toward the party he is aligned with

Sincerely,
Leigh Barlow
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Heather Davison [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

To Whom it May Concern -

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have a disabled brother and sick parents. In the interest of not hobbling much of this country, we need a bipartisan Congressional effort to *improve* the Affordable care Act, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Heather Davison
Oakland, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kaili Irvin [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

To Whom It May Concern:

As someone who works in mental health and with some of our most vulnerable people, I have seen first hand the importance of access to affordable, quality care and how devastating it is, not just to the person but the community as a whole, when this is not made possible. I **strongly** oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you,
Kaili Irvin
Portland, Maine

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Catherine E MacLean [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments for 9-25 hearing

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for considering my comments today.

I am writing in two capacities: as a person who works in health care delivery and policy research, and as a person who has a pre-existing condition and has benefitted from the protection of the ACA.

In the first capacity I work with an organization in Connecticut focused on improving and innovating in primary care. We work closely with doctors, payers, health systems, and state officials to study how health care is delivered now, and how it could be improved. Connecticut is in the midst of a budget crisis and may be forced to cut people from its Medicaid rolls even without massive cuts to funding that would result from Graham-Cassidy. The stated purpose of these cuts are to redistribute funds from states who expanded Medicaid to those who did not, but should states feel they need additional Federal funding for health care, the option to expand Medicaid is still on the table. The flexibility the bill intends to provide will be impossible for states to achieve in practice as two years of ramp-up to operating a new system with less funding is not adequate to the task that would face states. The result would be fewer people having health care coverage and a more difficult to navigate health care system. Our Medicaid system is exploring a number of innovations including accountable care type arrangements with health care systems and a managed care delivery system, but the states funding and infrastructure alone will not be sufficient to fully implement these new strategies. In addition, the guardrails of the waiver provisions are not sufficient to ensure protections for people with pre-existing conditions.

I worry that the cut funding and state waiver provisions would create a race to the bottom, and I do not believe that the quality of or access to health care should be determined by where you live in the US. Finally, the funding "cliff" that this bill would cause in 2026 would be disastrous, as it will compel a new arrangement to be made less hundreds of millions of Americans see a disastrous loss of health care services. Ten years seems like a long time, but I worry it will not be sufficient for the work that would need to be done to pull our system back from the edge.

My opposition to this bill is personal as well as professional. In 1996, when I was 4 years old I was diagnosed with a life-threatening bone marrow failure disease called aplastic anemia. Thanks to my family's excellent health insurance, I received top-notch care. I was not subject to life time or annual caps, which I would have surely exceeded over the six years of my illness. The bone marrow transplant that cured my disease and its follow up care alone cost in excess of a million dollars.

About 75% of cases of aplastic anemia are idiopathic- they have no known cause, and mine was one of them. I did not ask to get this disease and I nothing I did caused it. And even though I am now cured of it and about as healthy a 26 year old as one could be, the fact of having had a bone marrow transplant can be judged a pre-existing condition.

When the ACA passed I was a senior in high school, thinking about my future. The very fact of the ACA opened up options for me. If it took a while after college to find a job, I could stay on my parent's insurance. I would never get a rejection letter from an insurance company because of what had to be done to save my life. If I wanted to pursue a path that didn't automatically give employer based insurance, I could afford to purchase it. If something catastrophic happened, as had happened to me before, I would be protected from bankruptcy. Having had my life almost taken from me so young, I have none of the usual illusion of youthful immortality. I know I am vulnerable. While the transplant cured me, it puts me at higher risk for secondary cancers, cataracts and other health conditions. I know my current good health could change in an instant, and so I am determined to always have health care coverage.

But this year, I have been forced to reckon with the idea of having all of these options, protections, safeguards ripped away from me. Every time another bill has moved forward, I've started mentally calculating what parts of my health care I could "get away with" skipping next year. I've looked at my bank account and tried to figure out how much of a disaster I could withstand. I've called my members of Congress so many times their numbers are right behind my boyfriend and my mom in my speed dial. I've been sick with worry and fear.

And I know I'm lucky. I have a job that provides me with insurance, my health care needs are so much smaller than many of my friends. I have cried over thinking about what would happen to some of them without the options and protection the ACA provides. I have some sense I might be okay if worst comes to worst, but they won't be. And that is just not fair. None of this is. The luck of who is healthy and who gets sick is not fair. The luck of who gets better and who dies is not fair. The purpose of our health care system ought to be to try to re-balance that luck, to provide people who need it with access to care that helps them live better lives. This bill does not do that. I stand opposed to it, and I hope my testimony helps you understand why and convinces you to do so as well.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Catherine MacLean

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jamie Piperberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

I'll admit the ACA isn't perfect, but if it's going to be replaced the replacement should be better, not worse. And if there's anything we don't need it's tax breaks for corporations. (Well that and tax breaks for the wealthy)

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.

Jamie Piperberg
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Lewisburg, Pennsylvania 17837

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marilyn Moll-Ruggeri <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with pre-existing conditions is my husband, myself and children all have them, without the ACA, we could not afford health insurance. Affordability is very important, without the ACA, we could not afford health insurance. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Marilyn Moll-Ruggeri
Fort Myers, Florida

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Suzanne Lawrence [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Dear Sir:

I strongly oppose the Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill.
My husband was just diagnosed with prostate cancer and needs the ACA coverage.
He has been a strong working man his whole life and has just lost company benefits.

Second, this bill will create socioeconomic chaos.

This is of urgent importance and I appreciate your consideration!
Suzanne Lawrence

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Catherine Haynes [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Do not support the Graham-Cassidy health care proposal that would force states to swallow potentially billions in funding cuts. We need common-sense, bipartisan solutions that will stabilize markets and actually expand affordable coverage.

Catherine Haynes
[REDACTED]
Melbourne, FL 32935
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Hofgard [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Graham-Cassidy

As small business owners, my family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

The Graham-Cassidy bill does nothing to improve healthcare. In fact, it would make healthcare worse in Colorado and across America. Fewer people would be covered under this bill and, of those who are covered, healthcare would cost more and would be of lesser quality. This is not what Colorado or America needs. Any healthcare proposals at this time should result in more high quality coverage for more people. Graham-Cassidy accomplishes neither of those things.

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

Sincerely,

Linda Hofgard

Louisville, Colorado

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Cindy Pile
Subject: Comment

*
Dear Friends,

I am a marriage and family therapist intern. I work with survivors of sexual abuse and assault as well as victims of trafficking. I also have a mental health disability myself which means I can only work part-time. So, for right now, I receive healthcare through Medi-Cal (Medicaid in California.) In the near future, I will need to purchase insurance on the marketplace. I am on a very tight budget so I need those tax credits.

Please keep the Affordable Care Act in place so that I, and millions of others, may have health coverage.

Thank you,

Cindy Pile, MDiv, MA, MFTi

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ashley Suder [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Ashley Suder

[REDACTED]
McMechen, WV 26040
Monday, September 25th 2017

Reference: No On Graham-Cassidy

Members of the Senate Finance Committee, et al.

My name is Ashley Suder. I'm 29 and I live in WV. A notoriously poor state that has been helped in many ways by the ACA and the expansion of Medicaid. I never thought I would need much in the way of insurance at my age, let alone rely on Medicaid. I expected to be working as a mortician, just like I planned. But life doesn't always go as we plan. Just as I graduated from mortuary school, I was diagnosed with System Lupus at the age of 22, and more as the years have progressed. My life took a much different path. I am now disabled. Lupus has affected almost every system in my body. I rely on a line in my chest for IV nutrition (TPN), as my digestive tract has shut down. My central nervous system, particularly my brain has been affected. I'm on 2 different seizure meds. I've survived 2 pulmonary embolisms and 2 deep vein thromboses and have to do daily injections of a blood thinner. That's just a partial list of how my body malfunctions. None of this was on my life to-do list.

What has made it easier is the Affordable Care Act and the expansion of Medicaid thanks to the ACA. I was diagnosed in 2010, just as parts of the ACA were going into effect. My mom was worried she was going to have to put me on Cobra, but we were able to keep me on her fantastic employer based coverage until I was 26. I credit that coverage with why I am still alive today. The elimination of lifetime caps, and not allowing insurers to discriminate based on pre-existing conditions is another reason I'm still alive. My medical costs are exorbitant. My IV nutrition alone is \$25,000 a month. I've had 4 rounds of chemotherapy, countless hospitalizations, and more.

When I aged out of my mother's insurance, I was able to get on WV Medicaid thanks to the expansion. If block grants and caps were allowed as Graham-Cassidy wants, there's no way I would be given the same level of care I receive now. I'm the first person they would start restricting care from as my medical costs are so high.

I have many goals in life, despite my diseases. I want to become a nurse or a physician assistant because I've met so many wonderful medical professionals from my time in hospitals. Access to affordable healthcare is paramount to my ability to achieve this. The Graham-Cassidy Bill will kill me. There's no other way to put it. I will lose access to my life saving nutrition, medications, and my wonderful physicians. I implore you, members of the Senate Finance Committee, do not allow this bill to pass. Pursue bipartisan solutions for healthcare.

Sincerely,
Ashley Suder

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: dawn febo [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to the healthcare proposal

I plead with you to not pass this repeal. Any healthcare must accept pre-existing conditions and can't be left up to each state to determining their profitability from allowing these conditions.

My sister, who lives in PA, was diagnosed 9 years ago with an insitue melanoma, meaning very very early stages. The surgeon was able to successfully cut it all out before it spread. Pre ACA, she lost her job and tried to get health insurance. Most carriers said no. She found one that would give her catastrophic coverage for a \$10,000 deductible for \$600/month. Obscene! This is what will happen if states aren't required to include preexisting conditions in their coverage options.

Please do not allow this bill to go forward. You can do better.

Please also respond if you have actually read this!

Dawn Febo

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: chelsea capps [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mrs. chelsea capps

[REDACTED]
Humble, TX 77338
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-CASSidy bill

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

Dr. Darlene Clemens
PortANgeles WA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ann Bodnar-Donovan [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Health Bill

To the Senate Committee on Finance

Concerning the Graham Cassidy bill:

Currently my husband and I have healthcare and pay for it. I have insurance. He is on Medicare. Together we pay over 12,000 a year in premiums and deductibles. We also have limited dental insurance policy and a small cancer insurance policy. We both have eye glasses that are not covered. If we would need hearing aids, they are not included.

We both receive Social Security and since we are both retired educators, we each have a pension from that.

We both have pre-existing conditions. Please tell me how we could afford any more than 12,000 a year? Our payments for healthcare total more than a house and car payment together. I own a 2001 vehicle and my husband has a 2005. We pay more for healthcare, by far, than for anything else. Please understand that other segments of the economy do not get our dollars when such a proportion goes to insurance and pharmaceuticals.

This month we had to go to a hospital out of our town, 70 miles away. We consider ourselves lucky to have that but we are retired and do not lose work in order to do so. Additional expenses of travel and food, and lodging for families have to be factored in. Gratefully we did not have to stay over night but our situation required three trips.

I thought a lot about people who cannot access a hospital, or who cannot afford a hospital like the one we went to. Insurance played a huge part in this.

Health care is a human right and everyone should have a right to it.

Again, I ask you how you can allow this law, vote for this law, which would cut so many people off of health care entirely and greatly increase the premiums for others. I am reminding you that we pay 12,000 a year. We need help, not the threat of increased premiums.

I have attended gatherings of other persons concerned about this and I have listened to stories of pain and suffering that people are going through and what has happened to them with their insurance. Some people are facing pain and death if they lose their insurance. This should not happen! Health care should not be a for-profit business. Furthermore, in your human hearts, I think you know that.

Any human being can need health care any time. We need to be taking care of people, not insurance companies and pharmaceutical companies.

Please do not pass this bill. It is a travesty. It will hurt the people of this country. If we had truly affordable health care then we could use money on other sectors of the economy.

But most of all, we could be as healthy as we can be.


This bill is a last minute rush to please the small group of rich who want their tax cuts for the money they invested in the political process. This proposal will not meet the needs of those who most need it. Why are they so adamant to cut

Medicaid when so many older citizens need the guarantee of care in their future years. Most hard working folks can not afford the cost of nursing home care. This bill will once again add to the number of those in our country who don't or will not have health insurance. It is a cruel solution to a crisis in the lives of humans living in the United States. Do these Republican really know and feel the anxiety and fear of so many as they gather around their dinner table to discuss what to do about their health problems? Why not please those who need and can not afford health care rather than those who want a tax break?

This email was written by both of us.

Sincerely,

Dave Donovan and Ann Bodnar-Donovan

 Iowa 52001

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joy Matsumoto [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Health care bill

Hi

The content of this bill is terrible — leaving decisions in the control of each state can result in many inequities to health care for ALL Americans. The bill allows each state to decide how to implement and spend their allotment on health care for their citizens, has no individual mandate (which allows healthy people to opt out and increases premiums for all), and allows insurance to deny or limit coverage to people with pre-existing conditions. It is a travesty. And what happens when I travel or move from one state to another — does my health care follow me or do i need to enroll in a new program that may be better or worse than the one associated with the state I had been living in?

I am amazed at how little the authors understand about the content and intent of this piece of legislation. Obviously our President does not understand it (other than it allows republicans to fulfill the promise of ending Affordable Care Act insurance) as he insists on saying coverage will be increased and more citizens will be covered. This bill does not live up to that promise.

Please work as a deliberative organization to develop a better health care plan — not just eliminate what Barack Obama's administration was able to put in place. Show some willingness to govern for all of the country, not just for your partisan and selfish considerations.

Sincerely

Joy Matsumoto

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marguerita Jensen [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My thoughts on Graham Cassidy bill

My husband and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband was diagnosed with cancer in 2005. Fortunately, he is currently doing well though the cancer is still detected in his body. His pre-existing condition could make it either impossible or too expensive for us to secure health insurance under this proposed bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Thank you for taking my comments into consideration.

Sincerely,

Marguerita Jensen

Winthrop WA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Wohlgemuth [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

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

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

Sincerely, Carol Wohlgemuth

Winnetka, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pam Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill...VOTE NO

ENOUGH!!! Sick and tired of Republicans wasting time and OUR money trying to erase Obama. The Graham Cassidy bill is VERY dangerous. Thousands of people will lose coverage. And you don't give each individual state the right to decide if a person gets coverage for pre-existing conditions. Oh you had a cancerous mole removed 5 years ago?...well tuff luck if you get colon cancer down the road because they could say it's a pre-existing condition. Sounds crazy??...you bet it does but it could happen. It's bad enough that deep pocket lobbies have so much influence over medical decisions made in Washington. Now you're going to set up a scenario where lobbies set up to control individual states. One state will have decent coverage...another state will have little to nothing. It would be a shame if people have to start making decisions about where they have to live based on medical insurance a certain state provides. Insurance should be the same no matter where you live. Everyone has a right to good health care.
I KNOW ONE THING....I'LL REMEMBER WHO VOTES YES FOR THIS BILL COME ELECTION TIME!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Bill and Pamela Smith
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Howard Fredrics [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Tax Cut (aka Healthcare) Bill

Dear Finance Committee Members,

I write to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill currently before the Senate.

This bill would cut Medicaid services over the next ten years, particularly for those states that adopted Medicaid expansion as provided for in the ACA. It would also cut subsidies for lower middle class and working poor people, who currently receive premium subsidies and cost sharing reductions that enable them to be able to afford coverage. Without these subsidies and CSRs, a huge number of such people, including my family, would be unable to afford any coverage at all, while remaining ineligible for Medicaid coverage, even under the current as well as potential future Graham-Cassidy state-administered New Jersey Medicaid provisions.

Pre-existing conditions protections, while permissible under Graham-Cassidy would NOT be mandated by federal law, and many states, especially in the South and Midwest, where the largest proportion of people with such conditions reside, will choose to drop such protections. While New Jersey, where I reside, will likely preserve such protections for the time being, there's no telling what might happen if a Republican legislature or governor takes control. As someone with a number of pre-existing conditions, I would be unable to obtain coverage, even if I could afford it, and my premiums would be raised through the roof.

Without the individual mandate of the ACA, premiums will inevitably rise and the quality and scope of insurance coverage will fall, bringing us back to the pre-ACA "bad old days" where junk insurance forced people to go without vital needed services. While some people buying junk insurance might do OK because they're generally healthy and don't need regular care, if something changes in their health status, they could suddenly find themselves facing bankruptcy.

I'm a highly educated person, with two graduate degrees including a doctorate. I have taught in some of our nation's best universities, but since leaving academia, I have principally relied on my work as a freelance audio engineer and composer, while my wife, has worked as a freelance singing teacher and singer. I also manage our local public access TV station for a small honorarium that doesn't begin to compensate me for the amount of time I contribute on a volunteer basis to the station, and which directly benefits our local community.

Artists like my wife and I enrich our communities, but can only do so because of the ACA, which has enabled us to work on a freelance basis, while maintaining insurance coverage through the Marketplace.

Please abandon the idea of repealing the ACA, and improve it by increasing subsidies, CSRs, and re-insurance programs to encourage insurers to do business in underserved communities. Add a public option to increase competition in markets with few insurers, and explore proposals for single payer and Medicare buy-ins to help those 55-62 to gain affordable quality coverage.

Most of all, drop the idea of providing tax cuts to the wealthy, whom Republicans like to call "middle-class,"

despite them earning >\$250k/year. Indeed, such people should pay more for healthcare so that those less fortunate can pay less.

Healthcare is a human right, as the Constitution guarantees the right to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. Without healthcare as a right, the notion of guarantees of the right to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness become meaningless, since many will simply die without coverage. It's time to change our mindset on the place healthcare has in our social contract.

Sincerely,
Howard Fredrics, DMA
Park Ridge, NJ

Howard Fredrics, DMA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maxine Norris [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable Healthcare for All

My family relies on quality,affordable Healthcare. I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband and son in law are cancer survivors and would loose access to healthcare coverage. Healthcare saved their lives!
I would like to see a Bi-Partisan Congressional Effort to improve the ACA not repeal it.

Thank you,
Maxine Norris
Phoenix,Arizona

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Janis Dolnick [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: senator@feinstein.senate.gov; senator@harris.senate.gov
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

I am an American citizen terrified at the latest attempt by the GOP to destroy healthcare coverage for millions of my fellow citizens by repealing the ACA. There is no "replace." There will be no complete score by the CBO. Only a partial score will be available prior to any vote. This is premeditated and procedurally criminal.

The GOP promised to replace the ACA with something cheaper, better, fairer, and more comprehensive. The Graham-Cassidy bill fails on all counts. Slashing funding and then turning the slashed funds over to the states to be managed puts the citizens of the states in jeopardy. I will say it bluntly: they know this and lie about it. It is cynical.

Any healthcare bill should, as Senator Cassidy said, pass the Jimmy Kimmel Test. As we all know, Jimmy Kimmel knows more about what this bill will do than its authors, and what it will do is the opposite of the Jimmy Kimmel Test. It fails. He has called them out. Look up the links for the 3 shows this week where Kimmel addressed this.

The bill will harm people I know who reside in nursing homes funded by Medicaid. Children without the resources of a Jimmy Kimmel will die from not being able to afford the care they need. Pre-existing condition coverage will disappear. Women's health will be harmed. Every. Medical. Association. And. Every. Insurance. Company. And. 50. States'. Medicaid. Directors. Have. Opposed. This. Bill. They can't all be wrong. GOP governors oppose this bill, knowing what it will do to their citizens.

There is no doubt *because it has already been admitted* that this bill is not about health, but instead is about satisfying the GOP donors who are angry that the GOP cannot get them the tax breaks they want.

This is pure politics. It is about trying to pass *something* so the GOP does not lose seats in the 2018 election. This is not my opinion. It is a quote from Senator Pat Roberts of Kansas: "If we do nothing [on health care], I think it has a tremendous impact on the 2018 elections. And whether or not Republicans still maintain control and we have the gavel."

They are aware, as has been stated by none other than Senator Grassley, that he "could maybe give you 10 reasons why this bill shouldn't be considered..." Believe him.

The GOP senators want to pass *something*, even if it does grave harm to over 22 million citizens. That is, frankly, un-American and un-patriotic. It is a direct blow to 1/6 of the US economy.

Please take my words seriously. I have no doubt they represent the thoughts of many of my fellow Americans who will not write. Actually, we know that only 13% approve of this attempt to gut healthcare. Please keep that in mind.

Respectfully,

Janis Dolnick, PhD

PS: I just read, a few moments before I started this letter to you, that the Healthcare.gov website for open enrollment to the ACA will go down for 12 hours each Sunday "for maintenance." This is no less than an attempt to kill the ACA through sabotage. It is beyond shameful. It is cruel, callous, and a brazen attempt, if the Graham-Cassidy bill fails, to kill the ACA. I am embarrassed to be an American.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Wyninger [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA repeal

The current attempt to repeal the ACA is a frightening prospect. Too many American lives depend on the ACA for affordable, quality health coverage. To repeal the law now would endanger lives all across this great nation of ours. Please keep the ACA intact. Lives are at stake.

Sincerely,

Mary Wyninger
Seattle, WA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nyla Fleig [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Like most Americans, I need affordable health care. There needs to be a bi-partisan Congressional effort to improve, not repeal the ACA.

Sincerely,

Nyla Fleig
Graton, CA 95444

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joe Malinovsky <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy Graham

To Whomever Votes In The Senate:

Please vote NO on Cassidy Graham. Please restore order to the Senate by opening up the bill to the floor for full and open debate, allow for amendments, and vote your conscience after. Don't force a despicable product down Americans throats and expect you will ever be re-elected or gain support support from the American People.

BTW: You need to replace Mitch mcConnell with a Senator who knows how to move the national agenda forward in a constructive way.

VOTE NO to Cassidy graham.

Thank You.

Joe Malinovsky

[REDACTED]
Buckeye, AZ 85396

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christopher Paradise [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

I'm with Sen. McCain. This issue deserves bi-partisan debate and compromise. That's what the majority of the American people want. That's how our country has prospered.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Darin Poulson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Comments

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I would like to add my comments to your consideration of the Graham-Cassidy "Healthcare" bill being proposed in the Senate now. These comments are brief, but I hope you will weigh them among the many I'm sure you are receiving.

This bill is no better than any of the previous versions primarily concerned with repealing the Affordable Care Act as a measure of retaliation against President Barack Obama passing such a landmark piece of legislation. This has very little to do with healthcare and instead focuses on inserting Republican interpretations of social order and financial stratification into the realm of whether Americans can receive treatment for illness and injury without going bankrupt or paying exorbitant amounts to merely have coverage.

In that light, this bill is just evil and cruel. Under the guise of Republican or "conservative" reform, it pulls healthcare from those who need it most, makes it inaccessible for millions more, and continues to enrich and empower insurance, pharmaceuticals, and large healthcare corporations who don't need the help. By some twisted logic, the proponents of this bill figure that by further enriching and empowering the already rich and powerful, that a little switch inside them will be turned and they will become so benevolent as to bestow upon "the little people" a small piece of the riches such that the little people will be better off, not worse. This assumes that we can trust these institutions and people to act against their best interests LATER as long as their best interests NOW are unquestionably and overwhelmingly covered and the best interests of every other American are ignored, deferred, and made servile to those who care least about them.

It means the sick will stay sick, the poor will get poorer, the middle class will continue to struggle, and the most vulnerable among us stay that way and grow in number all while the rich stay rich, get richer, and can do so with as many liberties and freedoms as possible at the expense of anyone else.

There is nothing more American than this injustice. Nothing more cruel and more archaic than this level of blatant greed. For what did we move beyond the dark ages or convene to write a constitution if we're just going to hold to the same principles for which we scoff at the ancient world? We're committing the same crimes against humanity today with legislation like this. We've only become more sophisticated in how we justify and administer it.

Please resist and fight this and every other piece of legislation that is only for rich America or for white America or for the powerful America. There are hundreds of millions of the rest of us and we depend on you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rebecca Rauber <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment on GCHJ - Trumpcare

To the Senate Committee on Finance--

1. Why is yours the ONLY committee holding a hearing on this important subject?
2. Why do Republicans want to end Medicaid? Don't you also have elderly family members, friends or family who are in need, or realize that others may have such needs in the future? Heck, even rich folks like you may eat through your massive savings if you find yourself in a catastrophic health episode...what then? Why can't you empathize with other humans whose lives didn't involve the same privileges yours did?
3. Why do you believe 50 separate state governments will be more cost effective than a unified federal response? I know you know that some state governments aren't equipped, with resources or knowledgeable personnel, to address this life-or-death issue.
4. Why do you still treat women like second-class citizens? Why should our care be subject to more intensive intrusion and cost? Why is having a baby (you're supposed to be in favor of that! since you're trying to defund Planned Parenthood for helping families PLAN when they have children they can afford and love) a suspect condition but erectile dysfunction is not? You really need to look at this hard and objectively to see why you allowed so many anti-women provisions into ALL of your "replacements" to the ACA.
5. Why does a citizen living in Montana count for more than one living in California? This bill contemplates taking BILLIONS of dollars that cover care for MILLIONS of Californians and redistributing them to small pockets of America, with the main rationale seeming to be that you want the vote of their two senators. You have to see the hypocrisy and depravity of this.
6. On a similar subject, why do you place the opinions of 1/3 of America as more important than the opinions of 2/3 of us? (And I'm being generous w/that one-third. Many polls show this loathsome bill having only 24-25% support. You cannot possibly pretend that "you know more" or "you know what's best," since all medical experts have come out in opposition to this shake-down bill, taking funds from the country's most vulnerable and placing them in the pockets of the already super-wealthy.
7. Please think back to why you became interested in politics in the first place. I believe that many/most politicians ARE noble (or were...). I believe that you felt you wanted to serve the public good. You have to know that taking health care away from 20 million Americans (32+ million in 7 years) does the opposite. You have to know that failing to ensure that people with pre-existing conditions can acquire AFFORDABLE care is as hideous an act as any politician has done. You have to know that seniors will return to having to decide between food and heat and life-saving medication.
8. Finally, please think about all the privileges and support you had in your life to get you where you are today. You likely had parents, grandparents, and even great-grandparents who attended college. You probably got scholarships and loans. You may have attended private schools. You may have had family members who helped set you up in a business, just like our president did. You probably never had to worry about where your next meal would come from, or whether it would come at all. You probably had a library full of books in your own home, and likely had computers and other gadgets to help you acquire knowledge and money. You probably never had the electricity or heat turned off. You probably had birthday parties every single year of your life celebrating YOU. You probably experimented (some or a lot) with drugs, but never got caught. You may have even had a "run-in" with the law but got off either scott-free or with a slap on the wrist...and no record. You likely took family vacations every year, maybe more than one. You probably lived in a neighborhood where everyone knew each other and the kids roved around in a "gang" but that "gang" didn't attract police attention, because, well, you know. You probably pay for your kids to go to private schools because, well, you know.

Seriously, this is a make-or-break time in our nation's history. At this moment, Republicans pushing this destructive, dangerous legislation are on the wrong side of history. Please step up, step forward, and do the right thing for the entire country and ALL of its people. YOU can be the one who makes a difference.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Rauber

Lemon Grove, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Janis Dolnick [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill comments

I am an American citizen terrified at the latest attempt by the GOP to destroy healthcare coverage for millions of my fellow citizens by repealing the ACA. There is no "replace." There will be no complete score by the CBO. Only a partial score will be available prior to any vote. This is premeditated and procedurally criminal.

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This is pure politics. It is about trying to pass *something* so the GOP does not lose seats in the 2018 election. This is not my opinion. It is a quote from Senator Pat Roberts of Kansas: "If we do nothing [on health care], I think it has a tremendous impact on the 2018 elections. And whether or not Republicans still maintain control and we have the gavel."

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Please take my words seriously. I have no doubt they represent the thoughts of many of my fellow Americans who will not write. Actually, we know that only 13% approve of this attempt to gut healthcare. Please keep that in mind.

Respectfully,

Janis Dolnick, PhD

PS: I just read, a few moments before I started this letter to you, that the Healthcare.gov website for open enrollment to the ACA will go down for 12 hours each Sunday "for maintenance." This is no less than an attempt to kill the ACA through sabotage. It is beyond shameful. It is cruel, callous, and a brazen attempt, if the Graham-Cassidy bill fails, to kill the ACA. I am embarrassed to be an American.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lee Lindenlaub [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO Graham-Cassidy repeal!

I was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2014. I have none of the markers that would normally make a breast cancer patient. I never have smoked. No one in my family has had it. I get annual mammograms. Luckily my family has good health coverage thru my husband's union. My prognosis is great... thankfully. My husband and son and i are optimistic about our future. I am fully working and active. Our son is able to attend a college, carrying a 4.0 GPA in global international studies and plans to join the military upon graduation to serve the country and help the world.

This is all possible because we were not having to choose between my getting the care my doctors suggested or paying our families bills. We are not crushed by medical bills (WHICH WERE MASSIVE due to surgery, chemo, radiation, PT and ongoing tests and meds which are standard for cancer survivors) and we are not crushed by jacked up insurance premiums due to my now "pre" existing condition.

Who, if lucky to live a long life, won't have some accident or health issue... that then IS a "pre"existing condition?

Is it not better for America to have people staying/getting healthy, contributing to the economy by being able to get back to work, put kids thru college (or themselves thru college) to ensure the future for America is sound? In this day and age we all are intertwined. As Americans we all use our spending and buying power and support businesses large and small across state lines. We travel to each other's cities and states. We send our kids to colleges and universities in each other states. People who must squeeze their income to pay high insurance premiums or pay medical bills can not put that money into those things.

A healthy America is a BETTER America.

No on any repeal of ACA/Obamacare.

The GOP and DEMS need to work together (as the history of our country has shown is the American tradition in Congress) and better the current Obamacare even more.

Lee Taylor-Allan
aka Lee Lindenlaub

[REDACTED]
LA CA 90046
[REDACTED]

"It's the fragment, not the day. It's the pebble, not the stream. It's the ripple, not the sea that is happening..." - Sondheim

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Janis Hulse [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: A bill lacking kindness and dignity for Americans

As Trump administration seeks to undercut the signs up for ACA (Obamacare); the GOP seeks to destroy healthcare for millions of Americans by making it out of financial reach and less coverage. Access is not the same as coverage unless you're very wealthy. We are being judged as a nation and are failing in kindness, grace and dignity. Vote no on Graham-Cassidy.

J Hulse

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: jschonsc <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No Graham Cassidy bill

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because we rely on this, I oppose the Graham-cassidy bill. I am a woman and for some insurers I am a pre-existing condition. If I were to ever become pregnant, will my insurance cover prenatal care, will it cover the delivery and any potential unexpected emergencies, like Caesarean section? Will it cover portpartum care if I have a complication post operatively or suffer from post party depression? The Graham Cassidy bill does not guarantee I will be able to enroll in a plan that is affordable. I can't predict the future. I'm young and healthy but what about a car accident, a trip and fall, a swimming accident, a pregnancy. That's why insurance needs to be affordable. My sister was a high risk pregnancy and when her son was born via C-section, he had to be rushed to a different hospital because the hospital she delivered in didn't have a NICU. Do you know that most woman stay in the hospital for several days post C-section? That's to ensure there are no post operatively infections!! Do you think the Graham Cassidy bill would have covered her stay or her son's stay in the NICU? I don't. I don't believe this bill will do anything but hurt our most vulnerable.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, which my family and I depend on and benefit from. We don't want a repeal and we don't want a replacement.

Jennifer, Houston

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jack & Sharon Bolle [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable Care Act

Maintaining the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is the right thing to do for America. My daughter, one of twins, was born with a very rare brain condition known as Cerebral Cavernous Angioma. Her twin does not have this disease. Prior to the ACA we could get health insurance for the twin without the disorder, but finding health care for someone with a pre-existing condition is another story altogether. It is imperative to have insurance coverage and to protect those with pre-existing conditions. I also have a 91 year old father who is a retired minister. He lives on a very fixed income (ministers do not make a lot of money) and affordable insurance is necessary for him as well.

This is a top priority for my family. Not only will we be watching how our representatives vote, we will actively campaign accordingly in the next election.

Sincerely, Sharon Bolle, Brea California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Grable [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on graham Cassidy health bill

These comments are in regard to the graham Cassidy health care bill hearing taking place on. *Monday, September 25th at 2:00pm EDT*

Please understand the seriousness of this healthcare bill. My husband and I are two of so many Americans with pre existing conditions. I myself was a healthy, active person paying for health insurance even though I only went to the doctor one time a year for an annual checkup. At age 29 I suddenly became very ill. It took months of expensive tests to finally come up with a diagnosis of Crohn's disease. This diagnosis came in the years before the ACA was a thing and I was faced with the fear of running up my lifetime limits before I turned 40.

I have spent the last six years fighting for my health, which now involves annual colonoscopies, twice monthly injections of a very expensive medication, monthly lab work, as well as many visits and check ups to make sure i maintain my health as I am immunocompromised.

This bill is essentially a slow death sentence for me. If lifetime limits are allowed I will not be able to maintain treating my disease and living a somewhat normal life. I will have to choose between going to the doctor to make sure I'm ok or sticking out a fever and hoping it doesn't lead to a life threatening infection my body can't fight - all because it's too expensive to go to the doctor.

My husnand and I both work, we pay taxes, we are not "freeloaders". We are simply two adults with bodies that attack themselves, we have diseases with no cure. We face the very real possibility of bankruptcy some day if our insurance doesn't cover medications or procedures anymore.

We have dreams and hopes too like living overseas or volunteering, but those things won't be possible for us if we don't have employee sponsored health care. If we go back on the individual market as freelance workers (still working mind you, just not in a group pool), there is no way we could afford to pay \$52,000 a year JUST for insurance coverage. We both have autoimmune diseases and that is what congress is calling "affordable". What a joke.

I urge you to fight against this inhuman and cruel healthcare bill. Stand up for Americans who want to stay healthy, to be responsible for getting the care they need when they need it. Fight for us who want to keep working - who want to stay alive. This really is life or death for me.

I don't relish begging for my life but here I am doing just that. Begging you - stand up and FIGHT FOR US. This is not a political game. My life is not for you to toy with to notch a "w". Come together in a bipartisan way to fix the problems I know are there but do it together without attacking.

I am worth it. My husband is worth it. Millions of people just like us are worth it. We are human beings with dreams and hopes and passions and goals and people we want to stick around for. Don't forget our humanity in all of this.

Vote No on this bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Matt Kuhns [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy isn't good for states

Dear sirs,

The Graham-Cassidy legislation being considered by the Senate is supposedly a means to grant more authority to states. But if you listen to leaders in state governments, they don't want this bill.

No wonder; there is no magic "flexibility" that will allow states to help an equal or greater number of people when funding plummets down toward zero, as will happen under this legislation. If you feel differently, get the CBO to confirm it before voting.

Absent that, how about taking the word of states executives, like Governor Kasich, who is very clear that this legislation is not helpful to Ohio. Or of every single one of America's 50 state Medicaid directors. Or of Louisiana's own health director. Not to mention insurers, actuaries, and effectively the entire healthcare industry.

I ask that you listen to the voices from all sides warning about this bill, and go back to work on serious legislation that can survive scoring and hearings.

* Matt Kuhns
[REDACTED]
Lakewood OH 44107

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Richmond [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Passing a new health care bill should be easy, with the Republicans in charge of the House, Senate and Presidency. Then why has it been so difficult? Because instead of creating a health bill that will actually help people, it appears that they have bent over backwards to try and create a bill that is as cruel and will hurt as many people as possible.

An estimated 32 million people will lose their health insurance if this passes. I say estimated because apparently a bill that will affect 1/6th of our economy is not important enough to wait for the CBO report. How can you, "in good conscience" as John McCain says, vote for a bill when you don't even know what the effects will be. I suspect the reason you don't want to wait, other than the looming Sept. 30th deadline, is that the report will just confirm how bad this bill is. Is going back to a time where a baby can hit their lifetime cap for insurance or people can be turned down or just be completely priced out of insurance because of pre-existing conditions better? Are all the people that are going to suffer and die from lack of healthcare worth it, just so you can wipe President Obama's name off something else.

And the bottom line is - why is this being done - not to help people or make their lives better, to give tax breaks to the most wealthy among us so they'll keep funding your re-election campaigns. Truly disgusting.

Vote NO to Graham-Cassidy

Susan Richmond
[REDACTED]
Bealeton, VA 22712

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: In Favor of ACA Fix not Replacement

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. As a lifelong republican, I oppose the Graham-Casidy bill. Work with the democrats and fix the ACA. You should stand on your own feet in congress and not succumb to the rantings of our misdirected president.

Sent from my iPad
Alan Plowgian
Ft. Myers, FL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary OConnell [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on

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

I'm a single mom with two kids who have pre-existing conditions and we would never have been able to qualify or AFFORD insurance without the ACA. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to IMPROVE the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you,
Mary Harvey

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Newbie 01 [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care for US

Please vote against the repeal. There are way too many uninsured in the US. At one time, I thought we were the greatest country, but no more. Our citizens go without health care and those who move here with no papers get better health care than US citizens do. Someone needs to take the blinders off and look at what continental Europe has. No one is broke because they are sick over there, they get the necessary medications they need and treatments without their health insurance, if they have any, telling them what they can have. someone in upper government needs to look at a better plan for all If you work, you pay a portion, then you are covered. Dissolve the three major health insurance companies and let them become insurers again, but with restrictions.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Satie, Stephanie [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Preserve the ACA

Please do not pass this bill. It is an act of revenge against anything President Obama did, especially this. This current Bill is a purely partisan attempt to repeal the Affordable Healthcare Act and replace with a cruel version that will deny millions healthcare and raise the cost of HC for millions more!"Improve the ACA. Don't dismantle and replace with something opposed by doctors and hospitals and even insurance companies.

Stephanie Satie

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Diane Fjarlie [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

How in good faith and conscience can you vote to take -- yes, take -- health care away from millions of people? I've heard all of your arguments. Your proposal is neither accessible or affordable.

It does not protect those with preexisting conditions, as you claim. Children, seniors, and our veterans depend on Medicaid and you are well aware of that fact. Less than 20 percent of the population support this bill. The medical community and Medicaid administrators from all 50 states oppose your plan.

You are pandering to the Kochs, who will withhold campaign contributions unless you repeal the ACA.

I've never voted party lines in 40-plus years. I have voted for the candidate that I believed would be best suited for the job. After this display of greed by the GOP, I will never ever vote for one of you regardless of your "qualifications."

Please carefully consider your decision.

Diane Fjarlie

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: kathleen mcdermott [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Trumpcare

Trumpcare aka Graham-Cassidy is not a healthcare bill. To present it as such is an insult to thinking adults. We are aware that Republicans do not think the govt. should provide healthcare. It would be better if you just said that than to pretend what you present is something better than the ACA. Nobody thinks this bill is a good idea except maybe Trump who does not even understand healthcare.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ellen Vander Galien [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH

This bill is cruel. Why would every medical, physician, nursing, senior, women's, children, hospital, health care, insurance groups and all 50 Medicaid administrators stand against this bill and the GOP think they know better. This is a political move with one purpose and one purpose only- repeal and replace the AHC because it carries Obama's name. I support a support a return to regular order with intent of designing a bipartisan best possible healthcare bill.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Damara Davidson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE NO - Cassidy/Graham Health Care Repeal

To whom it may concern:

Just because ACA Repeal has been "re-branded" under a new name.....the American people are NOT FOOLED. The Cassidy-Graham healthcare repeal will cause 32 MILLION Americans to lose their health care, eliminate preexisting condition protection and raise premiums by an estimated 20%.

The Arkansas constituency has made it very clear how vital the ACA is to living a life free of financial burden caused by medical debt. That message has been communicated consistently at various town halls across the state. Passage of this bill would adversely affect 2 of every 3 children receiving Medicaid in Arkansas. And yet both Senator Cotton and Boozman support this atrocity.

70% of Americans SUPPORT The Affordable Care Act (ACA) in its current form. PLEADE Support the will of the PEOPLE and REMOVE Cassidy-Graham from a vote. STOP this malicious and harmful attack on American health care!

Sincerely,
Damara L Davidson

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: James Henry [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I am against Graham-Cassidy. It is a bad bill for America

Somewhere deep inside myself I have to believe that the United States Senate is interested in the well-being of all Americans. Everyday as I pray for you ladies and gentlemen, I pray for your wisdom. This bill, Graham-Cassidy, ultimately reduces the number of Americans covered by insurance and therefore offers less choice and access to healthcare. Your intent to remove protections regarding pre-existing conditions is inconceivable to me. My son was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes just about two years ago. He is now 21 and a senior in college. In the not-too-far distant future, he will have to come off my healthcare insurance policy and seek his own. He has a pre-existing condition and may therefore not be afforded the choice of acquiring insurance.

Almost without exception, major health organizations all the way from doctors and insurance companies to hospitals and The American Cancer Association and The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation oppose this bill. How can you all in good conscience move forward with such a flawed plan opposed by so many?

As an American, please make me proud again of an institution, the U.S. Senate, where wise men and women are meant to gather and do what is best for us all, not just for some who stand to profit from this bill.

Sincerely,

James Edward Henry
American
Alexandria, Virginia

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: MichaelKidney <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017 - Michael J. Kidney, 15 Lahinch Dr., IL 60439

Re: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017 - Michael J. Kidney [REDACTED], IL 60439.

I am contacting you today in opposition of the Graham-Cassidy healthcare proposal which would repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. It is a travesty that the majority party is totally ignoring the fact that we have a two-party country, and the Democrats should be able to contribute to a bill in which the expenditures make up nearly 20% of the nation's GDP. GOP leadership must be fearful of the horrendous consequences of this bill since you won't even wait until the full CBO analysis is completed. The non-partisan Brookings Institution found that Cassidy-Graham would reduce the number of Americans with insurance by about 21 million through 2026. But after that, another 11 million would lose coverage, for a total of 32 million additional uninsured! You should be ashamed! I don't even want to hear the baloney that the GOP is the pro-choice party when you are endangering the health of 32 million people!

The other problem is that you are de-funding a number of states, especially California (\$78 billion) and New York \$(45 billion) from 2020-2026. My state of Illinois, whose financial problems are well-known, will see a loss of \$8 billion, and an additional \$18 billion from 2020 to 2027. The Graham-Cassidy bill cuts federal health care funding while potentially increasing costs for people with pre-existing conditions, making insurance unaffordable to those who need it most.

More than 650,000 Illinois residents have been insured through Medicaid expansion, and 350,000 through Affordable Care Act plans, according to state data. Many of these individuals gained insurance through the expansion of Medicaid program to low-income persons.

Illinois cannot absorb the additional financial burden that would be imposed on the state and would be forced to reduce eligibility, covered services and payments to providers. The magnitude of these cuts and changes to Medicaid is staggering and nothing that any responsible politician would support.

Please be sensible, and do not support this horrific bill.

Michael J. Kidney
[REDACTED]
Lemont, IL 60439

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joanne Gouaux [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Concerns: Graham-Cassidy Proposal

Dear Senators;

As person, daughter of a retired tradesworker, a wife, and a mother with school aged children, I believe changes to our nation's health care laws should increase access to high-quality, affordable care and coverage for as many people as possible. The Graham-Cassidy bill now being considered in the United States Senate does not meet any of those tests.

The block grant proposal in the bill would erode coverage of needed medical services and pose major issues for state budgets. Repealing the individual and employer mandates without alternative incentives for enrollment will lead to fewer people enrolled and higher premiums. The other potential outcomes of this bill— allowing reinstatement of dollar caps on coverage, backing away from protections for older patients and those with pre-existing conditions, waiver of essential health benefit coverage, reducing eligibility for Medicaid, to name a few— will weaken coverage and threaten the health of millions.

Instead of passing a bill which takes us backwards, I urge lawmakers to continue to work to pass bipartisan measures to stabilize the current health coverage marketplaces, to help the millions who rely upon the current markets for their care and coverage. It is an urgent matter for policymakers to address right now, with big implications for families even in the next few months.

In a healthy democracy, it is critical that health care consumers, providers, and employees have an influential voice in shaping the policies that affect health care access, affordability, and quality.

Helping people who are uninsured to get and afford coverage, and ensuring those who have it can continue to afford it, should be the priority for any proposals around health reform. Policymakers should ensure that any proposals maintain or expand coverage, provide incentives for high quality, and tackle affordability.

Sincerely,

Joanne Gouaux
Walnut Creek, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marilyncooley [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Don't Do It

Graham-Cassidy is an abomination. Shame on you for even considering it. We have enough trouble as it is without your uninformed, compassion-free approach. We the people are fed up with paying your salaries when your actions are so cruel, destructive, deadly, and profoundly Un-American. I hope karma bites you hard and fast.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michelle Green [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No on GC Bill

I am writing to let you know that I oppose any action to repeal and replace the ACA. I'll keep it short and to the point. I'm sure you are getting many emails

Michelle Green
[REDACTED]
Merritt Island, FL 32952
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marie [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

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

Sincerely, Marie Grady

San Jose, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alex Knight [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re: Graham Cassidy

As an entrepreneur and an investor in small start-up businesses, I know firsthand that certain access to quality affordable healthcare - regardless of pre-existing conditions for a sick child, for example - is critical to the decision to start or grow a business.

GrahamCassidy goes backward on so many fronts. I am certain it will discourage entrepreneurs from taking the necessary risks to build the businesses that fuel the US economy now and for the future.

I encourage every member of the Senate to vote NO on this bill and work on a bipartisan basis to continue to make reliable, affordable healthcare available to ALL Americans.

Thank you.

Alex Knight

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jon Eich [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because IT FAILS TO MEET THE PROMISES THAT REPUBLICANS IN AND RUNNING FOR CONGRESS HAVE BEEN MAKING FOR THE PAST 8 YEARS -- TO REPEAL AND REPLACE OBAMACARE WITH SOMETHING BETTER -- HEALTH INSURANCE THAT WOULD KEEP THE IMPROVEMENTS MADE BY THE ACA, WHILE ADDRESSING PROBLEMS LIKE LARGE DEDUCTIBLES, FEW PLANS TO CHOOSE FROM IN SOME MARKETS, AND NO COVERAGE FOR 30 MILLION AMERICANS.

One of the complaints Republicans in Congress had about the Affordable Care Act that it was such a massive bill and not enough time to read, digest, and recommend improvements to the bill. It is hypocritical for Republicans to try to ram Graham-Cassidy through Congress without providing sufficient time for the public and Congress to read, digest, and suggest amendments to the bill.

If you can't improve on Obamacare, leave it alone until a better bill emerges from committee under regular order.

Jon Eich
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Megan Rivera [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: AGAINST graham-cassidy

I am writing to express my strong, unequivocal, and angry opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill. This bill will result in millions of Americans losing health insurance and unfairly burden those with pre-existing conditions. Our family struggled with health insurance for many years before the Affordable Care Act because of my husband's pre-existing condition. We know how scary and uncertain it is. Please stop the madness.

Thank you for your consideration and all you do for our country.

Sincerely,

Megan Wiley Rivera
Columbia, MD 21044

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carolyn McDowell [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I am very alarmed that yet another health care bill that destroys the system is currently being considered by the Senate. This is again being rushed through without time for the evaluation by CBO. It poses a devastating picture of what will happen as millions lose access to healthcare. It has been opposed by most in the field. Please consider that there are millions of Americans that ask Congress to work in a bipartisan way to find a solution to healthcare issue.

This is NOT it!

Respectfully,
Carolyn McDowell

[REDACTED]
Washington, VA 22747

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Heather Stout [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham- Cassidy Trumpcare

It is time for the Republicans in the Senate to consider the impact of this bill on their constituents. 526,000 people in the State of Oregon would lose their health care in order to enable a huge tax cut for the 1%. This is not about healthcare. This is about the Kochs and the Mercers.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Priscilla Bremser [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Insurance for my Neighbors Helps Me. Graham-Cassidy is bad for all U.S. residents.

Dear Finance Committee Senators,

It is important to me to have affordable health insurance that can't be taken away because of a pre-existing condition or any of the other loopholes that the Graham-Cassidy bill would enable. For ethical and spiritual reasons, it is also important to me that other Americans have the same. There are other reasons, though. I can be better at my job if my co-workers are healthy. I can be healthier if the people who serve me food in restaurants, sit next to me on the bus, and stand behind me in the grocery line are also healthy.

Please stop trying to take health care away from Americans.

P. Bremser
Middlebury, VT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joan Conway [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable Healthcare

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

Sincerely,

Joan Conway

Healdsburg, CA 95448

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Adrienne Horowitz [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because of the despicable harm that it will do to people. As reported in The Atlantic, "Coalitions of health professionals that have spoken publicly against the measure so far include the American Medical Association ("Provisions violate longstanding AMA policy"), the American Psychiatric Association ("This bill harms our most vulnerable patients"), the American Public Health Association ("Graham-Cassidy would devastate the Medicaid program, increase out-of-pocket costs, and weaken or eliminate protections for people living with preexisting conditions"), the National Institute for Reproductive Health ("the Graham-Cassidy bill preys on underserved communities ... a clear and present danger"), and Federation of American Hospitals ("It could disrupt access to health care for millions of the more than 70 million Americans")." Those are the experts. Please listen to them.

Sincerely,
Adrienne Horowitz

Adrienne Horowitz

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jordan Bayne [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Senate finance committee -- Graham Cassidy

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with affordability is I have never been able to afford healthcare... My friends in other countries have a higher quality of life than I do simply because they have remarkable healthcare to take care of themselves, and in this supposed great nation of ours we do not take care of our own. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Jordan Bayne
Brooklyn, New York

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: douglas helfrich [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill.

I have friends and family that rely on quality, affordable healthcare. For example my sister has a mental health condition.

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

Sincerely,

Douglas Helfrich

[REDACTED]

Minneapolis, MN 55413

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Classon [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: DO NOT Repeal Obamacare

Don't repeal Obamacare and replace it with your most heinous version yet. Fix Obamacare and make it better by working in a bi-partisan effort.

Linda Classon
[REDACTED]
Sarasota, FL 34231

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: J Heringlake [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My patients lives are at stake

Dear Senators,

I am a health care worker who is treating many of those who under the pre-existing aspect of the Affordable Health Care act have been able to successfully healed & or stabilized in their individual Dx.

Under the proposed Graham - Cassidy bill, these same Americans as well as those now seeking treatment would NOT be covered at all, or only partially which would likely throw them into possible personal bankruptcy. I urge you to please vote NO on this bill & let's take into committee in a proper bipartisan fashion in order to bring health to all our citizens.

Thank you,

Joseph Heringlake

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jean Hincks [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: DO NOT REPEAL OBAMACARE

SENATE COMMITTEE - 9-25-17

Please do not repeal Obamacare. Please FIX it now or adopt Senator Sander's Medicare For All Plan.

My son is a type 1 juvenile diabetic since age 10. It has been and continues to be a daily struggle for him (and millions of other juvie diabetics.) Repealing the ACA will only make matters worse. It's hard enough taking care of this horrible disease. If the money-hungry insurance companies are once again able to pick & choose who they will cover, it will be catastrophic for my son. He only has health insurance coverage now because of the ACA. It has saved his LIFE!! NO REPEAL!

Thank you, Jean Hincks on behalf of Eric Hincks, type 1 diabetic.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sandra Shove [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: scdd@scdd.ca.gov
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, 9/25/17

To: Senate Finance Committee

From: Sandra Dixon Shove, [REDACTED]

RE: Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

I am the proud mother of a wonderful young woman with ongoing mental health needs, as well as a talented young man on the autism spectrum and a teenage son with no known disabilities. My husband and I have both worked from age 16 until the present (we are in our mid-50's) and have gladly contributed to the tax base and to our nation's safety-net programs, knowing that at any point, we or our loved ones might need to access publicly-funded services.

When our son was diagnosed with autism at the age of 3, we enrolled him in all publicly funded educational and developmental programs for which he was eligible, believing that the best use of public dollars is to enable our citizens to participate as fully as possible in their communities -- educational, vocational, and recreational. We have been most fortunate that California regards its citizens with disabilities as fully deserving of support and access, and our son has grown up to be an Honor Student and Eagle Scout who earned a high school diploma, is attending Community College, and this last Summer, became a taxpaying member of the (part-time) workforce. These accomplishments were made possible because he has been provided with Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Mental Health Counseling Therapy, and Behavioral Health Therapy at public expense through his public schools -- services that have been eligible for reimbursement by Medicaid. Without these Medicaid reimbursements, our local school districts would likely not have the means to appropriately support students like my son, and he would not have been given the chance to progress or to become a taxpayer at all.

In the case of my daughter, she was diagnosed with a Severe Emotional Disturbance in mid-elementary school. She was able to access treatment through our private healthcare (due to California's Mental Health Parity laws), and eventually was provided additional supports through her public school's Section 504 program. She has since graduated from both high school and college, on time and with honors, and is now employed in our local community. Like her brother, she has now transitioned from being a beneficiary of publicly-funded services to a contributor to the very tax base which funds the programs that have served her. Without access to medically necessary mental health care services (a hallmark of the Affordable Care Act) and Medicaid-reimbursable school disabilities services, she most certainly would not have been successful in college, and may not have even been able to graduate from high school. Additionally, because the Affordable Care Act has allowed children up to age 26 to remain covered by their parents' health insurance, she has not (yet) had to be concerned with obtaining healthcare coverage while simultaneously transitioning from the adolescent world of school to the adult world of work. For a young woman with ongoing mental health challenges,

relieving this additional burden even temporarily can mean the difference between maintaining successful, gainful employment -- and the personal confidence and self-determination that results -- and debilitating mental health crisis.

A lot of numbers will be considered in discussing this proposed bill, but my young-adult children are not numbers or diagnostic categories. They are living, breathing members of society who rely on publicly funded services in order to be the fully participating, taxpaying adults they are. Please use their tax dollars -- and all of ours -- to build our collective future, not to destroy it.

Respectfully,

Sandra Dixon Shove

[REDACTED]
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
[REDACTED]



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeanne Paulin [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

I am expressing my extreme displeasure with the contents of the Graham-Cassidy bill. It is harmful to Americans and no matter how the Republicans try to spin it, the facts are clear. As a parent of a child with a pre-existing condition, the wife of a retired first responder who is battling cancer, and the child of parents who lost their lives to cancer, this bill is terrible for America. Our government can and must do better for our citizens. Decimating the ACA purely for partisan reasons is a shameful act of cruelty. Do the right thing (and your job)- improve the ACA by working in a bi-partisan fashion for all Americans. You owe it to the people of this country.

Sincerely,
Jeanne M. Paulin
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jane Stratton [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GC Bill Comments

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments.

In brief, passing this bill is not in the best interest of the nation. Elections may be partisan, but governing can only work well for all when we work together.

In the interest of so many, I urge you to please choose to invest in the ACA, rather than sabotage it. It needs to be improved, not dismantled.

While I've got you here, I'll go out on a limb and also ask you to please pursue universal healthcare. Everyone else does it, and heck... we could probably do it better!

We're supposed to be the greatest nation on earth. Let's start acting like it.

Your fellow citizen,
Jane Stratton
Deerfield, NH

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: T Cully [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

There are many reasons that I believe this bill should fail and one reason I believe it should pass.

Fail it because:

- it is cruel to provide health care to millions and then take it away.
- people will die.
- the most vulnerable will be hurt the most.
- I work with special needs adults who rely on Medicaid to be as healthy as they are.
- those of us with health insurance pay more when people are without health insurance in higher prices and sicker populations.

It should pass because:

- this cruel bill becoming law will bring us a step closer to single payer health care. People have had enough of the for profit health care industry and their lobbyists being so much more important than your constituents.

Traci Duffin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: robert miller [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Senate ACA Repeal

The latest iteration of the Senate's attempt to repeal the ACA repeal is as bad as the first, second, third, etc. I once wrote regulations for the Medicare program and I can honestly say I never saw a piece of legislation that was so bad it lacked both a CBO score and a HCFA/CMS actuarial score as well as opposition from such diverse groups as the AMA and the AARP, and both the for-profit and not-for-profit health insurance industry. You have to craft an extremely bad bill to acquire that kind of broad and diverse opposition. Please move on from this fiasco, which will disenfranchise millions of poor Americans, and try something you at least appear to understand, like the tax code. I am in my 8th decade as an American and the modern Republican Party bears little resemblance to the GOP I once knew and respected. Move on gentlemen and stop trying to hurt the country to please your donors. - Robert Miller

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bill e-mail [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Health Care Proposal

Senate Finance Committee,

I am a 67 year old Vietnam era veteran. I have been fortunate enough to have health care coverage for most of my life. As a child I was covered by my father's health plan. He was a union member and factory worker at J.I. Case Company. I enlisted in the Navy after high school and had full coverage for four years. I did not have coverage during my college years but was fortunate enough to remain healthy during that time and was able to use the student health center for minor illnesses. I went to work for John Deere after graduation and had full coverage, at low cost, for my immediate family. Even child birth and pre-natal care was covered.

Now my wife and I are covered by Medicare and employer subsidized supplemental health care insurance. We are very fortunate that life's circumstances have put us in our current situation. Many Americans are not as fortunate as us. They are victims of their own genetic make up, employment history and circumstances. Contracting illnesses that kept them from getting health insurance. Illnesses that have priced them and their children out of health care markets.

So what, aren't they covered by Medicaid? Yes they are. But with budget cuts states are struggling to keep up with expanding costs. Now we are presented with a plan that will take money away from some states and give it to others. Block grants that can be used to pay or not pay for pre-existing conditions. (What do you really think states are going to do when the money is not enough? Not your problem.) States, like Iowa, cannot pay their current costs. Iowa has closed mental health facilities. Iowa is cutting benefits to it's state employees. Iowa is proposing additional cuts to Medicaid beneficiaries and has slowed payments to insurance carriers to the point where they are leaving the markets.

Graham-Cassidy does not address the issues I mentioned. It is opposed by medical associations, doctors and insurance companies. It is opposed by the majority of Americans who want a bi-partisan solution and fix of the Affordable Care Act. Not repeal and replace by back door deals that only benefit a few.

Thank you for your consideration,
William J. Brown

[REDACTED]
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dara and Mark Bortman [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO ON GRAHAM-CASSIDY!

No regular order! No CBO score! No protections from lifetime limits or annual limits! No guarantees for basic health care coverage! No protections against higher premiums for pre-existing conditions! No support from patient advocacy groups, doctor groups, hospital groups, insurance groups, AARP, AMA, ACA!

Who have you consulted on this "healthcare" bill that is in the healthcare industry and thinks it's a good idea???

This would once again bring back the days of medical bankruptcy for people who get sick in America!
And once again ensure that women pay more for their healthcare coverage and insurance than men!

No! Kill the Bill!

Thank you,
Dara Bortman
Yardley, PA 19067

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement Submitted by Elissa Malcohn to the Senate Committee on Finance
Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

Dear members of the committee,

I was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2014. In addition, I have been fulltime caregiver to a multiple sclerosis patient since 2001. You may or may not be aware that caregiving does not stop for cancer or for cancer treatment, which in my case included surgery, chemo, radiation, and now endocrine therapy. I have also worked through both caregiving and cancer treatment and I continue to do so. I continue to pay taxes that help fund committees such as yours.

When I was diagnosed, at age 55, I had no other medical conditions and was on no medications. My medical team was surprised that a woman my age was as healthy as I was. I ate healthy and exercised regularly. My number one risk factor for getting breast cancer was my age, pure and simple.

I also volunteer at the Citrus Aid Cancer Foundation, which helps to pay bills (including for necessities like groceries, utilities, and gas) for cancer patients and their families in need here in Citrus County, FL. So many people are already down to bare bones as it is, and financial toxicity has been shown to kill. A study done by the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, published last year in the Journal of Clinical Oncology, found that cancer patients who go bankrupt are nearly 80 percent more likely to die than patients who don't, and some cancers had significantly higher mortality rates. A study done by that center in 2013 found that cancer patients, on average, were about 2.5 times more likely to declare bankruptcy as those without cancer. (Source: <http://www.fredhutch.org/en/news/center-news/2016/01/cancer-bankruptcy-death-study-financial-toxicity.html>) ACA repeal will literally kill people, and its protections help keep my caree and myself alive. This is true even though we hold private insurance and do not use the exchanges.

The Graham-Cassidy proposal is unacceptable for people living with chronic conditions that require a complex and demanding care regimen, and who need access to high-quality, specialized care. I urge all U.S. Senators to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill because it would roll back protections for people with chronic conditions and jeopardize their access to affordable, adequate health care coverage.

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

- a. Remove full pre-existing condition protections by allowing insurers to set premiums based on an individuals' health status. This may put insurance coverage financially out of reach for some people and prevent them from accessing critical health care. I find it significant that health insurers themselves, including our insurer, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Florida, have come out against Graham-Cassidy.
- b. Eliminate Medicaid expansion and drastically cut funding for the program by instituting a per capita cap or a state block grant system, putting coverage of new and innovative treatments at risk. Medicaid provides a critical source of health care coverage. We must preserve this safety net by retaining expanded eligibility and ensuring adequate funding for Medicaid. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities has found that block grant funding drops significantly over time and is thus a very poor substitute for Medicaid. (Source:

<https://www.cbpp.org/blog/block-grant-funding-falls-significantly-over-time-data-show>)

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. Furthermore, employees across the country would be adversely impacted if even one state amended those standards: "If just one state withdrew from the Essential Health Benefits requirement, every employer in the country — regardless of where they're based — would be allowed to adopt that state's requirements. This means that as soon as single state opted out, employers across the country would be allowed to place annual or lifetime caps on the Essential Health Benefits that their workers can receive." (Source: <https://www.bustle.com/p/the-ahca-can-hurt-you-even-if-you-have-health-care-through-your-employer-55792>)

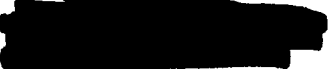
d. Allow states to waive Essential Health Benefits. Eliminating the guarantee of essential health benefit coverage for individual insurance plans would segment the market into plans for sick people and plans for healthy people. This would likely drive up the cost of plans that provide more robust benefits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

Think of the long-term consequences of Graham-Cassidy. Millions of people would be driven off insurance that they cannot afford. Graham-Cassidy is NOT fiscally conservative. It appears to cut costs up front, but it costs society much more in the long run with emergency care and with people unable to pay for what they need due to the increased costs of insurance, treatment, and medications. People not currently on publicly funded programs would be driven onto them. If you look at the total economics of the bill, it appears to save money up front but it costs much more in the long run. Not only is that not conservative, it flies in the face of all conservative principles. The bill is profligate and fiscally irresponsible.

While the Senate has considered several similar bills this year, Graham-Cassidy is the worst for people with pre-existing conditions. 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 U.S. Senators to please keep families like mine in mind as you consider this legislation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Elissa Malcohn


Beverly Hills, FL 34465-4324
352-746-4573

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:03 PM
To: gchcòmments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

No no no no no no no

I am benefitting from the employer mandate. My very Republican Freedom Caucus member Jim Jordan told me this goes away, so no on this bill.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Diane [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: dianekozelka@gmail.com
Subject: Please vote AGAINST Graham-Cassidy bill (ie do NOT repeal Obama Care!)

Importance: High
Sensitivity: Personal

Dear U.S. Senate Finance Committee members:
Washington, D.C.

I am a U.S. citizen residing in New Mexico for sixteen years. Up until 2007, I was a regular taxpayer working a full-time job, and not concerned about government health care assistance. Then during 2007, I lost my job due to my frequent medical leaves, and was unable to find work that accommodated my special needs. I immediately filed for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), and was fortunate enough to be approved, and receive monies fairly quickly, so my bank would not foreclose on my home.

Now, I am so grateful for all health-related funding that comes to me and my fellow citizens in New Mexico, from the federal and state levels. As a patient at University of New Mexico Hospitals, I receive Medicaid supplements to my Medicare health insurance, especially for the cost of my many medications.

As you probably know, New Mexico is one of the poorest U.S. states, and quite dependent on Obama Care, Medicaid and Medicare. Without these government-supported health care programs, we would have a much higher infant mortality, many more schoolchildren with illnesses, many more homebound adults, and in general, our state would have many more miserably-ill residents. Also, many people who work for the federal and state agencies that administer these programs will lose their jobs, creating greater unemployment.

When I turn 65 years old, I will hopefully receive a few very small pensions that will supplement my SSDI income. I have only two years to wait, until those pensions can add to my SSDI income. The pensions should help me hire personal helpers, to take care of myself and my home.

Please do NOT allow the Graham-Cassidy bill to be approved by the U.S. Senate this week! Repealing Obama Care would be the worst thing that could happen to me and my fellow U.S. citizens in New Mexico.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lorna Mutty [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Comments

Sept. 23, 2017

Dear Senate Finance Committee, Congress, House:

I oppose passage of the Graham-Cassidy bill. Major hospitals, medical, health and patient groups, experts and advocates, insurance groups including BC/BS Association and AHIP, governors, and Medicaid directors from all 50 states oppose this bill because of the damage that it does to patients and caregivers. A majority of the country rejects it as well.

You cannot eliminate 4 trillion dollars* from the healthcare sector and expect to insure more people or not affect the economy. You cannot, in good conscience, allow insurers to add a surcharge at the time a patient receives a devastating diagnosis or deny vulnerable seniors, children, and veterans care. An insurance plan that caps coverage and doesn't insure catastrophic loss is not insurance, as it leaves people without treatment or financial options.

The goal should be to improve healthcare, not make good on a political promise to many people who didn't understand that Obamacare is the same as ACA or realize that their private employer insurance is afforded valuable protections under the ACA. The interests of large financial donors should not be paramount to the needs of your constituents who elected you to represent them.

Shifting Medicaid money to non-expansion states from expansion states that are caring for new patient populations seems irresponsible. Mandating that 50 states simultaneously "experiment" with new insurance is a recipe for disaster, potentially destabilizes markets, and will likely result in job loss within the healthcare sector. Implementing this bill without a CBO score, an impartial assessment of cost and impact, is incompatible with the term "fiscal responsibility".

Consider options to reduce costs, not cost-shift, and bolster the preventative care aspects. I urge you to work together to stabilize the markets and to fix any issues with ACA. Otherwise, we will experience continuous dysfunction when the next group takes control of Congress. This plan doesn't "stop the march towards single-payer", as many of you desire, but ensures it when your constituents face personal harm. Retaining Obamacare in Alaska as the means to passage will further enrage your own constituents in other states.

And, if you do pass it against all advice otherwise, you should not be exempt from the carnage. Own and embrace the same insurance you impose on others who are less able than you to afford it and who will suffer the consequences of economic and health decisions for treatment vs. bankruptcy.

Sincerely,

L. Mutty
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Cristiani [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:00 PM
To: gchcomments

My community relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I work with the pediatric population with mainly chronic conditions who rely on affordable and excellent healthcare. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Carol Cristiani

Minneapolis, MN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: John K Arnold [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy Graham Is Horrible

Medicaid is 25% of most states budgets. It is 3% of the GNP. To pass a bill because the Republicans want to please their donors and Trump means they are not acting as US Senators but as Trump employees and Lackeys.

Have the hearings. Follow the process. Bring in the experts. The insurance community, the medical community, AARP and state governors are against Cassidy Graham. Stop listening to Trump and Donors. Act like US Senators.

John K Arnold

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julie Hoy [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill, because I rely on the affordable health coverage offered by the ACA. Despite being educated and working very hard, this is the only way I can afford to maintain my health and contribute to the economy. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you,

~Julie

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Baxter [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: A story for you

I was laying in bed last night, and this funny little story popped into my head. I was watching hundreds of zombies wander across Washington DC, and they eventually came to the Capital. They barged into the Senate with the police guns blazing. Nothing would stop them as they started forward, their hands outstretched, moaning. "Brains, brains."

Then the lead zombie grabbed Mitch McConnell and shook him. I knew good old Mealy Mouth would be the first victim and closed my eyes in horror. But the zombie threw him down, disgusted. After a few other Senators were grabbed and thrown around, all the zombies left the building. Yeah, you guessed it. No brains here. No hearts either.

NO on Graham Cassidy

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patricia Dover [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no on Graham-Cassidy

It's important to get MORE people covered with health insurance-- not FEWER!

If we can't have Medicare for all, then we need to keep the Affordable Care Act and fix it, not repeal it.

Patricia Dover
Franklin County, Tennessee

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ann Keeler Evans [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote No on Graham-Cassidy Bill

This shameful bill would create horrible suffering. It is unjust and cruel. I urge everyone with a heart and conscience to vote no on this heartless, soul-less bill. There is no faith tradition in this world that encourages causing pain and impoverishment.

I am the half-time minister of a small church in North Central Pennsylvania. I write because my faith demands that people be cared for and because science has made it possible to do so. Religion and Science are quite compatible and speak clearly to this issue.

Personally, had I not recently turned 65, when I got sick this spring and spent 5 days in the hospital and 8 in rehab, my very expensive healthcare would have left me liable for far more than I could have afforded. If I had been worried about the money and not gone to the hospital, I would have died. Under this bill, that is acceptable. No human is expendable.

Two of my former congregants had a premature infant who before his birth would have exhausted a life time of healthcare before his official due date. He still has problems and will probably always have. He is the most cheerful little boy. He deserves life and health. Every child deserves life and health, not simply the ones we know and love. Every parent deserves to know that it is not money that will make the difference in whether their child lives or dies.

Several of my congregants have cancer. They deserve care regardless of their work status. People should not be beggared by their fight for life, nor should they have to worry about money when they are doing everything they can not to die.

Several of my congregants have progressive diseases that are expensive to treat and to maintain them in the best health possible. It is unconscionable not to help them when we can, and when by doing so, they remain contributing members of society and family.

One of my congregant lives with intractable pain from CRPS. She deserves to live pain free. No one should live in pain when it is possible to alleviate it. And it is well documented that people who live chronic pain that is well managed do not abuse opioids.

The women in the world deserve the dignity of good medical care for their reproductive health and childbearing. We have fetishized the birth of children and deny them healthcare and nutrition. It's shameful.

There are children in my congregation on CHIP. Attention to their health needs makes a huge difference in their ability to grow into productive adults.

My former husband has injuries and illness that mean he may spend the rest of his life in a nursing home. He was a musician, lived on the edge so that he could bring art and joy to the world, there is barely care for him now. There would be no care for him with this bill. Should the man who made Snoopy dance live in his car without the medications to keep him alive? And if you say no for this man... what American should die like this?

I live in a very poor valley with three-generational poverty after the shut-down of the mines and the factories. These people deserve insurance and good medical care just as every other American does. This bill is unAmerican and hateful.

I ask that people turn away from the temptation to make money on the bodies of our citizens.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Allison Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

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

Sincerely,

Allison Johnson

Dekalb, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Emily Leatha Everson Gleichenhau [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy

9/23/2017

Dear Senators

I'm an American constituent who has family and friends who would be among the millions of people negatively affected by the vote you cast if Graham-Cassidy bill comes to a vote.

I would like to know, why is it better option to snatch affordable health care from millions than to fix the ACA?

Do people deserve to die because they can't afford healthcare?

Do people and their families deserve financial ruin for the misfortune of getting sick in the wrong state? How can people feel good about moving to draconian healthcare states if they need to for a job? What will they do then? Just suffer and die if they get cancer and meet a lifetime cap? Anyone can get sick.

There is much evidence that a great number of people who thought they were voting to repeal ObamaCare didn't even know that ObamaCare is the same thing as the Affordable Healthcare Act. The majority of Americans WANT the ACA and its important protections.

Many folks rejected ACA/ObamaCare just because Obama's name was attached. But many of those same people depend on the ACA and its protections (not knowing it is the same thing as ObamaCare) to save their lives and provide healthcare that they simply could not access otherwise.

And if Graham-Cassidy gets a vote and passes, those people (and millions more, like my sister who has Lyme disease, like my friend whose daughter has down syndrome, like my father's friend who got cancer from Agent Orange in Vietnam) will lose healthcare.

See the baby in that article? Are you comfortable with condemning a sick child to a life of financial deprivation because it had the misfortune to be born sick?

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/judystone/2017/09/18/graham-cassidy-bill-the-last-ditch-gop-effort-to-deprive-millions-of-healthcare/#763122f93b92>

Have you watched this woman's video? Does she deserve to die (or face a lifetime of poverty) because she can't get cancer treatment in the future because of a lifetime

cap:<https://www.facebook.com/NowThisPolitics/videos/1713309898700493/>

ABC News says, "Insurance companies, doctors, patients, hospitals and other patient-provider groups are rallying together against the Graham-Cassidy plan, saying it could result in millions losing access to affordable health care and coverage."

Also, "Groups like the American Medical Association, which represents the nation's doctors, and the American Health Insurance Programs, representing big insurers like Anthem and Humana, along with patient advocacy

groups, including the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association and American Diabetes Association have joined a growing list of organizations opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill.” And AARP, too!

The article I quoted, here:

<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/doctors-insurance-companies-patient-groups-slam-graham-cassidy/story?id=50013058>

Cassidy said he would only support a bill that passed the Jimmy Kimmel test with the following features:

1. Coverage for all
2. No discrimination based on preexisting conditions
3. Lower premiums for middle class families
4. No lifetime caps

The Graham-Cassidy bill:

1. Will make MILLIONS LOSE coverage
2. ALLOWS DISCRIMINATION BASED ON PREEXISTING CONDITIONS
3. RAISES PREMIUM FOR MILLIONS, especially those who can't afford it
4. ALLOWS insurance companies to put LIFETIME CAPS on those who need insurance the most. For example, if you have cancer and get it back, your lifetime cap will not cover your second round of cancer treatment

How could anyone sleep at night allowing this to happen to millions of people? Come on. What has happened to us as a country?

Why is it worth ruining the lives of millions when you can just FIX the ACA? Go ahead and fix it and take credit for that. Please. Do that! Be a hero.

Don't ruin lives. Don't give into Trump's bully tactics. Don't take bribes. Don't be bought. Please. Vote NO if Graham-Cassidy comes to a vote.

Please PLEASE do the right thing.

Be a hero for the history books.

Fix ACA and take credit for it!

Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy.

PS: Just to prove my credibility, I serve my community and come from a family who does the same. My husband is a West Point graduate (class of 1974) and went on with a 20+ career in the Army. Incidentally, my husband, his brother (also a West Point graduate), and nephew have a combined service of almost 100 years in the US Army. I was born in a Red Cross hospital in Germany where my parents were serving in the United States Army before my father was sent to Vietnam. I personally serve my community every day of the year, having accumulated thousands of volunteer hours singing to children in their classroom with my Sing Books with Emily program in Northern Virginia. I am a deeply patriotic American. I serve my community, married a soldier, and I am the daughter of a Vietnam veteran. I care. I read. I vote. I educate myself. I serve. I care about my family, my community, and the people who live in it (including the ones who need medical treatment!).

Again,

Please PLEASE do the right thing.

Be a hero for the history books.

Fix ACA and take credit for it!

Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michele Martin [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Why really good health insurance is necessary

40 years Ago I was an unable to buy health insurance because of my allergies. Eventually I developed a very serious form of lupus which made me totally uninsurable.
This is a very serious problem that can make people unable to buy health insurance for the rest of their lives. you would not want this for you or your family

Let's give people a comprehensive affordable insurance!

Michele Martin
Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: khart15 [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Please support and move this bill forward.
LeAnna Hart

Sent on a Sprint Samsung Galaxy S® 5

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Derek Palacio [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Testimony for Graham-Cassidy Hearing

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My sister-in-law works full time, but her employer does not offer any health benefits. As a result, the ACA is her only way to afford essential healthcare coverage for herself, her husband, and her eight year-old daughter. Before the ACA, her daughter was on Medicaid, and my sister-in-law went without insurance, praying always that a long-term illness wouldn't put their financial lives in jeopardy. Now she can afford to cover and provide for her family because of the ACA. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Derek Palacio

Ann Arbor, MI

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kelsey Tribble [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Don't repeal ACA

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,

Kelsey Tribble

Bellingham, WA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kim Wheatley [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject Graham-Cassidy. Protect our healthcare.

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.

Kim Wheatley
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Chattanooga, Tennessee 37415

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ian Cohen [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments Regarding Graham Cassidy Bill

To Whom It May Concern:

The Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill is a pile of sh*t that will destroy access to healthcare for millions of poor, disabled, sick, elderly and otherwise uninsurable individuals, all the while enabling for-profit insurance executives and shareholders to get richer. On top of that, GC ends the employer mandate, which will likely ruin healthcare for millions of working class Americans.

This is not a healthcare bill, this is a bill designed to destroy the poor and middle class. Any bill passed by congress should include price caps on premiums, deductibles and out of pocket expenses. Waivers for States to make their regulations less stringent is a joke. Healthcare is a universal right, thus it should not be delegated to the states. We are one nation, not 50 fiefdoms.

As a parent of a child who suffers from intractable epilepsy, I have first-hand experience in dealing with doctors, labs, pharmacists and insurance companies. Our system is convoluted, inefficient and wasteful. It's time for Medicare for all.

Sincerely,

Ian Cohen, MS

Phone [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dede [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose Graham Cassidy Health Care Bill

I am in strong opposition to the Graham Cassidy Health Care Bill. Please do not allow this bill to pass.

Diane Carroll

Registered voter

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: brazerkus [REDACTED]
Sent: , Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Why everyone needs healthcare

On a lovely summer day 3 years ago, I was en route to lunch date in NYC at Bryant Park. I live on the west side of Manhattan, and had to cross Times Square to get where I was going. Because we live in a distracted world, and everyone has their nose in a smart phone, as I stepped off a curb, a texting tourist knocked into me, causing me to fall down and break my ankle. The man kept walking, never looked back, and I spent 9 weeks non weight bearing, at home, out of work, due to my injury.

My insurance covered the trip to the nasty ER, where I was misdiagnosed with a sprain, and sent home. After a few days the bruising and swelling had intensified and I needed another trip for treatment, bu this time decided to see a podiatrist. The total cost of this mishap was \$12,000, which is a sham in its own right.

We live in dangerous and unpredictable times. People get injured, become sick, through no fault of their own. To deprive everyone in this country, except for our government officials, of affordable health care is a travesty. It's cruel. That is not governance. It is punishment for nothing but being an average citizen.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gary Rhoades [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham Cassidy

Dear Senators,

My comments about Graham-Cassidy are simple.

No.

No to cynical D.C. politics of trying to get a party win at the country's expense.

No to an unscored by CBO proposal.

No to rushing through with no hearings and against all expert opinion, of health care professionals, insurers, and consumers.

The process, like the outcome, is awful.

Return to regular order.

Stop serving your donors and start serving US and our health care needs.

Yours

Gary Rhoades

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tucson, AZ 85721
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cedar Mathers-Winn [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

To whom it may concern,

I rely on affordable, quality healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. As a graduate student in Montana, I can only afford healthcare because of the ACA. If the Graham-Cassidy bill were to pass, I would likely not be able to afford healthcare with my current salary, and would probably have to go without. This is completely undesirable, and actually quite frightening. Rather, I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Cedar Mathers-Winn
Missoula, MT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elisabeth Owens [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

My husband and I are against this horrible bill that will hurt so many Americans. VOTE NO

Elisabeth and Ken Owens

[REDACTED]
Belleville, Wi. 53508

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Emily Filce [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a graduate student in Ohio. I take a full load of classes, am unemployed, and live off of financial aid. It means that I don't have many options when it comes to health care but I was happy that I was able to qualify for Medicaid thanks to the expansion.

The insurance offered through the school is expensive and barely covers anything but with Medicaid, I don't see a bill.

For the first year I was here, I just used my Medicaid to see my psychiatrist and pick up medication that could cost anywhere between \$50-\$150 per month depending on the manufacturer. As a student, that's not affordable but this medication makes it possible for me to stay in school, focus on my studies, and try to improve my life.

This last year I noticed a strange mole. Skin cancer runs in my family and I had lived in West Africa for a time where I had worked as Peace Corps volunteer, so naturally, I was worried.

I went to my primary doctor who practically shoved the referral in my hand. Cost: \$0.

I went to the dermatologist who found a small cancerous mole and removed it right there in the office. Cost: \$0.

Because I had Medicaid, I didn't have to choose between buying food or my textbooks or getting a cancerous mole removed. I was able to find it early and deal with it became more serious. When I had the flu, Medicaid picked up the tab to help my swollen tonsils so I could breathe. When I had a serious kidney infection, a \$7,000 ER bill was just dealt with. That's literally half a year of financial aid for living expenses for me.

You must be thinking that in the grand scheme of things, I'm fortunate. It's true, I am fortunate. A small mole and a costly monthly medication is just a drop in the bucket compared to what most Americans face.

It's unacceptable that in a country as rich as ours that so many Americans simply can't afford a chance at surviving things like cancer, heart attacks, strokes, injuries from car accidents, and a myriad of other conditions and situations.

When you are diagnosed with cancer you shouldn't have to think about what the insurance will cover, if they'll try to get out of paying on some technicality, if you'll get a surprise medical bill. You shouldn't have to remind the doctor not to do anything the insurance company wouldn't cover.

Health care isn't a luxury. Being healthy is not something that only the rich should be able to afford.

Now, this is where people cry that they shouldn't have to pay for services they don't use. Should you have to pay for someone else's breast cancer they get in their 40's? Should you have to pay for a child to get heart surgery to repair a birth defect?

Yes, you have to.

That's part of living in a civilized society we all benefit from. You pay taxes (to those who pay taxes at all...) to pay for school you or your children don't attend, you pay to build and maintain roads you most likely will never drive on. You pay for police and fire services other people use. You pay to maintain infrastructure you may never use.

And guess what, you pay for Medicaid and Medicare. And I'm guessing you also most likely forked over some money for someone's GoFundMe fundraiser because someone wasn't able to afford a medical bill.

So instead of funding a million Gofundme fundraisers, we have a chance to be able to solve the root of the problem. You'll be able to ensure terrified parents don't have to ask strangers for money to be able to afford a child's medical treatment. You'll be able to make it possible for someone who is unemployed to go to the emergency room to treat a serious kidney infection without having to worry about bankruptcy.

There is literally no moral justification for the Graham-Cassidy bill. There is nothing other than pure evil greed that would ever justify someone voting for it. Voting for this bill will communicate loud and clear to Americans that you're more interested in your bank account balance than their lives.

And if that's the case, it's time for you to get out of office right now, right this very second, because you're not working in the public interest. Get up, put on your hat and coat, walk out or we will toss you out at the next election.

We're not going to settle for anything less than universal health care for every single citizen at this point.

Thank you for your time.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tina Roselle [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to Graham-Cassidy

To Whom it May Concern:

We all need quality, affordable healthcare. This should be a given for every person in the richest country in the world. We all should have access to affordable prenatal care. We all deserve to have affordable coverage even if we have pre-existing conditions. We all need to be able to access the emergency room without fear of bankruptcy. None of this should depend on which state we live in. 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,
Christina Stephens
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Leah Rowland [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

As a pediatrician in Virginia , I urge you to oppose the health care proposal from Senators Lindsey Graham and Bill Cassidy.

Medicaid covers children from low-income families and children with special health care needs. Nearly 500,000 children are on Medicaid from Virginia. Any legislation that jeopardizes Medicaid fails children.

Through Medicaid, children are guaranteed benefits that cover a comprehensive array of medically necessary services, including developmental, vision and hearing screenings. Pediatricians recommend these services because they help diagnose, treat and prevent complex conditions right away, saving money and lives. Capping Medicaid funding means these services could be rolled back or eliminated altogether.

The bill would eliminate Medicaid expansion, which has extended coverage to 11 million low-income adults, including many parents. Having reliable access to comprehensive health care means parents can better care for themselves and their families.

Any bill that would leave more families uninsured, or without insurance they can afford or that meets their basic needs, is unacceptable.

Right now, 95% of children in the United States have health care coverage. I urge you to reject any policies or legislation that would tear down this historic progress.

Please preserve the ACA's consumer protections so many children benefit from in public and private coverage, like guaranteeing affordable and comprehensive coverage for children with pre-existing conditions, and banning caps on lifetime coverage so insurance works for those who need it most.

I urge you to oppose the Graham-Cassidy proposal that would leave families and children worse off. I also urge you to pursue a bipartisan, transparent process for any improvements to current law that would close gaps in coverage for children and families.

Lives depend on this. Children's lives. Don't claim to be pro American or prolife (or Christian for many of you) and then turn around and support something that WILL KILL AMERICANS-- a bill that every major doctors/hospital/patient advocacy organization opposes (try getting all these people to agree on anything- it's not easy). Make the ACA better-- don't give the most vulnerable a death sentence.

Leah Rowland MD
Virginia Beach 23451

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathleen Sweet [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy bill

Please stop this awful bill from being passed. It is an abomination that will throw millions of people off of insurance, will NOT protect people with pre-existing conditions, and the funds saved will go to folks who do not need more tax breaks.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy Conley [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health insurance reform

Honorable members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am sharing with you my healthcare story as you hold hearings to consider the Graham-Cassidy repeal bill.

I am an entrepreneur - musician, music teacher, and actor, self-employed and employed part-time without the option of employer-provided benefits since 2006. I am doing the work that I have been trained to do, and that I absolutely love, that serves the community at large. Before the ACA, I was considered "high risk" because I had a diagnosis of allergy-induced asthma, and despite the fact that I had never had any kind of urgent event around asthma, I was still considered "high risk". Because Virginia required insurance companies to offer policies to all even if high risk, I was able to get a policy, a very expensive policy. When I was able to buy a lower priced policy through the ACA, I was thrilled!

Then, in 2014, I was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis, a devastating diagnosis for someone in my profession. But I had the guarantee of insurance, and it was affordable. As a result of the treatments for RA, I have developed other conditions that would put me in the high risk category. In all, including asthma, I have 4 conditions that would put me in the "high risk" category. I have thanked God every day for the ACA, not only for a more affordable policy, but for the other provisions that have been put in place through the ACA. In 2015, I met my out-of-pocket maximum by August, making the rest of the year's healthcare basically free. This would not have happened prior to the ACA. Although my policy now costs 27% more this year than last, it is still far more affordable than what I heard other people were paying just for having diabetes prior to the ACA.

I am now 51 years old, therefore subject to the "age tax" that was eliminated with the ACA. Should I lose the protections provided by the ACA, I fear I will either lose my career or lose my home, or both, and possibly my life when I am unable to afford health care.

I urge you to carefully consider the long-term effects of your decisions. This new repeal plan may provide more money to Virginia in the near future, it takes that money away as time goes on. This is not a solution. I urge you to consider a bi-partisan effort to fix the problems with the Affordable Care Act to ensure that we all have access to Affordable Care rather than gutting the entire system that is working, despite the rumors being spread by the current administration.

Thank you for your attention.

Amy Conley

Alexandria, VA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From:

Sent:

To:

[REDACTED]
Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:47 PM

gchcomments

My son relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. He was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes at the age of 8. He has to inject himself at least 6 times a day, just to stay alive. This was not his fault, and it sucks. He works, but has not been able to get a full time position that offers benefits. ... I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Alison Bowie

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ree [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Laird, Kathleen (Baldwin); Riley, Sean (Ron Johnson)
Subject: Graham/Cassidy ACA Repeal Bill

Good afternoon,

I am writing in regards to the Graham-Cassidy ACA Repeal bill. I am a registered voter in the state of Wisconsin. I have serious doubts about this bill and do not feel it is in the best interest of the people of this nation to repeal the ACA and replace it with this monstrosity.

This bill has the potential to remove healthcare coverage for an estimated 32 million people and to end Medicaid expansion affecting 11 million low-income adults. It will also end protections on pre-existing conditions, lifetime caps and essential benefits. It will not provide funding for recessions, natural disasters, public health emergencies or price spikes and could cause premiums to rise by upwards of 20% in the next year alone. It will also target women's healthcare and family planning, thereby removing women's ability to determine if, and when, they become mothers, restrict women's life choices on their own healthcare, and reduce funding for women's healthcare issues. (Centers for Budget and Policy, CBO prior estimates).

I truly support the ACA/health insurance program. Many of us are not able to secure insurance due to pre-existing conditions or lack of coverage through employers. I am asking that you support this beneficial program that the majority of Americans want, and need. We should not have to file bankruptcy, lose our homes and livelihoods over medical issues. This is morally wrong. We are supposed to be the shining beacon for the free world, yet we are the least free in the area of healthcare.

I have personally benefited from the ACA. I became sick in spring 2016 and ultimately had to leave my job as I couldn't function on a daily basis. When I left my position, my husband had a good job with insurance, and I was able to start seeking out care and providers to figure out what was wrong. However, he was laid off a few months later and we were without insurance. For a while we were able to get help from the state, a few months anyway. Once my husband was able to at least obtain unemployment, we made too much for state healthcare and were referred to the exchange. I was terrified after hearing all the "horror stories". But our experience was nothing like the stories spread online. We had people willing and able to help us with the process; we obtained a mid-level plan that would cover my medications and many of the providers I was seeing; and finally, we could afford the monthly amount without going broke.

Six months after I first got sick, no one knew what was wrong and they still don't. The best answer I can get, is something is wrong with my bone marrow and how it is producing my

red blood cells. My platelet levels begin to rise and my blood starts to clot up; I have minor spots of damage in my brain due to the small vessel disease (smallest veins were killed off by blood too thick to move) and my blood isn't picking up and carrying iron and oxygen correctly.

But I am receiving treatment and able to work at least part-time. Without the ACA, I won't have insurance and be able to work even the 25/hours a week I now manage. My quality of life will quickly go downhill with the expensive medications I take on a daily basis just to function. I don't want to be a burden on anyone, I want to work as much as I can. I have an education, an MBA with honors, I'm an ex-Federal employee and I never thought my life would end up here, but it did. I fight every day to be the best I can be, don't take that from me.

Healthcare is not a game to be played by political parties, it is serious, even life or death, for some of us. What if it was your mother/father, daughter/son, spouse or any other family member – would you rather see them healthy or sick and possibly dying because of this bill going into effect. I am asking that you do what is right, allow us to keep our healthcare coverage, and improve the ACA rather than dismantling it.

Sincerely,

Zena M. Blom

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shawn Troxell [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare: Protect. Graham-Cassidy: Reject

Finance Committee,

Ooops! Someone forgot about us millions of retired folks.
Most of us have not just one, but several preexisting conditions.
We cannot afford to pay extra for those conditions. We are on limited budgets.
Did someone forget? Or do Republicans just not care?
We will not pay extra when the wealthy and corporations get huge tax breaks.
Heck! Give us a break!!

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.

Shawn Troxell
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

New Braunfels, Texas 78130

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tom Sunlake [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare, oppose Graham-Cassidy

Finance Committee,

Graham-Cassidy, the most recent version of "Trumpcare," would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress that has been made in protecting so many Americans. Also, egregiously 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 anything 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 a complete outrage and embarrassment given the life-or-death matters at stake.

I strongly urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and instead to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans including my family and myself.

Its also imperative 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. Opposing Graham-Cassidy is the ethical, compassionate course of action. Please take it. Thank you.

Tom Sunlake
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Bloomington, Indiana 47408

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chris Garrett [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on the Graham Cassidy bill

Dear Committee,

I have been a hard working adult all the way up to the point I became disabled with functional neurologic disorder. My children and Wife have pre-existing conditions as well. I ask you out of respect to look at this bill and ask does it guarantee that people, like my family and myself , will be covered without question and without unbelievable cost to them. The law you are trying to repeal unequivocally guarantees that we will always be able to get care at a reasonable price. I know the ACA has issues. I know that as a group of intelligent and good hearted individuals that became Senator 's can fix the ACA instead of repealing it. Please use your abilities to fix the ACA. Please do not repeal a law that protects my family and myself. Thank you for your service to our country. Thank you for listening to my comments. May God bless you all.

Chris Garrett
Lynchburg, VA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elva Morris [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Unconstitutional

"The funding formula for the block grants to states that form the bill's core is unconstitutional.

in 2012 the Supreme Court ruled states were free to decline Obamacare's funding for expanded Medicaid without jeopardizing funding for the original Medicaid program.

Under Graham-Cassidy states that accepted Medicaid expansion funding under Obamacare would lose, while states that refused such funding would gain. The bill imposes a retroactive penalty on states that accepted Medicaid expansion funding. A state that was told in 2014 that Medicaid expansion would cost them tens of millions of dollars in 2020 and thereafter might well have made a different choice.

Congress is under no constitutional obligation to provide any further health insurance funding for states. But that argument overlooks the fundamental logic of the limits on congressional power under the Spending Clause. Congress is never under any constitutional obligation to spend money in any particular way. But when Congress does spend money via the states, there are limits on how it may do so. The requirement that Congress state any conditions on federal funding is a fundamental principle of American federalism. It protects states' sovereign prerogatives. It enables states to make informed judgments about the consequences of accepting federal funds.

Graham-Cassidy violates a basic constitutional protection for state sovereignty." TakeCare

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: s s [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

To whom it may concern:

I am vehemently **opposed** to the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill. This bill takes away a safety net that is more important to the safety and security of this country than a wall—or the private jets used by administration officials. I ask all Senators to put country before their own financial interests and vote **No**.

Thank you,

PWalts
Virginia

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Against Graham Cassidy Health Care Bill

I AM STRONGLY AGAINST GRAHAM CASSIDY HEALTHCARE BILL.
DO NOT PASS! IT IS A TERRIBLE BILL!

Thank you,

Lori Carroll

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Deborah Joyce [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: #GrahamCassidy

I am third generation American born on my mother's side, my ancestors came for Sicily in 1914. They had nothing, no money, education or language but they came, worked and raised their kids to do ten time better than their parents did. They would not be welcome here now.

This healthcare thing is a travesty and an insult to all those who came here and helped make this country successful. We deserve better than what you want for us. One day we will prevail against this horrendous regime and we will see that not one American is left out of the right to have comprehensive healthcare. I consider it an honor to help my fellow Americans who are less fortunate, and I am sick at heart and angry you are choosing to let people go without proper healthcare. You can not pull the wool over our eyes, we see clearly what you are doing. This is not the United States I have come to know.

Cordially
D. B. Joyce
22153

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Willm [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Please do not allow the current Cassidy-Graham healthcare proposal to pass this week.

Please work toward a more equitable and fuller coverage for everyone, including those with pre-existing conditions.

I have been fortunate to have healthcare through my employers prior to retiring, and Medicare for the same plan after my retirement, but I feel very privileged to have had the peace of mind having reliable healthcare provides.

I have had several friends who gratefully acquired health care through the Affordable Care Act—they were in school, or between jobs, or like many of my friends who are artists and musicians for whom healthcare is rarely provided unless employed by an organization such as a symphony.

My then-32-year-old son needed hospitalization and extensive medical services about seven years ago and he fortunately lived in Massachusetts where he was eligible for coverage similar to the ACA in the state of Massachusetts.

Thank your for your consideration, and your vote against the deadly Cassidy-Graham healthcare proposal.

Sincerely,
Susan Willm

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Deb [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA repeal attempt

My brother and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare and because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

My brother was born a healthy baby and then at nine months he contracted spinal meningitis which left him brain damaged, paralyzed on one side and epileptic. He regained some movement but has remained epileptic and brain damaged and unable to care for himself. Two years ago he needed an operation on his hip, which fortunately was paid for by medicaid and his other benefits. This operation left him with further disabilities and now he is in a host home. My parents are both dead and it really is only he and I in our family. If he did not receive these benefits I don't know how he could survive. I have to work to earn my living which covers my independent health care that costs me \$750.00 a month for very few benefits and it is going to go up very soon. I also have some pre-existing conditions which could preclude me from getting any insurance at all. If my brother lost his benefits and I couldn't get health insurance I don't know what we would do.

This bill seems completely heartless to me. The Senators and Representatives have lifetime health insurance so perhaps they don't realize that they aren't facing the same challenges that most of the rest of us are facing with fear in our hearts for what is coming. Please act with compassion for the people of the United States not for political reasons.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not just simply repeal and replace it with something that takes away too much from too many.

Sincerely,

Debra Bond

Louisville, Colorado

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Leah F Marcus [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I am an American and a mother writing to beg you to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill, (the newest version of Trumpcare), which would remove the healthcare of 32 million people.

This bill would completely devastate working families and roll back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. I've recently learned that this bill also contains a \$20 billion tax break for the medical device industry, which already has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid any 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 utter embarrassment and an outrage, given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee, in the strongest possible terms, to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. (For what it's worth, 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.)

In closing, I would prefer to see a bipartisan solution to any issues remaining in the Affordable Care Act, not this cruel last-ditch-attempt at a political win.

Thank you,

Leah Marcus

[REDACTED]
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jim [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA repeal

If ever a time in this country existed that is more critical to the wellbeing of the citizens of our nation that time is here! The simple fact that the approval of congress is even lower then for the current bill speaks volumes! The congress must somehow rise above the low ground that they have chosen to occupy. Your yes vote will unleash a blood bath of current members loosing seats in the mid term! You will be the people that took healthcare from millions to reward the rich with tax breaks they don't need!

Vote no on Graham Cassidy! Stand up and be part of history instead of the partisan politics practiced daily in congress

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Merilee Murray [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Don't Kill Me

So you know what would be really fun if GrahamCassidy Zombie Trumpcare passes? Active participation. You can unplug sick babies in the NICU, push the aged out of Medicaid subsidized nursing homes and dump them in the street. You can laugh at people who can no longer afford medicine for diabetes (yeah, the amputations go up, but, they're poor so where were they going to go anyway), cholesterol (most heart attacks are fatal, so that's a win), no immunosuppressants after organ transplants (but let's be real, they wouldn't get the transplants in the first place). You can turn pregnant women in labor away from the hospital, deny medical care to newborns, and yank the chemo ports out of cancer patients.

But you know what the real cherry on the top will be? Funerals (and bankruptcies). You can drop in and sanctimoniously revel in money saved and government lessened. All those dead Americans are a small price to pay for your stellar "win". Isn't killing the most fun ever? You really know how to put the 'M' back in murder. Have fun celebrating. You've out-Dextered Dexter.

I've had a dissected carotid artery and stroke. I have vitreous detachment of the retina in both eyes. I've had a stroke in my left eye. I've sustained a back injury. I've just been diagnosed with bleeding stomach ulcers. I'm so frantic about losing healthcare that I can barely breathe. I'm 63. I have preexisting conditions. I've worked since 1970. I was a United Commercial Food Worker for 16 years. I taught school for 15 years. I paid my taxes. I've never even had a moving violation. I'm begging you. Please don't kill me. Please don't kill me. Please don't kill me.

Merilee Murray
Holladay, Utah

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nikki Wojtalik [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:36 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.

Nikki Wojtalik
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Parkville, Maryland 21234

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bret Hoag [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: please don't pass this bill.

The Graham-Cassidy will harm millions of people, and it will not even have the benefit of a Congressional Budget Office analysis. Passing this bill would be cruel and irresponsible.

Sincerely,
Bret

(I say this as someone who has healthcare and consider myself a lucky dude)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stephen Sarazin [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it would severely destabilize health care for millions of Americans. I see no actual purpose this legislation would serve, other than funding tax cuts for wealthy people who don't need them.

The ultimate result of this proposal would seem to be -Avoidable deaths of thousands.
-Millions losing health coverage.
-Hundreds of thousands suffering serious harm.

and then
-Democratic majorities in the House and Senate pass a bill fully nationalizing our health care system.
-Socialist President signs this bill.

While the end of this story is agreeable to me, I don't find the deaths of thousands an acceptable price to pay.

Sincerely,
Stephen Sarazin

Stephen Sarazin
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shannon Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposing Graham-Cassidy Bill

To whom it may concern,

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. As a younger person diagnosed with an auto-immune disorder, I could end up with tens of thousands of medical bills if denied insurance for my pre-existing condition. My partner, who is self employed, would not be able to purchase affordable health insurance without the ACA.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to continue the work that has begun with the ACA to support vulnerable communities and ensure the right of every citizen to access affordable, quality healthcare. I do not want to see the ACA repealed.

Sincerely,
Shannon Johnson

Portland, Oregon

--
Shannon Johnson
Teaching Artist

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: D Sinha [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on G-C health bill!

Simply put, I refuse to let a state politician in TX or AL to decide how to spend my Fed Tax dollars.

I did not vote in TX. If they want to spend money on something, let them use their own state taxes.

Best,
Debashish Sinha
Menlo Park, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lori Webster [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

I am a registered Republican living in Altadena, CA.

This country needs so many things. Let's start with the basics:

We need bipartisanship.

We need a CBO score.

We need health care for women, children, and outreach for addicts. Instead of providing this country with protections, instead of investing in our present and future, the Graham-Cassidy Bill offers us chaos. The price is too high. Please, please, please reject this.

In appreciation,

Lori A. Webster

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Altadena, CA 91001

626-797-1135

<http://www.shopathoopla.com>

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marcia McKenzie [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Thoughts on the Graham-Cassidy proposed bill

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a current member of a health insurance plan acquired through the ACA Marketplace, and I am very concerned about the proposed Graham-Cassidy bill. It offers even less security and coverage than the failed Senate bill, and much less coverage than the current ACA program.

I am well aware that there are significant problems with the ACA, and I would like to see those problems addressed and fixed. But, as low-income self-employed senior with some pre-existing conditions, I have been able, through the ACA, to find affordable insurance plan options that provide good coverage.

The proposed bill would provide no or worse coverage for those that need it most - the elderly and the sick. And at a much higher cost. Perhaps it would lower costs for young healthy people, but *we need to think about all Americans*. The healthy citizens of today could be the sick Americans of tomorrow. I am more than willing to have my health insurance dollars going to someone who is much sicker than I am because I might be the one needing that help tomorrow. That's what a compassionate society does - takes care of everyone. At the very least, that's what insurance does - those who never need home owner insurance pool their money to pay for those that do end up needing it.

Sending money to the individual states to do with it as they see fit is not an answer. It would result in very lopsided coverage, with some states doing a better job or being more generous than others. And allowing states to decide what qualifies as "essential health benefits" banned from caps on annual or lifetime coverage could be devastating for anyone with a serious health issue or involved in a serious accident living in any state that would opt to define those benefits narrowly. Cost and quality of health insurance coverage shouldn't depend on where you live. Whether or how pre-existing conditions are covered shouldn't depend on where you live.

We need a federal plan with federal rules and mandates so all Americans have the same opportunities for coverage. Everyone needs to be required to contribute to the health insurance pool. And the elderly, many of whom are on a limited budget, should not have to pay up to 5 times as much for coverage than others.

This bill, along with the other GOP proposals presented this year, are an obvious attempt to weaken the ACA by *creating instability in the health insurance marketplace*, causing more and more companies to withdraw. If fewer and fewer Americans can afford insurance under the ACA, the claim will be made that it doesn't work.

I would like to think we can do better in America, putting politics aside and doing what's right for all Americans. Let's work on fixing the ACA, not trying to weaken it to gain political points. What a novel and noble idea! That's how we make America great!

If this bill passes, there will be those who pat themselves on the back for "getting the job done." But at what cost to their fellow-Americans?

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joni Bennett [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please preserve access to healthcare; reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

There are no "good old days" for health care before the ACA. Tens of millions of men, women and children lacked access to health care because they could not afford health insurance or the policies they could afford did not cover the care they needed.

"Charity care" strained hospital emergency rooms. State high risk pools for people with pre-existing conditions offered limited coverage at very high cost. Untreated illness, lost productivity and medical bill-induced bankruptcies burdened society as well as individuals.

The bill before you, Graham-Cassidy, would move the country backward, eliminate coverage for tens of millions of Americans and enable insurers to charge astronomically higher premiums for older Americans and those with pre-existing conditions.

The bill would benefit one group - the highly-profitable medical device industry. With \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore, on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes, the industry would receive another \$20 billion tax break.

This proposed tax break is just one source of funding that could be used to help make health care available and affordable to all Americans.

Please understand the life and death impact of the bill you are considering. Good legislation takes more time and thought than you have had for this bill and all the other repeal-and-replace bills added together.

The bill you are seeking to repeal, the Affordable Care Act, during 2009 was scrutinized by three different Senate committees, discussed in dozens of hearings and given 169 hours of consideration.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy. Please work with your colleagues to improve the ACA, address its limitations, and extend affordable health care to even more Americans.

Thank you for your work on behalf of our country.

Joni Bennett

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Edina, Minnesota 55416

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: dhaval patel <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators

I am an ICU physician from Georgia. I deal with people who have poor access to healthcare on a daily basis and everyday run into people who could have led better lives or not died an early death only if they had better access to healthcare. This bill will take away healthcare from 1.2 million Georgians. People will live more sicker lives and die sicker. I implore you that in good conscious you vote no on this bill. My patients need you and their access to healthcare.

Thank you.
Dhaval Patel, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jordan Vachon [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for Graham-Cassidy Record

My dearest representatives,

If you think for one moment that you'll be re-elected after supporting this bill, you are sorely mistaken fools. Don't be fools. Be smart. Get re-elected. Don't kill people. Get rid of this God-awful bill.

Thanks for (hopefully) not endangering the well-being of millions!

Sincerely,
Jordan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: P Hutchison [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy measure. It would make health coverage unaffordable for millions of Americans and put Medicaid back on the chopping block.
Please work together to come up with a viable option that will benefit ALL Americans.

Thank you,

P Hutchison
Athens, Oh

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alexandra Alznauer <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Would Result in My Death and Uninsurability of My Spouse

I have Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, Sjogren's Syndrome (both autoimmune diseases), Raynaud's Phenomenon, asthma, allergies, MTBI (Mild Traumatic Brain Injury), Complex PTSD, and Bipolar Disorder I. I am also a survivor of the earliest type of breast disease, Ductal Carcinoma In Situ (less than Stage 1 breast cancer) and have had two lumpectomies and a punch biopsy.

From what I have read I have estimated I would pay an insurance premium surcharge between \$80,000 and \$100,000+ annually under Graham Cassidy. That is simply not possible for anyone in America except for multi-millionaires or billionaires.

If Graham Cassidy passes people like me will die. I may die as I have had problems with my kidneys due to Lupus. It is estimated 42,000 more people will die annually under Graham Cassidy.

My spouse (who would probably become my widow under Graham Cassidy) would be uninsurable due to more minor pre-existing conditions which would render health insurance completely unaffordable. My spouse would be forced to close my spouse's business, sell our condo and move to a small town in order to be able to afford to pay health care providers directly.

Not only will Graham Cassidy destroy the lives of good, hard-working, tax-paying Americans. It will also result in a tremendous loss of jobs and destabilize insurance markets while destroying the healthcare sector, a major part of the American economy.

For that reason I oppose it.

Patricia A. Alznauer

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: jp.com <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy "health care" bill

Sirs.

This bill will decimate Medicaid expansion. It will HURT the poor and seniors.

This bill will NOT guarantee that people with pre-existing conditions keep their coverage.

This bill will knock 22 million people off the ACA. They will lose their health care coverage.

This bill will be the BIGGEST TRANSFER OF FEDERAL MEDICAL DOLLARS TO THE STATES IN US HISTORY! IT WILL LEAVE DISCRETION OF HOW IT IS TO BE SPENT TO THE STATES. A TREASURED GOP AIM.

And, finally, this bill will ALLOW THE STATES TO PROVIDE TAX CUTS TO THE TUNE OF BILLIONS TO THE WEALTHIEST AMERICANS. It will stop the cry of the DEEP POKETED GOP DONORS WHO ARE SCREAMING FOR THEIR TAX CUT. BUT WILL CONSEQUENTIALLY KILL THOUSANDS OF AMERICANS. That is simply the truth.

McConnell, Ryan, and Trump have forced people like me and tens of millions of Americans to read the fine print. We know more about their bill, like JIMMY KIMMEL, than they do. It is a heartless, greedy, devastating piece of partisan legislation. Not to mention that the states don't have the infrastructure to implement it.

Tell those heartless ideologues in the GOP that they swore to "PROMOTE THE GENERAL WELFARE" not the CORPORATE WELFARE.

Joel Polis, Venice Beach, CA

Joel Polis

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Fran Salisbury [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal; instead: bipartisan congressional effort to improve the ACA

As a retired school teacher, I expect you to work together with integrity and compassion for a bi-partisan solution that best serves all of your constituents.

Many in my family and I have pre-existing conditions with ongoing diseases including cancers, debilitating autoimmune diseases, diabetes, and heart conditions. Our lives depend on our affordable health care with patient protections. Do not endanger us by removing the PP and ACA.

Do your job in protecting the general welfare of Americans.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Fran Salisbury

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

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

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

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: acobb bigsky.net [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: pre-existing conditions

This bill leaves it to the states to determine how people with pre-existing conditions will be charged for insurance. This will threaten health care for more than a quarter of non-elderly adults, and thus is a terrible policy.

I was diagnosed with bilateral breast cancer in 2014. I had a double mastectomy and chemotherapy, plus a prophylactic hysterectomy. My risk of recurrence of cancer is almost nil, because I have no breasts, uterus, ovaries, or fallopian tubes. All other health indicators are good--I have good health habits, eat a vegetarian diet, don't smoke, exercise regularly, etc. But no insurance company would want to cover me, because of that breast cancer history, even though in reality they'd end up making a lot of money off me because my health profile is actually above-average. The ACA protects me; with the ACA, when my partner retires I will be able to get a new policy, with a new company, without any problems. With Graham-Cassidy, who knows? I might have to move out of state to get coverage.

Please improve the ACA with bipartisan legislation, informed by economic science. Do not inflict misguided and disastrous legislation on us in order to score political points.

Thank you,
Alison Cobb

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julie Castanza [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Kill This Bill, Kill it for Cancer Kids

My son is 21 years old, and we've been fighting cancer, since he was diagnosed at 17. Thanks to the ACA, he has insurance coverage, on our insurance. His treatment expenses have been close to \$3 million. There is no way we could ever have afforded this fight, without Obamacare. Cancer is devastating in every way. The Ewings-like Sarcoma that has plagued my son is a tenacious beast. The outlook for those who experience recurrence is bleak. The last chemotherapy failed, and now we are fighting off tumors #4 and #5. We are hoping to keep beating this back with radiation and surgery, until we find an immunotherapy study, that offers a systemic cure. It is like fighting a raging dragon with torches and swords.

If you repeal the ACA, you are snatching all hope of victory from us, and the many others like us. We spent a year, living in Ronald McDonald House in Seattle, where we were introduced to a whole new world. I was astonished to learn just how many kids get cancer, and just how many kids struggle with debilitating illness. Before then, I was like most people, taking my health (and my children's health) for granted. I had sympathy, but it wasn't my world.

What I learned, is that in the split second it takes, for your doctor to utter the word **cancer**, your whole life can be obliterated. You need the help and support of qualified medical professionals to guide you through, to maintain any hope at all. If you cut off access to healthcare for these children, it is like you are ripping them from their parents arms, and throwing them off a cliff. If you do this, you have murdered these vulnerable people. And at any time, a doctor could utter a devastating diagnosis to someone you know and love, and you will realize that your prior lack of compassion, has hastened them toward death.

We are at an important juncture and you are holding the fate of millions of people in your hands. As a parent of one of these precious kids, I beg you to do the right thing: **KILL THIS BILL**.

Sincerely,
Julie Castanza
Enumclaw, WA

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My concerns are with pre-existing conditions and affordability, primarily.

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

Sincerely, Gloria Augeri
Rockfall, CT 06481

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

I have pre-existing condition. My premium is already \$1,328/month. I cannot afford it if GC passed. For the first time I can't wait to be 65 so I can enroll in Medicare. I never believe I could wish to be older!

YF Lee

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rohit Vakil [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Pearson, Beth (Warren); Hurt, Nikki (Markey)
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I am a physician in Worcester Massachusetts and I strongly oppose the above Bill and I urge our senators to oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill in the senate this week.

Rohit Vakil M.D.

[REDACTED]
Shrewsbury, Ma 01545

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: carrie d [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I was diagnosed with Scleroderma last year and after years of paying for insurance and hardly using it I now have ACA and need it. I can not afford to lose my insurance. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Caroline Dibble

Holly Hill, Florida

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michelle Buerger [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Please 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.

Thank you.

Michelle Buerger
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Middleton, Wisconsin 53562

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michael Fantuzzo [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because I am a health care professional and my patients rely on my services in order to continue to function as independent as possible and live a high quality of life toward their later years of life. This bill will cut my therapy services and there will be millions of adults and children who will not get the opportunity to live a long, meaningful life.

Thank you

Michael Fantuzzo, OTD, OTR/L

Michael Fantuzzo
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rose Mosier <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

This is a horrible piece of legislation that has not been analysed, debated or scored by the CBO. Even without these processes, it has been estimated the the number of Americans who will lose their healthcare will be 30 million. It is also a certainty that premiums will skyrocket for most people, and there will be little to no protection for people with pre-existing conditions that will prevent insurers from charging very high premiums, and eliminating spending and lifetime caps. This alone will lead to many untimely, preventable deaths. These deaths will be YOUR responsibility if you allow this bill to go forward.

My husband suffers from Parkinson's disease, and we will be directly impacted by the ending of the mandate for employers to provide health insurance. If this happens, we will be unable to pay for health coverage to pay for medication and therapy he requires.

Cutting Medicaid spending and giving block grants to states to manage their own healthcare programs without any requirement that those block grants be used only to provide healthcare to citizens is just laughable.

Please, if you have any sense of decency, and any responsibility to act in the best interests of ALL Americans, not just the Republican base, insurance and pharmaceutical companies and the Kochs, do not allow a vote on this awful bill and return to the rule of order

Rose Mosier
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Davis <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham-Cassidy

Hello-

My name is Dr. Jennifer Davis and I'm a pediatrician who works in the south bronx. The south bronx is consists of some of the poorest zip codes in the United States. The vast majority of my patients are on medicaid or uninsured. We as a nation should want our most vulnerable to have access to affordable health insurance. We need to keep our kids covered, especially those with pre-existing conditions. Many kids are born healthy but may develop chronic medical problems such as diabetes, hypertension and cancer. These conditions and others if diagnosed in childhood would make them ineligible for health insurance as adults, unless protections are kept in place for them. As a humane society, we should be appealing to our better angels, not just ramming through legislation to appease wealthy donors. Please protect our healthcare! Please save the ACA. It needs to be improved and not repealed.

--

Jennifer Davis, M.D.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Renae Stone [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

I oppose the Graham Cassidy bill because I will not be covered for preexisting conditions nor will my husband. We are both healthy seniors, but if he needs treatment for a heart condition, under the Graham Cassidy bill he would not be covered. I would not be covered for any cervical issue. We need an affordable healthcare bill and we already have one in place which serves most people very well. It can be tweaked and it will be perfect. No need to get rid of it. Keep ACA-Obamacare and get rid of Trump.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lonnie Spinozza-johnson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:09 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.

Gary-and Lonnie Johnson
Garrison NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Bronstein [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham-Cassidy bill for 9/25 Finance Comm. hearing

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

Linda Bronstein
[REDACTED]
West Hartford, CT 06107

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I write 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, 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 hundreds of thousands of Connecticut 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.

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

This proposal takes away secure coverage from millions, and replaces it only with the possibility of inadequate and temporary coverage. It ends the ACA's successful Medicaid expansion, which has extended coverage to nearly 12 million newly eligible low-income adults. It also eliminates the ACA tax credits that 10 million low- and moderate-income people rely on to afford coverage in the individual market. Although it replaces this

funding with a block grant to states, the proposal offers no guarantee that states will provide an alternative affordable coverage option to former enrollees - and indeed the block grant is inadequate to pay for comparable benefits. From 2020 through 2026, block grant funding would be at least 7% (\$95 billion) below projected spending under current law. Regardless, the block grant ends in 2027, leaving states and former enrollees with no help whatsoever. We do not believe it is likely that Congress would reauthorize additional funds for these programs at a later date, because the funds would no longer be in the baseline of the federal budget. Congress would therefore have to identify and reauthorize a new funding stream – something that would be extremely difficult, if not impossible.

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

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

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maxine Weaver [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:20 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.

Maxine Weaver
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Deerfield Beach, Nordrhein-Westfalen 33442

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eric Wayne <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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Eric Wayne
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

SAINT JOHNS, Florida 32259

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marvin Bruggeman <[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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Why is it OK for the Republicans to give massive tax breaks to the rich but it not OK for Middle class Americans to have health care?

Marvin Bruggeman
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Plant City, Florida 33565

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Brad And Robbin Near [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:28 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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Brad And Robbin Near
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Seminole, Florida 33777

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: John Banach <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:11 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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John Banach
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Deerfield Beach, Florida 33441

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chris Smenos <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:11 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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Chris Smenos
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sarasota , Florida 34231

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Fortes <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:11 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 Fortes
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Vero Beach, Florida 32966

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David Radens <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:10 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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David Radens
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

St. Petersburg, Florida 33705

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jean Penny [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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Jean Penny
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Saint Augustine, Florida 32084

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patricia Kelly <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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Patricia Kelly
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Venice, Florida 34285

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lee Ann Grieser <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:38 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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Lee Ann Grieser
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Lantana, Florida 33462

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Arthur Richard <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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Arthur Richard
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Winter Springs, Florida 32708

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margaret Richards <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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Margaret Richards
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PENSACOLA, Florida 32501

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ruth Steger <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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Ruth Steger
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

St Petersburg , Florida 33702

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robert Curry <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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Robert Curry

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Suzanne Green <[REDACTED]@work.org>
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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Suzanne Green
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Seminole, Florida 33772

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Louise Pinson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:37 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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Louise Pinson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Helen Colby <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My comments

Kindly stop trying to destroy everything that is good about the USA. Stop fighting against the people of this country. This latest attempt to repeal the ACA is ridiculous. Don't like it? Fix it, don't destroy it and take health care away from millions of people.

We are not the best. American exceptionalism has taken a nose dive since this latest election and you are part of it.

People should not have to declare bankruptcy to get health care in our country.

Stop trying to destroy Medicare and Medicaid. Health care is NOT a business.

Kindly wake up.

Helen Colby
Miami, Florida

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: BrendaLee Lennick [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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BrendaLee Lennick
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Louise Scarfone <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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Louise Scarfone
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Fort Myers , Florida 33908

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Melissa Garber [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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Melissa Garber
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Orlando, Florida 32821-8810

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: S.P. Franklin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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S.P. Franklin
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Naples, Florida 34104

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Katharyn Ward [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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Katharyn Ward
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Gainesville, Florida 32608

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Peter Harding [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.

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.

Peter Harding
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Jacksonville, Florida 32225

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Katharyn Ward <[REDACTED]>
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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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.

Katharyn Ward
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Gainesville, Florida 32608

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ollie Keskinen <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.

I don't have a dog in this fight, I have great health coverage. My problem is, that we vote people into office to govern and we hope, wisely. By denying current coverage and accepting your new proposal, you are in essence condemning some to death. In what way do you feel you have improved the wellbeing of our nation?

We're an in debt nation and you keep cutting taxes for the rich??????

Good governing????

Ollie Keskinen

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Bokeelia, Florida 33922

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Brita Skarbrevik <[REDACTED]>
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.

Brita Skarbrevik

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Plantation, Florida 33322

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ellen Nathan <[REDACTED]>
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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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.

Ellen Nathan
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

plantation, Florida 33324

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeff Thompson <[REDACTED]>
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.

Jeff Thompson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Quincy, Florida 32351

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Allan Richardson [REDACTED]
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.

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.

The GOP made up PHONY stories of "death panels" in the ACA. But this bill IS IN ITSELF a Death Panel for the poorest (which includes formerly middle class retirees who have spent down their assets on nursing home care and have been put on Medicaid) and sickest or unluckiest of us. The latest estimates are 30 THOUSAND a year who would, as in pre-ACA times, be denied the treatment which could save their lives. That's AS MANY DEATHS AS TEN (10) "9/11" ATTACKS EVERY YEAR!

CHOOSE LIFE! KILL TRUMP(NO)CARE!

Allan Richardson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Tarpon Springs, FL , Florida 34689

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michael Goehring <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:39 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 and NOT rich corporations. 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.

Michael Goehring
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33308

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jillian Sang [REDACTED]
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.

Jillian Sang
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Coral Springs, Florida 33065

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Aileen Hamann <[REDACTED]>
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.

Aileen Hamann
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Palm Coast, Florida 32164

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: FRANK & DEE SPERA. [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: David Elin
Subject: Statement on Graham-Cassidy to SCF

As someone who has a grandson with Cystic Fibrosis, the current health care debate in Washington is personal to me and my family. Cystic Fibrosis is a chronic disease that effects the lungs and digestive tract, leading to frequent lung infections and other complications. CF is a genetically based disease for which there is now no cure. However, not long ago my grandson Ian would not have lived long enough to finish grade school. Ian is now 14 years old and a freshman in high school and is an active, involved teenager interested in building cities that would be able to withstand hurricanes and earthquakes. He is alive and doing well due to medical advancements and the care he gets from his "care center" and the support he and his family receive from the Affordable Care Act. To our family the official name of this act is more important than the political overtones of its popular name. Health care is **not** political....it is personal.

We are a family of public school teachers: I was a middle school teacher, my husband was a college professor, our son and his wife are elementary school teachers in Georgia, and our daughter is a first grade teacher in Colorado. We believe that the future of our country depends upon the education and **health** of our youth. Each of us has been recognized as "outstanding teacher" or "teacher of the year". What we are not recognized for is our wealth and that is why accessible and affordable health care is important to us.

The Graham-Cassidy proposal is unacceptable for people living with CF and other chronic conditions. Creating high risk pools is going back to the biblical leper colonies. My grandson does not deserve to be subject to this stigma.

Our health care system is far from perfect but changes that come at the expense of the very people who rely most on adequate, affordable health care coverage is not the way of the future.

Senators, please keep my family and the many other families who will be adversely effected as you consider this legislation.

Thank you for your service to our country and God bless the United States of America.

Sincerely,

Dee Spera

Stuart, Florida.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dominick Milano <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:37 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. Give us Universal Health Care for all as a right, not a privilege!

Dominick Milano
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Port Orange, Florida 32127

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pam Holbrook <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA Repeal

Because of the Affordable Care Act my husband's large, invasive polyps were removed by a surgeon during a colonoscopy. One year later, the surgeon said, and my husband would have had colon cancer. In spite of the fact that my husband, Don, has a history of colon cancer from both parents, he had never had a screening because we could never have afforded this procedure at full price.

I am a preschool teacher at a small private school, and Don has a small business as a tile mechanic. We do not ask for much from our government, but I believe since insurance companies have put premiums so far out of reach that people like us cannot afford health insurance, it is only right the government help us out. Otherwise, we'll be on assistance & food stamps, if not living on the streets. Or dead.

Pam B Holbrook
Alachua County, FL 32615

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elvia Lopez <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: They just have to improve the Obama healthcare not to be changed, it is a waist of time and money. Just fixed it....

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.

Elvia Lopez
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Orlando, Florida 32819

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Hughes <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:36 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.

The richest, corporations or people, do not deserve an extra portion of the economy taken from the medium to poorer Americans.

Barbara Hughes
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sanford, Florida 32771

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patrick Reyna <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

Please take notice that the newest version of Trumpcare, known as Graham-Cassidy, would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastate working families and roll back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in the Graham-Cassidy bill is a \$20 billion tax break for the already highly-profitable medical device industry. That same industry _ the medical device industry _ already has stashed \$230 billion in profits offshore, profits on which it has not paid a cent 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 all members of the Senate, as well the members of the Senate Finance Committee, to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans: by voting against Graham-Cassidy.

In addition, it's high time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share of taxes!

If they ever do that _ and that's a big "IF" _ we'll all be investing in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider these points that so concern all Americans.

All best,

Patrick Reyna

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Miami, Florida 33127

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeane Shaw <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The GOP is anti-American and FAKE-Christians. Who takes away healthcare from the majority that now has it? This is inhumane, cruel and murder! How can anyone think this is a great country when the GOP is robbing us of everything that makes this country great. To take away peoples healthcare means so many people will go bankrupt, lose their homes, suffer and deal with premature death. Why would anyone do this to it's people? The majority are going to hate the GOP and they deserve to be hated for the inhumane, cruel, greedy people they are. They are suppose to work for us but they are working for the 1% and that is not what they were elected for. They are working hard to suppress votes that tend to be Democrat, they are doing every lowly thing they can to rid elections for them as they must know their deplorable actions are not going to allow them to be elected fairly and what they do is to cheat, lie and rig things so they can continue there cruelty and continue to take big money form special interests. They have insurance that we pay 75% of, but they aren't decent enough to allow us to have healthcare, If they would stop fighting a minimum wage increase maybe people wouldn't need so much help, other countries have free healthcare, free college and wages in the \$20+ an hour, they are also the happiest people while we are miserable working many jobs and leaving the children to raise themselves and still struggle. what kind of life is that?

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.

Jeane Shaw

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Bradenton, Florida 34207

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: William Von Zangenberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:36 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.

William Von Zangenberg

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Holiday, Florida 34691

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: FRANCINE WARE <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:22 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.

FRANCINE WARE

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 26

Tampa, Florida 33625

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Knowles [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:36 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.

Barbara Knowles
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Seminole,, Florida 33772

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: MICHAEL TOMASONE [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:22 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.

MICHAEL TOMASONE
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

ORLANDO, Florida 32836

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Keith Schlusel [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:37 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.

Keith Schlusel

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Coconut Creek, Florida 33073

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ellen McCoy [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.

I am an American citizen born in Denison, Texas 76 years ago. Started working at 13 as a "carhop" and since then have worked several jobs sometimes a full time and part time job at the same time. Have NEVER been on food stamps or welfare in my life. Always depended on myself thinking that if/when I got retired I would get the benefits I worked for and deserve. I worked 38 years in Civil Service and was promised definite benefits. Now the Republican POTUS and Republican Congress is trying to take them away from me and millions of other citizens through their Graham- Cassidy Death Health plan. There are 3 to 4 Republican Senators you can trust won't knife you in the back. They voted with their high morals and loving hearts and know what the rest of them are voting for IS NOT RIGHT. Hope those other Republicans know that in 2018 things could change in the Senate and that their repeal of ACA would be detrimental to their supporters as well.

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.

Ellen McCoy
[REDACTED]



West Melbourne, Florida 32904-1927

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mike Boucher [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.

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.

Mike Boucher
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Hernando Beach, Florida 34607

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Leah Picciano [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.

Leah Picciano

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Miami, Florida 33156

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Steven Combes <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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HEALTHCARE IS A RIGHT!!

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HEALTHCARE IS A RIGHT!!

Steven Combes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Gainesville, Florida 32608

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tara Rutland <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: What Graham-Cassidy means for my family

To Whom It May Concern,

My children were born with a primary immune deficiency, Common Variable Immune Deficiency/hypogammaglobulinemia. What this means is that they have a lowered immunoglobulin levels in their blood. They get sick easily, take longer to recover from "normal" illnesses, with a lot of viral infections turning into potentially life-threatening bacterial infections. They require frequent doctors visits and an extensive list of specialists. Between them, they take 20 regular medications to help maintain their health. When the time comes, they may require Intravenous Immunoglobulin (IVIG) therapy. The estimated cost of IVIG is \$30,000 per child every 4-6 weeks. Currently, they are protected from discrimination due to their preexisting conditions. Graham-Cassidy would allow companies to once again discriminate against my children based on their medical diagnoses.

Both of my children were also born with a hereditary bleeding disorder, Von Willebrand Disease. They require life-saving medications for this. Stimate is a nose spray that helps release their stored von Willebrand factor in the event of a bleeding emergency. That medication contains 25 metered sprays and costs \$800 per bottle. They also require treatment with Amicar, a medication that helps prevent blood clots from dissolving. That medication costs nearly \$3,000 for 8 ounces. Graham Cassidy would allow insurance companies to raise premiums for "sick" children like mine or place them high risk pools.

Prescription drug coverage for my children runs into the thousands each month. Most insurance plans do not provide adequate coverage for such expensive medications. I have to fight to get their prescriptions paid for, even going so far as having to prove their medical necessity for life-saving medications.

My children are currently covered under Children's Medical Services, a division of Florida Medicaid for children with complex medical needs. Graham Cassidy seeks to block grant, severely cut, and eventually eliminate Medicaid Services.

This legislation is heartless, cruel, and is currently being sold by my congressman, Matt Gaetz, as giving the states more power. We are gambling with the lives and well being of our future generations. We should be looking for ways to insure more of America's children. Graham Cassidy means that my children will not have access to their doctors and specialists, their advocates, affordable prescription drug coverage, and they will be charged more for less coverage or completely priced out of coverage altogether.

We are a wealthy country, it's time we started treating our people better.

Respectfully,

Tara Rutland
Navarre, FL 32566

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Felicia Lee <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect the ACA

Hello,

I am writing to urge you to reject the cruel and counterproductive Graham health Cassidy bill. As a self-employed American with several hereditary health conditions, I am deeply grateful for the protections of the Affordable Care Act. Because my only access to health insurance is through the private marketplace, I am grateful to be able to purchase an affordable, comprehensive policy despite my conditions. By all reputable accounts, the Graham-Cassidy bill would make health insurance completely unaffordable for me and millions of other Americans with pre-existing conditions.

Medical conditions are not a choice, a character flaw, nor, as some on the right have suggested, always a reflection of poor living habits. All Americans are just an accident or illness away from being uninsurable, and by extension, untreatable. All deserve protection should this happen.

As elected officials chosen and paid by the American taxpayers, you have the responsibility to protect their best interests. Organizations from across a range of interests, from the American Cancer Society to insurance companies, have come out against Graham-Cassidy. I hope you do the same.

Thank you for your time.

--
Felicia Lee, Gainesville FL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tiffany Namey <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Tiffany E. Namey, 33, Winter Park FL 32792

I had my first seizure in my early teens. My brother, ill from birth on, was finally getting better and boom I was diagnosed with epilepsy. My dad, self-employed, was doing pretty well at the time and our family of four had good insurance coverage with United for about \$800 a month at the time.

Florida has a juvenile truancy law and I went from being an honor 4.0 average student to literally being dropped out of school as a result of the seizures. This truancy law and many seizures robbed me of traditional teen experiences like prom, learning to drive and the graduation walk. My diploma was mailed.

It was a period in which we had good insurance but times were hard and then my parents got divorced. When I turned 18 my dad couldn't talk for me anymore and I had to talk for myself which became a problem. With my pre-existing condition and being a woman I couldn't find health insurance on my own that was anywhere near affordable and would cover my needs. My dad had fallen on hard times and the three of us were now covered in a high-risk pool. At the time I had so many seizures and severe memory gaps but I remember the day the Affordable Care Act passed and I felt my life had been saved. My family didn't have to worry about pre-existing conditions and lifetime limits any more. Then Governor Rick Scott sued the federal government over the Medicaid expansion and the Supreme Court ruled the states didn't have to accept the program written into the ACA for people like myself who make less than 100% of the federal poverty level. .

My dad fell ill and couldn't afford the high risk pool health insurance premiums. He stopped paying for himself, but kept paying for my brother and myself. He didn't want us to have a gap in coverage. These high risk insurance policies only covered four primary care visits a year, had virtually no prescription coverage and a \$200,000 deductible, so I had to forego insurance. I couldn't see a neurologist anyway. My dad hadn't had insurance coverage for quite some time now and he died of a heart attack and lung issues two weeks before he became Medicare eligible.

I have many health issues, epilepsy, depression, joint issues and I am at high risk of cervical cancer. I currently have no health coverage at all except for my epilepsy through the Epilepsy Foundation. I am a single abled body and I want to work, I want a job but I am not hired because of my health issues. I am sick, but I cannot see a doctor so I cannot get better. I make between \$5,000 and \$8,000 a year and am working hard to get my Bachelor's degree. I am determined to have a better paying job by 2019 so I will be able to get coverage. But if the Republicans get their way and pre-existing conditions are not covered, my dad died for nothing. The ACA has given me hope and hope is definitely something for a person with disabilities.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Gerstley [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:23 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Please oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill. Recklessly passing this bill, without considering its harmful consequences to millions of Americans and our healthcare system is unconscionable.

This bill will cause an estimated 32 million people to lose access to health insurance

Numerous medical groups have come out against it-- a few examples, The American Medical Assoc, The American Psychiatric Assoc, The American Psychological Assoc, etc etc. etc Numerous patient advocacy groups have come out against it- a few examples, American Cancer Association, American Heart Association, etc etc. Hospital and Health Insurers have come out against this bill.

As a clinical psychologist, many of my patients only were able to receive the mental health care they needed when the ACA was enacted. Having served on the board of a hospital, I am all too aware how pulling the plug on the ACA will negatively impact the financial health of our hospitals, and may force hospitals to close, particularly those in rural areas.

Having been self employed clinical psychologist all my life, I have had to purchase my own health insurance. Prior to the ACA, I was unable to obtain health insurance after I was successfully treated for cancer in 1999. Once the ACA was enacted I was able to finally purchase health insurance again. At 62, I retired to care for my older husband. At this point, this bill will likely make it impossible for me to purchase decent quality health insurance due to my age and pre-existing conditions. I have never had a subsidy from the government for my insurance, I am just so

grateful that I am able to purchase insurance and that I won't get booted off if I get sick (I have a friend who's insurance canceled him after a heart attack prior to the ACA)...

Please do not pass this bill.

Thank you,
Dr Linda Gerstley, Sarasota FL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Greg Higerson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO Graham Cassidy!

As a citizen of the United States for more than half a century, I can honestly say that I've never seen such a transparent or harmful political ploy in congress as the Graham Cassidy bill.

If it did not have the effect of actually hurting large numbers of my countrymen and their families (as it does), and not doing anything at all to control healthcare costs (which it doesn't), it would be entirely laughable.

The ACA isn't perfect--single payer is what is desperately needed in this country. But Graham Cassidy is dangerous and lots of people without voices will die needlessly if it is passed. Let me repeat: People will die.

VOTE NO.

Thank you.

Gregory S. Higerson
[REDACTED]
Ocoee, FL 34761

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

- Title Of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
- Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017
- Rosann Jentes
- [REDACTED]

To Whom it my Concern:

My husband and I are over 60,too young for medicare,too old for life without insurance.

Both of us lost our parents in their 60's to Cancer. I lost 2 siblings to it. Both of us have siblings that are Cancer Survivors. My husband is a Cancer Survivor. He takes medication.Although we seem healthy,eat right and exercise- we have pre existing illnesses. I take meds for IBS,Gastric and Laryngeal Re flux,statins for high cholesterol,and synthroid for thyroid.What happens to people like us? We both work (and are not on SSI) but our incomes are not enough to cover the medical insurance and meds should pre-existing and caps become an issue.He still has child support (Thank you Massachusetts) until his youngest turns 23!! Most of the people I know will not be able to afford medical insurance without the ACA and some like myself were uncovered for years before ACA -even before when we were younger, and healthy and insurance went over \$600. a month. Please consider the majority,and the people who don't quite understand what this will mean. If they are unhappy with ACA-wait until they find their obesity,c-sections,pregnancy to be pre-existing. Wait until they have an accident,a child that is born with medical complications and life long issues and understand caps. They will eventually all turn against the people who voted for this travesty.

Sincerely,

Rosann Jentes

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Suzy Fay [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy-Graham: worse than a bad idea

Dear members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Curious to see how many times the GOP has attempted to repeal the ACA, I looked it up: it has been 70 times. Cassidy-Graham brings this number to 71. This has resulted in an immense waste of time and taxpayers' money due to our GOP legislators who have pursued this repeal.

Cassidy-Graham is essentially repeal without replacement, which will lead to collapsing insurance markets and tens of millions of people losing coverage. The supposed advantage of Cassidy-Graham, that states will have more flexibility to manage programs like Medicaid, is a fiction: Cassidy-Graham cuts reach \$80 billion by 2026, and by 2027, the bill's funding expires altogether. If there's no money to manage with, flexibility is a joke. Even rich states can't make up this deficit.

There is widespread consensus that this 71st 'reform' attempt is cover for unearned tax cuts worth billions of dollars to wealthy Americans, but any fondly-imagined trickle-down arguments made on behalf of Cassidy-Graham have been refuted by the slash-to-the-bone Kansas experiment, which was so bad, even the Republican state legislature finally dumped it.

There is no point in re-enacting the Kansas experiment on a national scale. The only possible, hidden point would be the aforementioned tax cut. This latest repeal will lead to misery and premature deaths, since there is no replacement for the expansion that allowed 20 million Americans to gain coverage. To the members of the committee who want to put the brakes on Cassidy-Graham, my thanks. To the Cassidy-Graham standard bearers, please think again. The Kansas experiment nearly ruined Kansas—please don't support a bill that will do the same to the entire United States.

Sincerely,
Suzy Fay
St. Augustine, FL



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ray Mauck [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mr. Ray Mauck
[REDACTED]
Crystal River, FL 34429
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kim Todd [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy will take away my ability to buy real health insurance at any price

I am a 61 yr old self employed professional. I have been on the ACA since 2014 when my husband's employer changed his designation from employee to independent contractor. Lucky for him, he was over 65 and got on that wonderful program, Medicare.

I was lucky too to get the ACA-I paid more than what we had paid for my husband and my together on the group health policy, and have a much higher deductible, but I am PROTECTED. Before the ACA (and before HIPA, when I tried to join my husband's group policy that was better than mine), the lump that was taken out of my breast in 1993 and was found to be ENTIRELY BENIGN was considered a pre-existing condition by insurance companies and they would not cover any problem with either breast FOREVER. Even though in the 24 years since then my mammograms have been clear.

If you pass Graham Cassidy, I will not be able to buy an insurance policy that would cover my breasts and if I get breast cancer, I do not have the \$3 million or more for self paid treatment. And do you realize that health care providers charge more for the procedure as the base price than if you are on a group plan? So a \$300 test (before insurance) becomes a \$700 test.

I am an avid cyclist, hiker, cross country skier, lifetime non-smoker, good health choice maker. I would challenge every one of you on this committee to best my lifestyle and health choices. But at 61, like every one of you who are my age and younger and older, I have been treated for issues. Just having been treated for issues makes them pre-existing conditions.

Every one of you is covered by insurance that I and other Americans pay for so you are entirely insulated from these concerns. Many of you are independently wealthy and can pay for \$3 million or more in cancer treatment.

But 98% of the Americans you are sworn to represent (and you have sworn to represent Americans NOT YOUR DONORS) cannot pay for \$3 million or more in cancer treatment. Or chronic issues like diabetes or heart disease.

And without covering these Americans whom you are sworn to represent, hospitals across the nation will be closing, especially in rural areas. I live in a rural area and I see these impacts. And the benefit to the hospitals that covering Americans have been.

Reject Graham-Cassidy for the last minute cooked up death causing insult to the American people that it is. It is your job to do so.

Kim Marie Todd
Palm Beach Gardens, FL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kim Todd [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject Graham-Cassidy

I am a 61 yr old self employed professional. I have been on the ACA since 2014 when my husband's employer changed his designation from employee to independent contractor. Lucky for him, he was over 65 and got on that wonderful program, Medicare.

I was lucky too to get the ACA-while I pay more than what we had paid for my husband and my together on the group health policy, and have a much higher deductible, I am PROTECTED. Before the ACA (and before HIIPA, when I tried to join my husband's group policy that was better than mine), the lump that was taken out of my breast in 1993 and was found to be ENTIRELY BENIGN was considered a pre-existing condition by insurance companies and they would not cover any problem with either breast FOREVER. Even though in the 24 years since then my mammograms have been clear.

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Reject Graham-Cassidy for the last minute cooked up death causing insult to the American people that it is. It is your job to do so.

Kim Marie Todd
Palm Beach Gardens, FL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ed Botsko <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Death pf Tri,[care

Kill this bill. Trumpcare is merely a way for Republicans to fund their tax cuts for the very rich. The fact that it denies healthcare to many of the least among us seems to escape them

Ed Botsko
Delray Beach, FL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No on GC Bill

Please vote no on this bill. It will
Cause me to lose insurance. It will cause many in my age bracket to be unable to afford premiums.

Please please vote no.

Thank you,
Lisa Wright
Florida 33020

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ramsay Merritt Stevens <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Reject Hyper-partisan Healthcare!!! We need Bipartisan Healthcare!!! We're all Americans!!

Dear Senators,

Please stop trying to radically change our health-care system on a partisan basis. A bill this important needs to be passed with the support of all Americans. I know this was not the process that brought us the ACA, but the ACA is now the law of the land and is a big part of how we have come to feel safe and secure as Americans.

Graham-Cassidy clearly makes us less safe and secure for no other reason than shortsighted partisan reasoning.

Sincerely,

Ramsay Stevens
[REDACTED]
Lake Worth, FL 33460
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carole Zangari <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Good afternoon-

I write to ask you to oppose the Graham Cassidy bill and work toward more compassionate approaches to resolving our healthcare challenges. The impact of Graham Cassidy would be incredibly harmful to the people with disabilities with whom I work.

Thank you for your consideration.

Carole Zangari

Coral Springs, Florida

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: MIGLING CUERVO <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Block this Bill

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Graham-Cassidy bill would take away healthcare from the poorest, most vulnerable Americans ... many of them are children. The fundamental harm this would inflict of American families is astronomical and morally reprehensible.

I live in Florida and we would lose billions in funding and this would stress our hospitals further as they already provide billions in charity care because our state did not expand Medicaid. T

As an American, as a Floridian, I oppose this bill.

Respectfully,

Mig Cuervo

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sheri Whittington [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE NO on Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senators,

Please vote NO on the new attempt to replace the current American Health Care program. This issue has become all about the Republicans bending the knee to their rich donors. These GOP supporters are calling in their marks for past donations given with the expectation that the Republicans would deliver substantial tax cuts to the rich. The Republicans are eager to rush this bill through with no regular order of law and review. They couldn't care less about the sick and marginalized citizens of our country.

Also, it is disgraceful that they are attempting to rush this through when Americans are dealing with enormous disasters from fire, flood and extreme hurricane damage. They are lying about the contents of the bill, and they should be ashamed of their heartless behavior!

Please stand up for what is right, the American voters will remember which side of history you are on!

Most sincerely,

Sheri Whittington
Tampa, FL 33624

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy Eileen Koester [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My life depends on insurance coverage

Dear Sirs,

I am finishing my bachelor's degree this semester, and heading to grad school. I am doing this because I want to help support my husband, a disabled veteran.

I am also disabled, but hope to be able to return to the workforce after graduating. The reason I have been successful at the University of Florida is that I take a number of medications to keep my autoimmune disease in check. If I cannot depend on having insurance covering my healthcare and medications I will not be able to work. After all the money I've been given in Pell grants and scholarships it will be a terrible waste for me to be unable to work, as well as a hardship for my family.

We need a solution for health care, but the Graham Cassidy bill is not a viable solution for my family.

Thank you for your attention.

Amy Eileen Koester
Gainesville, FL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Babs Reingold <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Dear Committee,

The Graham/Cassidy Bill shortchanges those that need healthcare the most in the richest nation in the world. Do not approve this bill!

Best,
Babs Reingold of St. Petersburg Florida.

Sent from my iPhone
Babs Reingold

[REDACTED]
<http://www.babsreingold.com>

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Holly Konopka [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:17 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Solving the wrong problem- cost of care

Let's not allow the rhetoric and fear of past promises rule us. This bill does not protect the care and finances of those with pre-existing conditions.

Let's instead focus on the real problem- the cost of care. When we have that solved we can go back and fix insurance.

Holly Konopka
Jupiter, FL
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dan Crocker <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:19 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fwd: Graham-Cassidy Comment

Texas is still recovering from Harvey, Florida is recovering from Irma, Puerto Rico (a US territory) basically has no power on the entire island and may not for three months, the Virgin Islands (another US territory) was utterly devastated, and many US neighbors and allies are dealing with the same issues (including Mexico and those two earthquakes).

Meanwhile, Congress has two priorities: 1) repealing the ACA via Graham-Cassidy, and 2) "tax reform." Both of these are just tax cuts for the mega-rich, barely disguised as policy.

So, we're not helping our states, our territories, or our allies in what could be argued as the worst several weeks of disasters in modern history. Why? Because Republicans think it's burdensome to ask those with the most wealth to contribute more to the society that gives them everything (including all of the underlying infrastructure of capitalism) and enables them to succeed.

We'll continue to call our members of Congress and beg them not to harm our friends and family by cutting services we need and then we'll continue to think of all the harm that isn't even being talked about. But, we're going to remember this feeling as we pull the lever in 2018 and 2020. (And, if you live in Virginia like I do, 2017.)

A repeal is not the end of the ACA because we will fight tooth and nail to bring it back (and go even further); no, it's just the end of the remaining sensible elements in the Republican party. The party at-large no longer respects process, morality, or policy, and there isn't much use for legislators like that.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pam <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:19 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care act/do not replace

My daughter was born with brain damage. Medicare and Medicaid allow her to get the medication she has to have to allow her to work part time and live independently with a little daily staffing. If you cut Medicaid she would be on the streets unable to function. Thousands of special needs adults have to have Medicaid as they have no money for other options.

Take ideas from both parties and work out a bill in the public eye.. no in secret behind one party doors.

Pam Torre
Vero Beach Fl

Sent from my iPhone

Pam

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Bessom [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: health care bill

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Thank you for your hard work on behalf of the American people. I just want to ask you to remember that you were elected to work for ALL of the American people, not just for a particular party or to fulfill a vague "campaign promise" whose sole purpose was to gain votes. "Politics is compromise." In fact, almost every choice involves compromise, as *adults* know. Only spoiled children believe that they can always get their own ways and at any cost.

Please do what is right for *all* of the American people. The world is a dangerous place, as we all know. This is no time to "throw tantrums" and expect to get your way at any cost. *Stand together. Be courageous.* Show the world that, in spite of our differences, Americans have the courage and intelligence to work together for the good of *all*. Do what is *right*, regardless of party platforms and meaningless campaign promises. Do not pass a bill that will deprive so many American citizens of decent, affordable health care. Do not take away coverage for pre-existing conditions. Do not make health care premiums unaffordable to the average citizen. *Compromise*, as the Democrats have been trying to do. Leave Affordable Care in place and work *together* to improve the parts that could use improvement and leave alone the parts that are working for Americans.

Thank you for your attention to my thoughts.

I am a voting American citizen.

Carol Bessom
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shannon Hanf [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy!

My name is Shannon Hanf, and I'm a constituent from Troy, Ohio.

The Graham-Cassidy ACA repeal bill must not be allowed to pass. The majority of Americans want the ACA repaired, not repealed, and want affordable healthcare for all people. The Graham-Cassidy bill will accomplish the exact opposite, make healthcare unaffordable or inaccessible for millions of Americans. It will disproportionately affect vulnerable populations like children and people with disabilities. If this bill becomes law, people will die, and all so that the richest people in the country can become richer. This bill is cruel and anti-American, and cannot be allowed to pass.

Thank you.

Shannon Hanf

[REDACTED]
Troy, OH 45373
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marcy Reese [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senators,
I appreciate the service each of you give to our nation.
In that service, I must ask you to vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill. It will cause undue hardship to many.
Thank you.

Sincerely,
Marcia W. Reese

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Richard Pahl [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Many of my loved ones rely on quality, affordable healthcare and therefore I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I agree with Senator McCain that any replacement healthcare should be the product of a bipartisan Congressional effort. That is why you were elected so please listen to the recommendations of the healthcare industry, not just the ones contributing to your re-election campaigns, as well as those most affected and provide a program that will work for all. I am confident that you are capable of putting aside your partisan differences to do so.

Richard Pahl
Elgin, Illinois

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joan Bohmann [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Bill

Dear Senator:

i appreciate you taking comments although this offer occurs so close to a vote.

I am opposed to the current bill. Why? Many reasons but most of all because debate is to be limited to 90 seconds. That is not debate. That is insulting to all Americans and to your colleagues.

You ran for office (originally) I assume to work in a collaborative manner, to represent the people of not only your district/state but the country. What happened to those ideals? Now, you all run and run and run to protect your position and to gather money from deep pockets and have forgotten the people who 'hired' you.

This health care bill is no different and no better than the others.

Attacking planned parenthood is a toadying position to the far right. You know they don't provide abortions but you let the uninformed believe so.

Limiting medicaid harms the poor and the under privileged. You want to make America great? Having a healthy citizenry and children who grow up with decent medical care will be children able to learn, hold productive jobs and contribute to society.

Work across the aisle. Have a real debate. Create a real health care law or accept that this Senate cannot do it's work.

Sincerely,

Joan Bohmann
Nevada

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathryn Roesch [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to ask that you please reject the Graham-Cassidy-Heller bill. As Sen. McCain has stated, this issue affects so many people that a bipartisan approach is needed. The Graham-Cassidy- Heller bill will result in coverage loss for up to 32 million citizens and would take away Medicaid coverage for some of our most vulnerable citizens. Far better for your consideration is the Senate HELP Committee effort to strengthen existing health care systems. Please consider doing what's right for the health of the citizens of our nation.

Kathryne Roesch
Asheville, NC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patricia Brodbeck <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Comments

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. As a young woman beginning to plan my family with my husband, I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Also, given my close friends experiences with pre-existing conditions, as well as some of their newborns that needed special care at the start of their lives, I deeply care about their ability to live without worry of loss of healthcare or bankruptcy.

Sincerely,

Patricia M. Brodbeck

Erie, MI

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Naomi Schegloff [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy is a death sentence for too many people!

Dear Senate Finance Committee members,

I stopped working FT to care for my aging parents; my father is living with progressing Alzheimers, while my mother has a constellation of health challenges of her own. Without the affordable health care I've been able to access through the affordable care act, I would be sunk; I've had a variety of health challenges myself, and without access to employer-supported care that a decreasing number of my friends enjoy I would have been unable to see the health care providers who have made all of the difference for me in recent years. A number of my friends are in parallel situations, dealing with far more life-threatening health care challenges than I have been facing: MS, cancer, HIV/AIDS, addiction, ME, and debilitating challenges that have yet-to-be diagnosed.

For this reason (and because we are supposed to be a compassionate nation that does not treat only the wealthy as though their lives matter), I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. PLEASE find your way to a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Graham-Cassidy will cause pain and suffering, financial ruin, and death for far too many people. If you support it, their trauma and deaths will be on your heads, and may whatever higher power you might believe in forgive you, because those people's loved ones (many of whom also vote) surely won't.

Sincerely,

Naomi Schegloff
Topanga, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Adrian Forsythe [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy bill
Attachments: unnamed-1.jpg

Dear Committee,

I am an adult with down Syndrome and I have a job. I rely on Medicaid services to help me grow at work. I want to be able to grow within my job. This job I have right now makes me more alike my brother who does not have a disability. I urge you to understand that I have rights like everybody else.

I am ready, willing and able to work. Please don't cut Medicaid services.

Thank you,
Adrian Forsythe

[REDACTED]
Hyattsville Md 20782

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Meredith Klapetkova [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

You must reject the Graham-Cassidy-Heller bill and support the bipartisan bill the Senate HELP Committee was considering. Graham-Cassidy-Heller would cause 32 million people to lose their health coverage. It will destroy Medicaid and harm some of the most vulnerable members of our communities, seniors and people with disabilities.

Meredith Klapetkova
Opelika, AL

--

Meredith K.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hannah Crabtree [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Opposition

I oppose the Graham Cassidy legislation. As a person with diabetes, the lack of protection for pre-existing conditions leaves me terrified for my life. The cuts to Medicaid will kill people. The bill is heartless and cruel and will upend 1/6 of our economy with no thought.

Sincerely,
Hannah Crabtree

--
Hannah Crabtree
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amanda Allgood [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Keep, Expand, and Support the Affordable Care Act

Healthcare in this country is currently under attack by Republicans who believe Americans should not have access to affordable healthcare options. The Affordable Care Act is not perfect, and needs shoring up, but it is a major step in the right direction for ensuring access to healthcare for everyone. Medicare should have been expanded in all 50 states. If this had been done, we wouldn't have some states getting more money from the government for healthcare than others; everyone would be on an even playing field. To suggest that it is unfair for some states to get funds and others not to is disingenuous. Every state had access to those funds, just some decided to reject them, feeling that their vulnerable populations did not deserve access to affordable health care. This is wrong. Insurance companies drove up the cost of medical care, forcing people to depend on them for affordable care, and then they made health care as exclusive as they could to keep anyone who might cost the system more money out. The Affordable Care Act went a long way in ending this system, by ending the "pre-existing condition" exclusion from health care, and it made insurers provide insurance that actually paid for the type of care people needed. For me, I am happy that I no longer have to pay more for insurance than a man, or pay extra to have insurance that covers family planning expenses. This has been an amazing benefit for me, and I don't want to lose the quality health care I currently have, and have to worry again about one medical crisis making me ineligible for insurance for the rest of my life, or bankrupting me because my insurance is no longer required to cover the health care that I may need. Do not approve the Graham-Cassidy bill. It will take affordable healthcare away from millions of Americans, and will lead to more people dying because they can not afford the care they need.

Thank you,

Amanda Allgood

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maribeth Nolde <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fwd: Graham-Cassidy bill

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Maribeth Nolde <[REDACTED]>
Date: September 25, 2017 at 8:23:31 AM EDT
To: GCHcomments@finance.senate.gov
Subject: **Graham-Cassidy bill**

Dear Senator Warner:

PLEASE vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill as it will do real harm to our country. It is not meant to help anyone, and makes it possible for those voting FOR it to wash their hands of health care in our country.

I have a pre-existing condition that will not be coveredmy daughter can afford insurance under the ACA....

Thank you for all you do Senator Warner, for Virginia and our country!

Maribeth Nolde
[REDACTED]
Mount Sidney, VA. 24467

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gale [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am writing to voice my concern regarding the Graham-Cassidy Bill, and I am strongly urging all members of the committee to vote against recommending this bill to the Senate. There are a multitude of reasons why I oppose this bill, but my main concern is that it abandons those with chronic illness or serious health issues, who need affordable health care the most.

I would like bipartisan cooperation on this and other issues-- not this rushed legislation, which has not had adequate hearings. The eleventh hour addition to give more money to persuade a few reluctant legislators to vote for this bill, should make all Senators realize the whole bill should be re-examined. Please do the right thing and vote against recommending the Graham-Cassidy Bill to the full Senate.

Gale Audette
[REDACTED]

West Brookfield, Ma 01585

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Wallace [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Nancy Wallace
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: abtindall [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Representation of the people

As you consider this bill, please remember that you represent all the people in your state. Some individuals directly count on the federal government's support for their health via Medicare or insurance via ACA. Others have health insurance through their employers and while seemingly not directly impacted by ACA are supportive of the federal government providing basic health care for those individuals who cannot stand on their own for whatever reason.

Promises made in the political arena are broken for any number of reasons. Surely the support for basic health care for your constituents is well worth the broken promise and your good conscience.

Please fix the issues with the ACA to make it better and sustainable for everyone.

Thank you.
Ann Tindall

Sent from my Galaxy Tab® A

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jesstuman [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham Cassity healthcare bill

To whom it may concern,

I am very concerned about this bill and the devastating effects it will have on our community in Georgia and my family. I work in the disabilities community and see firsthand how Medicaid helps support those with significant disabilities. These people will not be able to support themselves in any employment and will in the long run cost the taxpayer more expense. This will have devastating effects in our local Atlanta community where employment for those with disabilities is already low but this bill will suppress any progress in economic self sufficiency for this constituency.

I am also extremely concerned about the effects on those who have pre-existing conditions and how they will get access to healthcare which in most cases a catastrophic event would bankrupt so many families.

please vote no on this cool and humane bill.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

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

Sincerely,
Norman Plankey
Oxford, CT

best,
N--

sent from my iPhone, not responsible for autocorrect mishaps.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karlene Ketola [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:46 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Sarah Bedard Holland [REDACTED]
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal: Comments

Dear Senator Hatch,

I want to express my strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy repeal of the Affordable Care Act, now being proposed in Congress, which would seriously undermine health care for millions of people.

I urge you to recognize the damage the Cassidy-Graham legislation will do to the Medicaid program, which provides vital care to seniors, children, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations.

President Trump said he would support “a new plan that’s going to be better health care for more people at a lesser cost.” The ideas that are being discussed today fail every part of that statement.

This plan will lead to poorer health care options. They will lead to millions of people in our nation and hundreds of thousands in our state losing access to insurance. They undermine protections for the 28 percent of Michigan residents under the age of 65 who have a pre-existing condition that could limit their ability to buy health insurance. They would lead to an end to the Healthy Michigan Plan (Medicaid Expansion Program), which has helped 650,000 persons, the majority of whom work in low-paying jobs without health insurance, have access to regular medical care.

Instead of voting to repeal the Affordable Care Act, I encourage you to support bipartisan efforts to make it more affordable and stabilize the individual market, a goal most members of Congress have said is important.

Please take the time to focus your attention on the part of the ACA that needs improvement. Don’t repeal the ACA – make it better for all of us.

Sincerely,
Karlene Ketola, MHSA, CAE, Executive Director

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Lansing, Michigan 48933
[REDACTED]



Karlene Ketola, MHSA, CAE, Executive Director
Michigan Oral Health Coalition
106 W. Allegan Street, Suite 310 | Lansing, MI 48933
Tel: (517) 827-0466 | Cell: (517) 230-4381
Web: www.mohc.org | Email: kketola@mohc.org

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Fassano, Ann Marie [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:46 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy/Graham Bill

Hello,

I would like to express my deep concern that this bill might pass and gut the ACA. While I do not think that the ACA is perfect, I feel that it would be best to improve on the foundation we already have rather than replace it with the horrendous bill that has been proposed. People's lives are on the line and so many would be hurt by this bill.

Thank you,

Ann-Marie Fassano

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STARSLD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stacy Rouse [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:46 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: How Many Medicare Directors Say Graham-Cassidy is Harmful? All 50.

Finance Committee,

It doesn't take a Lightbulb Moment to see Graham-Cassidy isn't a viable replacement for the Affordable Care Act.

As a committee, it is clear you value strong fact-based advice and hope for a consensus. The statement of the 50 Medicare Directors opposing Graham-Cassidy is just that.

Please protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. And continue to improve and strengthen the ACA to not only help in illness but promote Wellness.

Kaiser Permanente's CEO is just one example of what a public insurance provider has to say about promoting Wellness. It's possible with our public marketplace to regulate insurance costs on all sides and promote public health and wellness together.

Reject the Graham-Cassidy replacement.

Thank you,
Stacy Rouse

Stacy Rouse
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Malibu, California 90265

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Melinda O'Neal [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:46 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: no on Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

As a new resident of VA, I am shocked to discover the number of people unable to find health insurance they can afford and at the prospect of adding confusion and further reducing healthcare to poor and near-poor citizens.

The federal government needs to stop this purposeful, heartless, vindictive injury to those less fortunate and to those who could afford insurance if it were priced reasonably. No on Graham-Cassidy. Get your act together and do something constructive in a bi-partisan way.

Melinda O'Neal

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rosalind Renfrew [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: my story: why ACA should not be repealed

To Whom It May Concern,

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. During the late stages of my mother's Alzheimer's, Medicaid provided for her intensive needs after all of her own funds were expended, providing the programs and care to live out her life in dignity. I am a fulltime working single mother, and I would not have been able to provide this care.

The irony is that if my mother was my age right now, she would be supporting the repeal of ACA. She was a devoted Republican, and even ran for the legislature in Connecticut. I have to wonder now, as someone who ended up depending on ACA, whether she would have changed her vote, or whether she would have left even herself without proper care, for the sake of the vested interests she once sided with.

So I will speak on my own behalf, with my mother perhaps on my side this time. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA. We cannot afford repeal.

Sincerely,

Rosalind Renfrew, PhD
Montpelier, Vermont

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mitchell Randall [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for the record, Re: Graham-Cassidy bill

To whom it may concern,

This latest iteration of the ACA (Obamacare) repeal is barbaric. Leaving out protections for people with pre-existing conditions, which is literally everybody that has sought medical assistance, is beyond irresponsible. The bill will deeply cut medicaid/medicare, which a large portion of Americans rely on for health services. What would these people do without this assistance? As a North Dakotan, it is disheartening to see how much assistance my fellow citizens stand to lose if this bill were to pass. As a human, I expect more from the people who represent me and my fellow Americans.

Some facts about this bill that I are relevant for this hearing:

- 1) Passing the delegation of medical aid to the states is going to cause a lot of disparity in levels of care available to people who aren't wealthy. While some states will do right by their people, others will not. States should not have that level of power. Period.
- 2) There will not be any stabilization of the healthcare markets if this passes. It will cause people to be summarily dropped from their insurance policies, as most will not be able to cover their premiums without the assistance. Insurance companies will pull policies from the exchanges, and people will not have any options.
- 3) States that accepted medicaid expansion would lose significant assistance for low-income Americans (who would lose their access to healthcare) while those that did not would see an increase. Seems backwards, don't you think? The states that embraced the program are "punished" while those that didn't take advantage of the additional assistance are "rewarded." Are they required to pass this money along to more people? What about those that lose coverage?
- 4) One of the most important aspects of the ACA is the protections put in place for people with pre-existing conditions. As a person with several pre-existing conditions, if I were to ever change jobs, I'm potentially looking at these conditions not being covered and/or being put on a waiting list. Because I was born with a slightly defective body. Seems fair. Not to mention those people who deign to develop cancer. Say goodbye to your coverage if you ever need to change jobs or insurance companies due to astronomical costs.
- 5) Allowing insurance companies to file waivers would completely undermine the system. It would allow them to charge higher premiums to those with pre-existing conditions, which for some would effectively kick them off of coverage. They would not be able to receive care, and/or would face bankruptcy for being sick.
- 6) Lifetime limits would be brought back, which would create a hardship for people who require expensive healthcare services. This is inhumane and cannot be brought back.

I fully support a single payer option, or "medicare for all" as it's currently being described. Other first world countries have made this work successfully. There is not reason why we cannot as well.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Mitch Randall

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Leah Osman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject Graham-Kennedy Plan

To Whom It May Concern:

It is appalling the Graham-Kennedy Plan does not prevent insurance companies from charging more for pre-existing conditions or from instituting a lifetime cap. I urge you to consider the opinions of experts including the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association ("This bill harms our most vulnerable patients"), the American Public Health Association ("Graham-Cassidy would devastate the Medicaid program, increase out-of-pocket costs, and weaken or eliminate protections for people living with pre-existing conditions"), the National Institute for Reproductive Health ("the Graham-Cassidy bill preys on underserved communities ... a clear and present danger"), and Federation of American Hospitals ("It could disrupt access to health care for millions of the more than 70 million Americans") and do not allow this bill in its present form to pass the Senate.

Thank You,
Leah Osman
Andover, Massachusetts

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

9/22/17

To whom this may concern:

The Graham-Cassidy bill proposal to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act would harm millions of people, who would lose subsidized, affordable health coverage.

Furthermore, it will not have the benefit of a Congressional Budget Office analysis before Congress members vote on it next week. Passing this bill would be cruel and irresponsible, and over 80% of the country is against it.

This appears to be a partisan political effort to put money in the pockets of wealthy corporations and insurance companies, and clearly this legislation does not benefit most American citizens.

Thank you for your consideration.

Miriam Jacobson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Larry Hott Email [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: oppose Graham-Cassidy

Dear Committee:

We rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this I opposed the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan effort to improve the ACA, not destroy it.

Larry Hott
Florence, MA 01062

Lawrence Hott

[REDACTED]
Florence, MA 01062-1917
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jen Mierisch [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing

To whom it may concern,

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill. My friends and neighbors here in Illinois rely on quality, affordable health care that they obtained through the Affordable Care Act. If Graham-Cassidy passes, they will be priced out of the market. I personally have employer-sponsored insurance, but I feel strongly that one's health care should not be tied to one's employment. I support a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, NOT repeal it.

Sincerely,
Jen Mierisch
Lincolnwood, Illinois

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Darla Hoffmann [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Please do NOT support Graham Cassidy. The majority of Americans want health care for all. This would eliminate it for some and has loopholes to get rid of pre-existing condition protections. I definitely don't want my state (Illinois) deciding where to make cuts and who to care for, our state has a terrible record for handling money.

--

Darla Hoffmann
Edwardsville Illinois 62025

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Wendy Weimerskirch Plager [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Keep the ACA!

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband has type 1 diabetes, and relies on the ACA to get affordable medications. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Wendy Plager

Minneapolis, Minnesota

--
Wendy Weimerskirch Plager

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have a pre-existing condition. Several members of my family have a pre-existing condition. Have pre-existing conditions should not limit our access to healthcare or make healthcare exorbitantly expensive.

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

Sincerely,
Merry Sawdey
Cannon Falls, MN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Lucy Lemonboba
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Alaskans Want the ACA or Medicare-For-All

The Graham-Cassidy bill is an insult to the American people and attempt to bribe Senator Murkowski are equally insulting. The ACA has helped so many and any attempt to de-fang it is reprehensible.

We expect you to make the right choice for the American public and not for the Koch brothers or your own personal financial interests. Vote against Graham-Cassidy.

My husband died this year. He had a laundry list of illnesses. If this bill had be enacted before 2000, he would have died from lack of care 17 years ago. He wouldn't have known his 4 grandchildren, his 2 son-in-laws, or done any of the living he got to do in his final years.

Remember who you serve. Alaskans. Americans. Not the GOP.

Lois Vasiljevic
99508

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tairay [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

As a relatively healthy person my story with healthcare and health insurance is pretty small. However, as a person with a heart, a brain, and a conscience, I have to express my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill. A bill whose contents its own writers cannot verbalize or express direct and clear points of how or why it improves healthcare beyond "repealing" and "replacing" is a bad bill. I would like to see bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA--not just repealing it and replacing it with cruelty and empty promises.

Sincerely,

Tairay Skolnick
Thousand Oaks, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Zach Adams [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have a son with Marfan Syndrome that may not be alive without consistent healthcare. I get insurance from my employer but it would be terrible if the rates/deductibles went higher because of his condition. Also, it's imperative that pre-existing conditions don't bar him from insurance in the future. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Zachary Adams

Milton, WI

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marianne Cox [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

M Cox
Lancaster, Ohio

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Rose Brusewitz [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:50 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Current health care proposal

To whom it may concern:

I am a resident of NY State. I believe forcing a vote prior to appropriate levels of information is irresponsible and potentially catastrophic. I understand the need to arrive at a feasible solution to ensure health care for all citizens. The current proposal does not appear to do this. Please consider a bill to fix specific issues with the current healthcare system and avoiding naming healthcare systems after presidents. The political maneuvering is understandable but senators and congress people should endeavor to put aside their reelection possibilities for a change and consider the humans they represent. At least let the facts be known and listen. Bravo to have a comment period or procedure. About time.

Warm regards
Mary Rose Brusewitz

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gregory Hankins [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not pass the Graham-Cassidy act

To whom it may concern,

My name is Gregory Hankins, a US citizen and voter in the state of Florida. I am sure that whoever answers this account has a great many messages to sort through, so I will keep this somewhat brief. I am sending this message in the hopes that the Graham-Cassidy Bill will be stopped. This bill is certain to cause millions to lose their healthcare coverage, making medical care impossibly expensive for them. Moreover, recent changes made to the Bill in-committee ensure that the Bill will enable discrimination against and higher prices for people with pre-existing conditions. Most of my family, including myself, has a history of health problems and a great deal of pre-existing conditions. If this bill is passed then we will all very likely be unable to pursue treatment for health problems without incurring insurmountable costs.

This Bill will hurt tens of thousands of American citizens. It must not be allowed to pass and I implore you to stop it.

Thank you for reading, and I pray that our elected officials will do the right thing.



Virus-free. www.avg.com

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Leslie Rubman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: What health care means to me.....

Senators,

What is happening in this country is a DISGRACE! in regard to the repeal of Obamacare.

My family suffers from Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD). This is an inherited disease that ravaged and took my mother's life, has required my older sister to have a kidney transplant and now my younger sister and brother both need kidney transplants too.

This is a disease that you get no matter how clean and healthy a life style you have.

Taking away Obamacare and pre-existing conditions leaves my two younger siblings on a death spiral (to use the Republicans exact words). It means that they can never get the life affirming kidney transplant that my older sister has had for 13 years and sentences them to hemo-dialysis three times a week, which eventually wears the body down AND which by the way costs the government much more.

It's time to allow the American people the right to have Obamacare as so many have vocalized over the past 7 years and for our members of Congress to move on to other pressing issues.

Thank you in advance for doing the right thing for the American people and my two siblings in great need.

Leslie Rubman
[REDACTED]

Hoboken, NJ 07030

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Ellen Tetrick [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy vote no

This bill is not a solution. Work together to improve the ACA. Call it whatever you want. / frank Tetrick

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hadar Agam <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senators,

I implore you to vote NO on Graham-Cassidy.

As the parent of an autistic child, I have no choice but to fight for his RIGHT TO LIFE - not just access to the medical care that he must have to stay alive, but to LIFE and everything that it entails - joy and heartache, trials and triumph, hard work and reward -- a place in his community.

Despite many of your colleagues' false assurances to the contrary, Graham Cassidy leaves those with pre-existing conditions (like autism and epilepsy) dangerously vulnerable.

Its draconian cuts to Medicaid will leave our most vulnerable citizens - most notably our parents, grandparents and disabled loved ones - without the lifeline they so desperately need to be able to live and work in their communities, where they belong.

It may be easy to ignore the emotionally charged plea of a terrified mother, but my stance on the bill is based in fact, not fear.

The American Medical Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Hospital Association, the Federation of American Hospitals, America's Health Insurance Plans, and the BlueCross BlueShield Association have all implored you to vote NO on this bill.

All 50 State Directors of Medicaid, and myriad other groups including the JDRF, ALS Association, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, Arthritis Foundation, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Family Voices, JDRF, Lutheran Services in America, March of Dimes, National Health Council, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, National Organization for Rare Diseases, Volunteers of America, and WomenHeart, among many, many others have issued statements imploring you to vote NO on this bill.

This isn't about politics. It's about people like my son, and not just my but OUR sacred responsibility to fight for his Right to Life.

Please, I'm begging, VOTE NO ON GRAHAM CASSIDY.

Thank you,
Hadar Agam

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeff Kreines [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

I have pre-existing conditions and there is no way I could afford my medications under this cruel bill.

Jeff Kreines
Millbrook AL 36054

Jeff Kreines
Kinetta
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from iPhone.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ellen Goldstein [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment AGAINST Graham Cassidy

Dear folks,

This new bill would be devastating for the health of the American people. People would not be able to afford treatment for anything from having a premature baby to cancer.

The bill is morally wrong and fiscally irresponsible.

Ellen Goldstein
Saxtons River, VT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Gapinski [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for the Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

Statement to submit to:

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

Monday, September 25, 2017

10:00 AM, 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building

From:

Evelyn Benjamin
[REDACTED]

Glendale, WI 53209

My name is Evelyn Benjamin. I am 84 years old and live in Glendale, Wisconsin with my daughter and her family. I am a participant in the IRIS Program, a self-directed support, Medicaid Home and Community-based waiver program. I have congestive heart failure, reactive airway disease, arthritis, and other chronic health conditions. I have a pacemaker defibrillator that I recently had replaced, due to battery life, and the site became infected and I was in and out of the emergency room and my surgeon's office a lot. My daughter, Nancy takes me to all of my appointments. A stroke behind my right eye has left me with a vision impairment and I am unable to drive. I also need help with food preparation, personal care, housework, and medication. These are considered Supportive Home Care Services and the IRIS program provides funding for this.

I have fallen more frequently in the past year and now have a lifeline I wear when I am home alone. My daughter no longer leaves me alone at home for more than three hours. This affected her ability to work outside the home.

We exhausted my savings when we were caretaking of my husband at home for seven years following a major stroke; I think that this happens to a lot of elderly surviving spouses. My husband and I worked hard our whole lives and I never thought I would need to use Medicaid. I have three pensions between the work I did and the two jobs my husband had. I also have Social Security. Long-term care costs and medication is so expensive. I want to keep living with my daughter. She wants that too. Medicaid has helped tremendously.

I ask that you please vote “no” to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller- Johnson Proposal. Please protect Medicaid for seniors and all of the other folks who need it.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Steven B Ewall [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

[Your name]
[City, State]

Steven B Ewall
Ewall & Ewall

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

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joanne Hickey [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

I have four family members ranging in age from 32 to 66 who are dependent upon Medicaid for issues ranging from cerebral palsy, developmental disabilities, severe brain damage and psychiatric illness. None of them will ever 'recover' from these conditions and be able to work, live on their own or certainly afford their own insurance. They live in NJ and NY, two states that would lose Federal dollars under this plan. I am writing in their behalf and for families like ours. The Graham-Cassidy plan is simply unconscionable. Please reject it, and begin working on a bipartisan basis to make improvements to Obamacare.

Thank you.

Joanne Hickey
Ossining, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jawanda Mast [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:46 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Britton, Brennen (Moran); Christian, Kyle (Moran); Richard, Alex (Moran); Lee, Victoria (Moran); Mueller, Emily (Roberts); Cottrell, Jackie (Roberts); Allen, Chris (Roberts); 'Molly'; 'CJ'; Badger, Joe (Moran); 'Heidi'
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Testimony Finance Committee
Attachments: Graham-Cassidy Finance Committee Testimony 092417_jawanda_barnett_mast.pdf

Dear Chairman Hatch, Ranking Member Wyden and Committee Members:
Please find attached my testimony opposing the Graham-Cassidy Bill. I appreciate the opportunity to be able to submit testimony opposing this bill.

Thank you.

Jawanda B. Mast
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Olathe, KS 66062

Watch Just Like You – Down Syndrome here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5M--xOyGUX4>

"Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are." -- Benjamin Franklin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jayne Ann Milling [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please be smart!!!!

We will begin federal healthcare on Jan 1. We are so concerned this has not been thought out by both sides more. Medical professionals and experts are not even supporting! Please make it the best you can for All. Don't let anyone die or be left out!!

Jayne Ann Milling
Atlanta, GA
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: William P. Evans [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I agree with the comments posted by AARP (<http://www.aarp.org/politics-society/advocacy/info-2017/health-care-bill-graham-cassidy-vote-opposition-letter2-fd.html>), and, therefore, urge that this bill be defeated.

AARP Responds to Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

www.aarp.org

AARP remains committed to working with Congress on commonsense, bipartisan solutions to increase coverage, lower costs, and stabilize the markets

Sincerely,

Bill Evans
Math/Science
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Norfolk, VA 23504

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: dsandstrm [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCHJ bill and bankruptcy

With respect to the members of the committee,

As you discuss, please consider the fact that health care prices, both insurance and direct care costs, are a significant factor in personal bankruptcies across the nation. My sister, held back by an alcoholic husband, has barely made it to this point and has avoided bankruptcy only by saving every penny and deciding that she cannot help her children with college costs. This despite working very hard as a social worker, helping those in crisis her entire life. There are of course more details to her story, but the point really is that health care and the ability to afford insurance have an impact on the health of our economy. If we are looking for growth, we need to keep the ACA and fix its problems. Making 50 different systems can't possibly be efficient or effective.

Thank you,
Debbie Sandstrom

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gabrielle Ewall [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Kill the bill

Stop trying to take away our healthcare! Do not pass this deadly bill.

Gabrielle Ewall
Johns Hopkins University
Graduate Program in Neuroscience

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: terry Berlier [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing

Dear Graham-Cassidy Hearing,

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with affordability is important as a working artist and educator. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Teresa Berlier

Menlo Park, CA 94025

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ann M. Walsh [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy

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

Sincerely,

Ann Walsh

Dorchester, MA

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kerrick Goodman-Lucker [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy: AGAINST

I'm a father, a teacher, and a devoted son of aging parents, and I know the importance of quality affordable health care for everyone. The Graham-Cassidy Act takes money from Medicaid, revokes the Affordable Care Act's protections for people with preexisting conditions, and lines the pockets of the insurance industry at the expense of consumers while destabilizing the health care markets we depend on. Graham-Cassidy amounts to a transfer of wealth from 34 states to a few Republican-controlled states while gutting Medicaid for everyone. It is a bad bill, it's bad policy, and it must not be passed.

The Affordable Care Act isn't broken. It has insured millions of Americans and saved thousands of lives. But since the GOP-controlled Congress seems intent on breaking it, I want Congress to pass Medicare/Medicaid For All.

Sincerely,
Kerrick Goodman-Lucker
Oakland, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Melanie Pflaum [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:03 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public hearing

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill. As a teacher, I have benefitted so much from having excellent coverage and I wish that my brother, my students, my friends, people in Iowa, everyone would also have great coverage. I truly believe that the ACA is the way to go. Why can't it be fixed? I think it can be. Please do your jobs!!

Melanie Pflaum
New York, New York

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Meg Lane [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:08 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. As a young family in San Francisco where expenses are high, affording insurance for my family is very difficult. I realize that the ACA is not perfect but it has made receiving care for my family possible. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Megan Lane

San Francisco, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Larson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Hello,

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

My husband was diagnosed with Glioblastoma, the same brain cancer as John McCain almost two years ago. Because of this and because he isn't able to work, we are currently on Minnesota's Medicaid expansion health care. Our family would be in serious financial trouble if we could not get health care because of preexisting conditions and if there was a lifetime limit.

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

Sincerely, Jennifer Larson

Minneapolis, MN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Steve Snyder [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re: Health Care Bill currently before Congress

Hello,

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Various members of my family residing in three states and ranging in age from 40 - 74 rely on Medicaid, have pre-existing conditions related to cancer, and/or physical disabilities related to work accidents. If their access to affordable quality care is jeopardized their already difficult lives will be turned up-side-down and create an immeasurable hardship.

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

Thanks for listening.

Sincerely,

Steve Snyder
San Francisco, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lora Brody <lora@lorabrody.com>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I can walk again

I was crippled by arthritis in my knee. Thankfully I had health insurance which covered a total knee replacement. The senate should vote to keep affordable health care for all Americans.



Lora Brody

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Waltham, MA 03454
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kate Carson-Groner [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please save the ACA

The Graham-Cassidy Bill is a travesty for the nation, especially for our most vulnerable citizens. The strength of our country lies in the compassion we show to our citizens, and this bill is the antithesis of compassion. Please, please consider those with pre-existing conditions, those living in poverty, and all of our fellow Americans who need affordable healthcare to survive. If the Republican Party claims to be Pro-Life, it cannot in good conscience support a bill that would be a death sentence to so many of its constituency.

Please kill the bill, not Americans.

Kate Carson-Groner
Voter in Chicago, IL

*Please excuse any errors, as this message was sent from my iPhone.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kimberly Boyle [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Vote No on The Graham-Cassidy Bill

If we are going to affect millions of people's lives and their access to health care and health insurance this effort needs to be bi-partisan, debated out in the open, and have cost estimates so that the American tax payer knows how much this will cost us.

It is highly unfair that this whole process has been so secretive and partisan, and that this new version of the repeal of the Affordable Care Act effectively punishes states who took the opportunity to expand health insurance coverage to some of their most vulnerable communities.

The speed at which these repeal attempts have been pushed and the lack of consideration of the consequences to the millions of Americans who will be effected by this bill is immoral and unprecedented. Hard working Americans and their families should not have to worry about getting medical help because of their inability to afford the medical bills or because they don't have insurance. If we truly wish to make America great again then let us create something together that benefits the American people and puts our health and dignity first.

Thank you,

Kimberly Boyle
Sacramento, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jessica Kuh <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do NOT repeal the ACA

Dear Representatives of the People of the United States,

I and so many others rely on access to quality, affordable healthcare. I think such healthcare is a basic human right, and it would be a massive moral failing on the part of our country to make it hard, if not impossible, for some of our citizens to lack such healthcare. Thus, I vehemently oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Jessica Kuh
Cambridge, MA 02140

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Worthman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Last summer my husband and I were horrified to watch our daughter's brain stem herniating on a CAT scan. Caught in time! We heard the neurosurgeon say (and we can believe it), "We almost lost her". We did too. We celebrate every day the medical care system that saved her.

So, what are her -- and our -- choices if Graham-Cassidy passes? Bankruptcy? Death of our dear child?

No family in the United States (and we *are*) should be faced with such choices.

Get it together, Congress! You can make improving the ACA the most important work you've ever done.

Sincerely,
Linda Worthman
Berkeley, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ara Watson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

I, along with everyone in my family and all the friends with whom I've spoken, strongly OPPOSE the Graham-Cassidy so-called healthcare bill. My husband and I know that our premiums and co-pays will go up under this bill but, at least, we would still have healthcare albeit more limited and far more expensive meaning we would forego some needed treatments when the time comes. HOWEVER, our beautiful, amazing goddaughter who is currently covered by the ACA would in all likelihood lose her healthcare, not be able to afford it because of a serious preexisting condition - she is, at the age of 27, a cancer survivor and will need yearly MRI's for the next ten years. Her story is one of many I could write about.

I live in New Mexico and the money that will be taken away from my state which has done so well under the ACA and Medicaid expansion would severely affect my community.

It is a heartless bill. Republicans need to join with Democrats and improve the ACA not destroy it along with the lives of so many Americans.

Sincerely,
Ara Watson
Taos, NM

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rachelle Dixon [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mrs. Rachelle Dixon
[REDACTED]

Tracy, CA 95377
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ilse Griffin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony

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, Ilse Griffin

ST. Paul, MN

--
Ilse Hogan Griffin
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christopher Bussmann [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill as I believe in quality, affordable healthcare for all. I would prefer a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Christopher Bussmann
Brooklyn, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA repeal

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

Sincerely,

Josette Jaramillo

Glendale, CA

Josette

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Ellen Heaton [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:29 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senators,

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I do not want to see anyone denied coverage because of pre-existing conditions, disabilities, or affordability. I do not want to see Medicare or Medicaid decreased or diminished in any way. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Heaton
Norwich, NY 13815

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Elliott-Klemm <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Hearing

Esteemed members,

I know many many people that rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have a friend that was diagnosed with cancer and would be unable to afford quality insurance if this bill passes. I know that my neighbors, who are living at a poverty survival level, cannot afford to have their Medicaid taken away. Rick was in an accident that has left him unable to work for about a year now. I can not imagine how he will get health care under this bill. The amount of available money will be severely diminished.

Also, I am shocked by the injustice of the bill, taking money away in the block grants from states that worked hard to provide their citizens the best under the ACA. Petty politics, simply to get votes.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. That is the way this country has always functioned in the past.

Sincerely,
Mary Elliott-Klemm

Somerset, California, 95684

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Grace Geraghty [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Amend ACA, don't repeal it

My family relies on good quality and affordable healthcare as do the majority of Americans. For this reason, I oppose the Graham Cassidy bill.

I am 66 years old and have had severe rheumatoid arthritis since age 34. I depend on expensive weekly injections to alleviate pain and be able to have mobility. My husband has heart disease. Between Medicare, secondary insurance and out of pocket costs this adds up to 28% of our households income.

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

Sincerely,
Grace Geraghty, USA voting citizen
San Rafael, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Katherine Wood [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: OPPOSE Graham-Cassidy bill

Affordable, quality healthcare is a fundamental requirement for having a high quality of life. I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill because it would open the door for insurance companies to resume overcharging (thereby essentially denying coverage) to those most in need. My husband has rheumatoid arthritis, and would be denied coverage for this pre-existing condition if he were to lose his job and have to apply for insurance independently. I own a small business and depend upon his health insurance, as do our two children. With appropriate medical treatment, my husband can live a highly productive and pain-free life. Without medical treatment, he would essentially become bed-ridden and would become dependent upon disability payments. I am not sure how we could afford the cost of his medications without insurance and his salary.

We are acutely aware of our dependence on employer-provided insurance, and of the emotional/physical/financial catastrophe that we might face after a job loss and loss of coverage for pre-existing conditions.

It is shameful to allow individuals to become disabled and to allow families to become destitute because of easily prevented/managed medical issues.

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

Sincerely,

Katherine Wood

Park Ridge, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Angela Robinson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

Hello,

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I had a recent health scare where I found a lump in my breast, and thankfully it turned out that it wasn't cancerous. However, during the scare, I found myself wondering and worrying about potential changes to health care that could restrict care for those with preexisting conditions. It could have been me with a preexisting condition, and I had no control. Even just the thought of it made me so afraid--I can't imagine how scary it must be to think about losing your health care if you are already diagnosed with a preexisting condition.

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

Sincerely,
Angela Robinson
Long Beach, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alyse Plotkin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:52 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 that I was unable to get healthcare years ago as an individual due to preexisting medical condition. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Alyse Plotkin

Calabasas, CA

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathy King [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Don't repeal ACA

Many of my friends and family rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My daughter works in LA for a small design company that does not offer healthcare. Her only avenue to health insurance was through the exchange here in California. She does not earn much of a salary, and without ACA she would not have been able to afford insurance. She dislocated her shoulder on Christmas Day last year. Urgent Care referred us to the ER. She was treated immediately. Fortunately, she had health insurance. The cost for that short trip to the ER was more than \$8000!!! It should not be that expensive. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

M Kathleen King

Brentwood, CA. 94513

Sent from my iPhone on the AT&T Network

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lola Williamson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

My daughter has multiple special needs including Autism and severe anxiety. When I brought her home from China, I was told that she likely would never walk, be toilet trained, or be able to care for herself. With the help of services provided through Medicaid, she is now on grade level at school and even participates in drama club. None of her success would be possible without the services she continues to receive through Medicaid. Her behavior therapist is like a member of the family and her services wouldn't be available to us without Medicaid. My mother suffers from dementia and will soon rely on Medicaid to pay for nursing home care. As a single, full-time working mother with two children, I have no idea how I would care for her if Medicaid wasn't there to pay for her nursing home care. She would suffer. My child will suffer without autism services. What will we do? The Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill would devastate my family. My state, especially, will be impacted with massive cuts to Medicaid. Please, I beg of you, vote NO on Graham-Cassidy.

Sincerely,
Lola Williamson; Frankfort, KY.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Polly Lockman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing

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

Sincerely,

Paula Lockman

Emeryville, CA

--

Lockman Design
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Liz Kinnon [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment - ACA

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare so we can stay healthy without losing our house. The USA should not rip away health care from people just because they are not wealthy! I am happy to have my taxes help someone's sick baby or a mentally ill person, or anyone who has health issues through no fault of their own.

For these reasons, **I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.**

It's way past time for Congress to DO THEIR JOBS and work together to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Kinnon

Culver City, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Diane guendel [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Improve the ACA. Don't repeal it.

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

I am a single parent (widowed) and have been able to keep my daughter and myself healthy due to my ability to purchase an affordable plan through the exchange with a subsidy. Without this, I would not have health insurance.

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

Sincerely,

Diane Guendel

Clifton Park, NY

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Johanna Middleton [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do Not Repeal ACA

To whom it may concern,

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. I do not receive healthcare through any of my three jobs, as I am working part-time for small businesses. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I also have a best friend who has a pre-existing condition and would not be able to afford the medicine she needs to live without the ACA... I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Johanna Middleton

Los Angeles, CA

--

www.johannamiddleton.com

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maggie Goeglein [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony for 9/25 Graham-Cassidy hearing

To Whom it May Concern:

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

My story is like so many other Americans. We work hard, we pay taxes, we do our best to eat healthy food, get exercise, and otherwise live a healthy lifestyle -- and yet, we still get sick, we still need affordable healthcare.

My father, who served as a Lutheran minister for over 50 years in Indiana and Kentucky, is now in the later stages of Alzheimer's. It has been incredibly difficult to watch this intelligent man, who has his Ph.D., lose all of his knowledge and all of his memories. He is now a Medicaid recipient, which is the only way our family can afford skilled nursing home care for him. Did you know that the average private-pay cost of a year of skilled nursing care is \$90,000 in Indiana? I don't know what we would do if Medicaid went away.

I recognize that there are flaws in the Affordable Care Act, and **I urge you to vote against the Graham-Cassidy bill and instead engage in honest, bipartisan work to improve the ACA.** I urge you to consider a realistic path to Universal Healthcare for the U.S. We can no longer afford to lag so far behind most of the rest of the developed world.

Sincerely,
Maggie Goeglein
Indianapolis, IN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Darla Hoffmann [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Please do NOT support Graham Cassidy. The majority of Americans want health care for all. This would eliminate it for some and has loopholes to get rid of pre-existing condition protections. I definitely don't want my state (Illinois) deciding where to make cuts and who to care for, our state has a terrible record for handling money.

--
Darla Hoffmann
Edwardsville Illinois 62025

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lailah R [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: please have compassion

The ACA gave me my life back. 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.

Before the Affordable Care Act, I was uninsurable. Back in my 20s when I worked as a freelance writer I didn't make a lot of money, but I was very lucky to find private-pay health insurance that was directed towards young, healthy people for a cost I could afford. Then I found a full-time salaried job that came with benefits, so I switched to that insurance. I was injured on the job after less than a year and had to leave work in order to heal my injuries. I returned to the world of private-pay insurance only to discover that because I had a pre-existing condition I was now uninsurable.

Around this time I developed a mysterious illness. I was exhausted all the time, sometimes to the point of being bed bound for weeks, and my body was wracked with pain. I was tested for everything under the sun but no one could figure out what was wrong with me. I was lucky enough to be living in San Francisco, which had health support for people like me through a program called Healthy San Francisco so I could get prescriptions, basic lab tests, and visits with a doctor covered. But on Healthy SF I wasn't covered if I had an emergency in any city other than San Francisco - my mom lives across the bay in Berkeley, and I dreaded something unexpected happening to me while I was visiting her. My getting hit by a car in Berkeley probably would have bankrupted us both.

I became so sick I couldn't even do freelance work anymore. My savings started to drain away. The one nurse practitioner I could see through Healthy SF had no idea how to help me and I wondered if I was going to need to go on permanent disability in order to be able to feed myself and keep a roof over my head. Then the Affordable Care Act passed and suddenly, I had real health insurance again! I was able to make the University of California San Francisco my medical home, and see some of the top specialists in the country. I found a doctor who had actually had success treating people with my illness and under his care I began to get better. I'm able to work again, to spend time with my family and friends; even just being able to stand long enough to cook a meal feels like a blessing.

I'm not fully recovered yet and still have so much more work to do with my doctors, and I'm terrified of what will happen if the ACA is repealed and I lose health insurance again. My heart also breaks to think about other young people going through what I went through - having to essentially leave everyday life and exist only in the twilight world of sickness and despair that I spent years in, because they're too sick to work, and without working have no access to doctors and medicines that could help them recover.

Sincerely,

Lailah Robertson
San Francisco, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beth Gutwin [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: 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.

Beth Gutwin
[redacted]
[redacted]

VT, Vermont 05495

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Paige Connell [mailto:paige.connell@graham-cassidy.com] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not pass Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

I rely on quality, affordable health care. Before the ACA, I suffered from weekly debilitating migraines that meant I missed work much more often than I would like. Sometimes it was so bad that simply moving my arm into a different position would make me vomit. Once I was able to get healthcare, an underlying condition was diagnosed. I'm happy to say I haven't had a bad migraine in months, but I need regular care to maintain my health or else I will go back to being in pain, missing work, etc. What we need are improvements to the ACA, not a scaling back or repeal of it.

Thank you,
Paige Connell
Chico, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Debra Cohn [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Save the ACA; Oppose Graham-Cassidy

Importance: High

My family and my 96 year old father's care giver rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story every single one of us has preexisting conditions ranging from Diabetes and Congestive Heart Failure to Fibromyalgia/Chronic Fatigue, and Asthma. My father's caregiver relies on Medicaid and our family relies on her. I am on permanent disability and work as much as I am able and allowed to. I still cannot cover all my medical expenses. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Debra Ann Cohn, PhD

La Canada Flintridge, CA 91011

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: KadyCee [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Repeal Debate Comment

Dear Senators,

As someone who has been either self-employed or employed part-time while a student over the last 25 years, I have spent a disproportionate amount of my income on health care. In fact, most of the debt I accrued over that time was due to health care -- and I'm basically a healthy person who does not have to rely on regular prescriptions. However, before ACA, my deductibles were so high I could never meet them. Yet I had no choice but to have very high deductibles because I couldn't afford the monthly premiums otherwise -- and I still had trouble meeting them even with the high deductible. As a single person, no one could put me on their insurance. So, not only did I pay a premium comparable to that of a car payment each month, I really got nothing in return since I rarely used it. But I had to be covered, just in case.

Before having a cardiac ablation, I had a heart arrhythmia, which insurance companies would use as an excuse to deny me coverage; therefore, I could never leave my insurer for a better plan -- I had to accept their yearly increases (I had Anthem Blue Cross). ACA kicked in the year after my ablation, so I was able to get a better plan with a lower deductible without worrying I'd be denied coverage. I changed insurers and now have an excellent plan that costs less than what I was paying before, but with a very low deductible. Also, I had choices that would have allowed me to pay even less if I had wanted to.

Since ACA, I have not had to worry about spending literally thousands of dollars on one ER visit (a visit for a UTI in the middle of the night when the pain was too much to take: \$2000 with my former insurance before ACA. Apparently, that is normal).

It's clear the GOP has no interest in what Americans want, much less what they actually need. It's also clear they are fine with their corrupt and incompetent president and his people. I doubt I will ever trust a Republican again, aside from very few exceptions (McCain, Collins, Murkowski - though I'm not so naive to think that could change). I was an independent between 2004 and this year and sometimes voted Republican. Immediately after the presidential election, I went back to being a Democrat. I don't want anyone to ever mistake me for someone who would vote for a Republican.

The Graham-Cassidy bill, like the GOP, is an atrocity aimed at hurting, even killing, Americans. My story isn't as bad as those others may tell. All I know is that I can finally afford health care -- good health care -- for the first time since going off my parents' insurance in the 1990s. For 25 years I paid steep premiums and out of pocket fees for every office and ER visit. I was denied health care based on pre-existing condition that was not life-threatening. Despite the lies Republicans want to tell, Obamacare has saved me from financial hardship. I look forward to voting against my representative, Steve Knight, for supporting this. I'm not the only one.

I want to thank all of the Democratic senators who continue to fight for the American people. I will never forget it.

Sincerely,

Karen Clark
Newhall, CA 91321

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sonam Soni [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

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.

Thank you,

Sonam Soni
Palo Alto, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tricia Louise Lee [REDACTED]@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Comment

Dear Senators,

I have heavily relied on the Affordable Care Act in the last 3 years, as a quality and affordable healthcare system. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I spent ages 13-22 without healthcare, experiencing sometimes traumatic health issues such as a severe concussion and a debilitating episode of weight loss during which I was left unable to work and provide for myself. Under both of these circumstances, I was not able to cover my health bills and the extraordinary cost of them is still not paid off. However, these few things would have been much easier for me to pay for had I had the insurance that I was able to get as a result of the Affordable Care Act.

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

Tricia Louise, MS

Sacramento, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jesse Watson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy is a tax break for the rich and for insurance companies

Finance Committee,

One after another, we see these ludicrous healthcare bills that FEED the poor and working-class to the insurance companies. Even my "good" insurance I get from my employer is a joke. Our healthcare system pays twice as much per citizen compared to Canada, and for what? We do not see the payoff. Obamacare already had serious problems. Now we keep seeing version after version of Trumpcare, and it's even worse!

We need a single-payer, Medicare for All system. We could have a better system than Canada, easily, and cheaper too. The rich should be paying their fair share. Instead they get tax breaks while the middle class foot the bill.

Jesse Watson

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Minot, North Dakota 58703-1606

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margaret Shepherd [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Don't repeal Obamacare

Hello,

Please, please put a stop to the Graham-Cassidy bill. I live in a state, Massachusetts, that has Romney care--so similar to the ACA, though since disavowed by its creator--and I give thanks every day that my grown up children can get coverage, no matter what pre-existing condition they have. Every American should have this kind of coverage. I hope you will do the right thing by negating the last-minute botched Graham-Cassidy bill, and make way for the Senate to work on bipartisan improvements to the ACA.

Margaret Shepherd, Boston, MA

--

See my exhibition of *Song of Solomon* calligraphy, September 16 - November 1, 2017, at First Church in Boston.

Follow my *Song of Solomon* series <http://margaretshepherd.blogspot.com/>

Pins are at <http://pinterest.com/shepherdscribe/>

Website: margaretshepherd.com

Instagram @shepherdscribe

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: patricia conway [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham-Cassidy

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story is that my entire family would not have health insurance due to preexisting conditions of one sort or another - and my children are only in their 20's! Further, block grants to Medicaid would effectively reduce health care coverage for my 25 y/o daughter with Down syndrome. She relies on Mass Health, as well as having a preexisting condition.

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

Sincerely,
Patricia Conway
Acton, MA

--
Patricia Conway

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Harman Camp [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

My daughter has two pre-existing conditions. If she ever lost her job, or wanted a new job, she could never get insurance again. This bill will leave tens of millions without insurance, and large companies won't have to offer insurance at all. This bill does nothing for the opiate epidemic. It's a very bad bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mimi Wilcox [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to Graham-Cassidy Bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My film, [Uninsurable](#), explores what the disastrous impact of repealing the ACA would be, and because of families like the Potters it is imperative that the Graham-Cassidy bill not pass. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Mimi Wilcox

Chicago, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: dominique lightbody [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I write to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

By trying time and time again to repeal the ACA, Republican Senators have added to the divisiveness rampant in our country pitting haves against have nots. This last ditch and rushed effort to repeal the ACA (with fewer Republican votes needed) is a cynical attempt to reduce health care coverage for our elderly, our poor, our children, and people suffering from cancer and other pre-existing conditions. You should once again be ashamed of yourselves for failing to lead the country, to unite the country, and to improve the conditions for all Americans. You have a template, the ACA, and should work as a bipartisan group to improve it, not repeal it. Do your jobs.

Sincerely,

Dominique Lightbody
Etna, NH

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Melchior [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I am opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill

I rely on affordable health care, as does my family with two teenage children.

I have had brain cancer twice. My medical team has protected me from terrible consequences, by using aggressive techniques. They have also monitored me regularly, which helped identify a recurrence of cancer before the new mass could cause more damage.

To save my life, I have been through two brain surgeries, two years of chemotherapy, ten weeks of daily radiation. Health insurance allowed me to have these treatments and survive.

I'm thrilled to see my children grow up!!

This is why I am opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill.

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

My elderly parents live in a state that has expanded Medicare. They have had life-saving surgeries and procedures in the past year that might have otherwise broken them financially. They are 92 and 83 years old.

Karen Melchior
Los Altos, CA 94022

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Holly Dowell [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Against Graham-Cassidy & in support of bipartisan healthcare improvements

Hello,

I, along with many friends and family, rely on quality, affordable healthcare. I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill and the way it strips funding from the most vulnerable and stops protecting those with pre-existing conditions. I suffer from severe asthma, which, in the grand scheme of things may seem small, but it does require regular maintenance in the form of doctor's appointments and inhalers. Without protection, my coverage could be slashed and cost me thousands each year.

Further, I have close family members who suffer from mental health disorders, a dear friend who has multiple sclerosis, and another who deals every day with Type 1 Diabetes. These are just a few of the people who would be deeply, negatively impacted if Graham-Cassidy is passed.

I acknowledge there are flaws in our healthcare system, and I support **bipartisan** efforts to address those. But repealing the Affordable Care Act in this way is cruel and uncalled for. Please consider putting aside partisan rancor to think of the **millions** who are affected by your choices. Please work to make our system better, not worse.

Thank you,
Holly

Brooklyn, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Heather Chicoine <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony for Graham-Cassidy hearing- I oppose this bill

To Members of the Senate,

I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

I am grateful to currently have access to a plan not affiliated with my employer under Covered California (Obamacare) because I do not want my only access to affordable, quality health care to be through my job. I remember how difficult and expensive it was for me to find any coverage as a young, relatively healthy new college graduate in 2009 during the peak of the recession when health care benefits were not provided through my work. I cried tears of happiness the day Obamacare passed because I had been living with such anxiety that I would get into an accident on my long commute to work and go bankrupt because I couldn't afford a hospital visit while paying off my student loans. I also finally had the chance to seek treatment for an old sports injury that has left me managing chronic pain and instability in my knees since high school.

Now, my family relies on quality, affordable healthcare which we currently have access to through generous insurance plans subsidized by my husband's and my employers. We plan to start a family soon and am also considering when the best time would be to start my own architecture firm. With this bill, I am unsure about whether I will be left with no insurance and two possible pre-existing conditions (pregnancy and knee injury) when it takes effect.

I can't tell you how frustrating it is to have to make the most important life and career decisions based on whether or not it will impact my ability to afford health care. Don't let politics blind you to the needs of every day Americans.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Please make the right decision for hard-working, middle class Americans and oppose this bill.

Sincerely,

Heather Chicoine

Alameda, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: shane henderson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. As someone who went through bankruptcy due to a lack of healthcare in the past, I know how important it is to have everyone covered. If this bill passes, healthcare companies could put a lifetime cap on benefits and not choose to offer care to people with pre existing health conditions. This bill would end up with less people covered and any bill that would result in less people covered is bad for the people of this country. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Please do not pass this bill. It is wrong for our country,

Shane Henderson
Hayward, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Caroline Brown [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Keep healthcare affordable and available

Hi,

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

My nieces and nephews are in their twenties and struggling to find work with benefits. They rely on affordable resources like Planned Parenthood for routine health care like annual exams as well as services like cancer screenings when they find something irregular. I don't want to see them bankrupted or worse before their adult lives have really even started, just because they couldn't afford routine healthcare.

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

Sincerely,

Caroline Brown

Brooklyn, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jenine Davison [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Improve the ACA, NOT repeal it!!!

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,

Jenine Davison

Lockwood, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bonniek5 [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: "Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017"

I am so against this bill. It is not thought it, has not gone to committee, was not researched enough, does not have a rating yet. You can not ram this down and let millions be uninsured. Republicans work with Dems in committee and get healthcare for all. Obama care is start, but we need more work on it. Please we beg of you do not let the Senators pass this bill. My good friend Courtney daughter, Kendall was born she has a rare chromosome disorder. She is had to have many surgeries. She needs the ACA to help them pay for daughter medical treatment. They already pay a lot out of pocket. Kendall has a pre existing condition, if you give power to states, they can choose not to cover people. This is just not for me and my concerns, but for many friends, family that have current medical issues and can not afford to pay huge co payments or huge bills.

Bonnie Kraynick
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rhea Lowell [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Testimony for Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am very worried that under this bill my pre-existing condition of suffering from asthma would cause my premiums to increase to a point where I could no longer afford health care. I am currently paying for my own insurance with no governmental or employer help. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Rhea K Lowell, Saint Paul MN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy Silberman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Testimony, Graham-Cassidy hearing

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

Before the ACA I was denied coverage for insurance from one provider, and offered bare bones coverage by another at an alarmingly high and unaffordable monthly rate, due to what they considered a pre-existing condition. That pre-existing condition was a broken ankle that had been repaired by an open reduction, (i.e. I have a plate and 7 screws in there holding my fibula together). I was shocked to be denied coverage as I was a healthy person in my 30's. But thanks to the ACA I was able to get coverage, see a doctor when I need to, and get quality preventative care. I don't have to worry about whether or not I can afford to seek medical advice.

There shouldn't be a question on the type of coverage you get depending in which state you are lucky enough to live. There shouldn't be loopholes for insurers to get out of covering people because they were unfortunate enough to become ill or have an accident. We should create a system where we all pay in because someday we will be using the resources for ourselves.

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

Thanks,
Amy Silberman

San Francisco, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laurie Johnson [REDACTED] m>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Citizen Concern About Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators,

I am an extremely concerned citizen, but I will restrict my numerous worries to one comment on the Graham-Cassidy bill:

Are we really going to pass a bill that reorganizes 1/6th of our economy without so much as a CBO evaluation?

Please don't do this.

Sincerely,

Laurie Johnson
Champaign, Illinois (and U.S. Congress District 13)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Danielle Carne [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare is a right!

Hello,

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. When we have been out of work, we were able to stay healthy enough to get back to work with Medicaid. If we hadn't been able to get coverage for pre-existing mental health conditions, my partner and I would not be alive today. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Danielle Carne

Los Angeles, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathy Chace [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: healthcare

To: Senate Finance Committee,

The new Graham/Cassidy plan will not help many individuals, but will continue help the insurance company's CEOs. They've gotten enough of the people healthcare money.

The bill has not been discussed near enough for debate either.

Please don't let this pass.

Thank you

Kathy Chace
Wymore, NE 68466

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Esther Williamson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Lawmakers,

Thank you for your service to our country. I know you are working to do what is best for the American people. All Americans need affordable, reliable healthcare. When healthcare becomes so expensive that it is inaccessible, we all suffer. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

I am a member of Actors' Equity Association and obtain my insurance through that union. However, because of the way Equity works and because of the unpredictable nature of a career in the arts, there are times when I do not get enough work for my union to cover me. Under the Affordable Care Act, I was able to obtain care for those leaner years, and I will certainly need to be able to obtain care again in the future. I take good care of myself, but accidents happen, and without good insurance a broken bone or a prolonged illness would set me back financially for years.

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

Thank you,
Esther Williamson
Brooklyn, NY

--

[REDACTED]

Coming up:
Oregon Shakespeare Festival School Visit Program

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anna Shneiderman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: opposition to Graham-Cassidy bill

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

Sincerely,

Anna Shneiderman

Oakland, CA

Anna Shneiderman
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Naomi Theye [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with health issues includes preexisting conditions and issues of affordability. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Every American alive has the preexisting condition of aging. No one should be excluded from affordable health care in this great country of ours.

Naomi Theye

Winona, Minnesota

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Deborah Nelson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

Hello,

Please help! My family relies on Affordable Health Care to survive. Both my husband and I have pre-existing conditions. If there is not a mandate to require coverage, I'm afraid states will strip away our health care. This is too important a decision to make for every single American unless we have full bi-partisan research and discussion to find the best way to insure American healthcare. Please don't push through a bill that hasn't been well thought out or debated!! Our lives are at stake.

Sincerely,

D Nelson

[REDACTED]
Paradise Valley AZ 85253

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Morpheus [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Save Our Affordable Care Act

I am a self-employed small business entrepreneur and before the passage of the Affordable Care Act I have never been able to afford healthcare. ACA has been a life saver for so many Americans.

I STRONGLY oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. This bill is deeply irresponsible and will cause immeasurable harm to millions of Americans. If you need more evidence than the testimony of citizens like myself, look to the fact that EVERY organization of medical professionals opposes it.

WE NEED THE ACA. Do not betray us by destroying it with this terrible, cruel, irresponsible bill.

Sincerely,

Morpheus Anima
Oakland, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kelly Orndorff [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: OPPOSE Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Sir or Madam:

My husband and I, along with our three daughters, rely on quality, affordable healthcare through the ACA. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My family is relatively healthy, but of course we have some pre-existing conditions. I am terribly worried we will be unable to get insurance if the ACA is unavailable.

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

Sincerely,
Kelly Orndorff
Angel Fire, New Mexico

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Brian Rice [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

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

I am against this proposal.

Before Obamacare... after I had cancer and was working for myself... my Cobra expired... the insurance company was more than happy to re-sign me for... \$3,000 per MONTH!

Let's not go back to that scenario... please?!?

- Brian

Brian Rice

[REDACTED]
Darien, IL 60561
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rochelle Melander <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose Graham-Cassidy.

My family and I rely on quality affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have asthma, allergies, and anxiety. Prior to the ACA stand against insuring people with preexisting conditions, I had to change insurance because of my job. And I had to wait many months for my insurance to cover my allergies and asthma.

I now have two children with preexisting conditions—and I worry that if we need to change insurance, we will never get healthcare for them again.

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

Sincerely, Rochelle Melander
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Leslie Herman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Comments

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

Everyone in my immediate family has at least one type of pre-existing condition including acne, anxiety, sleep apnea and high cholesterol. While the authors of the Graham-Cassidy plan say the bill protects people with preexisting conditions, critics and health policy experts argue that it leaves openings for those people to get charged much more for insurance. This is simply unacceptable.

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

Sincerely,

Leslie Herman
Minnetonka, MN. 55345

Leslie

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lani Azenberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, September 25, 2017

Members of the Committee:

I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill. STOP trying to repeal and replace the ACA. Republicans and Democrats need to work together to improve the existing healthcare system – not start over again with a bill that is thrown together with ignorance and selfish greed. Republicans must come to terms with their true motives for trying to undo Obamacare. I won't even list the possible motives as each Senator knows somewhere in his/her conscience what they are. I am the mother of a daughter with Crohn's Disease and I know the price of Humira – Do you?

Frankly, I am terrified.

Sincerely,

Lani Azenberg
[REDACTED]

New York, NY 10019

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Caitlin Ousley [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Testimony for Graham-Cassidy Hearing

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am a teacher at a small Catholic school and while I currently am provided healthcare through my work, that was not the case when I worked for the University of Louisville or the Kentucky Science Center Museum. Despite the fact that I was working 50-60 hours a week, because both jobs were part-time I was unable to qualify for the employee plan.

Luckily, I was able to, through the ACA, qualify for Medicaid. This allowed me to get the care I needed when I got a freak case of cellulitis just before my wedding. Without Medicaid, I (and my husband), would have drained what little savings we had and then gone into debt to pay for the medical bills that resulted from a 4 day hospital stay and antibiotics.

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

Sincerely,

Caitlin Ousley

Louisville, KY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com on behalf of Ryan Carle [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: testimony on Graham-Cassidy hearing

Hello,

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My wife and I are a young couple that struggles to make ends meet in the expensive world of the central California coast. We simply can't afford to have our medical bills or insurance premiums skyrocket, as they would do under a repeal of ACA. We both have pre-existing conditions that would likely exempt us from coverage at all, much less affordable coverage, without the ACA. Aside from my own family, I am deeply concerned about the impact a repeal would have on those with less fortunate circumstances than our own who rely on ACA coverage. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Ryan Carle

Soquel, CA, 95073

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Liesl Pessl [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am writing to ask that you not support this bill. Instead I ask that you work in a bipartisan effort to improve the existing ACA.

I have worked in a community health center, Community Health Partners, in Bozeman, Montana, for 17 years. The current ACA has given access to affordable health insurance either through government subsidies or expanded Medicaid, unlike anything I've seen over my tenure with the organization. This has allowed patients to get health services that include basic preventive care, that has been delayed for years, as well as specialty care for a wide range of needs.

From my perspective, the population that was not adequately served by the current ACA, is the middle income trades people, like carpenters, plumbers, painters ,etc whose wages were high enough that they didn't qualify for a subsidy and yet premiums were still too high to afford on their current income.

If a bipartisan effort could focus on this middle income group to make health insurance affordable, most sectors of the population would be served. I believe this will require mandates to ensure healthy, young people are included in the insurance pools. It will also require a long term perspective of the program as many people are using services at an especially high rate to 'catch up ' after many years of no insurance. These folks are utilizing service at a higher rate in these first years of having access, but with consistent access, this will normalize to a sustainable utilization rate over time.

Thank you for your consideration.

Liesl Pessl

Bozeman, Montana 59715

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: rphilip1 [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:14 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. I am one of those self-employed women who got breast cancer in her 40s and still have 2 years of treatment. Before the the ACA I was on Cobra and paying triple in premiums. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Rachel Philipson
Ithaca, NY

rachel philipson photography and design
rachelphilipson.com | 607.277.0978

find us on [facebook](#) [twitter](#) [blog](#) [pinterest](#)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Brooks [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

Dear Senators:

In 2009, at the height of the Great Recession, I lost my job and along with it my health insurance. Since then I have struggled mightily to train for a new career, complete a Master's Degree, and secure re-employment in a full-time, steady job with benefits. When the struggle became too much and I needed a \$200/month antidepressant, covered my Medicaid and the ACA. Without this coverage I could never afford to pay for the antidepressant which is enabling me to reach my goal of once again becoming a productive, taxpaying citizen.

When are you going to get the message that Americans DON'T WANT the ACA repealed? Yes the ACA has flaws. The solution is to FIX THE FLAWS, not repeal the whole thing and return to the bad old days when hard-working, TAXPAYING American citizens could have their lives and finances ruined by unexpected medical expenses they had no choice or control over.

Jennifer Brooks
California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alicia Preston [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:57 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.

Alicia Preston
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

San Diego, California 92106

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chaney Kourouniotis [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:57 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Graham-Cassidy

My husband and I are lucky enough to have good health insurance through my employer, which covers the cancer drug that he takes daily. Should I lose my job - or choose to change jobs - he will have a very expensive pre-existing condition. We rely on the protection of the ACA to ensure pre-existing conditions are covered. Under Graham-Cassidy, if we ever have to change insurers, we could find ourselves completely wiped out by a few months' worth of the drug.

Please don't ruin our lives with this bill!

Thank you,

Chaney Kourouniotis
Belmont, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Daniel Crocker [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for the Record, Re: Graham-Cassidy Bill

This bill is dangerous, and opposed by private insurers and public health organizations of great significance and repute. Rushing something like this through is exactly what a noble legislative institution shouldn't and wouldn't do. I ask that you reject this measure, and return to regular order in a bipartisan manner to address such serious topics as this, which is a matter of life and death for millions of Americans.

I hope to see better work from you all as the semester and legislative calendar continues. Please be willing to seek help if you do not understand why this work is unacceptable at this level.

sincerely,

Daniel Crocker
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Boston, MA 02116
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: rw evans [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

I am a senior citizen alone and rely on quality, affordable healthcare.

Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My disabilities include pre-existing conditions, disabilities such as walking etc.

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

Just because some part of Congress feels the need just to pass something to pass something this is not the way to treat the American public...there are soooooo many groups that oppose the bill and for wise logical reasons...Please listen to the people...afterall is that not what a Democracy is all about?

Thank you for your time and hopefully wiseness.

Hopefully yours,

Roxie Wenk Evans
Palm Desert, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patrick Young <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

Dear Senate Finance Committee Numbers

My name is Patrick B. Young. I live in Germantown Wisconsin my address is N113 W15130 Montgomery Drive Germantown WI 53022 I write to you as a citizen.

Medicaid is essential to the health and independence of people with disabilities. We are more likely to be low-income, have less access to health care. Medicaid provides affordable and quality health care coverage to individuals with disabilities. People with disabilities may access Medicaid programs in many different ways. Wisconsin has a strong Medicaid programs like specialized long term care program such as Family care and IRIS and almost 20 Wisconsin programs like children long term supports. imposing Medicaid per capita caps and block grants forces states to make decisions on who should be covered under state Medicaid programs whether people have to wait for services and what services and supports are included. Many adults with disabilities use the Medicaid Purchase Plan for working adults with disabilities to access the care they need. This is an example of flexibility in programs that can remain without cutting billions of dollars from Medicaid. when you debate and vote think about people with pre-existing conditions or have a disabilities who rely on Medicaid. Thank you for your time

Sincerely

Patrick B young

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Craig Bechtel <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Expressing Opposition to Graham-Cassidy

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."

As Stephanie Miller said on her radio show earlier this week, you shouldn't have to call your Senators every two weeks and beg them not to kill you.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Sincerely,

Craig Bechtel

Craig Reptile spins records on the internet airwaves every Sunday from 6 to 9 pm central time on www.chirpradio.org! Listen in!

Named best internet radio station by Chicago magazine

Read my music journalism at <http://popstache.com/author/cbechtel/>

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Sears [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Keep the Affordable Care Act

Protect the Affordable Care Act. Let's fine tune it and make it better. However, getting rid of it is just a mean-spirited effort to erase Obama's presidency. That's just not in keeping with what our country is all about!

Mary Sears
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Honolulu, HI 96815

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of jacqueline corrado
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: IMPROVE ACA NOT REPEAL IT

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with health care coverage is long. Started out with my son at his 5 years of age, when he was diagnosed with severe asthma and allergies, which combined later led to severe EE Eosinophilic Esophagitis and ongoing hospitalizations for endoscopies. This has been the case for the last 10 years. My health insurance covered almost everything. This will not be there case unless there is a bipartisan work behind the health care reform.

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

Sincerely, jacqueline Corrado

Winchester ma

--
Jacqueline Corrado Gebolys, EdM, MA
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathy Lewis [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Save the ACA!

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with pre-existing conditions and affordability is that both my husband and I are self-employed. We have owned our small business for 25 years: and before the Affordable Care Act, health insurance was extremely expensive and provided very little coverage. Furthermore, any minor physical issue would become a "pre-existing condition". Now, even more importantly, our adult children are also self employed in the so-called gig economy. Without the ACA, they would not have access to any health insurance. We would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Kathy Lewis, Chicago, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: marge lundeen [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

I am writing to express my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill. I do not approve of a rush to appeal the ACA just because of repeated campaign promises and President Trump's pledge to do so early in his term. I desire a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA. The health and lives of millions of Americans are at stake.

Sincerely,
Marge Lundeen
Annandale, MN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: cecille gillcrist [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mrs. cecille gillcrist
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
melrose park, IL 60160
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: tracey stout [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Tracey Stout
Subject: I Oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Healthcare should be a right for everyone. Personally, I rely on on the healthcare provided by the ACA and would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Tracey Stout
Carlisle, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carolyn [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Good Afternoon

If the insurance that our government officials receive is good enough for them, why can't American citizens be entitled to the same? If the senators voting on this bill vote positively and get to keep their insurance knowing Americans are not receiving the same care as their constituents, they should be removed from office. The Graham-Cassidy Bill is unconstitutional and morally bankrupt.

Do the right thing. Don't let America continue to be in the bottom with third world countries when it comes to healthcare.

Carolyn Bertolino
Seabrook, NH

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chares Gregory [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:14 PM
To: gchcomments *
Subject: Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dr. Chares Gregory
[REDACTED]
Grand Island, NE 68803
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nina Dudley [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the G-C bill. I was recently laid off from my job and since I'm only 62 I am not eligible for Medicare so must buy health insurance on the market. It is already very expensive and makes up my largest monthly bill. The G-C bill will cause a big increase in premiums and is even opposed by the insurance companies themselves.

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

Sincerely,
Nina Dudley
Easthampton, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ferdinanda Florence [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for the Record, Re: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

The Graham-Cassidy bill is a gift to the most morally bankrupt, sociopathic, craven, greedy, and exploitative GOP ever assembled. Never mind the weak inheriting the earth; to borrow from Nina Simone, "Oh but this whole country is full of lies; [we're] all gonna die and die like flies."

If there is any decency and common sense left in the Congress, then this bill should be defeated like all the others. Congress must defend the existing law, and shore up the Affordable Care Act.

Best regards,
Ferdinanda Florence
[REDACTED] Vallejo, CA 94591

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Diane Rouse [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: healthcare

My daughter get a divorce, then lost her job and insurance. Thanks to the ACA, she was able to get healthcare for her children. This was especially important because one of the children has disorder that requires special medicine. Today she is a contributing tax payer.

Please work together to improve the ACA not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Diane Rouse
Grayslake, IL

"We have much to do together.

Let us do it in wisdom and love and joy." Gary Zukav

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Monica Floyd [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I support the Affordable Care Act

Hello,

My families and my friends rely on quality, affordable healthcare. **Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.** We all know someone - for me it was my aunt - who suffered through an illness they couldn't afford. Because of the Affordable Care Act my aunt was able to receive the treatment she needed without putting an even bigger financial burden on herself and her family.

Health care is not a democrat or republican issue - it is an American issue and I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Monica

San Francisco, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elise Morgan [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy bill

My family relies on the high quality insurance made possible by the ACA and as such, I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

My husband was diagnosed with an autoimmune, chronic illness when he was 18 years old and while he manages it well with a healthy diet and exercise, he relies on daily medication and more frequent doctor checkups with regular screenings. Before the ACA, he was being punished for this illness by paying \$1,000 each month for low-quality insurance because he is a free-lance musician/producer and thus, cannot get insurance through an employer. It was incredibly stressful for our family and often he had to go without his medication due to the financial strain. We recently relocated to the west coast and we have a 4 month old daughter who now relies on the ACA for her insurance as well. Furthermore, I am an oncology-certified registered nurse and adult nurse practitioner and I have taken care of countless cancer patients who rely on the ACA for their insurance. If this inhumane, cruel Graham-Cassidy Bill is approved, my patients will not be able to receive the lifesaving cancer treatment they deserve; my husband will not be able to afford his medication that keeps his disease in remission and our daughter will not be able to go for her check-ups or receive her vaccinations on time.

This bill will cause incalculable suffering for those most vulnerable in our society--the sick, the aged, the very young, minorities and low income populations. Please be kind and think of humanity before politics or economics and oppose this terrible bill.

Sincerely,
Elise Morgan, NP-BC, RN, OCN

Los Angeles, CA 90041

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pat King [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing

My husband and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with nearing retirement is that the rate increases for insurance to older people will make health insurance unaffordable for us. Also, we have pre-existing conditions that would compound the increase in those costs.

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

Sincerely,

Patricia & Joseph King

Madison, Wisconsin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cathy Wilkerson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stop Graham- Cassidy now!

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with ,pre-existing conditions, and affordability is crucial to the wellbeing of our lives and finances. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Cathy Wilkerson

Norton, MA

Cathy Wilkerson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Abby Nance [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not repeal ACA

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My sister lived below the poverty line for several years and relied on affordable, available health care to survive. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Abby Nance

Brooklyn, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lesley Byrns [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare!

Dear Finance Committee Members,

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. In the last seven years:

- *I survived aggressive breast cancer because of the care I received from my surgeon, oncologist and nurses who delivered my chemotherapy and pharmacists who prepared my medication, all covered by health insurance.
- *My husband had insured colon surgery to prevent a serious life-threatening intestinal condition.
- *My daughter survived an emergency Caesarean section because of her health insurance and the care of doctors and nurses at the hospital both during and after the birth of her daughter. *My grandson survived his premature birth with underdeveloped lungs thanks to his parents' health insurance and the care of the providers in the hospital's NICU.
- *My granddaughter's club feet are being corrected because of her parents' insurance and the doctors and health professionals at Shriners' hospital.

And we are an active, healthy family!

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

Sincerely,
Lesley Byrns
Davis, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Mynatt [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH bill

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. It would remove millions from having healthcare benefits and gut Medicaid. Being sick doesn't change depending on what state you are in. All healthcare groups oppose this bill. This will hurt the American people and destroy the protections we currently have in the ACA.

Mary Mynatt
[REDACTED]
Grove City, Ohio 43123

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cheryl Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable Health Care

If you succeed in leaving millions without health care coverage, will you increase the welfare budget to help people afford whatever catastrophe you put in place?

Before the Affordable Care Act was implemented, people with pre-existing conditions could not have related health care coverage sometimes for 3-5 years, putting their very lives in danger. It's hard to fathom that anyone with a conscience would want that help stripped away. People who can't afford to pay out-of-pocket for prescription drugs are at greater risk. Having an affordable health care plan with prescription drug coverage SAVES LIVES!

Vote with your heart, not your bank account. Show the American people you have compassion; otherwise you may be out of a job next year.

Put political parties aside and do what the American people know what's best for them. After all, you work FOR US and don't forget it!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anne Hosey [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

It would be really nice if you stopped rolling the dice with our lives and worked together to come up with a healthcare solution that doesn't discriminate against women, minorities, and individuals already struggling with poverty.

Be adults, please.

Sincerely,

Anne Hosey

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Charlotte Knight [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The ACA

As an academic, I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Without the ACA, I would not have affordable or indeed any healthcare. As the current state of education funding encourages colleges to hire lots of adjuncts and part timers who receive no benefits or full time hours. I personally work 2 jobs, and some of my coworkers work at as many as 4 different colleges to make ends meet. We are generally 30-60 year old women, many of whom have families and who suffer when we can't get healthcare or can't afford high deductibles.

I was lucky enough to be covered by insurance when I found a lump in my early 30s (I was a student at the time and so, covered). Thankfully, after mammograms and biopsies, it was determined that these lumps were not and never would be cancerous. The fear of possible cancer and the physical side effects of the biopsies were enough (lots of bleeding for a couple of days), without being afraid that I would go broke just from the tests. I had spent my 20s paying off the cost of two sicknesses (yes, two incidents of UTI set me back for decade) and was going to have a hard time with another. And yes, in case you are wondering, I now have a pre-existing condition.

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. Really, America needs universal healthcare, like every other civilized country in this world.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Knight

Fords, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joseph & Laurie Zaepfel [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

To the Senate Finance Committee:

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

This past year, our family had a period of unemployment. Due to our minimal income during this time period, we were able to qualify for MinnesotaCare, our state's program. This was truly a miracle for us. We were able to make it through this time with very little disruption to our medical needs, and we did not end up with a large debt, as we did some years ago when we had a similar situation and suffered because of the exorbitant COBRA costs. There are many other individuals and families whose very lives depend on this access to affordable care. Please take into account the amount of suffering a repeal would cause.

I would love to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. There is plenty of room to make it better--please do this instead of plunging tens of millions of families into fear, bankruptcy, and possibly death.

Sincerely,

Laurel Zaepfel
St. Paul, Minnesota

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: d. susan radke [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on the Cassidy-Graham Bill

I am writing to urge you to vote no to this bill. 32 million people will lose access to healthcare because government funds for healthcare will be diverted to other states, and will ultimately be the demise to the Medicaid program. Further, if the bill is passed, I will lose my 10 essential benefit and pre-existing condition protections.

In the mid 1980's, I lost my health insurance when I changed careers as a teacher and moved to another state to attend graduate school. At that time when a person was newly employed or attended graduate school, one had to wait three months before the benefits were active. I was hospitalized during that three month period and had no health insurance. I was forced to use my entire savings to pay for my medical bills and went into serious debt during my time in graduate school. Sadly many years later, I faced the same dilemma when my oldest daughter graduated from college. She was without health insurance prior to her attending law school in the fall. Because she (and I) have asthma and severe allergies, **she was denied health care coverage**. Her life threatening condition which is easily controlled with medication was not covered, yet I had to pay thousands of dollars for four months so that she could at least have catastrophic coverage in case of an accident. This caused tremendous financial burden on me because I was a divorced single mother of two children at that time with no assistance from their father. I ended up declaring Chapter 13 bankruptcy. This was devastating to me, because under Chapter 13 - my wages were garnished to pay back my debts. When the ACA passed, my daughter enrolled onto my health plan and she obtained the necessary care she needed during law school. Due to the ACA she kept her health care coverage until she was able to find work as a lawyer, and obtain insurance through her employer. We both are able to afford our health care and keep out of the ER and hospital because we can afford our medications to control our asthma and this is all because of the ACA. Without the ten essential benefits and the pre-existing condition protections, both my daughter and I will have to pay more for our premiums - they will go up drastically to the point that we may not be able to afford the premiums, our co-pays or medications. Further, since I am over 60, my premiums will increase to the point where I may not be able to pay my mortgage or everyday bills because my paycheck will go to paying my astronomical health care premiums. The premiums will increase first because I have a pre-existing condition, and second because I am 61. I do not want to ever have to declare bankruptcy again, nor do I want my daughter to have to skip appointments or not take medications resulting in an increase in asthmatic symptoms. Asthma is a life threatening disease that can easily be controlled with affordable health care - thus reducing healthcare costs.

Please vote NO to this deadly bill.

Susan Radke
[REDACTED]

Baltimore, MD 21228

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Barlow [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Please vote no on this bill. It leaves too many people without coverage and makes coverage for the rest too expensive. Let's take care of our own people and not spend all the money on expensive planes for war.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Donita Bauer [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Is NOT what we need. I am appalled that this bill is being considered. Taking \$ from states that accepted Medicaid expansion and giving it to other states who didn't; 10 years and it will all be gone; states can make their own rules about costs for pre-existing conditions, every medical agency and organization is against it. This isn't repeal and replace. This is repeal and we need that tax money for the rich so screw the american public.

Where is the CBO score? Where is regular order? Where are the statemen?

Donita Bauer

[REDACTED]

St Louis MO 63112

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Franklin [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: (4) Comment submitted for GC Hearing

Good morning –

My Indivisible organization spent last spring collecting health care stories from around our state to be shared with Senators Murray and Cantwell. This participant requested that I share their comment and ideas with the SFC to be part of the record for the Graham-Cassidy hearing taking place on 9/25.

Heather McKnight

98033
[REDACTED]


If a society is equipped to provide healthcare then that healthcare should be available to all citizens regardless of their income. If the cost of providing that healthcare is too expensive government in cooperation with industry should work together to find innovative ways to lower the cost of care. For example:

- Cap the profit % insurance companies may earn
- Cap the profit % of pharmaceutical companies may earn
- Cap the profit % of healthcare providers may earn
- Cap cost of insurance rates to align with built-in, tiered profit structure
- Incentivize insurance companies and healthcare providers who obtain positive patient outcomes
- Change tax structure so that individuals can determine which government programs they want to fund (similar to how I can designate which organizations benefit from United Way contributions) (I do not want to fund wars)
- Collaborate with futurists to design a new healthcare model
- Stop subsidizing industries that make people unhealthy
- Stop repealing regulations enacted to protect public health and worker safety
- Fight a real war on drugs...opioids
- Investigate the cause and propagation of the opioid crisis and hold parties accountable, as needed
- Utilize modern practices like process improvement to identify and implement improvements to current legislation (Mend, Don't End; Fix, Don't Nix).
- Invest in job-training programs in green energy in rural areas
- Invest in electrifying rural areas so that tech companies can locate operations in areas that could benefit from an influx of new, well-paying jobs
- Invest in electrifying rural areas through green energy projects
- Decriminalize marijuana federally and use the tax revenue as funding for healthcare
- Include women, people of color, differently-abled and LGBTQ on the AHCA working group
- Don't pass AHCA...it is merely a means by which the GOP can fund a tax-break for the least vulnerable while still providing income to the insurance and pharmaceutical industries

These are just a few ideas...I'm sure there are many other ideas that could enhance healthcare for all people if all those charged with serving the people actually had our best interests at heart. I hope, when the time comes, that our Senators, will do the right thing.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sarah Franklin
Indivisible Kirkland Kenmore


Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Leister [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Strongly oppose Graham Cassidy

Dear Senate Finance Committee members.

As a nurse, I oppose the Graham Cassidy bill which stands to end the Medicaid expansion and the other provisions of the ACA that have provided health care for millions of Americans. It would weaken or eliminate provisions for coverage of pre-existing conditions. I stand with other nurses and physicians in adding my voice to the already loud-and-clear opposition from the health care community.

As a woman, I oppose the Graham Cassidy bill—It will make it more difficult for low income women to access health care and it will allow states to drastically reduce maternity coverage.

It is time to stop railing against legislation that has allowed millions of otherwise uninsured individuals to have access to insurance and health care. Lets stop using the most vulnerable in our society as pawns in a petty political game.

Thank you,

Karen Leister

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Roper [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Kill the Bill that proposes to end the ACA

My 21-year-old nephew has cancer. Working in the public school system, I've seen and heard of far too many children and adults who face this devastating disease. The ACA guarantees insurers cannot deny coverage to these children and adults who can rarely afford to fight for their lives without it.

If you repeal the ACA, you are condemning these people to a sometimes long and painful death without hope of cure, a chance to gain a few precious years, or even a mechanism to reduce their pain as the disease progresses, just as surely as if you chose to sign an order for their death by torture.

Cancer is just one of the many diseases and afflictions for which affordable healthcare is critical. Yes, the health care system needs major overhauls and perhaps a one-payer system is the only correct answer. But, for now, you have the ability to continue to protect what we have. You hold the fate of millions of people in your hands. The only right choice is to kill this bill.

Karen Roper
[REDACTED]

Bellevue, WA 98006

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laura Lovett [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The New Healthcare Bill

Dear Senators Cassidy and Graham,

My life was greatly changed with the passage of the Affordable Care Act. I had been without health insurance for 14 years prior to that time. While I had been given policy quotes, it was a choice between having health insurance and having a roof over my head. I'm sure this is true of everyone who is or was uninsured—it's not because they do not want healthcare, it's because they do not make enough money to afford it along with the basic necessities of life.

You are now proposing yet another bill that would dump millions of people out of the health insurance system for the exact same circumstances. And the reason you are doing it is so you can give your wealthy donors their tax break. How do you sleep at night? How do you keep a straight face while you are telling these lies? Do you not have a conscience?

Thank heaven for people of integrity like John McCain who know a bill that will stab the American people in the back when they see it and have the courage to vote no. Do NOT keep pushing this bill or we will push you out, too.

Laura Lovett
San Francisco, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: cjm martin [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Keeping Affordable Healthcare is important to me

More than important, affordable healthcare is critical!

My husband has a pre-existing medical condition. If we lose the current protections of ACA it will be financially unsustainable for my family. Our elected representatives to work together to help subsidize premium costs - don't reduce our coverage.

Forget 'Repeal and Replace' - I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal

Sincerely, Carol Martin

Austin, Texas

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rebecca L [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Rebecca Lineham
Vancouver, WA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Improve the ACA, DO NOT repeal it!

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with pre-existing conditions is about my daughter. Both she and her husband worked multiple jobs, non of which included healthcare. Because she has a pre-existing condition, without the ACA, she would not have had any healthcare to cover herself, including the the two pregnancies of their children. Although not perfect, the ACA is highly valuable to protect people such as my daughter from going without healthcare.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.
By the way, I am appalled and mortified that it is one of my senators - who happens to be a physician - putting this bill forward.

Sincerely,
Karen Konnerth
New Orleans, Louisiana

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Debra Iafrate [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please don't let Republicans destroy millions of people's health care. Health Care is a human right!

Please don't let Republicans destroy millions of people's health care. Health Care is a human right!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathryn Clark [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Don't allow the latest Trumpcare happen!

Hello,

I am a concerned American citizen, Republican but most importantly a nurse.

Allowing this atrocity to become law will KILL millions of Americans.

In my role as an Oncology nurse I have had to witness the unnecessary pain and suffering as well as the untimely death of a mother, daughter, wife, husband or friend. There should be NO reason a person should have to choose whether to pay the rent, electricity, food for the family or the price of a doctors appointment without health insurance. When the pain and suffering become too much to hide or tolerate and they are finally brought to the ER by a loved one it is usually too late.

I don't WANT to have to see this happening again and again and again!

Too many times have I held a loved ones hand while the doctor is trying to explain; why there isn't a cure available, the disease is so advanced, and if we had just come gotten to them earlier we would have had a chance to fight.

Pease don't allow this to happen in a country as great as ours use to be..

Kathryn B Swanson-Clark RN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Renee Swicegood [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller in favor of the bipartisan bill such as the one the Senate HELP Committee was considering.

Graham-Cassidy-Heller is a hastily written bill written by a single party. Any piece of legislation that affects all citizens and one-sixth of our economy needs to be written and enacted in a bipartisan manner.

It needs hearings and public input. Passing a bill with this many ramifications without even so much as a CBO score is ludicrous.

C. Renee Swicegood
Louisville, TN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Andrew Hamilton; [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy - No

My name is Andrew Hamilton from Manassas, VA, 20110. I oppose the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill and believe it to be costly for many Americans.

Thanks

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julia Palekha [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No Graham-Cassidy

I rely on affordable healthcare, currently using Medicaid in Washington State to get through my pregnancy. I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Julia Palekha
Seattle, WA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sampat, Hemal N., M.D. [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Frederick, Julia (Warren)
Subject: OPPOSE Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senators,

Speaking both as a physician and as a citizen, I urge you to strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill.

The bill is, in substance, almost identical to the failed repeal of the ACA in July, which was strongly opposed by the American people and unequivocally rejected by the Senate. That moment brought forth an opportunity for a bipartisan effort to repair the very real flaws in our healthcare system and especially in the ACA. We must use this moment constructively, and the Graham-Cassidy bill is a rejection of that constructiveness.

By overturning protections for patients with preexisting conditions and gutting the coverage of essential health benefits, this bill would harm those of our fellow citizens who are the most vulnerable. In its implementation of block grants and per capita caps for Medicaid, it would force states to cut benefits to Medicaid recipients, including >30 million children. A full 43% of Medicaid recipients are children.

As a child, I was one of those Medicaid recipients. Now, I'm a Harvard doctor, an internist and a pediatrician, practicing as a hospitalist at Massachusetts General Hospital and urgent care physician at a clinic in Chelsea, MA, who takes care of a very large number of patients who benefit from Medicaid and from the ACA. I've shared my story here: [REDACTED]

It is exactly this kind of opportunity that the Graham-Cassidy bill will deny to millions of Americans.

Our healthcare system needs reform, but even in medicine, the very first principle is "*primum non nocere*" -- **first, do no harm**. The Graham-Cassidy bill does very real harm and must not pass.

Sincerely yours,

Hemal N. Sampat, M.D.

*Assistant in Medicine/Assistant in Pediatrics
Attending Physician*

[REDACTED]
Boston, MA 02114

*Instructor in Medicine
Harvard Medical School*

[REDACTED]

The information in this e-mail is intended only for the person to whom it is addressed. If you believe this e-mail was sent to you in error and the e-mail contains patient information, please contact the Partners Compliance HelpLine at [REDACTED]. If the e-mail was sent to you in error but does not contain patient information, please contact the sender and properly dispose of the e-mail.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Therese R. Yglesias [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy non healthcare bill

Don't do it!

Nasty

Obtuse

Hateful

Egregious

Assinine

Lackeys

Threaten

Health of

Country

Allowing

Repulsive

Exclusion

Based on

Illogical

Lack of

Love

Fix it don't nix it!

Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy Health Care bill!

Sincerely,

Therese R. Yglesias

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nia A [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with Medicaid, pre-existing conditions, affordability is my senior citizen mother who has survived breast cancer TWICE depends on affordable healthcare. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Nia A.

[Guttenberg, NJ]

Sent from my traveling, cooking and loving life iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joan Abbott [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care bill

I implore you to work together to provide quality health care to all Americans. Put your efforts into working together, openly & with integrity, to create a system that works for all. The bill currently proposed will do more harm to me and my family and countless millions than the ACA ever has. I urge you to do the right thing, and vote against the G-H bill.

Sincerely,
Joanie Abbott
Traverse City, MI

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: S French [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

The level of determined hatred toward people of lesser means in our country is astonishing. When did Congress become about YOU vs The People? The whole point of attaining office is to serve the people, is it not? ALL of the people - not just the ones that will put more money in your pocket. The real question is, how do those of you desperately and repeatedly trying to take away health care for the needy - how do you sleep at night? There is no justification for any of this!

Sande French

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kitty Overton [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repeal & Replace with Graham-Cassidy Bill

Please, honorable Senators who represent the American people who have no say in this if you do not listen to us: health care is a human right. It is not something the "free market" alone can address. Everyone eventually, sooner or later, needs a doctor or a hospital or some kind of medical help. That is part of being human. And we are a civilized country. We are not "every man for himself" - we must take care of each other. Even while some can make money and most can make less, we all live together. And suffering among any of us affects all of us.

Please do not "repeal and replace" the ACA, a health care law that went far, for the first time in my lifetime, to make access to health insurance and thus health care, affordable for so many millions of Americans.

I was a healthy young adult until I was unexpectedly diagnosed with cancer. Before the ACA passed, I was paying \$2750/month for private health insurance and would have hit my lifetime limit for coverage at age 45. Thank goodness I was in a position to pay that premium, otherwise I would probably be dead now, because you can't go to an ER for chemo-therapy. Before the ACA passed, I was terrified about what would happen after I hit my lifetime limit. I have a child who was only 5 at the time.

The ACA is not perfect. But it has saved many lives, including mine. I beg you not to throw us back into the pit of desperation that was the health insurance market before the ACA simply because you made a campaign promise or you just don't like the president who was in office when it passed. People are counting on you to rise above all that.

Vote "no" on the Graham-Cassidy Bill and work with the bi-partisan group to solve the health care situation once and for all in America.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Overton

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ruth G-mail [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy so called health bill

No, no a thousand times NO!

Why should the American people suffer just so you can keep campaign promises???? Unconscionable! You are being carefully watched by our Lord Jesus.

Sincerely,

American Voter

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Connie Magee. [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Info (Duckworth); info@durbin.senate.gov
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Testimony
Attachments: Graham-Cassidy Testimony.docx

Please see attached letter.

Thank you!

Connie Magee

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marie DiCocco & Celest DiPietropaolo [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:07 PM
To: gchcomments

To whom it may concern:

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Here's our story. My husband is a Vietnam era veteran who was diagnosed with prostate cancer 14 years ago. Fortunately, his treatment has cured him, but because he is a cancer survivor, he's considered to have a pre-existing condition.

My story is that I was diagnosed with endometrial cancer in 2013. While I still have about a year to go before I'm considered cured, I anticipate that happening since so far, I have no signs of any recurrence. However, I also have a pre-existing condition as a result. I also suffer from hypertension, in spite of a healthy diet and regular exercise.

We are a retired family and while health insurance premiums continue to rise, our pensions and Social Security often don't keep up with these increases. We were older parents, so while we are retired, we still have a child at home who is not yet 20. We want to know that she also will have no problems receiving whatever coverage she needs.

While the ACA may have some flaws, it insures that we don't have to worry about being eligible for good coverage. Instead of repealing the ACA, I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve it.

Sincerely,
Marie DiCocco
Middlesex, VT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: P E Hedden [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

No. No. No. No. No.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Merlynn Cluff [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Bill

I am a supporter of states rights in many areas But I see more and more instances of states that use this right to discriminat against its poorest and most vulnerable citizens. My state is a good example of that. Utah claims that it takes care of its vulnerable citizens but I have first hand knowledge of a young man who is blind, diabetic, has kidney failure and is on dyalises. But he can't afford the medicine he needs or the copayments for his treatment. He became so ill he went on hospice. He received the insulin dosages and other medications he needed and despite not getting dyalises his condition improved to the point of not qualifying for hospice after 6 months. Now he is beginning to decline all over again. Two social workers, one from the dyalises center have tried to enroll him in Medicaid to supplement what his Medicare won't pay for but to no avail. Utah did not expand its Medicaid program under the ACA and so we have many people here that are suffering from the lack of health care they need. Just because you have Medicare doesn't mean you can get the medical care you need. Tyler will die before his time because he can't afford the insulin he needs to stop more damage being done to his kidneys. The fact that his kidney function improved when he was able to take the amount of insulin he needed while on hospice proves that. So he is back to rationing the insulin he can afford and asking the dyalises center for a waiver of his copayments. Since his sugar levels won't be under control more damage will be done to his kidneys and he will be able to go back on hospice. I doubt he will improve this time. He's 38 years old and he will not see 40 because the state of Utah is not required to put him on Medicaid. States cannot be trusted to use block grants for medical care with out rules. Not to mention they will eventually have less money to work with under this bill.

Contrary to what some people think, people die every day in this country because they can't afford the health care they need. That is a disgrace. Fix the problems in the ACA or move to a single payer plan but for God's sake stop trying to pass bills that will increase the amount of citizens that will die due to the lack of health care. There's a reason we have to have civil rights laws. Because some people just won't do what is right.

Sincerely
Merlynn Cluff

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sam Heuck [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Sam Heuck
Kyle, Texas

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Repeal, AKA Repeal and ReplaceP

Please do not allow this farce of a Healthcare bill be put up for a vote. This bill will affect millions of Americans, and is much too important to be voted on without review, debate and analysis from the CBO. This bill will allow states to waive important healthcare components, like making healthcare for older Americans, particularly those with pre-existing conditions, affordable. It will allow states to exclude coverage for many conditions, including pregnancy. This bill would take us backward to a time when only the wealthy and healthy can afford healthcare. Americans deserve so much more. All other developed countries value their citizens enough to provide healthcare as a right. Why do we deserve less? Please do not allow hard working Americans to be thrown under the bus. Thank you for listening.

Jennifer L Jones
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chad Login [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:07 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.

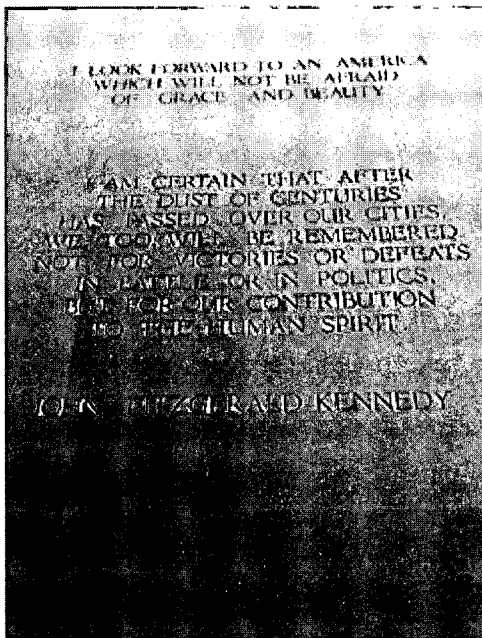
Chad Lomax
Oakland, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ida Longarino [REDACTED] on behalf of Ida Longarino [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

One reason the Graham Cassidy bill would leave more veterans uninsured and increase demand for VA care by a greater margin than before Obamacare. They deserve better than Graham Cassidy! The Graham Cassidy is heartless and wrong. People deserve better than this. Shameful war is going on in this country at this time. Absolutely shameful.

Ida Longarino



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Prince [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill rejection request

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject the Graham-Cassidy bill that would dump America's health care bill into the laps of the states. This is literally passing the buck to the states, leaving them to sort through the broken pieces of our health care system. Graham-Cassidy will cost our state \$3.5 billion in lost federal revenues over a six year period beginning in 2020. Our Medicaid program will have to be significantly cut back, since we were an expansion state under the ACA. Poor people should not be targeted in any health care reform. "Revise and Restore" the Affordable Care Act!

Thank you,
Elisabeth M. Prince
[REDACTED]
Webster MA 01570

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judith Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I OPPOSE THE GHC!

This latest repeal effort is worse than the last one. GOP needs to grow up and start acting like responsible adults and work with Democrats and medical professionals and FIX what needs to be repaired with ACA.

NO ONE, except 50 (plus the VP vote) greedy, self-serving Republican senators wants the Graham Cassidy repeal. GOP needs to stop putting party and donors over Country and do what's right for the American people.

This act is a cruel abomination that will put millions of American's lives through the country in jeopardy. DON'T DO THIS!

JUDITH SMITH
AKLAND, CA 94601

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elizabeth Shephardson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

This bill is an outrage. Block grants to Stat

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Mynatt [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Mary Mynatt
Grove City, Ohio

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ann Fontaine [REDACTED] ✉
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment on Cassidy-Graham health bill

The cost of this bill will be larger than anything we can envision. People will not stop getting sick or injured - they will just cost more for not getting prompt care.

Please fix the ACA and stop this attack on the health of our communities.

Thanks

The Rev. Ann Fontaine

--

The Rev. Ann Fontaine
[REDACTED]
Cannon Beach OR 97110

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: linda clark [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:58 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I protest the passage of the Graham-Cassidy health care bill. With the block grants to states there will be 50 different health care programs & states won't be able to meet the costs of their people. Pre-existing conditions & costs to Seniors will rise so dramatically they will not get the health care they need & will die earlier even when left to states. Insurance companies will have the final word. Bad bill all the way around.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tali Ann Katz [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy Graham Bill

The Cassidy Graham Bill is an abomination opposed by prominent Medical and Health Organizations throughout the US including insurance companies. Are you listening? Do you care about the horrendous harm that will result from this Bill? As a Florida resident, I hope that the Republican representatives of Florida and throughout the US will think more seriously about their constituents who are against the repeal of Obamacare, improve it yes. Trying to replace and repeal will severely harm millions of people and it clearly demonstrates that this Republican Party does not represent nor care about the American people they represent, rather their concern is blindly ignoring the people they represent in favor of pushing a Partisan agenda through the Senate only because it was a campaign pledge not for any improvement of the Health Care System.

Would you like this system to give coverage to your family? What if you or your child had a pre-existing condition that could be in jeopardy for affordable coverage?

Lastly, rushing this through before it can actually be analyzed by CBO is completely irresponsible.

If you truly believe America comes first as this President espouses than, Do the Right Thing for America, do not allow this Bill to move forward.

Tali Katz
Lake Worth Florida

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kilkelly, Marge (King)
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:30 PM
To: Lisa Wesel
Cc: gchcomments; Smith, Edie (King); Kezer, Gail (King)
Subject: Re: Statement for the Record for the Graham-Cassidy hearing Sept. 25, 2017

Thanks Lisa, I am so sorry for all the stress that this situation has already caused. I find it so frustrating that the people tossing these proposals around have no idea or just don't care about what they have caused. Hang tough, as you always have...we will weather this storm because of all the good work of folks like you. Thanks so much! MLK

Marge Kilkelly
Senior Policy Advisor
Senator Angus King Jr.
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

> On Sep 22, 2017, at 4:34 PM, Lisa Wesel [REDACTED] wrote:

>

> Thanks, Marge.

>

> I was at the Common Ground Fair today, promoting Question 2 to expand Medicaid in Maine (saw Chellie Pingree there), but all anyone could talk about was Graham-Cassidy. People are really scared of this, for a lot of different reasons. The truth is, it is dangerous for a lot of different reasons. I understand that Sen. King has already said he will not support it, for which I am very grateful. Senators McCain and Paul have done the same. It literally is down to Susan Collins. I hope she does the right thing; I can't stand to lose any more sleep.

>

> Best,

> Lisa

>

>> On Sep 21, 2017, at 11:33 PM, Kilkelly, Marge (King) [REDACTED] wrote:

>>

>> Thank you Lisa! Well said..MLK

>>

>> Marge Kilkelly

>> Senior Policy Advisor

>> Senator Angus King Jr.

>> [REDACTED]

>> Sent from my iPad

>>

>>> On Sep 21, 2017, at 11:12 PM, Lisa Wesel [REDACTED] wrote:

>>>

>>> To the Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

>>>

>>> I am writing to express my deep opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Bill currently under consideration. As a cancer survivor and the mother of an adult child with physical and intellectual disabilities, it would be detrimental to my family on many levels.

>>>

>>> First, the bill eliminates protections for people with pre-existing conditions. That's me. I survived cancer; I don't think I should be punished for it. Why would you do that? And my daughter, Lidia, was born with a rare genetic disorder called Dup15q (isodicentric chromosome 15), which causes intellectual disabilities and epilepsy. Epilepsy is also a pre-existing condition. Does she deserve to be punished for that?

>>>

>>> The bill also removes the requirement that insurance policies cover prescription medications. Lidia takes several medications to control her seizures; she's one of the lucky ones in that her seizures are very well controlled. Without these costly medications, however, she would suffer multiple seizures daily, until they cause brain damage and eventually kill her. It's really that simple. Why would you do that?

>>>

>>> As for Lidia's quality of life, the community-based services that give her life meaning are funded by Medicaid, which we must NOT reduce or transfer to a block grant program. She has a job coach, which allows her to work in a nursing home, where she earns money and where she brings a great deal of joy to the residents. She had volunteered there for years, and when she graduated from high school, the administrators were anxious to hire her for a paid position. She also participates in a day program in an artists studio, where she is learning valuable skills, making beautiful items to sell, and developing friendships in the community. Someday, when my husband and I are no longer alive, Medicaid will pay for my daughter to live in a supported home in the community. She cannot survive on her own, but with a little support, she can live a productive, happy and meaningful life. Why would you take that away from her?

>>>

>>> The claim that no one would lose their health coverage under this bill is SIMPLY NOT TRUE. People will lose their health coverage, meaning that people will lose their healthCARE, meaning that people will suffer and die. Once my daughter turns 26, she will no longer be covered under our health insurance and will rely solely on Medicaid. If you cut that, too, Lidia won't have a chance.

>>>

>>> Why would you do that?

>>>

>>> Sincerely,

>>>

>>> Lisa Wesel

>>> Bowdoinham, Maine

>>> [REDACTED]

>

>

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

Eliminates critical consumer protections.

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

Lacks transparency and opportunity for meaningful input.

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

I strongly encourage shelving the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal and returning to "regular order," as requested by many members of the Senate and supported by the American public. This would provide the opportunity for stakeholders, including industry experts, providers, consumers and state policymakers to weigh in

Respectfully,
Linda Bronstein


West Hartford, CT 06107

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Terri Kelly [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No on Graham-Cassidy

My family relies on quality affordable health care. Every member of my family works hard and is responsible and patriotic. There are times we need to use services only available to us through the Affordable Care Act, for pre-existing illnesses contracted through no fault of our own. Because of this I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bi-partisan approach to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Terri Kelly
Portland, Oregon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sue Taylor [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA repeal and replace

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.

I am currently receiving breast cancer treatments. I received the diagnosis 2 months after running a marathon and I am also a triathlete. I didn't do anything to "deserve" this as I live a very healthy lifestyle. However, I am one of the lucky who has health coverage. I spend much time thinking of those who are in my position without coverage. My heart goes out to those not so fortunate and it is my belief that America is too great a country to deny medical coverage to anyone.

The Graham/Cassidy act is NOT the way forward.

Susan Taylor
[REDACTED]

Palo Alto. CA. 94306

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michele Davis <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:19 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

....
Because it hurts the working poor and the elderly and children people who makes just above the poverty line will suffer from this and this health bill will also hurt the bottom line because people who are sick but have no choice but to to work we do their jobs poorly because they are ill if you have a healthy workforce then you profits will go up and less turn over.

Michele Davis

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Crystal Miller [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Save Obamacare

To whom it may concern,

I am against this new bill. I believe Trump is obsessed with Obama and anything that's attached to Obama he is trying to get rid of it, not realizing the consequences that comes of his actions. To be honest, I feel that the Republicans could do better with a new Presidential candidate. Trump is hot headed and irrational. This is the first time in history that I'm actually embarrassed by a President in office. Some things about Obama Care I don't agree with, but I feel we can fix it, instead of getting rid of it completely. Don't demolish Obamacare, improve it. Thank you for your time. Sincerely a American citizen.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: diane kimura [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:17 PM
To: gchcomments

Sent from my iPad Please take a moment this weekend to submit public testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing.

Email: GCHcomments@finance.senate.gov

Submit by 1pm EST/10am PST Monday 9/25.

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

Sincerely, [Diane Kimura]

[Los Angeles , Ca.]

Note: Graham-Cassidy appears to be a last-ditch effort to repeal the ACA. After September 30, 2017, the Senate will need 60 votes to repeal it, not 51. Their urgency is real. Use your voice today. Copy and paste the template above into a new email and be heard.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Rizzi [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Dear US SENATORS

This is long but worth it.

As a highly educated affluent American from New York I find it disgraceful that any senator would vote yes on this bill. I'm not all left or right I'm right in the center politically. I've voted for both parties in the same election.

You have senators who are willing to vote yes just to repeal and undo something from obama just because, They have admitted they can come up with dozens if not hundreds of reasons why it should not be considered but will vote yes anyway.

This is not governing for the people. I think it's clear that the minority of the population has the majority in house, senate and of course the White House. That's how politics goes. For 200 years we've always seemed to use compromise to get work done.

Never in all these years has there been such hatred and disgust in this country

To vote for a bill that does not protect for preexisting conditions is disgusting. Let's be clear this bill does not. It has vague language with no definition. This will allow insurers to go back to the old days.

Before april 2016 I paid into the healthcare system as a very healthy younger American under 45.

After having my beautiful baby girl 4/25/16 I was so happy. I was 42. A few months later I woke up in so much pain I could not move. It was diagnosed that I have lupus which was brought on by the massive estrogen change during pregnancy. In my case it presents itself as rheumatoid arthritis, my condition is under control and costs my insurance company 3600 the past year. I paid 14,600 last year and will pay 18,000 this year for insurance. They are making a profit. This price per year sucks but at least I know they have to cover me and the others on this plan pay the same. I'm a self employed CPA not working at a "w2" job. Its just me. I was on the individual exchange for awhile. I started another business with my sister so we are a big market of 2 now for insurance.

Before the ACA not one insurance company would offer my self employed 1 person self insurance. When I left my corporate job in 2013 at least I had the ACA and was able to get insurance after cobra expired.

Not one insurance company would offer insurance to my 2 employee business either. Only because of the ACA do they offer small group to 2 people employers.

This will go away with this bill in many states.

This bill will leave 20 to 30 million people without insurance. This is not reducing government this is bad for America. The ultimate cost of taking care of the uninsured contributes to increasing medical costs and contribute to higher premiums.

This will lead to more people needing Medicaid which you have decimated with this bill. Ultimately people will just suffer and die.

The effect of the reduced Medicaid on the elderly is horrific. Long term care is not part of Medicare and the long term care insurance is unaffordable for most Americans. Especially most of the presidents base whom are blue collar Americans.

Medicaid pays for nursing homes. A large percentage of Medicaid money is used for this purpose.

Medicaid pays for rehab. Last time I checked opioids were a huge problem in this country. The block grants will decimate Medicaid and reduce access to rehab.

It will also reduce access to mental health services.

What are you thinking with block grants. It's just cruel to the poor.

With the super pro life position of this administration I would figure you'd expand Medicaid with all the babies everybody wants born to the poor and to teenagers and to the women who's male counterpart leaves when they don't want to be a dad.

Who will help these people with healthcare. Single moms, teen moms, the elderly, the disabled, people likely to have low income and no access to healthcare.

It's called Medicaid. Without it they all die.

To defund planned parenthood is a disgrace. You already know that no federal funds cannot be used for abortions.

When I was a young adult planned parenthood is all I had for annual pelvic exams and Pap smears, birth control if I wanted it. It's all I had. They charged me 15.00 for the visit.

So many women use planned parenthood for healthcare beyond abortions.

If men could have babies or get pregnant or know what it was like to be the woman we would never be having this debate.

Are you defunding vasectomies or defunding viagra ? How about limiting access to prostate screenings other than Medicaid cuts. No you're not.

But your always after women's health.

Lifetime caps will be back on insurance. The ACA saved my moms life.

Her bills were 2 million dollars and the insurance had to pay.

Years ago she'd be dead and they would not have paid. They would not even have approved her high risk surgery.

The rules of the ACA saved her life.

I beg all of you to vote no and work together both parties to fix the healthcare problem; and it can be done. Don't push a cruel bill through that hurts millions of Americans and leaves millions without insurance and access to healthcare.

For once do the right thing. Vote no!!! Then come together to fix healthcare for all of America. All of us.

Compromise is key. Give and take. Both sides have to give up something and get something. It's the only way.

Very truly yours,

Rizzi family
Long Island, NY

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anita Somani [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Portman, Casework (Portman)
Subject: Vote NO on the Graham Cassidy Health Care Bill

As an Ob/Gyn physician practicing in Ohio I can assure you there is nothing positive about the Graham Cassidy Health Care Bill.

By taking away provisions in the ACA it allows insurers to opt out of providing essential health benefits which include maternity care, pediatric services, hospitalization and mental health care.

Block grants would affect the care people receive depending on what state they live in and pre-existing conditions could fall in to high risk pools and make those people uninsurable. Funding would expire in 2027 ending federal help to states.

Please think about the health of the United States and work to improve the ACA instead of trying to pass a bill that would hurt all of us.

Sincerely, Anita Somani MD
Comprehensive Women's Care, Inc.
Leaders in Minimally Invasive Surgery
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: P J [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: "Trumpcare"

Dear Senators:

Collectively, the citizens of the US spend more per capita, by far, on healthcare than any other industrialized nation and we still fail to provide healthcare for the entire populace. The obvious difference in the dollars we spend and the dollars the other countries spend is the huge line item that represents profit. For people to profit from the health woes and misery of others is the most despicable immorality. Profit has become the driving force behind the delivery of a basic human necessity. This is capitalism run amok and it is Congress' duty, as the country's regulator of commerce, to relieve the citizen's burden of providing profit in exchange for their collective well-being.

I urge the senate finance committee, and all members of Congress, to vote against the "Trumpcare" bill and against all legislation that seeks to bolster this immoral system and, instead, to seek to ameliorate the healthcare plight of the American people.

Sincerely,

Paula Marcy

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pam Freshney [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: How This Citizen Might Fare If ...

Last year I retired after 40 years in the Louisiana public schools. My husband is a carpenter, not yet retired. We have always had insurance through my job, and it has gotten more and more expensive every year. We scrape by close to the edge. Just being in our sixties makes us two pre-existing conditions, though! I take medication daily for hypothyroidism, blood pressure, pre-diabetes and atrial afib. (Despite all that, I feel pretty great, exercise daily and enjoy.) Until now. We will go broke and/or die without care if this bill passes. My fellow teacher, whose young daughter has cancer, will surely drown in debt or have to stop her care.

This Graham-Cassidy-TrumpCare bill is disastrous for me and for everyone I know. My insurance premiums, deductibles, and pharmaceuticals could increase beyond my reach since the bill provides no guarantees that they won't. There's no "free choice and individual competition in a free market" in this. Making sure that there are level playing fields for consumers with insurance and pharmaceutical companies IS THE JOB OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

This bill shirks that responsibility and instead gives politically motivated "block grants" of much less money to individual states to decide, like the Civil War's states' rights. My state, Louisiana, is already having trouble affording basic infrastructure, education, or pollution and hurricane clean-up. This bill could well be the coup de grace for us, which, I guess, is the Republicans' point: we are to be punished for having too many poor and black people and for using OUR TAX MONEY to provide Medicaid for thousands. This bill is very bad for my community and my state. It's bad for most states. How many people will be left without coverage under this plan? (THAT IS YOUR JOB: FIND OUT AND MAKE A PLAN THAT WORKS.)

Do you KNOW how many children and old people and women and workers now have insurance and care they never had before because of ACA? (THAT'S YOUR JOB: FIND OUT). It's a lot in my town. And teen pregnancies are WAY down, as are abortions. Those numbers will rise again if this bill passes. AIDS and opioid addiction are huge problems in Louisiana and other states, but this bill just throws those problems back to states. THESE PROBLEMS NEED FEDERAL, NATIONWIDE INTERVENTION. I do know that the AMA, the AARP, the American Cancer Society, the American Pediatric Society and many many more have done some research and have declared this bill unworkable. I believe them more than I believe Republicans in Congress or Mr. Trump right now. No offense is intended; I just keep my sanity by checking sources.

Worst of all is that I have been teaching students for years that the U.S. government cares about their lives, their health, their safety nets. Now I am learning that our guys in Washington seem only to care about being able to give big tax breaks to very wealthy people. Our legislators who circumvent all sensible true fact-finding, discussion, debate, or deliberation are REFUSING TO DO THEIR WORK WITH TRANSPARENCY AND INTEGRITY. They believe instead, I suppose, a demagogue who may or may not have won a certainly tainted election, repeating what he says without THINKING or getting the real answers as they are paid and elected to do. And these same legislators refuse to investigate or address these election issues with integrity and non-partisanship., instead worrying only about how to get their hugest donors more money in tax breaks and broken regulations from our care. (Plus, SHOULDN'T THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE CARE ABOUT CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND BREACHES OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL EMOLUMENTS CLAUSE, especially now that we no longer have a Department of Ethics?) These perversions are NOT promises I want my government to keep. This bill makes me ashamed of the U.S. and unable to answer the earnest questions of my students and children.

This bill is dangerous to our country's health, people's lives, our economy, our legislative process. If it passes, I and many like me will become bankrupt and/or suffer and die without care just cause we lived and voted here. That's not America the great..

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kelsey Koch [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My brother was diagnosed with Type I diabetes at age 12, an incurable disease he did nothing to cause (as opposed to Type II, which is a result of dietary choices). He requires multiple medications, frequent specialty doctor visits, occasional hospital stays, and daily injections of expensive insulin. Because of the ACA, he can remain on my parents' insurance until he's 26. After that, he will get insurance through the ACA. There's no way he can possibly afford these medical necessities without the ACA. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Health insurance needs to become more accessible; please don't drag us backwards. We already have one of the worst and most expensive health insurance systems among all other developed nations. Let's improve the ACA and and move forwards, not backwards.

Sincerely, Kelsey Koch

Bloomington, Minnesota

--

Kelsey Koch

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: B.T [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please pick country over party

Why do you feel the need to push something through that is not being supported in a bipartisan manner? How do you sleep at night knowing you have better healthcare coverage than what you are taking away from many people? Yes, the ACA needs to be tweaked but do that instead of crashing 1/6th of the economy...unless you need the money you are taking from healthcare to fund your tax cuts for people that can afford health insurance. Please reconsider your decision.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Phil Reardon [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition of Graham-Cassidy
Attachments: Letter to Representatives .pdf

To whom it may concern:

I am deeply troubled by the proposed Graham Cassidy legislation. I wish to express my opposition, as I am the parent of a child with a chronic illness. She is 3 years old, and I fear what her life may look like with lifetime caps on care, waivers for pre-existing condition protection, and other patient unfriendly policies as proposed in Graham Cassidy. For details on my daughter story at her struggle with systemic juvenile idiopathic arthritis (Still's disease) please see the attachment.

The Medicaid expansion and the Obamacare regulations protecting her coverage were instrumental in her getting diagnosed and on the proper path to treatment in a life-threatening condition. If Graham Cassidy was in a fact when my daughter was first diagnosed, she may not be with us today. Please reconsider this horrible legislation.

Phil Reardon
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Ann Fleming [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

I strongly oppose this bill. Here are some of my reasons. This bill was written with no input from many interested parties, e.g., AMA, American Hospital Assn., et al. It has not received a CBO score because it is being rushed through. As far as I know, it will result in fewer persons being insured and at greater cost for many. There is no firm commitment to pre-existing conditional coverage; this will be very hurtful to the diabetic members of my family. Lack of Medicaid expansion in my state has contributed to a loss of care and closure of small hospitals and clinics. Block grants without required standards simply make medical care a football subject to the politics of each state; in my state the governor would most likely managed to use grant funds to plug holes in the general fund. Finally, any bill that cuts people from insurance rolls and is unaffordable does not serve the common good and is immoral. Mary Ann Fleming, [REDACTED]
Manhattan KS 66502

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patricia Kuusisto [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham Cassidy Bill

My family, like man, relies on affordable health care.
The proposed Graham -Cassidy bill does not go far enough to support this

We need a bipartisan group
that addresses the issues of Medicaid, pre existing conditions, and disabilities.
For these reason I oppose the current bill being presented.

I want the members of congress to take more time and create a viable ACA that works for all Americans .
It is unacceptable to repeal and replace what we have until it becomes, health care for all of us. It is our Right, not a
privilege for some

Patricia Kuusisto
NY 10549
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Konnie Wolfinger Nordyke <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

I rely on quality, affordable health care. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill. My story with pre-existing conditions is that I, now being a senior citizen, was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in my late 50's and cannot afford to have coverage denied due to something that is totally out of my control. I also have a strict budget which cannot be stretched much further with unknown expenses stemming from unknown health benefits. I would very much like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Konstance W. Nordyke
Cockeysville, Maryland 21030

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Samantha Elyse [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

We need a single payer healthcare system and we need it now. The cheapest available plan for my family with two small kids is \$800 a month which we could never afford (80 percent of our income goes to rent and the rest goes to paying for food). For some reason our children's Chip policies were canceled and they have no insurance. We had to go to the health department for their shots and I still don't know where we can take them to get a checkup since every office I've called only deals with insured patients. I have chronic conditions for which I must see a doctor regularly therefore I am paying hundreds out of pocket for it yet it is still less costly than insurance. We struggle all the time, even though we're working all the time. We haven't taken a single vacation all year. We skip meals some days and can never afford to do anything fun as a family or throw gatherings with relatives and friends. This isn't living. If we had insurance and only had to pay a little more in taxes for it so everyone could have it, life would be a great deal easier and far less miserable. It would save us at least 300 dollars every month. Not much, but it's a start. We can get to slave wages later, but as far as healthcare goes, let me just say that my life and my husband's life will be shorter and harder if nothing is done soon. People have died and are dying because they can't get decent coverage or there's so much bureaucratic nonsense that takes away precious time they could have used to fight or treat their illnesses. We can't wait any more. Look to the countries that have implemented this model successfully and follow their lead, I beg you. Our lives are in your hands.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rachel Kutzley <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposing the Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy health care bill, which will strip millions of Americans of their health care coverage and increase costs for everyone. I also oppose the way this bill has been brought for consideration, with no expert hearings, no public debate or feedback, no CBO score, and no bipartisan input.

My family depends on benefits created by the Affordable Care Act, including free preventative care and vaccines for our children. My maternity care for both children was covered, as well as the breastpump I currently use to provide breast milk for my baby now that I've returned to work. We all have pre-existing conditions that would make insurance unaffordable or unobtainable if we go back to the "bad old days" when insurers could charge more or deny coverage entirely.

Finally, I strongly support the expansion of Medicaid and the reproductive health care, including birth control, provided under the ACA.

For the good of my family and the millions of Americans who have benefited from the ACA, I ask you to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Thank you,
Rachel Kutzley
[REDACTED]
Arlington VA 22206
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: James Cornelison <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please preserve healthcare

Hi,

My family and I rely immensely on the healthcare bill in place- it has been both affordable and effective for us. I was born with severe asthma and have suffered a serious motor vehicle accident. Other members of my family have conditions they need care for, like most of us do. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

James Cornelison
Los Angeles, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Trisha M. Mayhorn <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Graham Cassidy
From: "Trisha M. Mayhorn" <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017, 9:08 PM
To: gcacomments@finance.senate.gov
CC:

Dear US Senate,

The Graham Cassidy bill will be disastrous for vulnerable children and others. I urge you not to go forward with it and to work in a cooperative way with all senators to fix problems with the Affordable Care Act.

Concerned American,

Trisha Mayhorn
[REDACTED]
New Albany, Ohio 43054

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christine Swint <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

To the US Senate:

I cannot understand why you are holding a vote on the Graham-Cassidy bill. All major medical groups have come out against it. All fifty state Medicare administrators have come out against it. The insurance industry is against it.

It has been reported that many GOP senators are trying to repeal the ACA so that big money donors such as the Koch brothers will finance their re-election campaigns. This is the very definition of corruption.

HHS Tom Price has been chartering \$25,000 jets to fly from D.C. to Philadelphia. And you claim that the US can't continue to fund Medicaid and Social Security? These are funds American taxpayers have been paying into for decades.

Do what it takes to fix Obamacare and make sure that all Americans have access to adequate healthcare. You are public servants, answerable to the people, not a handful of wealthy donors.

I sign this letter with moral outrage.

Christine Swint

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sherri Gunderson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:30 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

As a Citizen of the USA, I am deeply concerned about the impact this Bill would have on my life, the life of my friends, neighbors, and fellow citizens as a whole. This Bill does not guarantee that more people will receive the healthcare they need and deserve at a cost they can afford. If anything, it is more likely that a vast amount of people will be priced out of having any healthcare at all. While no one believes ACA is a perfect Law, it IS currently saving lives. It is time to, instead of repealing ACA, focus on improving ACA OR finally following the lead of our allied nations and provide guaranteed healthcare for all citizens no matter their ability to pay.

The citizens of the USA are watching and remembering. Please do what is right by us.

Sherri Gunderson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: June Oliverson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:30 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

As a nurse for 50 years I have seen the devastation of sick people who do not have the resources to pay for their care. You can balance defense with caring for your constituents. Do the right thing and fix the ACA which the majority of Americans want. Most healthcare groups oppose your new law. It's time to move on.

Sincerely
June Oliverson
32224

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margaret Goldberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fix the ACA

As a citizen of the great country and a Nurse, I strongly oppose the attempts to repeal the ACA without a credible replacement! This latest iteration is the worst yet.

If Senators are serious about reforming the Healthcare System- 1/6th of the economy, they need to figure out a way for more people to have access to care, not fewer.

Trying to make the States responsible for funding the care of the most vulnerable is a recipe for failure and will lead to suffering and death for millions of Americans. Senators should want everyone in our country to have access to the excellent care that they enjoy themselves. Millionaires don't need tax cuts! They need to pull together with the rest of society and make our country work for everyone! We are lucky to be Americans! Let's take care of each other. Stop this silliness and get to work.

All lawmakers need to come to the table and fix the problems with our current system. The best idea I have heard yet is Medicare for people over 55 and mandatory private insurance for everyone else.

Say no the Graham-Cassidy!

Mara

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christine Scott [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:54 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy

Please do not vote for this hideous bill

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: A Jeffs [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment

We need to do more to keep this administration from committing second hand genocide on the old and disabled via the new healthcare bill. This country I defended and became permanently disabled over stands to repel dictatorship, yet day after day more similarities are being drawn to show the GOP is exactly that.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jane [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham- Cassidy bill

Sirs and Madams:

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Without the wonderful Medicaid program in Connecticut we would never have been able to care for my 102 year old mother as she has been. Having used up all of her assets, we needed to apply for Medicaid for her to cover the cost of 24/7 home care. It has been a blessing. She was recently moved to a high quality nursing home receiving excellent care again supported by Medicaid funds. She is so fortunate to be living in Connecticut which has a program that provides the elderly to remain in their homes for as long as possible.

Sincerely,
Jane Roth

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Harris <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:52 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

The proposed healthcare bill is a sadly veiled political move that will take away healthcare for many citizens. People do not plan to have diabetes, cancer, heart disease and other illnesses or injuries. When Sarah Palin spoke of death panels, this is really what she was referring to. People with money will be able to afford their care. Those who cannot afford coverage will either flock to the over burdened ERs as their primary care and/or die because they can't afford treatments.

A Federalist approach in a transient society is not realistic. People are angry. Their healthcare has become a political volleyball. A bipartisan approach that focuses on the good of your tax payers rather than next term's electability is humane. Investing in your citizens can only yield positive results.

Karen
Zip 85704

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tom Hoeg [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Are you kidding?

To whom it may concern:

I am 56 and a pre-existing phenomenon. I am a survivor of squamous cell carcinoma that spread to two nodes in my neck. I had radical surgery, grueling radiation, and a terrible case of anxiety and depression. If I did not have access to health care and insurance I would be dead. I cannot imagine someone wondering where to turn when they found that lump on their neck if they did not have the resources that I was fortunate enough to have through my employer. I have no saliva, cramps in my neck, and I could not be happier. I made it as everyone in my position before and after should and should with medical care that does not bankrupt them. That was 16 years ago. To further indicate the importance of Health Care and Education, this was a result of HPV.

So if you do not have access to health care and have children what do you do about Gardasil to avoid going through what I did? Wing it? Are you kidding? Until you have had an experience you cannot begin to fathom what it would be like struggling to find medical help when you are facing death. Six and ½ hours of surgery, four days in the hospital, and upon recovery 7 consecutive weeks of radiation. What if I was unable to afford insurance, had no coverage, and was left to suffer. If it is about thinning the herd than say it.

Fast forward.....I am now 9 months out from total shoulder replacement. I was in dire pain admittedly from 40 years of competitive sports. I had the shoulder of an 80 year old man and zero cartilage. Again, I was able to go to a doctor and live off cortisone shots for two years. Finally, I caved and resorted to surgery. My doctor was great and I am again able to play and throw. I am fortunate because I cannot see living through the pain and particularly being unable to throw and play sports. Again, if I had not had access to insurance where would I be? This was not elective and the only option other than dealing with perpetual pain for the long haul. I can only envision resorting to the streets for pain relief and we are seeing where that is going.

What are people thinking?

Oh yeah....mohs surgery for basal cell removal, several dental procedures as a result of no saliva, meniscus surgery on my knee that failed, and looking forward to removal of bone spurs in my toes.

Please strike down any option that provokes removing people from insurance and makes pre-existing conditions an issue.

Tom Hoeg

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Feder [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:52 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: PLEASE vote no

I live in Pa, I work in healthcare and I always vote. The latest effort to repeal the ACA in no better, and maybe worse, than all the others. It would take away access to healthcare services to many millions of people, including my patients, neighbors, family and friends. Maybe I'll rely on it someday, and maybe you?None of us knows what lies ahead in life's road.
The ACA can be made better, but it should not be blindly dismantled. Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sally Stuckey [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:52 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy Graham

I am opposed to the Cassidy Graham bill which will defund essential services and gradually eliminate government subsidies for Medicaid. This administration's efforts to damage the ACA are unfortunately already working. Please resume the bipartisan effort to fix what is wrong with ACA instead of this repeal. I am one of millions who will be unable to afford my healthcare insurance due to pre-existing conditions and my age. This is unacceptable in a country such as ours.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: John Nica [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

PLEASE PLEASE. Do not bring back the days when we become uninsurable or insurable but at high cost due to pre exist condition. Paying over 1000.00 per month for individual insurance with a deductible of 5000 amounts to 17000 per year or more depending on what pre existing condition one may have. This is unaffordable. This is also one of the best scenarios. Wait, work together and consider your employers needs not the need just to repeal and replace to keep a bad promise. We were told this would be good for all, no not all. Please. Thank you

John N

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cris Katogiritis [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy "Healthcare" bill - no!

I am a full time employed individual with a healthcare plan through my employer. Lucky for me, my family including my husband and daughter have healthcare.

My daughter, now in her 3rd year of college and still covered under my plan is able to get family planning care and medical care for depression and is able to see a doctor regularly whenever she needs to.

Her best friend since 4th grade, however, works two part time jobs. Her parents could only afford to send her to college for one year and they don't have healthcare and so neither does she. She suffers from depression (like almost everyone) and has no access to healthcare.

All my daughter's friends fall into these two categories. Their parents can help them attend college and have healthcare or they don't have either.

This is not right. At least when I was younger, I could get student loans. I am still paying them off 15 years after graduation, but at least they helped me get a good job. When I was younger, I could afford a health care policy without being employed. Not true anymore.

I don't understand why we are still debating in 2017 whether everyone should have access to affordable healthcare. We give kids a "free public education" but don't care if they have food when they're at school. We no longer provide technical training for kids in high school nor do we help them attend college. Our president says "America First" but what does that even mean when people can't afford healthy food, can't afford medical care, can't afford education.

Please vote no for Graham Cassidy.

Respectfully yours,
Crisinda Katogiritis, Esq.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No CBO - no vote

Be conservative. How will this affect budget? No CBO score? No vote. No bipartisan deal? No vote.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maggie Voelker <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:46 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy health bill: nothing but harm in every way!

My Twitter Comments to: gchcomments@finance.senate.gov
include: self-serving, immoral, unethical, harmful, deadly. Do better! Health care for all!

Additional comments:

The bill appears to be financially crippling to states and individuals alike. Who are you really serving?

Do better! Cooperate with Democrats. Create a bipartisan bill that provides health care for all. Serve all Americans. When everyone wins, we all win.

Bring the USA into the 21st C. Show leadership, compassion and common sense. Do better!

Sincerely,
Maggie Voelker
U.S. Citizen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sharp1009 [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:46 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fwd: Healthcare

Sent from Cindy's iPhone
Cindy Sharp 🐾

Begin forwarded message:

From: Sharp1009 [REDACTED]
Date: September 22, 2017 at 7:59:59 PM CDT
To: gchcomments@finance.senate.gov
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)

From: Judy L Miller [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:46 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Comments

Good morning,

I'm am writing to you to express my unhappiness with the proposed Graham Cassidy Bill, repealing the ACA. I DO NOT support repealing the ACA & thus do not support anyone in the Senate who votes for this terrible bill.

ACA may not be perfect, however, the American people demand a bipartisan effort to repair and improve the ACA, rather than a GOP partisan effort to decimate healthcare for millions of Americans.

The single minded mission to dismantle healthcare is both misguided and continues to prove that the only goal is to give tax breaks for the rich.

Healthcare is a human right, an American right & repealing the ACA is a gigantic step in the absolute WRONG direction.

I urge the Senate to pull the Graham Cassidy bill, no vote & instead, work together in a bipartisan effort to improve the ACA. Please protect our healthcare.

Thank you.

Regards,

Judy L Miller

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Peter S. Cohl [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:45 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GRAHAM-CASSIDY COMMENT

Senators,

As a family with genetic disorder and multiple pre-existing conditions, we lost everything when congress failed to extend the COBRA subsidy in 2010.

https://usatoday30.usatoday.com/money/industries/health/2010-08-18-cobra18_CV_N.htm

Our entire savings, credit card lines, wedding rings, storage space, everything, went to pay for medical bills and medications until we could no longer pay our rent. Without Medicaid under ACA, I don't know what we would do.

FIX the ACA, don't end it.

Respectfully,
The Cohl Family

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: John Heckman [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:45 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy HCB

This political piece of garbage will destroy the lives of millions of people in need of healthcare and kill thousands for ego and power. The signers of this bill and anyone who votes yes will be ousted from office and shamed. My wife is alive and well, as best as good be, with intense medical help she received because of the ACA. Without that she would possibly be restricted to her home. She represents thousands of people who have benefited from the existing healthcare system. This new bill will destroy this confidence and comfort people now enjoy knowing their preexisting conditions and catastrophic illness will be covered. The sadists that vote for this bill if religious should fear the wrath of hell! We are sick and tired of money and greed controlling our politics, and our lives. The government is for all the people, but politicians today protect the interests of their large contributors at any cost. They are attempting to dumb down America but America is fighting back. Politicians should note the resistance of this healthcare bill, and know we will resist bills that are not fair and just. To close, end this racist attempt at justification and retribution for a President you, mostly if not all Republicans, fought against for eight years. Do your jobs, put all people of this country in front of money, power, hate and greed.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jack <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:43 AM
To: gchcommehts
Subject: Graham Cassidy Legislation:

Senate Finance Committee:

I am 100% against passage of the Graham Cassidy legislation! It is important to vote NO ! The bill is not only a disaster for those requiring ACA, Medicare or any other form of societal medical care or support but the general public as well.

As information is released about the legislation, it is simply a means to create the following:

- 1) Tax breaks for rich and corporations
- 2) Financially destroy average and poor citizens in this nation, while making insurance, medical and pharmacological industries 'super-rich'
- 3) Generate a License to Murder people based upon issues that may or may not be of their own making
- 4) Move the United States one step closer to being a wealthy only country; all others are purely slaves and they shall be treated worse than a dog.

Be an American for once and not part of a political scheme ! Vote NO on Graham/Cassidy !

Jack Fiefer



Virus-free. www.avg.com

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ruth Shea [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy health bill

My name is Ruth Shea,

I am from Arizona. I am blessed to work for a company based in Wisconsin that believes in taking care of its employees despite what the republicans that work for Koch want to do. I worry for the elderly. I worry for the disabled adults and children. We are the one country that still treat their elderly like throw aways. Vote no on the graham Cassidy bill. Vote no on the Koch brothers, vote no on the mercers. Protect the people that put you in office. Protect your country.
Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jacque Shayne [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Strongly Oppose Graham-Cassidy bill

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Despite being a health conscious person, I have a pre-existing condition because I developed melanoma in 2006.

I also believe that in our country, basic health care should be a right, rather than a privilege for only the wealthy.

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. Until something better can be agreed upon, we need to keep ACA!

Jacque Shayne
Fallen Angel Arts
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kelly Vaughan Husid [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Amendment - Please vote NO

Dear Senators,

I am writing to urge you to vote against the Graham-Cassidy Amendment. I am particularly disturbed by the possibility that states would be able to obtain waivers which would allow insurance companies to elect not to provide maternity care, emergency care, or protections for people with preexisting conditions, or to allow price discrimination against those who require such benefits. The current statutory language is too broad and undefined to provide protections for those benefits, and to suggest otherwise is patently dishonest. In addition, the framework of the Graham-Cassidy Amendment would result in millions of people losing their health insurance or being priced out of being able to use health insurance. Please consider the people who are relying on you to make decisions that will have a significant impact on their lives. Their lives and health should not be disregarded for the sake of scoring a political victory. Please do not allow this amendment to become law.

Kelly Vaughan Husid

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Diane [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Medicaid cuts

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

These cuts will affect my son directly. He obtained a traumatic brain injury as a result of a car accident which was not his fault. He was a construction worker. He can no longer do this because of physical issues in addition to his brain injury. He has been denied SSDI twice. His Medicaid insurance is his only avenue to the care and medication that he needs[anti-seizure medication; resulting from accident].

I'm sure I am one of many pleading for mercy regarding these cuts. Please do your best.

Thank you, Diane Tilden.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linds Harbach [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

....
It simply does not get close to resolving our healthcare dilemma. In my opinion, we need resolution to the middle class. My premium is larger than my mortgage. Realizing the creation of a one payer system will take years, I'd like to see coverage for pre-Medicare eligible people. I had to resign from my job to care for my elderly mother (to keep her off Medicaid). As a result, my COBRA coverage is ending & my new premium will be triple what I pay for COBRA.

I'd like to see COBRA coverage extending beyond 18 months after leaving a job. Why is there an 18 month limit? I'm paying my former employer for my coverage. Why can it not simply continue?

Bottom line - I am in a position to be forced to sell my home just to pay for healthcare. This is so wrong.

Thank you for reading
Linda Harbach

Linds Harbach

19565
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dona Heller [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy-Graham Health Bill

I am vehemently opposed to the Cassidy-Graham healthcare bill.

Cassidy-Graham is a travesty that will result in a financial disaster (and frequently, bankruptcy) for people with pre-existing conditions. Cassidy-Graham will unduly and unfairly punish the states that have been granted Medicaid expansion. The transfer of funds from the populous states (that provide a disproportionately high share of federal tax dollars) to those states that provide so much less to the federal coffers is outrageous. Yes, the ACA can--and should--be improved. **So do that. But DO NOT PASS CASSIDY-GRAHAM!**

Dona L. Heller

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Andrea Thrasher [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health coverage bill

I am writing about the current Health care bill, Graham Cassidy. Calling it a healthcare bill is kind. I find it frustrating that I and millions of others have to continue to spend our time asking Congress not to destroy our healthcare, jobs, economy, financial wellbeing, and lives.

As I have written my Senators before, I worry every day about my future and the future of this nation - not all of my concerns are healthcare related, but many are. The time I have to write to you about my concerns has to be monopolized by healthcare. There are other things - like net neutrality that would greatly hurt American innovation and jobs, but it won't matter if we devastate our health.

I worry that my healthcare won't be covered. I have chronic conditions. Caps, limits, and exclusions would cripple my ability to be healthy and live.

I work in healthcare, so I worry that I won't have a job anymore. I work as a non-care provider for a large healthcare facility in Ohio. They will not be able to afford non-clinical jobs like mine. Without people like me, front line providers will be saddled with administrative burden. Ohio's economy will be crushed. The largest employer in Cincinnati is the Children's Hospital. Close behind is the adult care system TriHalth. That's only 2. There are several other large systems in Cincinnati, let alone the rest of Ohio.

I worry that I cannot afford to care for my chronic conditions without employer insurance. I worry my employer will cut back our insurance even more because there will no longer be a benchmark set by legislation and they'll try to save money instead of ensuring healthy employees.

I already struggle financially in a different way than my millennial peers because I spend the annual maximum out of pocket expenses on my health care. I have spent the out of pocket max every year and have since I left college over 10 years ago. My healthcare costs would be even higher if I wasn't compliant and keep my conditions managed.

I spend nearly \$200 a month on asthma inhalers, but I pay it because it is important to keep my asthma managed. And, it is cheaper to pay \$200 for preventative care than emergency care. You might be surprised because many assume inhalers are covered by many insurances as preventative. This is partly true. Rescue inhalers that you take when you experience symptoms of difficulty breathing - such as Proventil (the yellow inhalers many people are familiar with) are considered preventative. Daily bronchodilators that are taken to prevent symptoms are not considered preventative.

I am currently living with my mother after selling my house of 12 years for no equity because the market and neighborhood hasn't recovered from the 2008 recession. I am saving for a decent down payment for my next house. I frequently think about the down payment I would have if not for my medical care costs. I worry that thanks to the efforts to repeal and replace the ACA, I might never afford a home or could lose it if I do. I worry that if this bill, or one like it passes, I will never have enough money to live independently because healthcare will be too expensive.

I worry about my friend Aiden who is 12. He was diagnosed as Type 1 Diabetic at 6 years old - in first grade. As a reminder, Type 1 is when the pancreas stops functioning properly, it is not the result of dietary or weight conditions. It is an autoimmune disease. Later that year, his best friend (the other diabetic child at his school) passed away in his sleep. This is not uncommon for Type 1 diabetics. Around 1/20 will pass away in the night because their blood sugar goes too high or too low while asleep. Parents must wake up several times a night to check on their child. Even then, as is the case with Aiden's friend, sleeping is a risk. Aiden has lived the past 5 1/2 years worried that he might die in his sleep too. Insulin pumps and glucose monitors can help monitor highs and lows, but they can also malfunction and cannot be relied upon completely. Pumps can cost around \$15000. Aiden is lucky because of his parents insurance and state & federal block grant funding, he was able to get a pump and monitor. His parents, still had out of pocket costs.

With this healthcare bill, will he be able to get a new one when his pump eventually breaks? Will he be able to afford the insulin? When he grows up, will he be considered a pre-existing condition and either uninsurable or unable to afford insurance? Will he be like many other diabetics (especially prior to the ACA) who cannot afford enough insulin so they stretch out doses or under-dose to save money?

I cannot find any medical organizations and associations that support this bill. It will devastate health, our economy, our state, our citizens. We have made great strides in Ohio and our nation improving care and lowering morbidity and mortality rates. This will set us back. Who knows how long it will take us to recover. Please do the right thing. Do not let this legislation move forward.

Andrea

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

This bill is a disaster for the American people. Congressmen and women have their own health care system and would subject us to less than the standards they have for themselves. This is unacceptable.

This bill would cost the poor more while lining the already deep pockets of insurance companies and their CEOs. It would eliminate the protections for those with pre-existing conditions (people like me) and leave them vulnerable to those same insurance companies who already deny as much as possible in order to enlarge their burgeoning profits and salaries. They would, no doubt, take advantage of the opportunity to charge more for those with pre-existing conditions or refuse to provide coverage altogether.

This bill is not what America wants. The problems with the ACA can be fixed, and to repeal and replace simply because it was promised by some politicians is irresponsible and childish.

We need this bill to fail.

Sincerely,
Cheri Mann

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: GLEN KILTZ [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

Not that Obamacare affects me directly, but I DO support it, and have from the beginning.

I have a movement-related disability at age 58, and I am on Social Security disability, and the medicare that goes with it.

I would be in SERIOUS trouble without Medicare.

I wold NOT have a chance of paying my medical bills and would have to pawn so many of them off on my family, they would run out of resources with which to help me

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Diane [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Medicaid cuts

Please as a parent of someone with disabilities we cannot afford Medicaid cuts. Our children depend on these funds for services as well as medical.

Diane Jones

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patricia K Lopez <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: healthcare

For some reason our USELESS Politicians in Wash. D.C. do NOT understand that we WILL NOT let pre existing condition go !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! we MUST keep that and that is what is having us holding on to ACA !!!! you MUST take the removal of pre existing conditions out of the game, PERIOD !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! no getting rid of pre existing conditions EVER !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! not faded out, or as an added expense, or anything, NOTHING !!!!!!! Leave the pre existing conditions ALONE as it is !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Annie Avery [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Act

Dear Member of the Senate Finance Committee,

I respectfully request for the Senate to go through the regular process, including public hearings, debate, and a full report from the GAO with the Graham-Cassidy Act. Americans deserve to know more about it than we do now. Sometimes it seems you forget us.

Annie Avery
Chicago IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Vicki S Cannon [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No for Graham-Cassidy

This is a time where politics has to put aside and what's best for Americans is put first. We need a bi-partisan Healthcare Bill that cares for our most sick and vulnerable.

We are all just a second away from needing healthcare that we didn't need before. All it takes is a moment that changes a healthy person to a not healthy person. I say this because it appears that people making the decision on the GC Bill don't seem to understand why it all goes into a pool.

Pre-existing Conditions are going to make it impossible for some to get proper care and to have a good life ahead under this proposed GC Bill. How is that good for America???

It shouldn't be about trying to abolish something because you can, it should be about finding a good solution in a bi-partisan way.

Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy.

Vicki S. Cannon

--

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Binder-Le Pape [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham Cassidy Amendment

Dear ladies and gentlemen of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing as the mother of child severely disabled by autism to implore you to vote no on this amendment. I strongly object to it on two fronts:

1) Process: There is no time for a CBO to assess impact. We can only estimate how many people will lose coverage, how much premiums will rise for those with pre-existing conditions, etc. These are important issues that every senator should *want* to know before voting on a bill that will impact millions of their fellow citizens. I am also dismayed by the lack of bi-partisan cooperation on this front. Maybe it makes sense to you, but I assure you that the average US citizen desperately wants to be represented by mature, thoughtful adults who are capable of compromise on important issues.

2) Actual content: In the absence of a CBO score, we are forced to rely on the assessment of apolitical groups representing the medical professions. I have seen dozens that oppose this bill and none that support it. My personal assessment, though I do not profess to be an expert, is that I am horrified by the seeming determination of many in the Republican Party to strip critical health related services to the most vulnerable among us.

Please, it's not too late to do the right thing. Vote no on this bill and launch a real, substantive, bi-partisan effort to improve upon the ACA.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Binder-Le Pape

Sent from iCloud

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Justin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

If passed, the Graham Cassidy bill would have a devastating impact on people, especially those of us with disabilities and pre-existing conditions. Please do not vote for this travesty.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE NO on Graham-Cassidy

This bill would be devastating to people with disabilities and their families, women and children, seniors, low-income Americans, and threaten access to community living, employment opportunities, & educational supports.

Bonnie Seery
Project SEARCH Statewide

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Suzanne Rumsey [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to Graham-Cassidy

Dear Madams and Sirs,

I am writing to state, for the record, my steadfast opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill. This bill is absolutely the most morally and socially bankrupt bill yet put forward in healthcare; the fact that Senator Grassley stated that in spite of its flaws, he would for it anyway (regardless of its impacts) just to "keep a campaign promise" indicates just how morally bereft the Republicans in the Senate have become.

Every member of my family has a pre-existing condition. I have worked for health insurers, and I know that their first priority is NOT the health of their members, but rather the money they make for shareholders, and executives.

This bill is, pure and simple, a method of economic and social Darwinism. Only those with significant economic means will survive. Shameful.

Kind regards,
Suzanne Rumsey
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: tara stepenberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I and members of my family rely on quality affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My 26 year old son has Crohn's disease and his income is low at the moment. Without the ACA mandates he would have NO health care (i am 74 and he cannot be on my policy) and under the new "lack of provisions" his pre-existing condition might mean that he has no health care at all - and not assistance for low-income people (and he has a Masters Degree, so is not a slacker).. As a senior my financial resources are limited. I can currently afford medicare and supplemental ins., but with the proposed system, my supplemental ins may be out of reach.

Is the Graham-Cassidy provision the one you would choose (for you, your family or your children's families?) instead of the plan you have as Congresspeople? (which the tax payers support) - why should we receive less access to good health than you?

Excellent health care, affordable health care FOR ALL (including maternity and women's health support etc.) is what one expects from a nation that is a "world leader". Please do better for the people of this country I WOULD LIKE TO SEE A BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE ACA NOT REPEAL IT.

Thank you
sincerely
tara stepenberg

we are patterns of energy in-formation

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen de Peso [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

First, I ask you to honestly consider, who does this bill serve?

This bill will throw the most vulnerable Americans under the bus, in order to transfer more wealth, and insure more power, to your WEALTHY DONORS.

This bill has the potential for horrific consequences for me, my family, and the majority of your constituents. Why? To fulfill a campaign promise to decimate the legacy, and replace the name of President Obama. POLITICS. EGO.

Second, I ask you, who were you elected to serve?

In your heart, one of you must realize that AMERICANS deserve a THOROUGH, PUBLIC EXAMINATION of the potentially catastrophic ECONOMIC IMPACT of this bill.

In your heart, one of you must understand that AMERICANS deserve a full return to ESTABLISHED PROTOCOL of PUBLIC HEARINGS on any bill that has such far reaching consequences. This bill has the potential to not only impose widespread FINANCIAL HARDSHIP, but will ACTUALLY KILL PEOPLE WHO WILL NOT BE ABLE TO AFFORD HEALTHCARE.

In your heart, someone on this committee surely recognizes that AMERICANS deserve legislation that is based on competent, informed decision making. YOU SHOULD BE GUIDED BY THE PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, AND EXPERTS IN RELATED FIELDS.

AMERICANS DESERVE BETTER.

Karen Depeso, RN, Educator

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nazila Duran [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to Graham Cassidy

Hello,

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

Nazila Shabestari
Disillusioned Voter

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rachael Bauer [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: OPPOSED to Graham-Cassidy

For the same reasons John McCain cannot, in good conscience, vote for Graham-Cassidy, each and every one of you should also be unable to do so.

Without a full review and score from CBO, and without a complete debate on the merits, and amendments as needed, it shouldn't even be up for a vote.

I'm lucky to be a relatively healthy American with healthcare coverage. That shouldn't be something for which one is considered lucky. The ACA has saved the lives of a couple of people in my family without bankrupting them. That's what healthcare is supposed to do. The ACA is imperfect, but it can be improved. Maybe you could work together to improve the system we have rather than trying to burn it down.

Even though, in my view, every health care consumer has a right to an opinion about healthcare coverage or potential changes to it, go ahead and listen to to the actual healthcare experts. They, too, are opposed to Graham-Cassidy.

~Rachael, American citizen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: mary maloney [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

Please do not support this bill. It negatively impacts my daughter., Kathleen. Kathleen has developmental delays and receives life support services from the DDA. If Medicaid is reduced or eliminated, her services will be substantially reduced or eliminated entirely. If that happens, Kathleen will be unable to continue to live independently.

Thank you for supporting Kathleen.

Very truly yours,
mary ann maloney

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Beth_Pearson@markey.senate.gov; Hurt, Nikki (Markey)
Subject: Oppose the Graham Cassidy Bill

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Peter W. Cohen, MD FAPA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David Savige [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

I am writing to oppose the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill, and to strongly encourage all senators to vote against it. It would make health insurance much too expensive for too many people. Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,
David Savige

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dee Schumacher [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Many in my family rely on quality, affordable healthcare. As a result, I oppose Graham-Cassidy. These are people caught between retirement and Medicare, at an age to have accumulated pre-existing conditions or have such a disability that without ACA would have hit a life-time cap. Because of this, I would like to see bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal. it.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Schumacher

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Mullins [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA repeal

As a physician, I see how important affordable access to care impacts health. As a business owner, see the cost of premiums increasing, and know that there needs to be change. This bill is not the way to change. Please vote no, and make the ethical choice here.

Sincerely,
Dr Sarah Mullins M.D.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kristin Lindstrom [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Irresponsible Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

To whom it may concern:

We continue to be appalled by the ongoing Republican effort to repeal the Affordable care Act by any means possible.

The Graham-Cassidy Bill -- or, more appropriate, the Kill Americans Bill -- is staggering in its total disregard for what Americans want and what they need. And what they deserve.

I have a number of pre-existing conditions that no doubt would be tossed on the chopping block were this cynical bill to pass.

Do NOT repeal the Affordable Care Act. STOP trying to lurk around the rules to push this through when it will benefit no one but yourselves and your cronies.

It is time for all 'decent' politicians to pull together with the other side, to debate and work out the terms of a new bill that would actually help people instead of hurt them. SAVE the good parts of the ACA and work on those that need to be improved.

SERVE YOUR COUNTRY for God's sake!!

Kristin and Perry Lindstrom

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Russell Imrie [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

A massive, ill-conceived tax cut funded by a lazy, ineffectual GOP Congressional majority-shifted burden to the majority of Americans is a travesty. Good governance requires fearless bipartisanship and that's what's called for here, not this visionless activism and wealth transfer.

Thank You
Russell Imrie

From my iPhone extraordinaire

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ian Reynolds [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal
Attachments: IReynolds Comments GCHJ Hearing_9-25-17.pdf

Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal Hearing
September 25, 2017
Ian Reynolds (private citizen)
[REDACTED]
Silver Spring, MD 20902

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

I ask the Committee and the Senate to not move forward with a vote on any version of HR 1628 or the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal, which would make profound changes to the health care system.

The proposal does far more harm than good for patients. It significantly cuts federal support for health care programs and will result in millions losing access to services and higher premiums for most people. Every major stakeholder group that has released analysis or made public statements agrees with this general assessment.

Two members of my family rely on federal regulatory protections for people with pre-existing conditions and the individual marketplace subsidies to purchase health insurance. Without these, they would 1) be denied coverage due to medical conditions, as they were before the ACA, and 2) not be able to afford to pay their insurance premiums. Graham-Cassidy offers no guarantee that these protections and subsidies will continue to exist in their current forms, or at all.

I ask the Committee to support a bipartisan approach to address challenges in the individual market and Medicaid. Only an open process that involves both parties and the full range of health care stakeholders can produce long lasting improvements to the system. I strongly oppose a purely partisan approach that subjects 1/6 of the economy and individual patients to drastic negative changes.

Sincerely,
Ian Reynolds

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: chirlyn scroggins [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

It is becoming harder every day to understand many Republican politicians. Not just with respect to healthcare, but with respect to being moral people who act in good conscience. Many, specifically those with great power - Paul Ryan, Mitchel McConnell, for example - have no morals and no conscience about what they inflict on Americans. I think they will lose their political position in their next elections.

We the people. That should mean something. We the people - we the people should not be in a position to lose a child because we have no access to healthcare. We the people should be able to vote during any election - we should not be subjected to gerrymandering, Russian involvement (I never thought I would say those words), our vote should count. No matter what party.

I never thought I would see Americans kowtow to people like the Koch brothers - but here we are. That is the truth of the Graham Cassidy bill. The Kochs said get rid of Obamacare and the Republicans are kissing their ass.

We WILL vote you out. We WILL. Believe it.

Graham Cassidy is an atrocity and the Republicans know it. FIX what we have. FIX IT. Don't repeal it.

VOTE NO. VOTE NO. VOTE NO. VOTE NO. VOTE NO. Or WE WILL VOTE YOU OUT. We will probably vote you out anyway since Russian involvement in our election does not seem to be an issue to you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carolyn CJ Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: affordable health care

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story is, without Medicaid, without the allowing of pre-existing conditions, I would have killed myself because I would not have had access to my medications for depression and panic disorder.

Health care is a huge thing to tackle without input from others. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Carolyn CJ Jones

Resentment and Forgiveness Specialist, Certified Life Coach, Speaker, Retired RN, BSN
Multi-award-winning Author and Photographer, *Opening the Gates of the Heart: A Journey of Healing*

Office: [REDACTED]
Cell: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[Enrollment information for online programs](#)

Creator, *Change Your Story, Change Your Life* Programs
Creator, *Freedom from Resentment: The Art of Forgiveness*, An Innovative Program for Those with Resentment

Co-author, *Live in Gratitude Daily: The Key to Abundance, Joy, and Love*, Best Selling Book on Amazon
Co-author, *Women of Courage, Women of Destiny: Moving from Fear to Faith to Freedom*, Best Selling Book on Amazon
Co-author, *Bloom Where You Are Planted and Shine!* Coming September 15, 2017

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tara Ann [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Please do not vote for any version of the Graham Cassidy bill. It will harm millions of Americans including myself. I need the patient protections provided through the ACA. This is NOT normal process for the Senate and this bill is not about improving healthcare access or lowering costs. This bill is political -- and it is wrong. It is wrong to take money from seniors and disabled children. It is wrong to allow states to apply lifetime caps and deny protections for essential health benefits like mental health, maternity coverage, and prescription drugs. This bill is NOT bipartisan and it is horrific. I have anxiety over the thought of losing my health insurance or having the price be so high due to pre-existing conditions that I cannot afford it. Please do not vote for this evil immoral bill. It is bad for All Americans including myself.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Justin Couch [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy is hurtful and harmful

As a resident of Oregon (Oregon City OR 97045), I am thoroughly opposed to Graham Cassidy. Thousands in my state would be denied Healthcare, and why? For a political win.

Justin Couch

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Vincenzo Pascale [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re: Message from Vincenzo Pascale PhD

Dear Madam/Sirs:

I am writing over grave concerns regarding the proposed Graham Cassidy healthcare legislation.

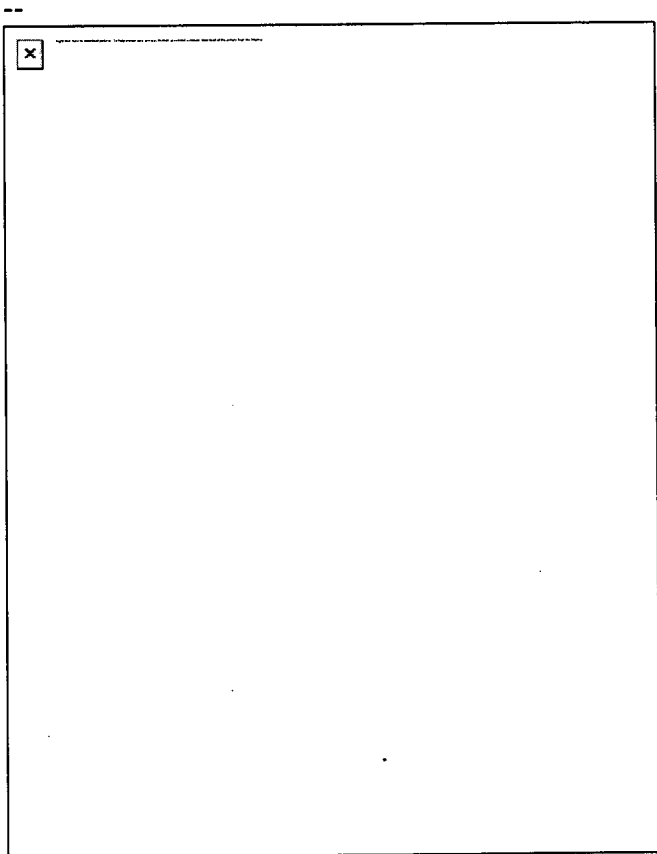
As a father of a son with disabilities , I am concerned about how it will de-stabilize the American economy, allow insurers to fleece citizens with preexisting conditions, and decimate Medicaid, which is the most successful and cost-effective part of the ACA.

It will leave tens of millions of Americans without coverage and cause chaos, perhaps turn the US into a third world country within a few years.

I hope that enough Republican senators will understand the significant and irreparable dangers of this bill and vote no this week,

Sincerely,

Vincenzo Pascale PhD



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Naomi Seulowitz [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re: Graham-Cassidy

Congress must not vote on this bill without a CBO score - it affects too much of the economy to vote on it without a proper understanding of how it will affect the economy.

This bill will not protect people with pre-existing conditions. That being the case it will bankrupt many families, and I fail to see how that will do anything good for the economy of the country.

It will, of course, gut Medicaid and take medical care away from veterans, the elderly, and sick children.

Please do not pass this bill. Instead please return to the regular order that Senator McCain requested.

Thank you,

Naomi Seulowitz

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ellen Toplin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it will leave millions in serious danger ...and the bill you have created is poorly constructed and flat out wrong! Seniors like me will pay much more. State block grants will not work. My family members who have serious illnesses will not be able to afford healthcare...etc. STOP your one party ridiculous measures and get back to the bi-partisan table!

Ellen Toplin

19025
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Lubeck [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Senate Finance Committee:

Please oppose the Graham Cassidy bill. Taking health care away from millions will harm children, increase inequality, damage our economy, and hurt the most vulnerable Americans.

Thank you,
Susan Lubeck

Please pardon brevity and errors.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joseph Kahn [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Pearson, Beth (Warren); "Nikki_Hurt@markey.senate.gov."@p-ess-ppmx3.senate.gov
Subject: Graham-Cassidy ACA Repeal

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Thank you.

Joseph Kahn, MD, FACEP

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mari Smith <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No!

To whom it may concern,

I do not support the most recent appeal of The Affordable Care Act. To quote Senator John McCain, "I cannot in good conscience vote for the Graham-Cassidy proposal," Mr. McCain said. "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."

Thank you,

Mari Bland Smith

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Darcie Cebula [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:53 PM
To: gchcomments@
Subject: ...STOP THE GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL!!!...

To Whom It May Concern*...

VOTE NO ON THE GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL!!!

If passed, the Graham Cassidy bill would have a devastating impact on people, especially those of us with disabilities and pre-existing conditions.

We are counting on you.
Darcie Cebula

*...it concerns ALL of you. And us.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sophia Roberts [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony

Dear Congressman;

I utilize many of the Medicaid services and I do not agree with the cuts. It's not fair to the disabled as we need the services provided.

Thank you.
Martha Perez
Buffalo, NY

wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Geoff Rhoades [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Impact

Submitted by:
Geoff Rhoades
Serenity House Counseling Services
[REDACTED]
Addison, IL 60101

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

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

On behalf of (Serenity House Counseling Services), I submit this testimony to the Senate Finance committee, in regards to the Graham/Cassidy/Heller/Johnson Amendment to the Budget Reconciliation Act of 2017.

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

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

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

We hope your colleagues in Congress are aware that a vote in favor of this bill is a vote to decimate the progress we have made in fighting substance use disorders, as well as mental illness, over the past several years. However, we must not let our progress be stunted, especially as we stand upon the precipice of true advances for our most vulnerable populations. Medicaid plays a vital role in providing behavioral health services across Illinois. Although the CARA act, as

well as the 21st Century Cures Act and its mental health provisions, were a great boost to our mission, they pale in comparison to the contributions made by Medicaid. Illinois simply cannot afford for this bill to be passed, at a fiscal or a moral level.

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

Sincerely,

Geoff Rhoades
Facilities Mngr.
Serenity House Counseling Services, Inc.
Phone [REDACTED]
Cell [REDACTED]
Fax [REDACTED]

www.SerenityHouse.com

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kim Chan [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill

To the Senate:

I am a registered voter and urge all of you to oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

I implore you to create the laws and policies that will create even, equal, and affordable access to healthcare by prohibiting discrimination based on health status, medical history, and economic class. The Republican proposals consistently make the most vulnerable in our society more vulnerable - how can a group of lawmakers who propose to be Christian be so heartless and insincere in their commitments to all citizens?

No healthy person ever plans to be sick. This is why everyone needs to be insured at affordable levels. My husband did not plan to be diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and if he did not have health insurance when he was diagnosed, we would not have been able to afford the care and medicine he needs to manage this debilitating and chronic illness. Even with insurance, we can barely afford the medical care and the health insurance. I was completely healthy when I was diagnosed with breast cancer. Without the preventative care and the post-diagnosis care I received because I had comprehensive health insurance, I would have died, leaving my disabled husband to be a single parent for our 12-year old daughter. Our daughter did not plan or want to be diagnosed with ulcerative colitis, a life-long, incurable colon disease. Without health insurance, she would be unable to receive the bi-monthly treatments that keep her symptoms and pain at bay so that she can attend school and learn to become a fully functioning voting citizen in our democracy. Our savings were low because of my husband's health conditions. They were wiped out by my cancer diagnosis and treatment. By the time my daughter was diagnosed with a chronic illness, we have had to take out loans to manage these expenses.

We are not rich. We are not poor. But health insurance and medical care expenses in our country as they currently exist put us in increasingly difficult and vulnerable circumstances. The Graham-Cassidy Bill exacerbates this vulnerability and makes it even worse for people whose health insurance is not as strong as ours and for those who do not have it.

How can a group of politicians who are elected by US citizens be so dismissive of the people who voted you into office and so cruel and heartless in your awareness of people who are different from you.

Please take on the responsibilities you were elected to uphold with ethics and compassion, not self-interest and power-grabbing dogmatic partisanship. If you can only be driven by self-interest, think of your children and their children and their grandchildren and do something positive and pro-active so that their lives and finances will not be as devastated as my family's and as many other families have been. Please find a way to improve ACA not destroy it.

Sincerely,
Kim Chan
A Registered Voter Who Votes

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathleen Van Kampen [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re: Graham Cassidy hearing

Sent from my iPhone

Senators do not pass this bill. It is cruel, has not been not reviewed by the CBO (Why not?). It will create a mish mosh, for lack of a more apt expression, of the healthcare system by making it state based. Also, some states apparently, and remarkably, are going to have to subsidize other states.

Please stop this, do your homework and make this bill one you can be proud of.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Claudia Mancera [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH Comment

Dear Finance Committee,

People with disabilities like my mother and brother rely on Medicaid, and the per capita caps and cuts included in Graham-Cassidy will jeopardize their health, threaten their independence, and put their lives and that of many others at risk. The suggested cuts to Medicaid 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 of those are people with disabilities.

My loved ones are at risk of losing their lives as they will be unable to obtain much needed services. My brother is a young and hardworking individual. Unfortunately, he lost his vision drastically and as a result lost his job. With his job loss came losing medical care. He developed other health issues and at his very early age is now required to receive dialysis and multiple eye surgeries in an attempt to save his vision from being completely blind. So, as you can see this issue is very personal to me. Shows me and many others that a disability can happen to anyone regardless of race, age, economic status, etc...

I ask you that you oppose Graham-Cassidy and any other bill that cuts, caps, or imposes block grants or per capita caps on Medicaid!

Thank you for listening to my plea and hope that you make the right decision for people with disabilities.

Claudia Mancera

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: christine romano [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No on Graham Cassidy

This bill is harmful, immoral and potentially devastating to people like my mother who has had MS for over 30 years.

To add insult to injury it is being pushed through in an effort to get something down with no regard for 1/5th of our economy and millions of lives. Senators admit that they do not know the affects of the bill.

This is literally life and death for my mother.

Disability rights are civil rights.

Thank you,
Christine Romano

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathrine J Howard [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:18 PM
To: gchcomments

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed Trumpcare Health Bill. I am currently on Medicaid, without which I could NOT afford health insurance. Please repeal this bill. Do not leave me, a retired, almost 66 year old "out in the cold"!!!!!!! Thank you, Kathrine Howard

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Theresa Frank [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

As a nurse for over 30 years, presently at a level 1 trauma center working in the ER...this bill will kill many! Hospitals will close, wait times will be dangerously long, and many of the very poorest and sickest will die! In rural areas you could see towns devastated as local hospitals are forced to close.

If this passes, only the top 1% wins while the rest of us ...well I guess we'll die!

Sent from my iPhone
Theresa Frank

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Melissa Norman [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony
Attachments: Personal Story.pdf

Please accept this testimony in reference to the Graham Cassidy Heller Johnson proposal.

Sincerely
Melissa R. Norman

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jaime Fontaine [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Regarding the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

The Graham-Cassidy bill is the worst iteration yet of the GOP's dedication to revoking the healthcare of as many Americans as possible. It's shameful, and would provide absolutely no benefits to the American public.

--
jf

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: tracy smith [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH Comment

NO!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nora <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Please work on a bi-partisan stabilization bill for the healthcare markets and work through the regular order to find ways to allow more Americans access to care and lower premiums. The current bill will only make things worse and has no support from any outside experts and is highly unpopular with the people it would affect- the American people.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Janet Boyle [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect affordable health care for all Americans!

My oldest son has Down syndrome. He works at a volunteer job 3 days a week. Virtually all people with Down syndrome have hypothyroidism. What will happen when he can't get his meds? Don't know because it hasn't happened yet. Should you let it? No. He is a valuable member of the West Jefferson Medical Center cardiac rehabilitation staff, though he is unpaid.

My only daughter has manic depressive disease, type 1 with rapid cycling and mixed states. She is a functioning member of society only because of the medicines she must take. Without them, she will likely die. My children are only two of the many, many people who need the Affordable Care Act to remain in place. I am advocating for all of these people. We are supposed to be a civilized society. Civilized people do not punish those who need more care than "normal" citizens.

Who among us has not been touched by either our own or a loved one's illness? This bill is inhumane and despicable, made even more so by the fact that one of its fashioners was educated and trained to "first, do no harm."

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Peggy Lubożynski [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Deathcare Bill...

will bankrupt Middle Class Americans all in order to give the SuperRich donors to the Republican Party a tax break. This bill is inhumane and unAmerican. Stop it now!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pamela Gurnari [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

You all pretend to be so concerned about "the American people". None of you have to worry about losing your healthcare coverage and going bankrupt trying to pay astronomically inflated medical bills. I doubt whether you even have to pay ANY medical bills with your Cadillac Insurance plans. Many many many of "the American people" have been forced into poverty and have even become homeless through a catastrophic illness in their families. Why do you have to repeal the ACA? Why can't you put your bipartisan heads together and improve it? PLEASE don't send us back to the Stone Age of healthcare so we have to start all over again. Where is your compassion?

Pamela Gurnari
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Barsky [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please don't pass the Graham-Cassidy bill

As a self-employed individual with a history of breast cancer, I rely on access to healthcare provided through the ACA marketplace. I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill because it would allow insurance companies to discriminate against people like me, who--through no fault of their own--have experienced serious illnesses. This bill would allow insurers to charge exorbitant rates, or even refuse to cover people with pre-existing conditions.

Put simply: Continued access to healthcare enables me to be a productive citizen, contribute to our society, and pay my taxes. Without it, I'd be dead.

Please work on a bipartisan bill that will improve the ACA, not repeal it. My own preference would be to have a single-payer system, which seems to work well in other industrialized countries.

Thank you,
Lisa Barsky

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cheris Kramarae [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

Please, please vote no on the Graham-Cassidy bill. We need to have a full discussion of all the costs and who will be paying for any changes to Affordable Care before there is any more voting for a repeal!! Thank you, Cheris Kramarae.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maddie Cheek [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill

To whom it may concern:

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Both of my parents have relied on their coverage under the Affordable Care Act in the last few years to get help for various health issues. These include essential health benefits for mental health coverage and substance abuse coverage. Access to treatment and care has benefitted my family greatly and we are all very thankful for it as coverage would have been out of reach financially without it. Because of my own family's experience with this, and the experiences of many of my friends and fellow Americans, I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I hope you consider the potential impact of a repeal effort like this one on the American people first and foremost.

Sincerely,
Madison Cheek

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Sheingold [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy

For US citizens to have quality, affordable health care, the ACA needs to be improved, not repealed. A serious, considered, thoughtful bipartisan effort can lead to the health care system we all need. The Graham-Cassidy bill cannot.

Karen Sheingold

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beth Miller [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

I rely on good healthcare for me and my family. MOre importantly, as a resident of Arizona, I know that there are people in need who will not receive care as if the bill passes.

I am opposed to the Graham Cassidy bill and want to see a bi-partisan effort to improve what is now in place,

Thank you
Beth Miller
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laura Hand [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy is Ridiculous

The GOP needs to listen to the will of the people! The people, including myself, want a shift from private health insurance to universal care.

No, no, an emphatic NO on Graham Cassidy or any other repeal and replace!

Laura Hand

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: lau moro [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: SAVE MEDICAID, OBAMACARE AND LIVES

Congresspeople and Senators

Although I am very lucky to have private insurance (I just received a \$ 45,000 bill for hospital stay with a burst appendix), I have so many friends and colleagues whose families would not survive without medicaid and Obamacare. Just to list a few: A friend who works independently, whose son is bipolar and needs treatment/medication; a friend who is currently paying \$ 1400 a month for her son's epilepsy medication; my mother just had knee replacement surgery and needed home care, as well as hospital stay. She would not have been able to have the surgery without medicaid/medicare.

PLEASE. I ASK YOU FOR ONE MINUTE TO IMAGINE YOUR OWN CHILDREN/SPOUS/LOVED ONE IN THESE SITUATIONS AND ASK HOW YOU WOULD FEEL AND HOW YOUR HEART WOULD BREAK WATCHING THEM SUFFER WITHOUT OBAMACARE. HAVE EMPATHY AND SHOW COMPASSION. BE HUMANB.

Thank you
Laura Morowitz

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elizabeth Muir [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Heathcare bill

Hello,

Without affordable healthcare I would be forced to watch my mother, who relies on affordable healthcare to continue to get the heart care she deserves, suffer. Because of my own endometriosis, I rely on the ACA to be able to work everyday through the use of birth control that allows my uterine tissue to not take over my uterus. The Graham Cassidy Bill is nothing if not a death sentence for hundreds of thousands of Americans, and it would cause untold pain and debt for my family, which is why I oppose this bill. I beg you for the sake of my family to improve the ACA and not repeal it with this Graham Cassidy Bill that is the equivalent of a cancer for the American people.

Best,
Elizabeth Muir

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: loreen myers [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

I, Loreen Myers, rely entirely on OHP/ACA for my healthcare, meds, and dental. As a senior on S.S., I have very little money to live. Please be aware that many boomers are being forced out of the labor market, and in order not to be homeless use most of our money for rent. Lack of jobs in our economy has made them more available to the attractive young millennials. I think we will see many social problems from boomers not being hired for jobs that they need. I would like to see a bipartisan effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rachel Riley [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

To Whom It May Concern:

Restructuring almost 20% of the nation's economy with no clear idea of the impact is easily one of the most reckless things I've ever heard of. "Debate" all you want; all Americans lose if this is how we pass policy.

Regards,
Rachel Riley

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karin McKie [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: info@dickdurbin.com; Correspondence (Duckworth)
Subject: Save the ACA/Vote No on Trumpcare

Hello - I would be dead or bankrupt without the ACA. Please keep it and work in bipartisanship to improve existing coverages.
Don't rush through a bill that hasn't had a full CBO score (and what has been vetted is draconian and cruel) and that most Americans, voting constituents, don't want.
All the medical associations oppose Graham/Cassidy, as does the AMA, state Medicaid directors, nearly everyone.
Stop being political and rushing before 9/30 when 30 million or more lives are on the line.
Stop Trumpcare for good.
Don't kill me.
Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: SAVE MY FAMILY WORKING CLASS PAY IN TO ACA NEED IT...

SAVE MY FAMILY WORKING CLASS PAY IN TO ACA NEED IT FOR CONT GOOD HEALTH. PROTECT ALL OF US!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sheri Newmar [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

My mother was a volunteer nurse working with WWI patients who had been discarded and forgotten. She volunteered during WWII for the Red Cross, and during the Vietnam War with Veterans. She lived until she was 99 years and 5 months, and did not stop volunteering until her late 80's, when she began to need care for herself.

Over the last 10 years of my mother's life, she lived with blindness, loss of hearing, lost the ability to walk, and towards the end remembered little. But because of Medicaid, this woman who had given so much to so many was able to cope with the loss of so much through the ending of her life with dignity and relative comfort. I would never have been able to provide for her comfortably, because I followed in her footsteps; I have worked all my life caring for children with trauma.

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill, because it neglects to prioritize the needs of citizens who deserve more. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. I would like to believe, once again, that we have a government that is FOR the people.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ruth Peck Roberts [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please don't end ACA

My husband and I are retired. We have a 43 year old daughter who continues to suffer from a surgery that went wrong 20 years ago. She continues to need treatment and surgeries. Thanks to ACA, although her deductible is high, we have been able to help her cover her medical bills. She is not able to work full time. Should the pre-existing conditions be removed or the cap on medical expenses, we don't know how she can make it. It would put us into bankruptcy in our 70's, after working for years to earn our social security and some retirement. We are not wealthy people. We are very concerned that if ACA is repealed, my daughter will no longer be able the care she needs—She will not live without the treatments.

Thank you!!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Diane Boyer [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Concerns on the latest health care bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing about the Grahamn Cassidy healthcare bill.

This bill is not helpful for health care, it actually takes health care away from millions of Americans, and those that can get health care coverage will pay much more. People with pre-existing conditions can be priced out of affordable health insurance. I am a citizen that has pre-existing conditions, and this bill will either bankrupt or let me die, neither option is acceptable.

Do you jobs and work to improve the existing Affordable Care Act, do not waste any more time trying to repeal it and kill Americans with health issues.

Your or your family may someday need healthcare - wouldn't it be great if they could get it at an affordable rate? Your extended families will not all be always covered by your Senate plan.

Concerned Citizen
Diane Boyer

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Charles Bruner [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for Finance Committee Hearing on September 25
Attachments: Statement to Finance Committee Hearing on Graham Cassidy.docx

Attached please find my statement for the hearing on the Graham-Cassidy bill. I also will mail a copy to the Editorial and Document Section of the Committee.

Thank you for your review of this statement.

Charles Bruner, Ph.D.

Health Equity and Young Children Initiative

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: wgcj [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Absolute mess...

My thoughts of the current health control bill before the senate are these: if you pass this bill, your congressional careers are over. (Actually for me, they are over anyway as I will never vote republican again, but who cares about me, you sure don't.)

I have followed the reporting on this, and it is CLEARLY not in the nation's best interest for this to pass, as the polls suggest. Thing is, so many republicans are for it I honestly wonder if the financing you will lose is really worth it.

You really ought to be ashamed of yourselves, but you're not, as your staying in Congress is clearly more important to you than serving your constituents.

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=====
Gordon Clay
US - EDT (GMT-5)



"There are two kinds of people in the world, those who think there are two kinds of people, and those who don't." Lao-Tze

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: M. L. Owen [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:26 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Terrible bill

I am vehemently opposed to Graham-Cassidy bill. I am beyond tired of male republicans inventing ways to take healthcare from Americans and give money to their billionaire donors. The Affordable Care Act does need work. It should be done thoughtfully and carefully in a truly bi-partisan manner. Hearings. CBO scores. Regular order!

M. L. Owen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bryan Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:18 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: HealthCare

Every American needs access to affordable healthcare! Bankruptcy should not be the last thing you struggle with before you leave this world. Congress and the Senate needs to have their own healthcare stopped until everyone has the access to the same level of care. You're Congress and Senators not the ruling class of a kingdom! All men and women are equal under the law! You don't get to make laws that put you above every other American! ObamaCare Care saves lives!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: dawn92159 [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Please make healthcare secure for all citizens. Improve the ACA don't repeal!

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bill Townsend [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy-Graham bill comments

This letter is in objection to the proposed Cassidy-Graham bill. This would be a dramatic change to the US healthcare system and yet, the Congressional Budget Office also hasn't reviewed the new bill and likely won't before the end of the month. This means the Republican effort to pass a bill before it is widely understood is no better than Nancy Pelosi's efforts to pass the ACA and her comment about having to pass the bill to understand what's in it.

The bill appears to allow states to set up their own healthcare rules. This is ludicrous on many levels. First, companies are more geographically dispersed than at any time in American history. What this does for a company is mean that if they have employees in 10 states, they now have 10 different healthcare laws to deal with. This adds considerable expense to companies. Second, states cannot be trusted. Look no farther than our own state of Nevada. Nevada has not shown it can be trusted to keep its word to its citizens. One need only look at the tax on recreational marijuana sales that was promised to the citizens of Nevada as a means to finance education. When pressed, it failed to pass in the Nevada Senate, when it was twice rejected along party lines. Third, would you, a sitting US Senator, ever consider allowing states to manage Social Security? Would you ever consider flipping national defense to the states? Would you ever want the FBI or CIA to be funded state-by-state based on the elected officials of each states' wishes? Of course not. Yet, this is what you are proposing with Cassidy-Graham; you want to let each state determine the healthcare options of Americans.

Ending Medicare/Medicaid is a terrible idea. Millions of citizens depend on this for critical healthcare. I am one of them. At age 45 I was found to have a tumor in my head. I went through surgery at perhaps one of the finest medical institutions in America, Cedars-Sinai. A physician's mistake caused trigeminal neuralgia, widely considered the most painful disease known to man. Every day since surgery I have lived with pain in my face and head that is best equated to the brain freeze you get when eating ice cream too fast. I could not obtain medical coverage and ended up on Medicare. I pay hundreds of dollars a month for medications that sell for a fraction of that price in nearly every other industrialized nation. I could not afford insurance through Obamacare and it appears I won't be able to under Cassidy-Graham.

When the CBO says the Affordable Care Act repeal will reduce the deficit by \$337 billion over the 2017-2026 period, this is accomplished largely by kicking people off Medicaid. This isn't cost savings; this is cost shifting from the federal government to state governments. Under the Cassidy-Graham bill there will be a freeze on Medicaid expansion and the federal government will eliminate Medicare spending a few years from now, leaving the states to fill the gap—a gap that will then be a political football, with Republicans who now control two-thirds of state legislatures doing everything possible to make Medicaid eligibility harder.

THE REAL ISSUES

For the most part, America doesn't have a healthcare access problem; it has an insurance problem. The only long-term fix to our health coverage problems are to move to a single-payer "Medicare for all" system, which the ACA, former Republican repeal efforts and Cassiday-Graham do nothing to address. A federally run insurance system would eliminate the profit of healthcare insurance companies and put those funds back into the pockets of its citizens.

Consider UnitedHealth, the nation's largest health insurer announced record-breaking profits in 2015, followed by an even better year in 2016, and this is after the ACA was in effect and supposed to reduce costs. In July 2016, UnitedHealth celebrated revenues that quarter totaling \$46.5 billion, an increase of \$10 billion since the same time last

year. UnitedHealth's CEO Stephen J. Hemsley made over \$20 million in 2015. To be fair, that is a pay cut. The previous year Hemsley took home \$66 million in compensation.

Aetna, whose CEO Mark Bertolini reported to the Securities and Exchange Commission a \$27.9 million compensation in 2015, has sky-high profits. "In 2015, we reported annual operating revenue of over \$60.3 billion, a record for the Company," Aetna told investors.

As long as there is profit for someone being sick nothing will change. People often conflate medical care with the payer system. Insurance companies are multiple payers. Hospitals, doctors and other health care providers have to endure the paperwork of each and every insurance plan they bill. That is a huge waste of time and money that adds to the cost of healthcare. By going to a single payer system, the paperwork is reduced to one standardized set. This has nothing to do with sitting in the ER for three hours or more, which occurred pre-ACA, during the ACA and will continue to occur under the Cassidy-Graham plan as long as other imperfections, like physician and nursing shortage in rural areas, primary care physicians are underpaid relative to highly paid surgeons, lack of clinics, overpriced drugs. Single payer is a great first step to begin to save time and money like the other western industrialized countries already do and to put that time to reducing the wait time, and then use that money to implement incentives for a healthy lifestyle, functional medicine training for providers, and increase clinics.

The following is from a letter I sent to President Trump and his key advisors on November 12, 2016, just after the Presidential election. I share with you because there are some good ideas here, too.

There are many ways to lower costs of healthcare and make it more affordable for America's citizens. You can—and should—call for the immediate repeal and replacement of the majority of the ACA that doesn't work and add to it what is most beneficial to Americans. To do so we must first step back and look at what an effective national healthcare reform program must include:

1. Retain the provision forbidding discrimination based on pre-existing conditions;
2. Allow those under 26 years old, living at home, to remain on their parents' healthcare plans;
3. Allow portability of employer-sponsored plans, enabling someone who leaves an employer to continue on the employer's plan indefinitely; essentially converting it from an employer plan to a personal/family plan. This isn't Cobra, but the conversion of a plan from employer-based to private. Of course, if the person moves to another company that offers healthcare, they would convert to that company's plan;
4. Most physicians believe that good oral and vision health leads to better overall health, so any health plan that is comprehensive in nature should include dental and vision coverage. The idea that we have to purchase separate plans for these two important coverages is dated and needs to be eliminated. It's the equivalent of telling women they have to purchase pregnancy insurance—something that used to occur prior to ACA and rightfully was resolved in ACA. Vision and dental must be included in any new healthcare program.
5. We must examine costs at a granular level at which clinical outcomes are matched with the business and administrative processes. Demand-side options, such as consumer-directed health plans, to supply-side options, such as alternative methods to pay care providers, can reduce costs significantly. For example, a standardized insurance claim form, available via digital submission, used across all physicians and insurers, will lower administrative costs significantly, by millions of dollars in man-hours, paper costs, and other administrative expenses. It will also cut down on errors. Harvard Business Review reported that administrative complexity eats up 9% of the nation's health care expenditures.
6. For coverage of uninsured the approach should be that every American needs to be covered by a plan whether it is private, employer-based, public (Medicare/Medicaid), association-based, or a new single payer system. Instead of the "fine", anyone not enrolling in a plan should be auto-enrolled in a single payer major medical plan that kicks in when

emergencies or catastrophe occurs and carries a very high deductible—perhaps \$15,000 or \$20,000, but a very low monthly subscription rate of perhaps \$99 and is billed monthly until the individual enrolls in a formal plan such as available through an employer or the ACA. Here is where you turn this around to bring in local communities and organizations to help those in most need of coverage: churches, Planned Parenthood, colleges and universities and neighborhood health clinics should be able to foot the bill for those individuals who cannot afford a minimal monthly fee (mostly students, the indigent, drug addicts, etc.) This amounts to universal health care, which I believe you called for at CNN's town hall, and which many Republican politicians will fight against, so rename it: call it "Comprehensive Coverage" for every American. This also solves the fear of "people dying in the street" which most Americans do not want. We are a caring nation and we want those who cannot afford health care to be able to get care. Since many of the people who do not buy health insurance are under the age of 30, creating a "Comprehensive Coverage" program that costs only \$99 a month is a safe insurance policy against disaster and would result in almost \$34 billion a year paid into the program by those not currently insured.

Even with ACA, 28.5 million citizens still do not have health insurance. Many uninsured people cite the high cost of insurance as the main reason they lack coverage. In 2015, 46% of uninsured adults said that they tried to get coverage but did not because it was too expensive. Many people do not have access to coverage through a job, and some people, particularly poor adults in states that did not expand Medicaid, remain ineligible for financial assistance for coverage. Some people who are eligible for financial assistance under the ACA may not know they can get help, and others may still find the cost of coverage prohibitive. Most uninsured people are in low-income families and have at least one worker in the family. Reflecting the more limited availability of public coverage in some states, adults are more likely to be uninsured than children. People of color are at higher risk of being uninsured than non-Hispanic Whites.

7. Tackle drug costs by setting in motion a pricing control program whereby no drug provider can charge American consumers more than 105% of the average price of their drug worldwide. This will upset Wall Street and the pharmaceutical companies, but it is only fair that Americans not be gouged by drug companies and the companies need to adapt to earn more revenue overseas. Companies will be forced to raise their prices worldwide and not stick Americans with the biggest drug bills. If they want to sell in our market, they have to adhere to this rule. Look at the chart below and imagine these are the average costs worldwide:

Under this plan, Celebrex would not cost \$330, but \$115.24 (\$109.75 average cost plus 5%). Cymbalta, which millions of Americans take, would not cost \$240, but \$72.98 (\$69.50 average cost plus 5%).

The United States spends almost \$1,000 per person per year on pharmaceuticals. That's around 40 percent more than the next highest spender, Canada, and more than twice as much as than countries like France and Germany spend. Enforcing a median pricing requirement would dramatically lower the costs of drugs for millions of Americans and would likely reduce total drug expenditures by more than 40%.

8. A report by Public Citizen, the DC-based health care advocacy group, ranks the largest settlements by drugmakers, and shows these companies paid out 74 settlements to the tune of \$10.2 billion from Nov. 2010 to July 2012. The report does not include J&J's \$5+ billion settlements. Where does this money go? The public doesn't know because we're never told where these fines end up. Write rules to earmark all settlements with drugmakers and device makers to be paid to underwrite the public insurance and "Comprehensive Coverage" programs.

9. I am sure Dr. Carson and Senator Paul would both agree, as citizens we must take better care of ourselves and a simple rule requiring every insurance plan to cover one yearly healthcare screening, with no copay by the individual, to detect and prevent health issues should be mandated. If you want insurance, you need to see a doctor at least once a year, have a blood test, perform a cardio/stress test, receive advice on healthy diet and exercise, etc. In the long run, this will save insurance and taxpayer money. If you don't make your yearly physical screening, you should face a fine of \$85 with the proceeds going into the general insurance fund. Consumers need to start taking their health care decisions seriously and this would accomplish this. If 318 million people require annual screenings, the demand growth for doctors, nurses, clinics and testing laboratories would boom, creating hundreds of thousands, if not millions of new jobs. Annual screening may even be able to be accomplished by nursing professionals with doctors reviewing the test results

and having a consultation with the patient, after the results are returned. Clinical waste (spending that could be reduced with better prevention and high-quality initial care) is estimated to eat up 14% of our nation's health care expenditures. Annual screenings can do much to lower these costs.

10. You have spoken about wanting to eliminate the artificial boundaries that separate health insurance providers. State boundaries are nothing more than I suggest you speak with Sabrina Corlette, the director of the Georgetown University Health Policy Institute. (Merrill Matthews, a resident scholar at the Institute for Policy Innovation, is another person who may shed light on this issue.) In 2012, Ms. Corlette and co-authors completed a study of a number of states that passed laws to allow out-of-state insurance sales. Not a single out-of-state insurer had taken them up on the offer. As the study found, there is no federal impediment to across-state-lines arrangements. The main difficulty is that most states want to regulate local products themselves. The ACA includes provisions to encourage more regional and national sales of insurance, but they have not proved popular. The challenge is cost: plans simply don't have incentives to create doctor networks in other states without first having a large base of policy holders. More thought needs to be put behind this concept.

11. Access to care. Any health care plan should include coverage at clinics like Planned Parenthood and thus enable the government to eliminate all direct funding of organizations like Planned Parenthood. Also, any plan should automatically be available to Veterans, enabling them to see the doctor, clinic, or hospital of their choice. This is a plan both Republicans and Democrats should be able to get behind. This means, all healthcare plans must cover contraceptives, screenings, and yes, abortion (during the first 6 months or in cases of endangerment to the mother's life) which should not take place at clinics but instead at hospitals—in fact, every clinic doctor should be required to have admitting privileges to their local hospital. If a woman wants to have an abortion after 6 month, insurance plans should not have to cover the cost unless it is necessary for the preservation of the health of the mother. It also means that the men and women who served our country would not have to be put into a failing Veterans Administration medical system and could instead find local doctors from whom to receive treatment.

12. Allow the government to negotiate to lower drug prices. Authorizing Medicare to negotiate directly with drug companies to set prescription drug prices will lower costs—the challenge is the people most against allowing Medicare to do this are Republicans. The Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA), which established Medicare Part D, included a ban on such negotiation. In theory, if the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) could negotiate with pharmaceutical companies, the agency could leverage its purchasing power to pay less for drugs. The idea has broad public support, reflected in a recent poll showing 87 percent of Americans have a favorable view of the idea.

CMS's proposed a pilot on value-based drug purchasing in Medicare Part B. (While most prescription drugs covered by Medicare are managed in Part D, certain drugs, such as those administered via infusion by physicians, are managed in Part B.) I believe this pilot program could generate useful data and be initiated without congressional action.

The Part B pilot continues to receive significant backlash funded by the pharmaceutical industry and has resulted in increased Congressional scrutiny of CMMI's activities. House Republicans even introduced a bill (H.R. 5122) to prohibit further action on the proposed Part B pilot, even though CBO estimates that blocking the project would cost \$395 million in direct spending over the next 10 years. The pilots should proceed and then pilots on Part D should follow a similar pattern to build evidence for value-based drug pricing or other reforms that will finally bust the gridlock, prove to elected officials that negotiating drug prices is the best thing for our country, and results in lower drug costs for Americans.

Combine this with pricing controls as most industrialized nations enforce and we can begin to bring drug prices down substantially and almost immediately. [Note: talk about a benefit to those people who feel most left behind in economic growth—seniors, minorities, and rural families: reducing drug costs would have an immediate and positive effect on personal cash flow.]

13. It is time that dietary supplements (diet, vitamins, muscle building, etc.) be required to gain FDA approval, confirming their efficacy and safety, before being sold to the public. There are an estimated 85,000 dietary supplements sold in America. Studies show supplements are a \$30 billion a year business.

This is a transcript from a recent PBS Frontline series where a hospital addresses the difficulty in obtaining accurate data—if at all—related to supplements that patients bring into the hospital:

SARAH ERUSH, Pharm.D., Pharmacy Clinical Manager:

Families are showing up literally with shopping bags full of dietary supplements. The regulatory issues in the United States are that you have to— if a patient brings a medication into a hospital, we have to, as pharmacists, verify that this is a quality product, it is what it says it is, it's labeled appropriately, it's being dosed appropriately, and so on.

PAUL OFFIT, M.D., The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia:

We got fed up. We took a step back and we said, "OK, we're going to ask these companies to at least meet a labeling standard." They have to send us something called a certificate of analysis, which means they've had their product analyzed by an independent party that says that what's on the label is what's in the bottle.

Ninety percent of the companies never responded. And of the 10 percent that responded— of that 10 percent, often they would send us certificates of analysis where what was on the label wasn't even close to what was in the bottle. And these were the ones who responded to us, which made us fearful of an industry that we couldn't trust.

SARAH ERUSH:

For example, this is an aqueous Vitamin D drop. So we use Vitamin D in premature infants. It says it should have 400 International Units per one ml of solution. However, it tells us that the results are that it's 213 percent of the legal value. So it's more than double what it says that it is.

So if we're dosing premature infants who need very tiny doses of this drug, we're now potentially giving them double what they should get, and could really put them at risk for toxicity.

GILLIAN FINDLAY (Journalist):

In the end, only 35 supplements met the hospital's standards.

Dietary supplements represent a hidden danger to the American public and can lead to illness or death. The FDA's charter is to set regulations to ensure that the system best protects and promotes the public health and the well-being of patients. We cannot meet this goal if supplements are not put under FDA approval and oversight. Fees from these approvals should be applied to operating the FDA and supporting both public and "Comprehensive Coverage" insurance programs. I believe any health care program for Americans must include the FDA approval and oversight of dietary supplements—even if it is simply to prove that what is in a supplement is what is reflected on the label. Add \$1 per supplement sold and you can generate billions in revenue for a national health plan.

50% of Americans take multivitamins. 1 in 5 U.S. adults takes herbal supplements. The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force doesn't recommend regular use of any multivitamins or herbs. The FDA only spot tests 1% of the 65,000 dietary supplements on the market. All these are reasons the FDA should require truth in labeling and testing of all dietary supplements.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Townsend

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: ANDREA PLASTAS [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Andrea Plastas
Richmond, CA

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tina McDonald [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
Hearing date: September 25, 2017

To: US Senators

From: Tina McDonald
[REDACTED]
Northglenn, CO 80233

Dear Senators, I am a disabled woman who is on Medicare, and receive assistance through Medicaid paying for my Medicare Premium. Without this assistance I wouldn't be able to afford what most of you take for granted, a phone, for example, or my prescriptions to keep me from vomiting from vertigo a daily basis that Medicare doesn't cover because I don't have a specified diagnosis.

As an accountant in my former life, let me put this in numbers for you to illustrate the problem with Graham-Cassidy, which does far more than repeal parts of the ACA but would revert healthcare to the 1960s. You think there is a lot of drug resistant infections now, like Ebola, Zika, SARS, just wait until you repeal Medicaid.

HALF of the 1,848,800 non-neonatal and non-maternal hospitalizations in 2012 for children were covered by Medicaid. THREE QUARTERS of non-neonatal and non-maternal hospitalizations in 2012 for children were for infants under a year old. Add in 50% of the 4 MILLION babies that start out in neonatal care on Medicaid. That's more than 2,693,300 BABIES under a year old (and then you add the babies of the families who can't afford insurance without the subsidies) that you would endanger because those parents can't afford health insurance. The number of abortions reported for that same year was 699,202. Here is your source for that information.
<https://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/reports/statbriefs/sb187-Hospital-Stays-Children-2012.jsp>

There are 1.4 million people in nursing homes, Medicaid covers 60% of those, that's 840,000 that you would turn out into the street. Here is your source for that information: <http://www.kff.org/infographic/medicaids-role-in-nursing-home-care/>

Maybe, if you work together you might figure out other ways, BETTER WAYS, to fix Obamacare than denying care to those who need it most and are hospitalized or on long-term. Killing sick kids and elderly and disabled by turning them out into the street with no care, medication, food, etc. isn't something that the American People want.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Peggy Perkins [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Title of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
Hearing Date: September 25, 2017
From: Peggy Perkins, [REDACTED], Winder, GA 30680

Dear Senators,

My husband and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband has Crohn's disease, Parkinson's and has had his prostate removed because of cancer. I have GERD and IBD. We are what insurance companies never want...human's with pre-existing conditions. The Graham-Cassidy bill provides no guarantees that pre-existing conditions will be covered. The ACA does. Reinstating coverage caps as allowed under GC, is of grave concern to us as my husband's Parkinson's continues progress. The ACA removes that worry.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Don't we American citizens deserve a bipartisan effort to address the one issue that impacts all of us regardless of age, race, religion or party affiliation?

*Sincerely,
Peggy A. Perkins*

offered through the ACA with subsidies. These individuals obtained services to treat chronic illnesses such as diabetes, illnesses that would worsen without treatment and then require costly but are preventable. The Proposal fails to make insurance more affordable and in fact, will price ordinary Americans out of any insurance market, returning to the days when a cancer patient who couldn't work couldn't access health care, where a person with asthma couldn't afford health insurance due to a pre-existing condition, where a person working a full-time job couldn't afford health insurance. This is not what Americans want.

I am submitting this testimony to the committee to ensure that it is entered into the official record of these proceedings. I want the record of this committee to show that those who voted for this Proposal were fully aware of its devastating and destructive impact and were told by millions of American citizens that this is not what we want.

Sincerely,
Danielle Berman

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Danielle Berman [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing on Graham Cassidy proposal

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

I write to express my deep opposition to the draconian, cruel and amoral Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal. The sponsors of this Proposal vowed that it would replace the ACA with something better and more affordable.

This Proposal fails miserably in all respects.

It has been crafted, introduced, and discussed in a deeply undemocratic manner. I demand a full and fair hearing on this legislation after it has been analyzed by the Congressional Budget Office. The last bill scored by the CBO had an approval rating of 12%, yet this bill is moving forward and is even worse than the last bill scored.

Millions of elderly individuals and people with disabilities rely on traditional Medicaid for their lives, well-being, and independence. Although the Congressional Budget Office Analysis has not been completed for this Proposal, it is similar or worse to previous bills that would radically restructure Medicaid, kicking millions of Americans off health care. Reducing the number of insured means that thousands of people will die needlessly for a tax cut for the wealthiest Americans.

Medicaid saves the lives of people with disabilities who rely on things like tracheotomy care, nursing care, dialysis, cancer treatments, occupational therapy, speech therapy, life-saving medications, durable medical equipment, and more to work. With health insurance through Medicaid, they live full, independent lives will be at risk. These people are our family members, our neighbors, our coworkers, and our friends. We are the wealthiest country in the world. We can and should provide Medicaid for the elderly and people with disabilities.

This Proposal will impact pregnant women and children, who are insured by Medicaid in high numbers. In Wisconsin, 28% of all kids are covered by Medicaid. Nearly half of all US births are covered by Medicaid. For many children with disabilities and extensive health care needs, Medicaid is again lifesaving, and again, cutting it could literally put children's lives at risk. Children who receive regular health care to treat things like asthma, diabetes, and treatable medical problems fare better in school, miss fewer days of school, are more likely to graduate, and earn higher wages than those without health care.

The changes to the Affordable Care Act are also deeply troubling. The proposal opens the door to imposing pre-existing condition exclusions again, limiting essential health services, and reducing the affordability of health insurance, which will result in millions more losing health insurance they only recently gained. All studies done thus far on health outcomes for individuals newly insured through the ACA show the enormous positive impact of insured status. Many people with disabilities rely on ACA coverage when they could no longer work due to a diagnosis, but had to wait two years after a disability determination before Medicare would begin.

Many people rely on the ACA to receive cancer treatment. They owe their lives to the Affordable Care Act. I also have friends with full time jobs that did not offer health insurance and could only afford health insurance

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alison Auerbach [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy testimony

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

This bill's failure to protect those with pre-existing conditions (despite what its authors keep insisting) will penalize my son for being born autistic. He already faces immense challenges to independent living, and a lack of affordable health care should not be another.

My husband is an emergency physician who serves our community on its front lines. He too has a pre-existing condition, and could find himself in the infuriating position of providing health care while being unable to afford his own. (Yes, even doctors—particularly those supporting special-needs children—will find it challenging to afford health insurance if they have pre-existing conditions).

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. This issue is too important to shove a hastily written and poorly researched plan through for the sake of political capital.

Sincerely,
Alison Auerbach
Decatur, GA 30030

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: BC Evans [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

BC Evans

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: april h l [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public testimony for the Graham-Cassidy bill

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Medicaid has been there for me and millions of others when we needed help during difficult times. Additionally, the healthcare that I now can afford because of the ACA empowers me to be a healthy, happy, and productive member of society. It is appalling that our great nation does not institute healthcare are a right available to all citizens. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

April Llewellyn

Chicago, IL & Athens, AL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kaylan Szafranski [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Kathy Waligora; Nadeen Israel
Subject: Senate Finance Committee Hearing Comments for Graham Cassidy
Attachments: POCIL_IL SFC-Template-Letter-Draft 9 22 ks kw.docx

To the Senate Finance Committee,
I, on behalf of Protect Our Care Illinois coalition, respectfully submit the attached comments for the committee hearing on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Amendment to H.R. 1628, the American Health Care Act of 2017.

Sincerely,
Kaylan Szafranski

Manager- Health Reform Initiative
EverThrive Illinois

[REDACTED]
Chicago, IL 60642
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dorothy Nolen [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

My friends, family and myself rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have a friend who is currently disabled after dealing with Lyme Disease for over 6 years now. She would not have insurance to cover her huge medical expenses if it were not for the ACA. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Nolen
Winthrop Harbor, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michelle [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: OPPOSE the Graham-Cassidy bill

I, my family, and my loved ones rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. As a biomedical researcher, I have dedicated my life to the study and treatment of diseases to improve the quality of life for all people, not just those who can afford to not worry about pre-existing conditions or long-term illness. The history of various cancers in my direct family makes me uninsurable by some plans, and insurable at much higher rates with others. On the current healthcare landscape, my insurance does not cost more than my peers, and many basic care items are more fully covered (such as family planning and birth control services). While I agree that costs have been unacceptably high for some Americans, the expanded coverage where many more people are able to even so much as obtain health insurance is something that cannot be cast aside due to partisan political infighting. I would like to see a true, collaborative, bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Dr Michelle Browning

Gaithersburg MD 20879

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jake [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments regarding Graham-Cassidy bill

I insist upon two things before any vote on this bill:

1) The Senate must wait for and review the CBO score. The WHOLE score. I understand that the results carry some uncertainty, but bringing this bill to the floor before the impacts are even estimated would be irresponsible and a grossly negligent betrayal of the American People. The lack of transparency with which most of this type of legislation has been developed is appalling and makes the process used to draft and pass the ACA look like an open, bipartisan breeze by comparison.

2) The Senate must follow the advice of Senator McCain and return to regular order. It must entertain an appropriate amount of debate (at least half as much as that for the ACA) and allow amendments from Democrats. The one-sided way in which Senate leadership is trying to quietly shove this bill down the throats of American Families and reshape a huge portion of the American economy (not to mention while sneaking in socially conservative but legally indefensible riders like defunding planned parenthood) is the worst example of petty, partisan hypocrisy (and willful disdain for the separation of church and state) I have ever seen.

It is time for the Senate to become once again the august, deliberative body it was originally designed to be.

Thank you for your time and service.

Jake Osborne
Attleboro, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Taina Karru-Olsen [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment for hearing to consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal
Attachments: Commen for Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson .docx; ATT00001.htm

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

Monday, September 25, 2017

My daughter has Down syndrome. When I envision a future for her I envision a life in the community that matches the life that her typically developing friends will lead. What will make that life possible instead of a life of segregation and institutionalization? Medicaid.

Please do not condemn my daughter and others like her to a life in a nursing home at 21. Allow for equity and a life that is a real life, not just an existence. Allow for autonomy, for community, and for respect, and dignity.

Thank you,

Taina Karru-Olsen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marilyn Bacarella [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote against the Graham-Cassidy bill

I am writing to express my opinion as an American citizen that I am tired of the repeated attempts to repeal, and then repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. For all the time you and the whole Congress have spent voting on this issue over the past few years, I am sure many other concerns could have been addressed. We have a viable health plan in place which like any sweeping and life-changing legislation needs adjustments and revisions as the implementation unfolds. Please discard this attempt and any future attempts to transform the health system into a less comprehensive, more variable, judgmental, discriminatory, and unpredictable system. I have an employer-sponsored plan, and truth be told I will be eligible for Medicare in a few years, but in the interim if I lost my job, I would want to know that a system that has been in place for years effectively for millions of people would be available. I ask that you keep in mind the toll that uncertainty takes on people, particularly those whose economic circumstances do not allow them to feel secure or have a cushion. Do not make ordinary and deserving Americans suffer again as they did before the ACA. Vote against this bill. Work toward improving the ACA. Thank you.

Marilyn Bacarella, PsyD
Licensed Psychologist
[REDACTED]
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

It is time for the GOP to put aside their personal greed and work for the citizens of this country. We do not want to see further tax cuts for the wealthiest 1%. We don't care if the GOP forfeits the obscenely huge donation from the Koch family or the Mercers - and you shouldn't either, because you work for us, not them. **The time is now to put our country and her citizens before party politics. You are dealing in people's lives.**

Please vote "NO" on Graham Cassidy and work together to support, fund and improve the ACA. We need a healthcare system where all our people can thrive.

Concerned Citizens,
Ann Schappel Walsh
Tony Walsh
Anderson Walsh



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: ann schappel walsh ~ Be One Less Person Harming Animals ~
[REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Comments for Senate Hearing on the Graham Cassidy Bill
Senate Hearing scheduled for September 25th, 2017

The Walsh Family
[REDACTED]
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

September 24, 2017

To the Senators of the United States Congress:

I am writing today to express my concern regarding the Graham Cassidy Bill. I hope each and everyone of you will look into your hearts and souls today and realize that it is wrong to take away healthcare from millions of men, women and children.

It is wrong to push a bill like this through without a complete CBO score detailing the impact on how many Americans will lose coverage.

It is wrong to gut Medicaid as so many people in this country depend on those benefits, **to live!**

It is wrong to remove protection for pre-existing conditions or make coverage for pre-existing conditions unaffordable.

It is wrong that 4,872,487 Americans have filed bankruptcy due to medical bills since 2011. This does not happen in other countries like the UK, Japan, France, Germany, Canada, Norway (the list goes on...)

The Graham Cassidy Bill is a death sentence for millions of my fellow Americans. It will personally harm my family as well, even though we are not insured through the ACA. Everyone in my family, children included, have several "pre-existing" conditions. It is beyond understanding that such a horrible bill would be put forward by our elected representatives - as you work for us, it is our tax dollars that you are spending and the overwhelming majority of Americans want to see the ACA supported, funded and an eventual move towards a single payer system. All reports show that the ACA is doing well, despite the GOP efforts to undermine it.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kaylan Szafranski [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Kathy Waligora; Nadeen Israel
Subject: Senate Finance Committee Hearing Comments on Graham-Cassidy
Attachments: POCIL_IL SFC-Template-Letter-Draft 9 22 ks kw.docx

To the Senate Finance Committee,

I, on behalf of EverThrive Illinois, respectfully submit the attached comments for the committee hearing on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Amendment to H.R. 1628, the American Health Care Act of 2017.

Sincerely,

Kaylan Szafranski

Manager- Health Reform Initiative

EverThrive Illinois

[REDACTED]
Chicago, IL 60642
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cassandra Bogue [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy comment

It is the role of the federal government to ensure that private insurers do not take advantage of the American people. As individuals, we have no power to negotiate with billion-dollar insurers, hospital systems and drug companies to lower our healthcare costs. Even our state governments cannot protect us the way federal legislation can.

There are children being born every day with preexisting conditions. This legislation makes those already vulnerable babies even more vulnerable by subjecting them to the whims of state legislators and insurance companies.

Thank you,
Cassandra Bogue
Stone Mountain, GA 30088
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Andrea Beaty [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Our citizens deserve good health care

My son is alive today because of Obamacare. It stopped pre-existing conditions and provided mental health parity. The world is a better place because my son is still in it. The same is true for so many Americans who would be denied coverage without these protections.

The Graham-Cassidy bill would be devastating to American families. Please, PLEASE vote NO.
Thank you,
Andrea Beaty

This bill hurts the poor, the elderly, children—all communities that don't have a voice. It also hurts small business owners and self-employed people who buy insurance on the individual market. I believe it is a moral imperative to take care of our neighbors who are cannot afford medical care. You may not be moved by stories of poor people dying because they can't afford health insurance, so I will not offer any here. Instead I will emphasize that this rammed-through bill is a disaster for small business and self-employed people. And we vote. We do not appreciate you playing with our lives and livelihoods for the sake of a political "win." Every medical group in the country is opposed to this bill. So are most Americans. There is absolutely no reason to pass it. Doing so will indicate that you care more about politics than about your constituents' actual lives. You were elected to represent your constituents. Please take our thoughts into respectful consideration and do not pass this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Donnelly

Philadelphia, PA

--
Katie Donnelly

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Katie Donnelly [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments regarding Graham-Cassidy Hearing 9/25
Attachments: Comments for Graham Cassidy.pdf

Please find attached my comments submitted for this hearing. They are also pasted below.

Katie Donnelly
[REDACTED]

Philadelphia PA 19125

Comments submitted for Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

September 25, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:


I am a citizen and small business owner who has been affected, both positively and negatively by the Affordable Care Act. As a self-employed person, it has always been difficult to afford health insurance. Prior to the ACA, insurance companies dug through my medical history to find flimsy excuses to raise my premiums. I really struggled with finding affordable insurance, and spent many years avoiding visiting doctors, as did my husband, who is also self employed. However, this past year the choices in the ACA marketplace seemed to have finally leveled out. Thanks to the marketplace subsidies, I was finally able to afford insurance for myself, my husband, and our daughter without fearing bankruptcy.

Now, instead of trying to improve the situation in the individual marketplace for small business people like me, Graham-Cassidy wants to eliminate the subsidies that allow people like me to purchase insurance as well as undercut the protections we have from pre-existing conditions. Without this subsidy, small business owners like myself will likely forgo insurance or risk financial ruin due to the high costs of purchasing insurance without protections on the individual market. Some of us will die. Do those of you who vote to push through this bill so quickly, without proper CBO analysis, really want people to die because they don't work at companies large enough to negotiate directly with insurance companies? Is that what you really stand for?

I understand all your fat-cat contributions are drying up because of the failure to kill the ACA per the Washington Post. That just means you will have to rely on normal people for donations, not plutocrats. That is a good thing. You are a representative of the people not the plutocrats.

It would truly be a great day for the USA to resoundingly vote down Graham-Cassidy. A poorly-thought out bill that will be executed abysmally to the benefit of your political contributors. Man up like McCain and do the right thing.

Carl Wright


Martinsburg, WV 25401

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carl on Gmail [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017 for the Future of Healthcare

Good Morning,

Unlike our esteemed solons who can afford great healthcare, a lot of Americans could not have healthcare before the Affordable Care Act. I was one of those. I think the ACA is a very good alternative to what was before the ACA and is so much better than any of the mean-spirited "solutions" the Congress and Senate have come up with under Trump. I was able to have heart surgery to fix a bad heart valve so I could return to work as a sculptor. Without the ACA, I would either be bankrupt or dead.

The ACA needs to be fully funded and also have changes made so that fickle presidents and small-minded "conservatives" (the Republican right-wingers) cannot monkey around with the benefits whenever they feel like it. Healthcare is a necessity to get on with one's life. Needless meddling with the ACA by non-experts (small minded Republicans and the current president) masquerading as doing the peoples' will sows confusion in the people who either are seeking or more than likely getting medical treatment.

To make it understandable for the conservatives who do not seem to have empathy for their fellow man, I have a possible lesson for them. How about we monkey with Congresses pay as well as their staffs pay. We the American people should be able to adjust our Senators and Representatives paycheck according to our belief system. Not anything empirical or analytical just our belief system. The same would go for their staffs. If we believe that our solons are overpaid this week since they were on vacation or campaigning, we should be allowed to cut their pay by anywhere from 10 – 50% or more. That way some chaos could be introduced into our solons personal and professional lives about paying bills, putting food on the table for the kids, managing a staff that is unhappy with lumpy, uneven pay, etc. Maybe that would be the way to inject some empathy into our solons.

I guess the thing that comes through to me is that all the thick-headed people (Republicans for the most part) think that all legislation can only come from one party or the other. It never is about working with all the Senate or all the Congress. Always narrow little constituencies that have no broad view of politics, only their narrow issue. Why don't you try to meet in the middle? Seems a reasonable thing to do. Try it. Try including Democrats and Republicans in the same meetings and genuinely listening to them and implementing their ideas.

So to keep this simple – Vote down Graham-Cassidy. You do not have scoring from the Congressional Budget Office (how stupid is that?) to know the effects. You are hurting people who are at the most vulnerable – when they need health care. The bill you are proposing (which no one really has had a chance to read – unlike the ACA when it was birthed) is mean, callous, and unfit from people who call themselves Christian.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rachel Smith-Bolton [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: delin@cff.org
Subject: Statement on Graham-Cassidy to SFC
Attachments: Senate Finance statement Smith-Bolton.pdf

Please submit the attached statement for the Senate Finance Committee hearing on the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

Thank you
Rachel Smith-Bolton

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Fawn Potash [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re: The Graham Cassidy bill- What healthcare means to me...

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

I live in rural New York where jobs are few and pay scales are low. 49% of residents in my county use Medicaid. As a result of the Medicaid expansion, my family was able to weather 6 months while I was unemployed.

Now that I have a great job at the Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley, I have RARE employer supplied health insurance. My husband, a journalist pays \$240/month on a marketplace plan which costs less than the plan his employer offers with a contribution. Our son is covered by New York's fantastic plan for children which costs \$45. All together we pay almost \$300/month for reasonable coverage. I make \$425/week. So a considerable chunk of my paycheck goes to health insurance. We can afford it, but any more and it starts to eat into other basics like mortgage, groceries and utilities.

Under the proposed Graham Cassidy plan, my husband's diabetes and my son's neurological diagnoses might put the cost of health insurance out of reach. Or the plans we would be able to afford would allow insurance companies to set copays beyond our budget.

We can just afford what we have. Nobody's wages are going up, but the cost of health insurance and healthcare has already worn away what we would have put into savings.

Regulating the healthcare/insurance industries would go a long way toward helping the economy in general.

Setting a health policy for our country would be a valuable contribution to the partisan debate.

I would gladly pay more in taxes for health insurance that covers everyone. Right now, our family pays about \$3,600/year for health insurance. And probably another \$2500 in copays and prescriptions. Do you think you can come up with a better plan for middle class families?

What about all the people I serve through my work- people who are blind, deaf, experiencing chronic disease, wheel chair users, many dependent on long term services and supports through Medicaid?

Thank you for your attention,

Fawn Potash
Catskill, NY

--
Fawn Potash
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dianne Poulos [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Hello, I am writing from Massachusetts. I own a small business and I employ a few people in that business. I'm hoping you'll read and consider my story as you consider a vote on this bill.

My husband is a cancer survivor and works as much as he can. Even 10+ years later, he still is suffering from the effects of his diagnosis. We are extremely glad, however, that he's alive and healthy. He did lose his full time job though. So, as a business owner, I went to the open exchanges for our family's insurance.

Right now I pay \$1,350 per month for a decent plan from Tufts. We do receive a subsidy. Without it, the plan would be in excess of \$2,000. I willingly pay for a higher end plan because I want to ensure my husband can receive good care (or me for that matter) in case of a health issue.

So, the first \$1,350 I make in a month goes to health care. It's not an insignificant amount. But I figure it's the cost of the privilege of owning my own business and so I don't think too much about it.

So my question to you is this: why are you going to make it so much more difficult for me to insure my family? As someone who is over 50 with a pre-existing position, my husband is in the cross hairs of this legislation. We may not be able to insure him. For what? I don't see where this legislation improves anyone's life unless you earn above a certain amount. Then you get a tax cut.

I just want to keep my family safe. I want to run my business and keep my employees employed. I'd like to wake up without a stomach ache as I consider what my government is happily going to do to me. It's not too much to ask. I'm not a grifter. I'm a hard-working woman doing her best.

I'm begging you to stop terrorizing everyone who falls into the open market system. That's what it is ladies and gentlemen: terrorism. Every time an ill conceived bill is up for consideration, the cycle of terror starts again. I'm exhausted. The American public deserves better than this.

Thank you for your time,

Dianne Poulos
Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sanda [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Eliminate the disastrous Graham Cassidy bill

Please, please do not pass this disastrous bill. I am currently on Medicaid after a lifetime of working as hard as I possibly could and now working for a youth engagement nonprofit startup with a low wage and no healthcare provision. Medicaid has enabled me to stay afloat.

My mother has a pre-existing conditions (brain aneurysms) and is not eligible for long term insurance. Thankfully she is on Medicare but we cannot buy a policy to support her long term care, making my health and affordable health care all the more important.

I am writing to request--to demand--that you say NO to lifetime caps ... NO to Medicaid block grants ... NO to any cuts to Medicaid ... NO to discrimination against those with pre-existing conditions. NO to the whole Graham-Cassidy bill. Fix the ACA--it IS fixable--don't kill it and the people it protects. While imperfect, it is better than anything that's been proposed or that's likely to be proposed in this administration

Many many thanks for your support,
--Sanda Balaban

[REDACTED]
Brooklyn, NY 11215

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lindi Mallison [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Concerning the ACA....

This vote should not be happening before more detailed study and analysis can be done. All reports now show that every significant medical related group opposes this effort.

This is too important to rush. Please take the lead of Senator John McCain (a true American Hero) and do not move forward with this.

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

Thank you,

Lindi Mallison
Key Largo, Florida

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jan Aguilos [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy is a Terrible Idea

The Graham-Cassidy "healthcare" bill will harm millions if it gets passed into law. We will remember who voted for this harmful bill.

--

Kindest Regards,

Jan Aguilos

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tb [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Terry Blecher
Santa Monica California

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linea Sundstrom [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Uncertainty is bad for America

Honorable Senators:

My husband is planning to retire in two years at age 67. That will leave me without health insurance coverage for two years. I am healthy and use health care services rarely, but like almost everyone, I have a pre-existing condition. I was born with it. It's never caused me any health problems, but it will allow insurance companies to refuse me coverage if the current mandate is repealed.

How can we plan for retirement when I have no idea whether I can obtain health coverage? Is the plan really to let families like mine fall into poverty and then get health care via Medicaid? How will that make America stronger?

Please set aside your desire to get a legislative "victory" for its own sake and instead consider what this uncertainty is doing to families like mine, to employers, and to America's status in the world economy. Why would anyone want to invest here when our leaders are turning their backs on providing a reliable healthcare system to American workers?

Can states do it better? One or two probably can. But the other 48 have had 200 years to get it right and have failed to come up with viable alternatives.

Don't turn your backs on us now. We will remember in November. Your "victory" will be as short-lived as it is short-sighted.

Linea Sundstrom

[REDACTED]
Milwaukee, WI 53211

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Comcast [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments regarding Graham Cassidy

I implore you not to pass this legislation. This will bring undue harm to the poor, elderly and sick.

Pro-life means being more than anti-abortion. Pro-life means supporting legislation that will not harm people.

Sincerely,

Patricia Groshon
Lansdowne, PA

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stephanie Nystrom [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Hearing on September 25, 2017

Dear Senators,

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Healthcare Bill because my family and I, like all Americans, depend on quality, affordable healthcare. As a small business owner since 1989, I must purchase individual health insurance for myself and my family - the premiums of which has gone up drastically over the years while coverage has decreased. Only since the ACA has gone into effect have premiums become more stable, and more services, especially cost-effective preventative care, been included. The ACA is not perfect, but we need to work together to improve it, not repeal it. Please do not send GCHJ to the floor for a vote, and if it does come before the Senate, please vote no.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Nystrom

[REDACTED]
Corbett, OR 97019

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alexis Tackmann [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill

To whom it may concern:

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill. I work as a Clinical Dietitian on the trauma floors of Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis, and this hospital also serves as the safety-net hospital for the state of Minnesota. If the Graham-Cassidy Bill passes, many of my patients would lose their insurance. This bill will make it even more difficult for our already vulnerable patient population to access and pay for the care that they and their families desperately need.

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

Thank you,
Alexis Tackmann, MS, RD, LD, CNSC
Minneapolis, MN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Diane Lander-Simon [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stop Graham Cassidy

It is time to use a bipartisan process to protect healthcare for Americans.
Stop playing politics with lives. Give us the same coverage you and your family get or lose your seat next time you're up for election.

Diane Lander Simon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: karen freede [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Keep the ACA

Good evening,

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

My two adult children like thousands of other Americans, would not be able to afford health care if it were not for the Affordable Care Act. Every American deserves health care!!! Every American should have the health care protection that Congress has! It is unconscionable that it is otherwise now. Please don't make it worse!

While there may be problems with the bill as it is now, we should save it and work to improve it. I, like John McCain and others, would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, NOT repeal it.

Thank you for doing what you can to help **all** Americans!

Sincerely,

Karen Freede

Putnam Valley

NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jen Strongin [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. In my family, my 10 year old son has Type 1 Diabetes and my husband and I have chronic asthma. We rely on life saving medications to keep us all alive and healthy. We are currently very fortunate to have insurance coverage that we can afford and that enables us to get the medications we need. The Graham-Cassidy bill may allow people with pre-existing conditions like ours to have access to insurance, but it won't prevent companies from making that insurance prohibitively expensive. This is a problem. This is a bill that will lead to millions of Americans not being able to afford the care they need. I am still in awe that I have to keep making these call and writing these letters in order to insure that I can get the medication I need to keep my family alive!!

We need a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Jennifer Strongin

[REDACTED]
Seattle WA 98122

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: The Mannings [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Please do not repeal the ACA. In fact, I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve it. My brother is 59 years old with a mental illness; my good friend is 63 years old and has suffered severe seizure onset this past summer – they rely on the affordable care act. I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill because it would have a disastrous impact on their medical care.

Thank you.

Mary Manning

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mauri Connors [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Keep the ACA

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. As an artist who works multiple gig jobs, affordable healthcare is so important. Healthcare should be affordable enough that people take preventative measures to protect their health, not wait until disaster strikes.

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

Sincerely,
Maureen Connors
Lexington, VA 24450

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Virginia Metzendorf [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham -Cassidy Healthcare Bill

The Graham-Cassidy Bill is an abomination. Passing this bill just to satisfy the base of the Republican party is unconscionable. Look at the numbers and note that over sixty percent of Americans want fair, affordable healthcare that is not determined by insurance companies who, if given the chance, can deny coverage wherever they want. There is a difference between coverage and care and the Republicans in Congress know it.
Do not pass this bill.

Virginia Metzendorf
Bayport, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stephanie Jacob [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham-Cassidy

My husband and I are 66 and 67 years old and have 2 adult developmentally disabled sons. My husband is still working fulltime to keep the healthcare that his employer provides. The Graham-Cassidy bill will severely affect California and the lives of my sons and the entire disabled and senior communities. This is not the way to fix the Affordable Care Act. This is a strictly political move by the GOP to placate their base. Democrats and Republicans need to work together to fashion a healthcare bill that doesn't hurt or take away healthcare from millions of vulnerable Americans. Stephanie Jacob, Pleasant Hill, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Edward Metzendorf [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

The Graham-Cassidy Bill is an abomination. Passing this bill just to satisfy the base of the Republican party is unconscionable. Look at the numbers and note that over sixty percent of Americans want fair, affordable healthcare that is not determined by insurance companies who, if given the chance, can deny coverage wherever they want. There is a difference between coverage and care and the Republicans in Congress know it.
Do not pass this bill.

Edward Metzendorf
Bayport, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Kennedy, Senator (Kennedy)
Subject: Protect affordable health care for all Americans!

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The most recent attack on the ACA, sponsored by Republican senators Bill Cassidy, Lindsey Graham, and Dean Heller—would take away health insurance from millions, devastate and eventually destroy Medicaid, make insurance premiums wildly unaffordable, and shut down hospitals across the country.

It is irresponsible for congress to push forward with a bill that affects 1/6 of our economy and millions of Americans, without a complete review because of a campaign promise.
Please protect us, please keep me alive, we can't count on our senators to put America and Americans before politics.

Thank you,
Mary Katherine Ragsdale
Louisiana, 71105

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Glen Hylton [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony for Graham-Cassidy Hearing Sept. 25, 2017

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare to be contributing, working citizens of the U.S.. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. We have a daughter with developmental disabilities who through Medicaid support is able to live in the community as a contributing, tax paying citizen. Without her healthcare and Medicaid support, she would be living in a nursing home or living on the street. Healthcare and Medicaid is a Life or Death sentence. The Graham-Cassidy bill is a death sentence for millions of Americans. Instead, I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Glen O. Hylton

Seattle, Washington and Evanston, Illinois

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Stankorb [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE NO

I am writing to beg the committee to vote no on the Graham-Cassidy bill, which is poorly crafted, irresponsible, lacking in basic conservative fiscal sense, absent any sort of compassion and a clear political ploy to "kill Obamacare" whatever the consequences.

I have a pre-existing condition, and I am exhausted. Not by the condition itself, but by the every few weeks tumult of seeing my representatives heartlessly try to rip care away from so many Americans. For what? Up front cost savings that will cost us billions more on the backend, with more conditions going untreated for longer, more people filling emergency rooms instead of primary care offices, because they are waiting until they are desperate.

What are you thinking? Have you become so morally bankrupt that you think Americans want to vote for people who care so little about them that they will vote to take away their very lives in exchange for tax breaks for their wealthy donors? Are you that pessimistic about us? Do you find us to be that stupid?

We are not.

Please vote no.

And while you are at it, figure out a way to support universal coverage of some type. We're a fully developed nation. It's an embarrassment how poorly we treat the sick in America.

--
Sarah Stankorb

[REDACTED]



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Save Medicaid

Hello,

Attempting to get rid of Medicaid will hurt millions of people. Some of us have disabilities and with the poverty level as bad as it is, people need the help they are getting.

For those of us who work, having us lose coverage because we have a pre-existing condition is wrong. We don't ask to be sick, and without insurance, more and more people will become sick.

Preventive maintenance works as long as individuals can have coverage to maintain their health.

Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amanda Vote <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing letter
Attachments: SFC letter.docx

Please find my attached letter regarding the Graham-Cassidy proposal.

Thank you,

Amanda Vote

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maureen Baynes [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Hearing - Please delay vote

Hello,

I am extremely concerned to hear that there will be a hearing on Monday for the Graham/ Cassidy bill for changes to the Affordable Care Act. I urge you to delay the hearing until there has been time for a robust evaluation of how many Americans it will affect, and in the meantime work to improve the existing bill in a bipartisan manner.

Thank you,
Maureen Baynes

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Janice Jackson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care legislation

I am taking this opportunity to urge all Senators to vote no on this bill. I cannot fathom how a bill can have a vote without hearings, input from vested stakeholders, agencies that compile data on health conditions, health care costs, etc... I have seen nothing about that other than an occasional doctor or legislator weighing in on the subject on the radio or television talk shows. While some of you may have your constituents' best interests in mind, I am sure some of the group is more concerned about their political careers (and the health care my taxes pay for your group) than the true interests of the people of this country. I am a retired teacher with a nearly 20 year old son; I have maintained my insurance from my employer, and I have insured my son individually since he was 4. I have contributed to society in terms of being a home owner, full time employee who continues to work in my retirement, contributor to the community in many ways. My son is in college, has worked three different jobs in between athletic seasons in college and all of the summers since he was 16. Like all parents I want him to follow his passions and enjoy a fulfilling, HEALTHY life. He has battled mental health issues for the last 4-5 years though diagnosing it and treating it has been difficult, He attempted suicide this past April; while he had a prominent insurance, I am still cashing in savings and holding a hefty credit card debt. Some of the therapy and the current psychiatrist treating him do not even take insurance. He is committed to his therapy sessions, returned to school, works, and lives at home. Despite having a college education, master's degree and a reputation as a good and fair teacher for 31 years, there is nothing about our lives that would scream financially stable (although I had enough money saved, and he earned enough scholarships to pay for the first year of a private college). He is using his A+ scholarship to attend junior college now and continue his academic pursuits and passions there. However, his insurance company is dropping him December 31, I do not trust what Congress will do to ACA, so I am lucky (?) that I have been told I can add him to my policy with my former employer at a 33% increase. Where are the assurances about pre-existing conditions, caps, etc?

I should not have to choose between the support that allows him to stay engaged and able to contribute to society and the necessity of paying utilities, etc... And yet, I am probably one of the lucky ones who has a manageable mortgage and a decent pension; over 25% of my pension goes to the insurance costs (not even touching the monthly costs for the psychiatrist and therapy). The pharmacy companies' lobbyists make sure that needed prescriptions for my son, my mother, my friends break the bank; that is not the case in other countries and it does not have to be the case here! I have already had to fight insurance companies for stating that aspects of coverage (ambulance for example) would be covered only to find out that they do not want to pay. I am already fighting for what I am currently paying for; now the Senators want to deny me the coverage I have been willing to pay for. A recent doctor interviewed on a St. Louis radio station exhorted that health insurance does not mean health care; pardon me, but one does not get health care at all (barring emergency rooms) unless they can produce an insurance card.

My sister has had cancer twice before the age of 45, as have several friends (several have died). ALL were hard working people who had to struggle with their treatment costs and insurance premiums. For God's sake and in the name of humanity, fix the problems, do not throw out the baby with the bath water.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anna Rabinowitz [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Totally against Graham-Cassidy

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

Anna Rabinowitz

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lichty, Janice <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:15 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Healthcare Bill

My daughter has type 1 diabetes and I have carried her on my insurance but that will change next year. She will be 26 and will have to find her own insurance or medicaid. She is going to college and has a part time job so she doesn't make a lot of money. She needs two types of insulin daily to LIVE plus all the testing supplies. I am very afraid for her if this bill passes and for everyone else that has a pre existing condition. This bill is heartless and wrong and I urge you to vote no.

Thank you
Jan Lichty

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Naomi Uyama [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:18 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public testimony for the Graham-Cassidy hearing

Hello,

My name is Naomi Uyama. I am a relatively healthy 36 year old living in Minneapolis with my husband. We are middle class but self employed so we have to buy our own health insurance. We are currently on a plan that costs over \$300 a month and wouldn't cover me if I got pregnant. I am not a "welfare queen". I am not a "loose woman". I'm an American, married homeowner who is worried all the time about getting pregnant, not because I don't want kids but because I'm worried my husband and I can't afford it.

Even though it is a chunk of our budget my husband and I decided this year to prioritize health care as an expense and we are now counting the days until we can sign up for the ACA. The Graham-Cassidy bill will change the requirements for essential health benefits and I do not want to keep living without maternity care coverage. Please, consider this taxpayer and **do not repeal the ACA**.

Thank you,
Naomi Uyama

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Heidi Currier Ferris [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

My family and I depend on high quality and affordable healthcare. The Graham-Cassidy Bill would allow insurance companies to raise our healthcare insurance premiums beyond affordability because we have pre-existing health conditions. I want Congress to work on a bipartisan healthcare bill that improves the Affordable Care Act, not repeals it.

Thank you,

Heidi Currier Ferris

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeff Vainshtein [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:09 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Best stated by Atul Gawande

If the U.S. Adopts the G.O.P.'s Health-Care Bill, It Would Be an Act of Mass Suicide

Atul Gawande

September 22, 2017 2:00 PM

The fundamental thing to understand about Senate Republicans' latest attempt to repeal Obamacare is that the bill under consideration would not just undo the Affordable Care Act—it would also end Medicaid as we know it and our federal government's half-century commitment to closing the country's yawning gaps in health coverage. And it would do so without putting in place any credible resources or policies to replace the system it is overturning. If our country enacts this bill, it would be an act of mass suicide.

In my surgery practice in Boston, I see primarily cancer patients. When I started out, in 2003, at least one in ten of my patients was uninsured. Others, who had insurance, would discover in the course of their treatment that their policies had annual or lifetime caps that wouldn't cover their costs, or that they would face unaffordable premiums going forward because they now had a preexisting condition. When he was governor of Massachusetts, it was Mitt Romney, a conservative, who brought Republicans and Democrats together to make a viable state system of near-universal coverage. That system then served as a model for the A.C.A. The results have been clear: increases in coverage have markedly improved people's access to care and their health. For the last four years, health-care costs in Massachusetts have risen more slowly than the national average—while the national numbers themselves have been at historic lows. I have not seen a single uninsured patient—zero—in a decade. And now comes an utterly reckless piece of legislation that would destroy these gains.

To review how we got to this point: last spring, the House passed a health-care-reform bill that proposed to hollow out the A.C.A.'s funding, insurance mandates, and protections for people with preexisting conditions. It was immensely unpopular with the public. The problem was not just that twenty-three million Americans would lose their health insurance if the bill becomes law but also the Republicans' vision of a health system where insurance with deductibles of five thousand dollars and more, and little or no primary-care coverage, would become the norm. This summer, Senate Republicans failed to secure enough votes to pass a modified version of the House bill. Later, in a dramatic late-night session, the Senate also rejected, by a single vote, a "skinny" repeal bill. That bill would have repealed only the parts of the A.C.A. that required large businesses to insure their workers and all Americans to carry coverage. It would have resulted in a mere sixteen million more uninsured people, according to estimates.

The Republican bill currently being rushed to a vote was put forward by a group of senators led by Lindsey Graham, of South Carolina, and Bill Cassidy, of Louisiana. As has become the apparent rule for Republican health-care bills, there have been no hearings or committee reviews of the Graham-Cassidy bill. And, this time, lawmakers and the public do not even have a Congressional Budget Office analysis of the effects the bill would have on the budget, insurance costs, or the uninsured rate.

This is unprecedented: senators are moving ahead with a vote on a bill that would alter the health care of every American family and the condition of a sixth of our entire economy, without waiting to hear any official, independent estimates of the consequences. The irresponsibility is as blithe as it is breathtaking. Before becoming a senator, Cassidy spent twenty-five years working as a physician in hospitals devoted to the uninsured. I find it baffling that a person with his experience would not recognize the danger of this bill. But here we are.

The Graham-Cassidy bill goes even further than the bill passed by the House. It would bring to a virtually immediate end not only the individual and employer mandates but also the whole edifice of the Medicaid expansion, insurance exchanges, and income-based coverage subsidies set up under the A.C.A. Graham-Cassidy expects all fifty states to then 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.

Like the House bill, Graham-Cassidy would cut Medicaid payments for traditional enrollees—the elderly in nursing homes, pregnant women in poverty, disabled children, etc.—by a third by 2026. A portion of the money saved would go into a short-term fund for states to use for health-care costs. The rationale is that this would give states “flexibility” to design coverage for their residents as they see fit. But the amount of funding provided is, by multiple estimates, hundreds of billions of dollars below what the A.C.A. provides. The bill also nakedly shifts funds from Democratic-leaning states that expanded Medicaid under the A.C.A. to Republican-leaning states that didn’t. Analyses indicate that states like California, Massachusetts, and New York will receive block-grant funding anywhere from thirty-five to almost sixty per cent below the health-care funding their residents would receive under current law. Much of those missing funds would be transferred to states like Texas, Mississippi, and Wisconsin. And special deals to make further shifts from blue states to red states such as Alaska are being negotiated to win vote

As for what states can do with the funds they do receive, they would not be allowed to use them to enroll people in Medicaid, or able to establish a single-payer system. And states would not be receiving enough to continue Obamacare on their own. The only options for spending are for commercial coverage. States will be permitted to let insurers bring back higher costs for people with preexisting conditions and to reinstate annual and lifetime limits on coverage. And then, starting in 2026, the funding turns out to only be temporary. Under the bill’s provisions, unless further action is taken then, four trillion dollars will be removed from health-care systems over twenty years.

With these massive sums flinging around, it is easy to forget that this is about our health as human beings. The evidence is that health-care programs like the A.C.A. save lives. The way they do so is by increasing the number of people who have affordable access to a regular source of care and needed medications. Such coverage has been shown to produce a substantial and increasing reduction in mortality—especially among those with chronic illnesses, such as heart disease, cancer, or H.I.V.—in as little as five years.

Virtually all of us, as we age, will develop serious health conditions. A critical test of any health reform, therefore, is whether it improves or reduces our prospects of having the continuous care and medicines we need when we come to have a chronic illness. The Graham-Cassidy bill fails this test. It will terminate Medicaid coverage and insurance subsidies for some twenty million people. The entire individual-insurance market will be thrown into a tailspin. Federal protections for insurance coverage will be gone.

Every major group representing patients, health-care professionals, health-care institutions, and insurers has come out vociferously against this plan. Governors from Alaska to Ohio to Virginia have opposed the bill. In a highly unusual, bipartisan statement, the national association representing the Medicaid directors of all fifty states has also opposed the bill. The top health official in Louisiana, Cassidy’s home state, has opposed the

new plan. There is not a single metric of health or health care that the Graham-Cassidy plan makes better. This bill is a national calamity. It should not even come to a vote.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hernandez, Brittany [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:23 PM
To: Hernandez, Brittany
Subject: March of Dimes President Stacey Stewart re: Graham-Cassidy
Attachments: 09-25-17 March of Dimes Graham-Cassidy statement Sen Finance hearing.pdf

Attached, please find March of Dimes President Stacey D. Stewart's statement for the record ahead of Monday's Senate Finance hearing. Feel free to reach out to me with any questions. Many thanks,

Brittany

Brittany Johnson Hernandez
Deputy Director, Federal Affairs

March of Dimes
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Washington, DC 20005
[REDACTED]

A Fighting Chance for Every Baby

marchofdimes.org | shareyourstory.org | nacersano.org | marchforbabies.org

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jack DiMonte [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject the Graham-Cassidy Bill!

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

Jack DiMonte

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Övgü Kaynak [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO to Graham-Cassidy

Please abandon this awful bill. The American people are sick of politicians using our healthcare to play games with one another. We want real healthcare reform done by the experts who actually understand the market and what's at stake. Bipartisan reform is the only way forward.

Övgü Kaynak, PhD

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bowne, Katelyn C. [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Katelyn Bowne and my brother Shawn Wivell has traumatic brain injury (TBI). I am writing you this letter because I would like to vote AGAINST the passage of the Graham-Cassidy Bill. Not only does my brother but my family needs to keep the Medicaid program. My parents have a low income and even though I am a full time worker myself, I am a part time college student as well. We cannot afford to have his health coverage dropped. I do not understand how anyone thinks a family with someone who has TBI can afford any health coverage without Medicaid. We depend on it.

My brother's TBI is so bad that he will never be able to obtain another job in his life even though we see improvements in his therapy. He needs daily rehabilitative care. He has short-term memory loss, has to wear a brace on his left leg to help him walk, has a very hard time using his left hand, and has horrible speech. My brother has a life, my family and I have a life as well as you. In order for us to live our lives, my brother Shawn needs Medicaid. He needs his health insurance to help better him in his daily activities. He needs funding to be able to get the prescriptions he needs to take. He also needs to afford to go to doctor visits to help improve his health.

Finally, on another note, how could you let an insurance company discriminate on someone with brain injury? It is ok not to discriminate if someone is white or black but if someone has a brain injury its ok. Please tell me how that makes sense. Everyone is equal whether they are white, black, have a brain injury or for a matter of fact any type of disability. I do not see how it is fair to single someone out and make them have higher premiums just because of a brain injury.

I hope you will reconsider and vote against the bill. Not only my family but also other families with TBI needs Medicaid and all the assistance we can get. No one knows what we go through and I can guarantee that you have no idea the stress my family and other families with TBI go through to make sure our family member is getting the care they need. Receiving an email stating that Medicaid maybe dropped puts more stress on a family especially a family with low income who has no idea where to get funds for health coverage. We all know nothing is cheap these days so I will repeat we **DEPEND ON MEDICAID!**

Thank you for your time.

Katelyn Bowne

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pete Hayes [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: health care bill

I am writing to voice my opposition to the Graham/Cassidy healthcare bill, which I believe will weaken America as a country and plunge more people than ever into sickness and poverty.

Please record my opposition with the rest of the opposing opinions that you are receiving. This healthcare bill is a travesty and a knife into the heart of American values.

Regards,
Pete Hayes

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beverly [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Bill

Good afternoon:

I am writing regarding the proposed Graham/Cassidy bill. By all standards set and held of value by every Governor of all 50 states, the American Medical Association, AARP, every major medical group and analysts, and on and on and on... this is NOT a bill that will ensure the welfare of the citizens of the United States.

I am concerned that Congress has decided to hold a vote on a bill that will affect 1/6 of the American economy, without even waiting to view a COB score. How can you vote on proposed legislation without fully understanding the impact on lives of Americans? This is not the ethical, moral, or constitution method of legislating.

Of EXTREME importance is the language that allows states to loosen protections for pre-existing conditions. This is an incredible departure from ACA that will impact MILLIONS of lives. States will opt to do what brings in money; as Congress well understands, these things are ALWAYS predicated on money. Considering that most people have pre-existing conditions, rates increases will surely be enacted to bring in the most money. This is why the ACA prohibits discrimination against people with pre-existing conditions -- so this type of price gauging doesn't happen! And, to exacerbate that agenda, this bill creates new pre-existing conditions, particularly against women, that are appalling. Childbirth for one. Really? This is the most ridiculous piece of legislation the United States has ever seen. You are taking women back to the pre-historic era.

Also, monies dedicated to Medicaid will be cut with this bill. All presidents since F. D. Roosevelt have fought to have senior Americans who have paid into the country for entire lifetimes be assured of medical care. This bill will wipe out that care that others so rightly sought to protect. Not only seniors, but others who depend on Medicaid in time of need. I myself would have been decimated without Medicaid while laid off off work during the last recession. PEOPLE WILL DIE!

This bill does NOT support the American people. It does NOT help American citizenry in any way. NOT ONE WANTS THIS BILL, and yet you insist on shoving it through. We are PEOPLE! We are NOT a sacrifice to the GOP agenda! This bill has had no review, no COB score, no debate, no hearings. Let me remind you that Democrats held over 100 bipartisan meetings spanning an entire year, had a FULL COB score, allowed GOP amendments, and President Obama answered questions about the bill himself, and STILL the GOP complained! The GOP needs to do the same due diligence this time. The Graham/Cassidy bill is mean-spirited, and is most likely driven by the desire to claim Koch brothers money promised upon passing.

Congress began taking the appropriate ethical and moral action by beginning bi-partisan discussions to update/correct issues with the ACA. I encourage congress to drop the Graham/Cassidy bill and return to the discussion table, keeping the needs of ALL US citizens in mind while crafting a bill that is functional and ethical.

Thank you,
Beverly Hall

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Blunden [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham-Cassidy

If passed, the Graham-Cassidy bill would have a devastating impact on those of us with pre-existing conditions and disabilities. This bill will kill me. I cannot afford a huge increase because of my cancer. At the same time, I want to live long enough to see my daughter graduate from high school and get married and have children. Please don't do this to us.

Sincerely,

Carol Blunden

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Liz duffy Adams [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Thirty-two million Americans could lose coverage, it includes radical change to Medicaid and diminished funding for every state, and it's getting 90 seconds of debate? If you want to keep your campaign pledges, please start by keeping your pledge not to touch Medicaid benefits. Reject this bill.

Sincerely,

Liz Duffy Adams
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Regina Reed <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care for the Homeless Comments
Attachments: HealthCareForTheHomeless_GrahamCassidyStatement.pdf

Dear Committee Staff:

Please find attached and copied below in plain text, a letter from the **National Health Care for the Homeless Council's CEO, G. Robert Watts**, for submission on the record at the Graham-Cassidy bill hearing.

Thank you,

Regina Reed, MPH
Health Policy Organizer
National Health Care for the Homeless Council

[REDACTED] or [REDACTED]
September 22, 2017

Statement for the Record submitted to the Senate Committee on Finance

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

Dear Chairman Hatch, Ranking Member Wyden, and members of the Senate Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to share a statement on the record on the Graham-Cassidy bill. On behalf of the National Health Care for the Homeless community, which represents 300 federally qualified health centers and others serving nearly 1 million patients experiencing homelessness each year, I write to ask you to protect access to health care, and most specifically to protect the Medicaid program.

Under the Affordable Care Act, this country made enormous gains to reduce the uninsured. As providers serving people who are homeless—a group largely ineligible for insurance previously—we saw a significant increase in insured individuals and the quality of the services we can provide has improved, among many other positive changes. States that expanded Medicaid have been better able to end homelessness because of the comprehensive care that insurance facilitates. Unfortunately, not all states expanded this life-saving program, and it is to the detriment of state budgets, public health goals, health care providers, and—most importantly—citizens of this country who otherwise go without care. The lack of basic health care for all people perpetuates homelessness and is devastating to families, communities, and a

drain on this country's economy. The Graham-Cassidy bill rearranges the financial structure of Medicaid into a block grant and thus reduces this country's capacity to care for homeless and medically vulnerable individuals.

The National Health Care for the Homeless Council strongly opposes the Graham-Cassidy proposal and urges Senators to instead focus on bipartisan solutions to strengthen the ACA. Furthermore, as you approach legislation that changes the health care system, we strongly urge you to protect the traditional expansion of Medicaid and expand its coverage to the 3 million people living below poverty in the 19 states that have yet to expand. Expansion of coverage—not restricting it—is how we achieve greater health and lower costs.

Health reform is an opportunity to adjust the moral tenor of this country, and recognize that health care is a human right. We are counting on you.

Sincerely,

G. Robert Watts
Chief Executive Officer
National Health Care for the Homeless Council

Health Care for the Homeless is building a future without homelessness. Support our work at www.hchmd.org.

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS MESSAGE IS LEGALLY PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION INTENDED FOR THE USE OF THE ADDRESSEE LISTED ABOVE. This record has been disclosed in accordance with Subtitle 3 of Title 4 of the Health-General Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. Further disclosure of medical information contained herein is prohibited. If you are neither the intended recipient nor the individual responsible for delivering this message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure of patient information is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, immediately notify us by telephone or return email.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

To whom it may concern:

My name is Kelly Tanner, I am fortunate enough to be married to a wonderful hard working man that is employed by the government. Therefore, I have insurance and will only end up paying more if you pass this bill. However, I personally know more than a few people who are not as fortunate.

A friend of mine works just as hard as my husband. She works 40 hours a week and her husband also works a full time job sometimes 2 and 3; however neither of their jobs provide decent health coverage. Therefore, their one year old son is covered by the ACA. He has one undescended testicle. If you pass this bill, this is now a pre-existing condition. His parents cannot afford to cover the surgery he needs. So something that is so easy to resolve becomes a life long problem.

There are many people out there that struggle with going to the doctor or eating. What kind of country are we that we cannot ensure that our weakest cannot receive the care they need? Our citizens deserve better than this disastrous monstrosity that they are calling a healthcare bill. To take away from so many for the sole purpose of giving tax credits to those who are not even hurting is absurd.

My family would only have to pay more, which we would happily do if it meant others would have the care they desperately need. We need a healthcare system that takes care of everybody, not just those who can afford it. Healthcare should be a right, not a privilege. We need a system that takes care of its citizens, not the insurance companies and the pharmaceutical industry. Honestly we need Medicare for all!

Sincerely,

Kelly Tanner

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Danielle Stokes <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because no person should have to choose between being able to pay rent or buying food or going to the doctors. Healthcare is a basic right that everyone is deserving of regardless of how much money they make.

Danielle Stokes

19344
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Brian Nicholas [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Don't put bills on the floor without proper vetting

Please don't put this bill up for a vote until after the CBO has a chance to do its job and evaluate the claims made by senators in the press.

Thanks,
Brian Nicholas
11363

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeffrey Haddow [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,
The Graham-Cassidy bill is an absolute nightmare.
Does that express my opposition clearly enough?

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Haddow

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Imcdowell1530 [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

The American people are being lied to on a frighteningly regular basis about Graham Cassidy. The truth is cleverly hidden behind words such as "choice" - the only "choice" millions of Americans will have if this abominable act is passed is to have no healthcare coverage at all. That is NOT a choice.

I am 58 years old, my spine is fused and I have degenerative disc disease to name just a couple of my pre-existing conditons - but I am lucky, I have employer provided healthcare at this time. I know this will not always be so. However, Graham Cassidy is not about me personally or any one individual - it is about millions of people including children & the elderly. It is not even about you - this bill is being fast tracked for the simple reason of partisanship. Healthcare should never be about one person or party - let's make it about "WE the people" and work together to fix what we have not decimate it.

Best regards,

Lauren M McDowell

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S7 active, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Will Reynolds [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Valerie Rose Belanger; Hulda Einarsdottir
Subject: DO NOT INSTITUTE Graham Cassidy

Graham Cassidy is a horrible idea and sneaky way of enabling states to do the dirty work of kicking people with pre-existing conditions off health insurance. DO NOT INSTITUTE Graham Cassidy!

Will Reynolds

Sent in motion

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David Brevitz [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: 'Maryanne Loscalzo'; 'Jennie Brevitz'; ljbjd@hotmail.com
Subject: A HUGE Thumbs Down on Graham Cassidy

I VOTE. I follow civic, political and policy issues closely. I am 61 years old, and I have never written to Congress or my Congressmen before, but I have never been so OUTRAGED in my life over what Senate Republicans are doing to the healthcare system!! Graham Cassidy is an utter outrage and disgrace, and is being pushed out of order and for NO VALID policy reason at all.

I understand that the Senate Finance Committee has a hastily called meeting for Monday September 25th on the Graham-Cassidy "Get Rid of ObamaCare" bill. This is a farcical attempt to make it look like this terrible bill is being considered via "regular order" – which traditionally means collection of evidence and information via staff research and public testimony, working out IN COMMITTEES policy issues and concerns, considering "all" ramifications of legislative language and action, drafting legislative language in light of these learnings and policies, debating same in relevant committees, and only once committees have cleared the legislation is it brought to the floor of the Senate. Ramifications of the legislation are considered IN COMMITTEE including via evaluation of the scoring and analysis conducted by the Congressional Budget Office – a NON-PARTISAN part of Congress. It is an OUTRAGE that the Senate is ramrodding this bill without knowing or considering CBO scoring and analysis, and without ANY public testimony in committees, inside of a very few weeks! But who am I to tell the Senate and its members and staff about "regular order"? The Senate Republicans know full well what they are doing, and it is driven by the big money donors who haven't gotten "anything" this session they have paid for with their big money donations. Millions and millions of regular working, middle class Americans are going to be BADLY hurt by this bill – it is an OUTRAGE that the Senate is ramrodding this bill without due deliberation in "regular order" to satisfy angry big money donors. What is wrong with our political system that millions and millions of regular Americans have to be this concerned about their health care being totally disrupted?

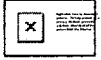
It is commonly understood that health-care is fully ONE-SIXTH of the US economy. It is an OUTRAGE that the Senate is even considering this bill within the space of a very few weeks without any public testimony, REAL committee hearings (not this late farcical attempt to feign "regular order"), or CBO analysis and scoring. This abrupt, rushed bill will significantly disrupt and destabilize health care and health insurance across the country, resulting in chaos among consumers and providers. Those with limited resources, i.e., rural areas and millions and millions of Americans who are not wealthy political donors, will suffer the most – both financially and health-wise. Who will pick up the pieces? A huge and completely unnecessary burden is placed on the states. The impact on jobs can't help but be detrimental.

Doctors, patients, hospitals, patient providers groups, health care foundations, insurance companies, EVERYONE is against this bill! The National Association of Medicaid Directors has come out unanimously – all 50 states! – against this bill, the first time they have been unanimous on an issue. From the American Cancer Association, American Heart Association, the American Diabetes Association, AARP, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, all down the line, ALL OPPOSE this bill. What organization or group in the health care or insurance fields are for it? I have looked and I cannot find a single health care or insurance organization that favors this outrageous bill. There is a reason there are no organizations publicly supporting the bill. The bill has no valid public policy purpose or underpinning and there was no "regular order" where proponents would have to stand up and testify in committee! This bill is purely political desperation jammed against a black and white deadline of September 30th.

Most frightening to me is how this bill if passed would expose my family, my friends, and myself to unaffordable health insurance. It is an OUTRAGE to remove requirements that preexisting conditions be covered by insurance

policies. Everyone I know has one preexisting condition or another, under the definitions in the bill, for which they would have no insurance protection. My children can't even bring me more grandchildren without paying tens of thousands of dollars!! I am generally healthy, but I have preexisting conditions for which I would not be able to afford necessary treatments in the event of a problem. It is an OUTRAGE that this bill ramrodded over a very few weeks would deprive all Americans of affordable insurance coverage for preexisting conditions!

I agree with Jimmy Kimmel – Senator Cassidy lied when he said this bill meets the “Jimmy Kimmel test”. It clearly does not. Senators Graham and Cassidy should be embarrassed and ashamed to have attached their names to this OUTRAGE. Anyone in Congress that votes for this debacle of a bill will have my active, vocal and unending opposition to their reelection or continuing in office. The vote on Graham Cassidy matters to millions and millions of Americans, and a vote for it disqualifies any Senator from being reelected and continuing in office. I VOTE.



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robert appleton <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because ..it does NOT provide health care for everyone...

Robert appleton

17325

7

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: B. Allen [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Comment

My name is Bridget Allen. For the last thirty-one years, since age nineteen, I have been diagnosed with Stills Disease, a rare autoinflammatory disorder. I'm not a good candidate for today's biologic medications that are standard treatment to control symptoms, so my medical costs are low. However, that also means I live with systemic joint pain and weakness, pain and inflammation in organs such as my heart and lungs, and near daily fevers accompanied by an itchy and painful rash. It is a near given that eventually my luck will run out, and I will need treatment to stay alive in spite of the side effects. Perhaps by then, there will be new treatments my body can better tolerate. However, with legislation aiming to make changes to the Affordable Care Act, none of that will matter. The ability to maintain insurance with preexisting conditions would not leave enough money to cover my families' basic living expenses in spite of a family income in the top 25th percentile, and obtaining life saving procedures without coverage would involve taking on massive medical debt.

I grew up under the specter of medical debt. My parents put themselves through college. They both worked executive level jobs. They were like any successful, upwardly mobile couple, but when I was six years old, my father had his first heart attack. Without the protections we have today, the bills were staggering. We downsized, and were almost back on our feet before the next heart attack. Then came the bypass surgery. Even with a sizable income, living under medical debt means there may be money for food, but other basics become optional. When the roof began to leak, we couldn't fix it. When the roof continues to leak, the ceiling collapses in chunks, and you clean it up and move on. The carpet rots, and you tear it out and mop the concrete floor. Rats make their way in, and you watch them run unafraid through the exposed rafters. You keep food in old coffee tins in the refrigerator in hopes of saving something from the rats. You can't have friends over. You're taught to never open the front door all the way lest someone see inside. The curtains are always drawn.

By the time I was fifteen, my father decided he was worth more dead than alive. Medical debt meant my father was dead before he turned forty-five. He never knew his grandchildren or great grandchildren. I never thought I'd be forced to make the same sort of decision my father did, but if Graham-Cassidy or some future bill like it passes, that's the future I face.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Betsy Gramkow [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO!

Please do not even consider this ridiculous healthcare repeal bill. It's impacts would be onerous for tens of millions Americans.

Can the ACA be improved? Yes. Does this bill do that? NO.

Members of the US congress need to sit down together and create a bipartisan bill that works for the American people.

We elected you to do that. Do your jobs.

Elizabeth Gramkow
Hudson, NY 12534

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Lay-King [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Dear Sir:

The legacy of those who have put forth this horrid, cruel, and extremely penalizing bill will never be forgotten. You have proven that your big money donors are more important to you than the American people and their access to affordable, inclusive healthcare. You misuse facts; you misuse statistics; and along with your horrible president, you manipulate the system for failure.

Instead of taking the basis of what exists and fix those aspects that allow states to opt out thus causing their own state's issues, you choose instead to satisfy a few extremists in this country who put money in your pockets.

No organization of any type, with any real knowledge of health issues or integrity supports this bill. Less than 20% of Americans support this bill. History will not judge a political party well that can only win by cheating, lying, manipulating to enrich a few.

VOTE NO GRAHAM CASSIDY

Signed,

Nancy L. King
Orange county, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: R. Faraday [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Just say "NO" to Graham-Cassidy

To Whom It May Concern:

I would be one of the millions of people who would lose their access to affordable healthcare if Graham-Cassidy passes. The burden of my healthcare would then pass to the taxpayers of Florida as my primary care physician would become Florida's emergency rooms. My "payment" method for anything big would have to be bankruptcy. Graham-Cassidy means I'd lose access to preventive care and screening so by the time I show up in the emergency room, things will be pretty bad. Ultimately, I figure that the costs of my care, should I get cancer or something, would fall to my children and grandchildren, potentially wrecking their financial lives for years. I am less concerned about myself though: I'll gladly die in front of Marco Rubio's office slowly and on social media if my healthcare is taken away. (I have to think that the optics of people dying would be staggering.) I'm worried about the people for whom this issue is immediate, the people who would die sooner than I would and don't want to. I don't even understand why the Republicans (I'm a Republican and right now, that's embarrassing) would put up such a horrible bill and be willing to vote on it without a CBO score. Say NO to Graham-Cassidy.

Sincerely,
Robin Faraday
Delray Beach, FL 33484

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathy MacWhinney [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I am an occupational therapist and work in a school with children who have severe special needs. These students rely on medicaid to keep them healthy and in school learning. It would be devastating to them and those that love and care for them to lose benefits. 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,
Kathryn MacWhinney
Haverhill, Massachusetts

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Liz Norell [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham-Cassidy legislation

Hello,

I'm writing today to share my own experience with the Affordable Care Act, in the hopes that the Senate will not vote to pass the Graham-Cassidy legislation now or ever. In 2014, I was not employed full-time and hence could not obtain health insurance through an employer. During that time, I purchased health insurance through the marketplace. I appreciated the options available and the opportunity to decide whether I wanted to pay more monthly in order to have better coverage -- which I did not.

In 2014, I also had an emergency surgery to have my gall bladder out the day before Thanksgiving. It was only because I had that health insurance that I did not go bankrupt from medical bills. Even with insurance, it still cost me a few thousand dollars, but I was able to afford that with earnings over just a few months.

I was incredibly lucky that the ACA forced me to purchase insurance, and I remain forever grateful for that coverage.

Today, I have a number of chronic health conditions -- arthritis, psoriasis, mental health issues, etc. -- that would make health insurers deny me coverage unless they are mandated by law to cover me. It's only because the risk pools are large and there are a number of healthy and younger people in the risk pool that my insurance is affordable today.

Please senators, please do not pass this bill. It will endanger the health and financial stability of people just like me all over this country. Work with both parties in the Senate and House to craft a bill that will improve the healthcare system in this country. We need voices from both sides. Too many lives are in danger without taking tremendous care here.

Sincerely,
Liz Norell
Sewanee, TN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tami Trowell [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fwd: Healthcare

Begin forwarded message:

From: Tami Trowell <[REDACTED]>
Date: September 24, 2017 at 3:29:01 PM EDT
To: GCHcomments@finance.senate.giv
Subject: Healthcare

Dear members of the senate. I am the parent of a 33year old son with disabilities. He relies on Medicaid and if he were not to have Medicaid our family would have a very difficult time paying for his medical care. He is an American, he is a part of our family and community. He has the right to have access to healthcare and should not be denied coverage because of his disabilities. I also work in Early Intervention with children with severe disabilities. Medicaid literally keeps them alive. Please do not take access to health care away from the most vulnerable. Vote no on the latest ACA repeal! Thank you. Tami Trowell. Vermont

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shelly Silver [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

I live in Des Moines, Iowa and find it reprehensible that this most recent version of Trumpcare is no better than those that have come before because more than 172,000 people in Iowa are expected to lose coverage if the amendment passes. Estimates show that there will be 1 unnecessary death for every 769 people who lose coverage. This means a 'yea' vote by Grassley or Ernst on this amendment could make them responsible for 223 deaths in the state of Iowa alone; and over 38,500 deaths a year nationwide.

As an Indivisible member, I am committed to amplifying the voices of Iowans concerned about the consequences of this legislation. Central Iowa Indivisible groups will continue to pressure our members of Congress to preserve the lives of Iowans rather than pleasing wealthy donors or the cynically voting along party lines.

Americans are better than this. We need to step up and care for one another instead of the Republican idea of every man for himself.

I also thought Lindsay Graham's argument for funding to states to be more equitable was ludicrous. As an Iowan, I am ok with the state of New York, for example, getting more funding than Iowa because more people live New York. That makes sense.

We need to take the profit out of Healthcare and move to a single payer system like so many other countries have done. It is embarrassing that we haven't. We need to once again be a world leader.

Shelly Silver
Des Moines, Iowa

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chris Erikson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GrahamCassidy

GrahamCassidy Will hurt millions of Americans. The most vulnerable among us will not have access to quality affordable healthcare. When will we as a society live up to our responsibility to care for those who cannot care for themselves?
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kaustuv Basu <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:04 PM
Subject: Potential Representation_US

Hello,

We are in need of individuals and corporate bodies to act as intermediaries between us and our Customers in North America. It is a Part Time job that takes less than an hour of your time daily. It is not time consuming and has no restrictions whatsoever. There are transactional commissions as well as monthly stipends entitlement.

Kindly advise for more information with regards the job description.

Regards

Sinopec Group

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Richard Gayes [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

Bald-faced deception by elected officials to plunder the life support of Americans to enrich the already-rich. Still in disbelief, I weep for the nation we have become.

-Richard Gayes, citizen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sue Hawes [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:03 PM
To: gchcomments; Simson, Kate (Collins)
Subject: A Mainer Against Graham-Cassidy

Hello, My name is Sue Hawes. I live in Portland, Maine. I am a Mainer against Graham-Cassidy. Let me tell you our family story.

My mother retired with a quarter of a million dollars in the bank earmarked for her long term care.

However, during the 2008 market crash, she lost \$100K in value. Just a couple of years later, she was diagnosed with Late Onset Alzheimer's Disease and entered the nursing home. She passed away after 3 years on Hospice in the nursing home.

At a cost of \$10,000 per month, her money only covered about the first half of her time in the nursing home. Once her assets were exhausted, she applied for and received Medicaid.

Medicaid paid for the rest of her care (\$4000/mo) for the rest of her life at the same nursing home. It was a scary time--all four of us siblings worked fulltime and would not have been able to afford splitting the \$10,000/month bill nor could any of us take her in and provide the constant care she required.

Given the onslaught of retiring Baby Boomers, if the Graham Cassidy bill passes how will our elders without assets be treated if Congress caps Medicaid as a block grant?

I urge you to reject this bill and get to work on IMPROVING our health care, not gutting it and creating chaos.

Sincerely,

Sue Hawes
[REDACTED]

Portland, Maine 04103-1124

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Claire Brosman [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy is dangerous

Hello!

Thanks for taking the time to read and consider this email.

I'm writing today because I'm deeply concerned about the Graham-Cassidy ACA repeal. Any healthcare plan that eliminates Medicaid expansion, protections for those with pre-existing conditions, and hasn't been scored by the CBO is unacceptable. The American people want a bipartisan approach to repairing the ACA, not a repeal of it.

I've written my senators and governor, and now -- for what it's worth -- I'm writing you. There are lots of conflicting pieces of information out there about the bill and what it has the potential to ruin, but across articles I'm finding its potential to ruin people's lives. People's access to affordable healthcare. People's financial standing.

Since the Senate is not functioning under regular order, I feel silly even sending this note because I don't know what your committee can do. But thanks for reading. Thanks for doing what you can.

Sincerely,

Claire

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Peggy Van Sickle [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Trumpcare bill in the Senate

Dear Honorable Senators,

I say honorable, because it is with hope, against hope, that you will, in fact, do the honorable thing here and veto this bill in favor of fixing, in a bi-partisan manner, the ACA.

There is probably no one in America that can, or will, say that there are not a lot of problems with the ACA. But problems can be fixed. Our Congress has become a stagnant pool. Partisan voting got the ACA in, and it will only be a partisan vote to get the Trumpcare law in place. Only 24 % of Americans want this bill signed into law. That means 76 % DO NOT WANT THIS BILL.

I was told that if this bill is not passed. The KOCH brothers, who now apparently own the GOP, lock, stock, and baggage. If you fear the KOCH brothers more than you fear the 2018 and 2020 election cycles, then I fear for you.

This bill decimates Medicaid, in favor of Block Grants that we already know, don't work. You will be voting on something without getting a CBO score, on a piece of legislation that affects 1/6th of our entire economy.

30,000,000 people will lose the only healthcare that they have. That means that the elderly, the disabled will have no access to care. Care that they need. Doctor's visit, medical treatment. Medication. As a disabled Nurse, I can personally attest to this. I am fortunate. I have decent healthcare. And I have Medicare.

My brother is developmentally disabled and has bipolar disorder. He tries to work, but it has been a while. He is dependent on his Medicare/Medicaid for his healthcare. Otherwise, he will just revolve through those emergency room doors.

I hate to say it, but there you sit with the Cadillac of health care policies, paid for you. Many you are very well to do and probably don't need the policies that you have. But they are there for you. Our Veterans were promised something that has been sorely lacking. That is a Veterans' Health Care System that would care for them once they returned home. Many injured with wounds that cannot be seen. Demons that haunt them. Instead, in many instances, they were given Medicaid to get them the health care that they need, now. Not years from now when the system might be fixed.

I do apologize for taking up so much of your time. And for rambling away, the way I did. To write any more would be beating a dead horse. Senators, I hope that you will look with fresh eyes at what you are about to do. I pray that you will be granted wisdom, compassion, and humility. But above all, I pray that you will do the honorable thing and vote down this bill. Work together and fix the ACA.

Thank you.

Blessed Be,

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sanie Mikaelian <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for the Senate Finance Committee on Graham-Cassidy Bill

To the members of the Senate Finance Committee Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal September 25, 2017,

I urge you to please prevent passage of this bill, which will harm millions of Americans, including myself. The stripping away of mandated protections under the ACA will also mean my rights to the pursuit of life, liberty and happiness, currently under your guardianship, will also be gone. Please consider my story as you meet:

In the spring of 2011, shortly after my 30th birthday, inexplicable and seemingly untreatable severe pain and fatigue led me to the ER. A scan revealing an enlarged spleen and liver led to my admittance to the hospital. Ten days and countless tests into my two week stay, I was finally diagnosed with a rare, chronic, blood cancer: Essential Thrombocythemia (ET), 1 of 3 related cancers known collectively as Myeloproliferative Neoplasms (MPNs). Roughly 3-5 in 100,000 Americans are diagnosed with an MPN, the vast majority past age 60.

This type of cancer progresses slowly, and cannot be cured with chemotherapy or surgery to "win or lose" and be on with it. It brings ambiguity with regards to life expectancy or a cure, potentially achievable only with a bone marrow transplant - in and of itself life threatening and recommended only as a last resort. Coming to terms with the reality of the possibilities for my future vs what I had envisioned wreaked havoc on me emotionally, leading to serious depression on top of the physical pain. The forthcoming medical bills also caused panic - how would I be impacted financially? Luckily, at the time I worked for a large tech company (Yahoo), which I soon found provided extraordinary health insurance plus generous paid medical leave. My initial hospital stay cost tens of thousands, my out of pocket cost was in the hundreds. I was given the time needed to recover, adjust to my "new normal," determine the appropriate course of treatment to get back to a functional state. I felt fortunate for my exceptional coverage, but an ever present fear set in about how long I would have affordable insurance, if at all, and how I'd survive should my employment status change. (We'd had several rounds of layoffs by then.)

By early 2014, my symptoms had worsened. A bone marrow biopsy revealed my ET had progressed to early Myelofibrosis (MF), the most serious of the 3 MPNs. My disease was progressing unusually quickly, and the prognosis for MF is more grim. Again, I needed to take leave to manage my symptoms and change treatment - from chemo and painkillers to a new drug inhibiting the very mutating gene most commonly causing an MPN. Though a physically trying time, within a few months the drug was in full efficacy and many of the terrible symptoms subsided or diminished. This was also when all protections of the ACA went into effect, including safeguards for those of us with pre-existing conditions. No longer did I have to worry about being denied coverage at any point! No longer was my job the only path to the health insurance keeping me alive and from being financially destitute. I need not worry that my new drug (costing \$10-12K *monthly*) could be out of reach and my newly improved quality of life destroyed. I could change course with my career if I was so inclined, follow passions, I felt FREE, RELIEVED, OPTIMISTIC. Thinking of it now brings tears to my eyes, as it did then, as does the fright of being so dangerously close to having this protection taken away with the Graham-Cassidy bill.

In the spring of last year, I was part of mass layoffs in the wake of the company's impending sale and office

closures. My ensuing time at another company was a poor experience, partly due to my illness. With ACA coverage an option, I felt comfortable leaving earlier this year to focus on my health during a downturn, and figure out my next move professionally. These are expected ups and downs working in the private sector; I do not expect a for-profit corporation to be concerned for my health & well being or offer job security. I do, however, expect my elected officials to not kowtow to for-profit corporations and put their financial interests ahead of concern for the health & well being of ill Americans, and truly *all* Americans. Sadly, the Graham-Cassidy bill does just that, allowing the possibility for insurance companies to once again deny coverage for pre-existing conditions, or make care financially out of reach either with penalties or caps.

You may correctly surmise reading my name that I am a more recent immigrant, and that experience heightens my disappointment in the efforts to pass Graham-Cassidy. The reason I am here is my father, who passed 12 years ago from cancer, and his determination to get his family out of the civil warfare in Beirut, Lebanon. Progressive for his time and place, he saw this country as the best to raise his two little girls - he did not want us subject to the abject sexism common in the region. Instead, he wanted to ensure we had guaranteed rights & freedoms, opportunities for education and economic stability based on our effort and merit. He earnestly believed in the narrative of the time: the U.S. as the shining city on the hill, with he as the seeker of democracy and freedom for our family. The ACA provides the freedom I need most, the ability to put my health first. It makes my access to healthcare a right instead of a luxury. Please honor my father, my family, me, as we love(d) this country with the enduring hope it lives up to its' rhetoric and constitutional ideals, the very reason for our immigration. Please show us my parents did not take the fraught path of emigrating from war where our lives were at risk, only to have my life at risk again, only this time by a piece of legislation that can make my life saving care out of reach.

It is difficult enough living with the physical and emotional hardships cancer or another chronic illness brings. Graham-Cassidy and similar legislation before it, become added stressors, as it threatens to make unattainable the care making these hardships manageable and a decent quality of life possible. I will be living with this horrid illness and its' negative consequences, including obscene medical costs, until it most likely will be the cause of my death. I ask for your compassion, for me, and all other Americans in need of the care and protections provided by the ACA that is outside our grasp otherwise, for whatever reason. Please allow us to have guaranteed access to affordable care, to care that saves our lives, to care that eases our pains. Please don't allow us to needlessly suffer or die prematurely. Please stop the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Sincerely,
Sanie Mikaelian

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Zuercher [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing 9/25

I have many friends with pre-existing conditions who rely on the ACA for affordable healthcare, and I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. If the ACA needs improving, Congress should make a bipartisan effort to fix it—not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Karen Zuercher

[REDACTED]
San Francisco, CA 94110

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Pat Santel [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:02 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.

Mary Cadice-Santel
Saint Louis, MO

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Madeleine Grant [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham Cassidy

Hello

I'm a primary care internist & have seen many uninsured people for many years. Lack of coverage kills folks- and also causes suffering to them & their families. My professional group, the American College of Physicians, does not support this bill, nor does ANY other medical organization.

Why can't the Senate do health reform in a thoughtful unrushed bipartisan way?

Madeleine Grant MD FACP

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: kathleen gilmoregregory [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy

Disgraceful. At some point you all will run for re-election That's when Karma becomes your mistress

Kathy Gilmore Gregory

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laurel Durning-Hammond [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Senate Finance Committee Hearing on Graham-Cassidy Bill, September 25, 2017

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

The Graham-Cassidy Bill proposes dangerous changes which would threaten the lives of US citizens. As a registered nurse, the vast majority of the patients I treat are older adults on Medicaid. If they lost their coverage, they would not be able to get the care they need to live with dignity and comfort near the ends of their lives. Please, let us remember each other's common humanity and think of how we would feel if we were in someone else's position. Please make sure that this reckless, irresponsible bill does not become law.

Thank you,

Laurel Durning-Hammond
[REDACTED]
Roslindale MA 02131

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senators of the Finance Committee,

My husband and I are among those fortunate to have good health insurance through our employers. That said, we have many family members who are not so lucky. For these people, the Affordable Care Act has been their only means of obtaining affordable health care. I urge you to oppose the Graham-Cassidy repeal effort. Nearly every major health organization in the country has spoken out against Graham-Cassidy, raised red-flags, and exposed the bill for what it is – a cruel, callous, neglect of the vital needs of millions of Americans. This is not what the majority of Americans want. We want a bi-partisan solution that will last, not a hasty, irresponsible piece of legislation that will only be cause for another round of turmoil with each new administration. For Senators to even consider such a bill is beyond irresponsible. The ACA repeal effort has been one of the most shameful spectacles I've ever seen in government. Please stop this now. I urge you to vote NO.

Sincerely,
Judith M. Murphy

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tb [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

[Your name]
[City, State]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kris Millner [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

Hello,

My family & I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with Medicaid involves being able to turn my life around through accessible psychiatric care and medication. Without help I was hospitalized twice and dropped out of college. I have now found a medication regimen that works for me, am holding down a job, and making my way back to a university. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Kristal Millner

[REDACTED]
Minneapolis, MN 55411

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Holly Sklar [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My family relies on affordable healthcare this bill would gut; Vote NO!

By leaving too much up to the states, this bill in effect gets rid of lifetime caps and allows insurance companies to gouge prices for pre-existing conditions, while diminishing funding for medicaid for the poorest in our community.

I don't want to gut the ACA, I want to keep it and improve it — with Medicare for All. Surely if so many other western countries can provide that, we can!

-Holly Sklar

Los Angeles, CA 90025

These are the faces of 2 people who will suffer from the proposed bill to cut medicaid and allow insurance to raise higher premiums for preexisting illness. Brandy Lejeune, 42, born with an ASD and a defected pulmonary valve requiring open heart surgery at birth. This was only the first of many heart and other surgeries she would need to survive. She is now a single mother of a handicapped child whose soon to be ex husband abandoned, left homeless and in debt. He doesn't see nor pay child support for his son. Riley, now 18, became a vegetable at the age of 7 months old due to a vaccine reaction which caused permanent brain damage. Riley has been in occupation,physical, and speech therapy since then and has overcome so many obstacles thrown his way. Since he lost his father's private insurance and went to straight Medicaid, therapies and specialists, even dental care is limited because most won't accept the insurance. When he turns 21, Riley will lose many of the doctors that have given him the continuity of care for all of these years to have to go to UHC doctors and residents who change out every 2 months or so. Brandy already encountered this. Went without insurance and qualified for Medicaid,but can't see her normal specialists for her complex medical care because certain hospitals and doctors won't accept the insurance. Without coverage, both of these individuals are at high risk for major setbacks or even death. Please, there are a few things that were good in the Obamacare program. No penalties or higher premiums for preexisting illnesses and no lifetime cap on benefits are things that should stay no matter what option our politicians come up with.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: kyanbran@gmail.com on behalf of Kay Branz [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO for Graham-Cassidy Bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare to be contributing, working citizens of the U.S.. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. We have a daughter with developmental disabilities who through Medicaid support is able to live in the community as a contributing, tax paying citizen. Without her healthcare and Medicaid support, she would be living in a nursing home or with us, having no reason to get out of bed. Healthcare is a Life or Death sentence. The Graham-Cassidy bill is a death sentence for millions of Americans. Instead, I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Kay Branz

Seattle, Washington and Evanston, Illinois

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: irena KOVAROVA [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I urge you to OPPOSE Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Importance: High

Senate Finance Committee,

I'm a self-employed New Yorker. I fully oppose the proposed repeal of ACA prepared by Graham-Cassidy-Heller.

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.

Irena Kovarova

New York, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy Morse [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My 32 year old husband has aggressive rheumatoid arthritis that developed in his late 20s. He will need medication for the rest of his life to allow him to work and live a productive and fulfilling life. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Amy Morse

[REDACTED]
Bel Air, MD 21014

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michele Coughran [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

This is another travesty trying to kill millions of sick and potentially sick Americans. Nobody except the top 1% will be able to afford these possible adders. My daughter makes \$50K a year. Already pays almost \$5K a year for insurance And has a \$3K upfront deductible. She has RA. The proposed adder of \$26.5K means she can't afford a roof over her head, a vehicle to get to work, food on the table.

You're proactively planning to cripple her. You're proactively planning to kill seniors who already have to choose between necessities for medicine. Pretending states can pick this up and make choices to allow PEC or not is deliberately fooling the American people many of whom voted for you.

Your bill is disgusting. Unfunding ACA is a crime and you should be ashamed of yourselves. You should be working to make ACA better.

Michele Coughran
Mobile [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elizabeth Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill

To whom it may concern:

I and my family rely on quality, affordable healthcare, and because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. A dear member of my family has atypical hemolytic uremic syndrome (aHUS), an extremely rare blood disease. The medication she takes to treat aHUS costs \$543,000 a year. If she were to lose her access to healthcare, she would not be able to afford this medication and would surely die. Even if she retains her insurance under the the Graham-Cassidy bill, she could face crippling healthcare costs because insurers could charge her more for having a pre-existing condition.

I am lucky to be healthy, able-bodied, and employed in a job with employer-supported health insurance. Many of my loved ones are not. They stand to loose their lives if this bill passes. I think it is shameful that the sponsors of this bill are putting party before country and trying to pass what is clearly a horrible bill. I would welcome them to have the courage to work with their fellow Americans across the aisle in Congress to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Johnson
Brooklyn, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Melody Sears [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

....
My husband and I are small business owners. We would be unable to afford health insurance without the ACA. I have HBP which gives me a pre-existing condition, but even more worrisome are the cuts to Medicaid. Our 19 year old son has Downs and Autism, he relies on Medicaid for health care and his activity programs. Please don't vote for this bill!

Melody Sears

17331
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Knorr [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Just vote NO

No OMB scoring, huh? What are the republicans hiding? Millions will lose coverage, The most vulnerable in our population, medicaid recipients, will lose their lives without coverage. Just vote NO.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kimberly de Vries [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

Dear Sirs/ Madams,

I am writing to implore you to support, repair and expand the ACA rather than tearing it down. This country is rich enough to support healthy citizens. We are the only western country that doesn't. We tout how great our health care is, but that it only for those who can afford it. By any WHO metric, we are terrible.

My daughter has life threatening peanut allergies. While she is now covered by her father's insurance, what will be available for her when she aged out of that? I'm sure you are aware of the tremendous cost of epi-pens and even should she get epinephrine after peanut exposure, she may still need additional treatment. Will she have insurance that covers that? Or could she lose her life due to someone with a Snickers bar.

Lastly, the American economy would greatly benefit from people knowing that reliable, affordable health care is available. I would never start a business or even work in a small business without a health insurance option. The ACA allowed many entrepreneurs to follow their dreams. Other people are able to move to a new job because they know insurance won't exclude them due to previous illness.

Let's get America healthy.

Thank you,

Kimberly de Vries
Newberry, FL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rebecca Germany [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill , Protect Our Fragile Children

Aubrey (Pooh bear) is my grandbaby, my little girl's baby and I love her just as she was my own. I thank God and my daughter for entrusting me to her care.

Seeing the strength and determination that our little 34-pound, bright-eyed girl possesses is greater than any grief or heartache that could ever try to surround me.

As a parent or grandparent the feeling of not being able to help your sick child is nothing short of unexplainable. In all the times our precious girl has been to hospitals, the hundreds of times she's been poked, prodded and held down for test after test, she has persevered. So many times that we have carried the burden of helplessness. Then it hit me: If she can endure everything she does, so can I and then some. I have no choice but to keep fighting. I have to fight to make sure she knows she is worth fighting for. I have to fight to show the rest of the world she is worth fighting for.

Out of all of the things my grand daughter has taught me (and believe me I could go on for days and days), love has been the biggest. She has taught me how to love without limits, without expectations but most of all how to love without fear — something I wasn't sure was possible just three years ago. I have been given the greatest gift imaginable. I have been given the chance to be a Nana to someone so rare and spectacular. I get to raise a little girl whom I have no doubt will one day move mountains. There is no greater gift than to love and to be loved, and I'm lucky enough to have that day after day. Here we are trying to teach our children about life, meanwhile there they are showing us what it's all about.

Be strong and keep my faith.

In a sense I feel these two are one in the same. You see, to be strong I must have faith, and to have faith I must remain strong. Day after day I survive because the fire that burns inside of me is stronger than the one that blazes around me.

Without a diagnosis, we have no prognosis and no plan of care. Our best hope is to keep her as well as possible. For now we simply pray.

Physicians have no medical intervention to offer her. No treatments. No cure. No better plan. We find ourselves with an unclear picture of Aubrey's future. Currently, our entire care team agrees Aubrey's illness has yet to be identified by science. What does all of this mean for Aubrey? We wait, hoping and praying the science of tomorrow will arrive today.

When Aubrey's disease finally gets a name we will have hope for a better treatment plan and the possibility of a cure. For now we simply pray and hold the possibility for answers. Until that day arrives our little girl will continue to be a member of the undiagnosed world and on a journey for a diagnosis.

Little did I know, special needs fit her to a T. She's been a special kid for a long time now. She's different, she's exceptional, she's extraordinary, she puts our whole being into perspective, she teaches us and she lights up our world. Our Precious little (Pooh bear), she will always be!

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mietus-Snyder, Michele [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: common ground will prevail

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Please take a deep breath and acknowledge that health is a resource that will make America strong – great if you will – or will undo us. It is a resource worthy of investment.

Thomas Carlyle wisely opined at the birth of global democracy: If you have health you have hope, and if you have hope you have everything.

Whether YOU enjoy health or do not, you are dependent on health care. It keeps us well with evidence-based preventive management and it restores us to health when problems arise – and they will arise in EVERY life.

Please remember we are all connected by the air we breathe and the invisible biome of microbial life that moves imperceptibly but powerfully among us without regard to state boundaries, race, creed, party or pocketbook. Will YOU enjoy the same health care as the person who may be sitting in coach on your airplane flight sharing recirculated air with first class, or who may prepare your food and who you truly do not want to contract a preventable communicable disease and cough on your food or on you in serving it? There is a reason for the term “Public Health”.

Health care should be an equalizer because we are all stakeholders in each other’s wellness. Please reflect while you are breathing the same air that every living person in America, and on this earth, breathes on whether this Graham-Cassidy health care repeal will make the playing field of health care more or less just for Americans everywhere. This is too important for partisan politics.

With all due respect to the Republicans who have been trying for seven years to roll back the Affordable Health Care Act, we can and must do better than the Graham-Cassidy bill.

The fact that Republicans and Democrats are breathing the same air in Congress seems like a good starting place for a bipartisan solution that gives all Americans health and hope.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michele Mietus-Snyder, MD
[REDACTED]

Associate Professor, George Washington University
Children’s National Health System | [REDACTED] | Washington DC, 20010
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: margaret richards [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Maggie Richards
Mars Hill, NC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beverly Peterson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Safeguard health insurance for US all

My college roommate, Barb, who served many children as a beloved teacher, became afflicted with Primary Progressive MS in her 40s. She is now 67, wheelchair bound, and living in a nursing home that accepts Medicaid. She is allowed out of bed only on days when a PT can assist her, and that's Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Her mind is sharp.

I do not believe the bill currently under consideration to replace Obamacare passes the Jimmy Kimmel Test or the smell test. Who will protect the neediest and sickest members of our rich country, people like Barb who contributed so much and reached the cap of her personal insurance years ago?

I pay for a lot of insurance that I hope I will never need: long-term care insurance, car insurance, homeowners insurance, health insurance. I am happy to do so. I am happy to help my fellow Americans and people like my former roommate.

Beverly Peterson
[REDACTED]

Williamsburg, VA 23188-2466
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: James Butterick [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Pearson, Beth (Warren); Hurt, Nikki (Markey)
Subject: GCB

September 24, 2017

As a physician for over 40 years, one of the things that I have been most struck by is the impact of illness caused by lack of medical care. Before I finished my training, Medicare and Medicaid had already been enacted. During my career, many efforts have been made to curb the rising costs of health care including restrictions on what physicians and hospitals can charge. But nothing impacts the health of our communities more than inattention. The Affordable Care Act provides much-needed access to healthcare without which the public's health suffers.

I feel fortunate to live in a state...Massachusetts...that understood this issue and acted even before the Federal government did. We now proudly can point to the nation-leading lowest rate of uninsured citizens in the entire country. The ACA followed our lead and the impact on improving people's health because they have access has been demonstrated.

The Graham-Cassidy bill is a huge step backward in providing medical care to as many as our citizens as we can. In this the wealthiest nation in the world, we simply should not be turning our backs on those most vulnerable. Most recognize that there are issues with the ACA that need attention. Throwing it out entirely is simply a bad idea. I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill and urge the Senate Finance Committee and our senators to vote against this regressive legislation. Fix the ACA. Please do not abandon all the good the ACA has done and can do.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alexandra Melnick [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill Comments

I am confident about having quality, affordable healthcare because I am an educator. However, my students depend on Medicaid and other government health programs because I teach in a rural, economically depressed area. My students cannot learn without being healthy and this can only come from a program like ACA or 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.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Caroline V Foster [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My son (now 21 months old) was born prematurely and could lose his coverage if the protections afforded to him under the ACA for nondiscrimination based on pre-existing conditions are removed. I could also lose my coverage simply because I have given birth.

The threat to repeal the ACA is a threat to my family's wellbeing and I take it very seriously. You should, too. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Caroline Foster
[REDACTED], Durham NC 27705

increased costs, the effective elimination of protections for coverage of pre-existing conditions and essential health benefits, and the cuts to (and eventual elimination of) Medicaid. All of them call for bipartisan fixes to the ACA and Medicaid. It is unconscionable that the Senate would ignore these voices. This reason, and this reason alone, should compel every, single senator to vote no.


5. The economic consequences of Graham-Cassidy are brutal. Some examples: The ACA reportedly has dramatically reduced the number of medical bankruptcies. Graham-Cassidy would reverse that trend. Medicaid cuts/elimination would close numerous rural hospitals and destroy the local economies where those hospitals are located. Obamacare created more than 500,000 jobs in the healthcare sector. It is estimated that Graham-Cassidy would result in millions of jobs lost and billions of dollars in gross domestic product. This reason, and this reason alone, should compel every, single senator to vote no.

Any one of these reasons should convince the Senate to reject Graham-Cassidy. Why this bill is even under consideration remains a mystery. Some media have reported that the donor class will be furious if it doesn't get Obamacare repeal and consequent tax cuts. Some have reported that, for political reasons, Congress must give Donald Trump a legislative "win", regardless of whether the bill is defensible substantively. Neither of these potential reasons reflects a sound basis for policy-making. I believe that every senator knows that, and any senator who doesn't know it is unworthy of the august office he or she holds. The Senate as a body is demeaned by the procedural approach it has taken to Graham-Cassidy, and individuals senators should be ashamed for supporting it substantively without having deliberated on its policy impact on the American public.

I am emphatically opposed to Graham-Cassidy. This bill should not proceed. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Breedon


Cincinnati, OH 45215

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kimberly Breedon [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members:

I write to express my strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill for the following reasons:

1. As an attorney and law professor who has taught legislative process, I am appalled that the Senate would even consider enacting major legislation without fully considering and weighing the policy implications. A major function of the Senate is to act as a check on unwise legislative proposals by researching and deliberating the policy consequences. This function includes, among things, hearings and mark-ups by most if not all committees of jurisdiction. It includes ample time for floor debate and amendments. This bill has not undergone the requisite rigors of the deliberative process, nor will it have done so before the reconciliation period expires on September 30. The Senate as a body, and individual senators who vote for the bill, will abdicate their constitutional responsibility to deliberate on legislative proposals that come before the Senate. This reason, and this reason alone, should compel every, single senator to vote no.
2. Relatedly, the Congressional Budget Office will not have issued a complete budget score on the bill at all, let alone in sufficient time for senators to consider the CBO's findings in their deliberations. A Senate that enacts a bill affecting between 1/6 and 1/5 of the economy without first understanding the budgetary consequences of the bill effectively commits professional malpractice. This reason, and this reason alone, should compel every, single senator to vote no.
3. Also relatedly, the majority of Americans want a bipartisan approach to improve Obamacare. The notion that Senator Chuck Grassley reportedly advanced--that the Senate should vote to repeal Obamacare because of campaign promises--is misguided and misleading. First, most Americans who voted for Republican candidates actually like Obamacare when they understand that it is the Affordable Care Act. Second, many people who voted for Republican candidates believed the misinformation that Obamacare was failing on its own, when in fact, many of the problems with Obamacare are the result of Republicans' efforts to weaken--indeed, to undermine--it based upon ideological concerns, not actual outcomes of increased healthcare coverage for more Americans. Accordingly, since the election, during a time when more Americans now are becoming more well informed about the coverage that Obamacare provides, the popularity of Obamacare has continued to increase. By contrast, Graham-Cassidy is deeply unpopular, mostly because of its substance, but at least partly because of the partisan nature of the process in which it has been drafted and promoted. This reason, and this reason alone, should persuade most senators to vote no.
4. Substantively, Graham-Cassidy is, frankly, terrible policy. Here, the Senate should pay attention to the vast array of united voices from the medical, insurance, patient care, and patient advocacy fields who have stated that, in their considered and expert opinions, Graham-Cassidy would be nothing short of disastrous. Here's just a partial list of healthcare entities calling on the Senate to reject Graham-Cassidy: American Medical Association, American Academy of Family Physicians, American Hospital Association, Federation of American Hospitals, Blue Cross/Blue Shield Association, America's Health Insurance Plans, National Association of Medicaid Directors, American Lung Association, American Heart Association, March of Dimes, Kaiser Permanente, Arthritis Foundation, American Diabetes Association, American Nurses Association and the National Rural Health Association. All of these organizations--and more--decry the cuts in coverage, the

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

As a self employed family, we family rely on quality, affordable healthcare. As a medical Social Worker, I know this bill would be the death sentence of many of my families. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill with all my heart.

Please do the job you were elected to do, which is to REPRESENT us, not follow your own ideas or to be blunt, the money. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Gina Kossler
San Rafael, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy Roebuck [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy

Senate Finance Committee

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

Amy Roebuck
Mt. Desert, Maine

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kirsten Schultz [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

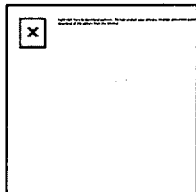
I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller in favor of the bipartisan bill the Senate HELP Committee was considering. Graham-Cassidy-Heller would cause 32 million people to lose their health coverage while destroying Medicaid and harming some of the most vulnerable members of our communities, seniors,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

As a woman with disabilities, I will be harmed by this bill. It will take away my ability to control what I need and utilize what is best for me and my body. Additionally, living in a state that would likely eliminate mandatory coverage for pre-existing conditions, I will slowly lose access to medications that literally are keeping me alive.

Please do not consider a bill that will lead to harm. Follow the tenets of the Hippocratic Oath and 'do no harm.'

Kirsten Schultz
Madison, Wisconsin

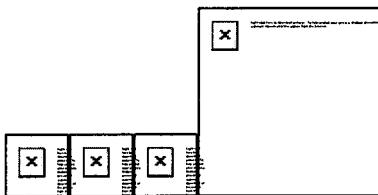
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Chronic Sex is a safe place to discuss how chronic illnesses and disability affect Quality of Life issues such as self-love, relationships, and sexuality.

Kirsten Schultz / Sexuality Educator, Activist, and Writer
[REDACTED]

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pat Ferguson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

I am definitely opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill. I believe that it will reduce healthcare for a number of people. For those who might have it, it will be inadequate.

My daughter is pregnant with her second child. If her state decides to eliminate the pre-existing conditions protections, her first pregnancy would be considered a pre-existing condition. That is reprehensible for all women having more than one child.

In addition, this baby will be born with two club feet. He will start medical treatments within a week of his birth and continuing for years. Will lifetime caps be reinstated? If so, he could come to his cap before even entering kindergarten.

The total amount of funds given to the states will end up being inadequate and plans unaffordable. If rates can be raised for the sick and disabled, families will be priced out of care.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,
Pat Ferguson

P.S. Not to mention that states who tried to cover their constituents as best possible, will now have funds reapportioned to states that had chosen not to adequately cover their constituents.

--
Pat Ferguson
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sally Madsen [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: So called Healthcare Bill

To the Senate Finance Committee:

This bill is the worst one the Republicans have come up with yet. And I don't believe it has anything to do with healthcare. If it did they would be embarrassed to bring it to the Senate. Not to mention that calling for a vote without the CBO score is completely irresponsible.

When so many medical institutions, medical professionals, governors and all the heads of Medicaid speak against it, it means there is something wrong with the proposal.

Transferring money from Blue states to Red states seems to be one of the main priorities.

They are not protecting people with pre-existing conditions. They are not providing essential health benefits. They are discriminating against women with exorbitant charges for maternity care.

John McCain is right when he says that we need a bipartisan bill that is developed through the normal legislative process, not something cobbled together and rammed through because of a deadline.

Rick Santorum (and why he has anything to do with this is a mystery) claims that if block grants work for Welfare they can work for healthcare is ignoring one crucial factor. Not everyone needs or receives Welfare but every US citizen needs and deserves to receive quality healthcare insurance that is affordable.

Let the Senate take the ACA and work on improving it instead of replacing it with a bill that even people voting for it say is flawed.

Thank you.

Sally Madsen

[REDACTED]
Bethesda, MD 20814

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Adrien Chandler [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Republican Senators,

My name is Adrien Chandler. I am a self-employed Michigander. Without the ACA, I would not be able to have health care coverage that enables me to keep working, keep paying taxes and keep a roof over my head. I have several pre-existing conditions, including Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia. If I lose PEC, lifetime cap, and my small subsidy based on the AGI criteria, I will (likely) not be able to afford coverage. So, that leaves me with two choices - run bare, which is not a good option- or (if possible) buy a terrible policy that costs a fortune and covers little to nothing, putting me in a position to have to self-insure, which I cannot afford to do. Actually, there is a third option - not be able to afford anything else. So, there goes ANY discretionary income that I might have to put back into the economy. Not to mention potentially losing my primary care physician of the last 15 years and my oncologist. These prospects scare me to my core!

My situation is not unique and probably not the worst one you will hear about. But it is the fear I face every day.

Why would you want to jeopardize the health and welfare, as well as the livelihoods and economic contributions, of US citizens? Why? For your wealthy donors? This is an impossible trap of your own making. Don't push it off on us. Do the right thing. Do what we all sent you to Washington to do - work for US. Work across the aisle to improve the ACA, plug its holes and make life better for all Americans.

Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amalia Gladhart [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

As a professor and department head at a public university, I fear for the wellbeing of our students and colleagues, particularly contingent faculty. As a parent, I fear for the wellbeing of my minor children.

We need a bipartisan bill that will provide a just and compassionate national solution.

Sincerely,
Amalia Gladhart
Eugene, Oregon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: jzippy888 [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

The Affordable Care Act should remain. I have had it from the beginning and plan on keeping it. It is very important to me that we keep our healthcare.

Don't let the Cassidy-Graham Act pass. It's not for all Americans.

Senator McCain did the right thing, let him be the example.

JP Nguyen

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Dale Perkinson
Subject: Graham Cassidy Health Proposal

Senators:

I have been privileged to serve this country for nearly 36 years as a Civil Servant in the Department of Navy. I did retire two years ago and have always had the opportunity to receive health care due to the Federal Employee Health Benefit Plan (FEHBP). Additionally, I have received as a benefit the government paying a significant share of my health care costs. We as a nation have allowed our health care system to negatively impact the lives of many of our citizens. The efforts made with the ACA could be debated and outcomes questioned for years. What ACA did was place the policy responsibility of health care in our Congress where it belongs. There are flaws in the ACA that should be addressed to best serve the citizens of our country that deserve affordable health care. There should be bi-partisan action taken to ensure the citizens of this country have an important quality of life such as affordable health care.

Graham Cassidy for what bits and pieces have been exposed does what has become a normal practice for Congress in kicking the real monetary and policy actions for health care to the states. This proposal likely will put millions of Americans in a position of not having health care. It could dump thousands of citizens with serious medical conditions out of an insurance coverage pool. As Senator McCain has boldly stated it is time for the Congress to come back to legislating under the terms of "normal" order with hearings, amendments, and bi-partisan discussions. For our representatives to cling to a destructive tactic of "repeal and replace" for the sake of politics is a disservice to the Nation.

I urge each of you to put Americans first all of us not any particular faction or constituency. It is incumbent on each of you to become the representative that makes good and solid decisions for the United States of America. Please do not allow the poorly devised and politically motivated bill come to a vote for the sake of politics.

Sincerely,

Darryl Perkinson
[REDACTED]

Chesapeake, Virginia 23321

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Donna Grotthuss [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy. NO!

The govt of the United States has a responsibility to its citizens to protect and not harm. This bill will leave so many without adequate health insurance and care. I strongly oppose the Graham Cassidy bill.

Sincerely, Donna Grotthuss. Kenosha, WI

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Irene Frankofsky [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I, my family, and friends rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My grandmother who recently passed away would have not been able to afford her care under this act and would have died far sooner. As a mother, I am concerned that this bill will make childbearing more difficult for millions of Americans. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Irene Frankofsky Legg

Atlanta, Georgia

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rachael Burke [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy: Do Not Support

Please do not support the Cassidy-Graham amendment. We need to support or improve the ACA, not destroy it. Please stop playing games with people's lives. We are supposed to be a civilized 1st world country. We need to do better and make health care a priority for our citizens. Health care is a right. Other countries take care of their citizens. We can do it, too. Health care should not be something only for the elite! Thank you, and I hope you will truly represent Americans' interests.

Thank you,
Rachael Burke

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patrick Reidy [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

I am self employed and have bought insurance for my family since 2005. Prior to the ACA, family premiums through a small business market were \$3,800/mo. Individual plans were unavailable due to type one diabetes in the family. Repealing the protections of the ACA was and remains deliberately callous. Trusting each state to implement something equivalent is purposely deceitful. A national effort to implement a plan is warranted. Leave politics aside on this issue, please.

Patrick J. Reidy, Esq.
The Parkridge Group
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Erik Peter Kirkegaard Skoglund [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:02 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 Skoglund
Alexandria, VA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susannah Blachly [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Stealthcare Bill

Dear members of the senate finance committee,

Like the majority of my fellow Americans I am once again appalled at the so called "health care" bill that Graham and Cassidy are trying to quietly ram through Congress. As the mother of a son with a pre-existing condition- a congenital cystic lung condition that required the removal of half his left lobe when he was 13 and will require a life time of medication and monitoring, and as a psychotherapist with many clients who benefitted from Obama's Medicaid expansion and who are now terrified of losing their healthcare, I am deeply concerned about the possibility of a bill such as this being passed into law. This is not how we make health care less costly- it will have the opposite effect, for many reasons but in part because more and more people will be without healthcare and will be unable to foot the bill when they or a family member is ill or injured. Other countries have shown again and again how to make health care less costly which is why Single Payer is finally getting somewhat of a foothold. Please help insure that this bill does not pass.

Many thanks,
Susannah Blachly

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anais M [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fwd: GCH COMMENTS...MY STORY
Attachments: 20170711_071805.jpg; 20170910_151233.jpg; FB_IMG_1506279244218.jpg; FB_IMG_1506279228693.jpg

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

From: "Anais M" <anaism858@gmail.com>
Date: Sep 24, 2017 12:03 PM
Subject: GCH COMMENTS...MY STORY
To: <gchcomments@finance.senate.gov>
Cc:

Title of Hearing: Hearing to consider Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

Date Of Hearing: Sept. 25, 2017

Name: Gwentyth Anais Malone

Address: [REDACTED]

Vote NO on REPEAL AND REPLACE!

After 40 years of my knees getting worse and worse yearly due to genes and athletics, last year on August 29th, 2016, I was very fortunate, through my ACA Blue Shield Ins., to get two brand new total knee replacements!

Now for the past year, my knees have gotten better and better! I'm a 61 y.o. single female who's been self employed nearly my entire adult life after putting myself through law school and being a single mother and semi-retired since I was 38 y.o.!

To get insurance I've always had to be a member of a group, like Board of Realtors, to get a affordable health ins. for my girl and for me. My surgeries and care came to over \$175,000. and it would've broken me after finally becoming debt free 4 years ago.

I've also had several skin cancer surgeries, one where I lost nearly half of my nose and needed reconstructive surgery and my daughter has Hemochromatosis, so there are a number of now pre-existing conditions for which we'd have no protections if ACA is repealed and replaced!

Grateful to have had the benefits under ACA and the care I needed for a quality life but frankly as or more concerned for Medi-caid recipients who'll be thrown off coverage over next 10 years with that progress ending 10 years from now!

Just SAY NO!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Alice Weintraut [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Failing to protect pre-existing conditions moreover is bad for business. Consulting and contract work or the "gig economy" is so much of our experience today. Without guarantees of preexisting coverage at REASONABLE rates compared with other citizens, it becomes impossible. Also startups are often one and two person ventures with no ability to negotiate a reasonable rate with a large company. Repealing the ACA stifles entrepreneurship and returns us to a time of sticking with a big old employer instead of growing new industries.

Alice Weintraut
Westfield, IN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: virginia bee [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

My family depends on the ACA. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

My husband and I have both worked consistently since we were teenagers. Two-and-a-half years ago, my husband lost his job due to an injury at work two-and-a-half years ago, and we lost his employer-sponsored coverage. I work for a small family business with five employees and my employers do not provide any insurance benefits. Thanks to the ACA, we were able to purchase affordable health insurance while my husband recovered from his work injury, and will be able to continue accessing health insurance now, while he goes back to work, this time for a small employer who, like my employer, does not offer insurance benefits.

While my husband and I were covered by plans offered through the Marketplace, my children -- including my eight-year-old daughter who's been diagnosed with a pre-existing condition, epilepsy -- have been covered through Medicaid. It has been a lifesaver, literally. We would be bankrupt without the Medicaid coverage we've been able to access. My daughter has had EEGs and an MRI, has ended up in the emergency room post-seizure, and requires medication that we wouldn't have been able to afford during the last two-and-a-half years if it weren't for Medicaid. The thought that anyone who needs Medicaid coverage for their children might ever be unable to access full coverage is both infuriating and heartbreaking. The thought that I might not be able to afford coverage for our daughter when we are no longer eligible for Medicaid, due to a pre-existing condition that she has no control over, also worries me greatly.

The ACA has issues, like the "family loophole." It's not perfect. But it is a start, and it can be made better. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA.

Sincerely,

Karen Fletcher
Spotsylvania, VA 22551

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lyn Martin [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please don't approve Graham-Cassidy

Please don't vote to approve the Graham-Cassidy plan this week. Although I understand that the ACA has room for improvements, this plan does not make our health insurance system better or fairer. The people who are promoting it appear to be more concerned about politics and getting re-elected, than about the people they represent. Please slow things down and make the improvements to the ACA by working across the aisle. It's about people, not politics.

Lyn Martin
Cincinnati, OH

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jane Kate [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Senator Graham has been proud to oppose anything Obama tried to do from 2008 onward. However, his single-minded crusade is not good for the American people. If not for the ACHA, I would be bankrupt and my daughter would be without a future. Because she was able to stay on my employer-supplemented insurance until age 26, she was covered. I didn't have to pay for her healthcare or pay unmanageable premiums. Now she has received a Masters Degree in Social Work and is looking for a position so she can begin paying taxes and serving her community.

This is what healthcare means to me. For others, it is not a matter of bankruptcy, but of life and death. This is a fundamental concern for the tens of thousands who will lose their healthcare. It is far more important than a political "win" or a tax cut for the insurance companies or the richest few. This country became great when it expanded the middle class and cared for its most vulnerable citizens. My whole life, the United States has moved forward toward more rights and more social conscience. It is sad to see some trying to move us backward. The original healthcare reform bill was created in the open, with Congress doing its job: inspecting, weighing in, compromising, cooperating. This bill is being pushed through without proper oversight and bipartisan input because it is fundamentally flawed.

Do what is best for the American People. Vote against this cruel and unjust bill. Reclaim the soul of the Senate as an institution which serves the People, not the lobbyists and donors.

Very Sincerely,
Jane Kates

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Brenda Rion [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment on the Graham-Cassidy Bill

This latest version of continuing attempts to abolish rather than fix the ACA would kick 32 million people off healthcare. This alone should render the bill dead if all our representatives truly are looking out for the best interests of American citizens.

Making the situation even more toxic is that hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore and on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes. In my wildest imaginings I would never have come up with a scenario in which my government would even consider condemning many thousands of its own citizens to suffering and death while at the same time giving elites who already fail to pay their share of taxes yet another tax break. Such a bill should never have been proposed in the first place.

In 2009 the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees and received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. There is not even enough time for the CBO to evaluate this bill completely. There have been no hearings or time for anyone to thoroughly review the bill. Rushing such a complicated and life-impacting bill to a vote like this is unsound and not looking out for constituents' best interests.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It is time to construct a bipartisan bill that will fix the problems with our present healthcare system in a way that hurts no citizen and will be thoroughly examined by the CBO and experts in the healthcare and insurance fields and have multiple public Senate hearings before it comes up for a vote. This bill should not contain language that gives more tax breaks to the ultra wealthy who already enjoy many such breaks.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Brenda Rion

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tod Schneider [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The whole approach to pushing this bill is UnAmerican

The process being used to push this bill, without thorough review, without Democratic input, without even a thorough examination of costs and impacts is beneath contempt, and as far from American as you can get. It's beyond me how it's supporters can sleep at night, knowing they're going against the preferences of the vast majority of Americans. This is shameful.

Tod Schneider

Cell: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tegtmeier, Kenneth (Ken) <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Heller Johnson Health Care bill

Hello,

I am a Pediatric Critical Care Doctor at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. I take care of some of the sickest, and only the sickest kids in the country. Many of my patients have long term health issues that they've had since birth. Others have issues related to trauma or diseases such as cancer that altered a previously normal healthy life.

One thing that all of them have in common, is that under the pre-ACA days they had two major problems:

one was that they, by definition, had pre-existing conditions meaning they were unable to obtain health insurance on their own once they reached adulthood

and the second was that a significant number of them met lifetime caps on insurance, meaning that any further health care expenses fell solely on the family, which led families to bankruptcy or other difficult decisions that added to the stress of taking care of a sick child.

The Graham-Cassidy Health care bill, by leaving options for opting out of essential health benefits, allowing for caps, and vagueness around the definition of 'adequate and appropriate' insurance is a horrible bill. It does nothing to address the problems that people associate with the Affordable Care act, such that the High Deductibles are too high. It leaves the potential for huge numbers of Americans to be pushed off of insurance and Medicaid

GCHJ is flawed at its fundamentals and should not move forward. It will cause serious harm to my patients.

Thank you,

Ken Tegtmeier, MD
Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
Division of Critical Care Medicine
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Katy [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Repeal

I do not believe the Graham-Cassidy bill in good faith delivers a solution to our Healthcare issues. More bipartisan discussion is needed. Work together. Vote no.

Katy Peterson
Richmond, Virginia

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

Good afternoon:

I am writing to ask that you not support the Graham/Cassidy Health Care Bill. The bill in it's current form will make huge changes to Medicaid and punish states that took the Medicaid expansion. West Virginia is one of those states. It will result in a loss of services to individuals with disabilities and the elderly two of our most vulnerable groups. It will impact the opiod crisis that exists in West Virginia resulting in a loss of services to opiod addicted individuals. West Virginia has a high rate of addicts. Thirty-one states including WV will receive less money.

The bill will be detrimental to individuals with pre-existing conditions should states opt to waive that provision or making them pay higher premiums. The bill will take insurance away from 1/5 of the population. In concluding I am asking that you vote against the Graham/Cassidy Health Care Bill. It will kill individuals.

Respectfully,
Nancy Price

[REDACTED]
Oak Hill, WV 25901

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stephanie Lipp [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

To whom it may concern,

I am asking you to listen to the American people and NOT repeal the ACA.
I am a Registered Nurse and have seen many people bankrupted by their medical bills. We need a single payer system.

Thank you,
Stephanie Lipp,RN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa G [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

Honorable committee members,

My oldest son is 21 and has three major disabilities. Asperger's, Ehlers-Danlos (which is a degenerative congenital connective tissue disease), and bipolar. He can function as an independent adult because he is covered under ACA provisions on his father's health care insurance. If this bill passes, all of these conditions will disqualify him from health insurance because they are pre-existing conditions.

It is a travesty that the tax refunds to the wealthy will be funded on the back of my son, who is doing the best he can to stay an independent and a productive member of society. It is an outrage that access to healthcare will be denied to him, creating a larger burden on the healthcare system when he has to use ERs to get his health care.

This bill will throw the healthcare industry, which is a significant part of our economy, into disarray. All of the major players in the healthcare market denounce this bill because of the chaos it will create. They denounced it because it will undermine the ability of healthcare providers to provide their services. They rejected because it will not solve anything, it will actually create more problems.

Is undermining and destroying a significant part of our economy really the best plan the Senate can come up with? Stabilizing the insurance markets, stabilizing healthcare, and reclaiming our place as a country that leads the world in medical research and healthcare should be the plan. Sacrificing the healthcare industry, research, and the health of millions of Americans for political gain makes no sense whatsoever.

Please. Reject this bill.
Lisa Grant OMD
Nevada

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patti Criscitello [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: TRUMPCARE

I am 62 years old with a severe spine problem. I also take care of my 88 year old mother who has CLL. If this bill passes I am so afraid of higher premiums for our pre-existing conditions. We are both on medicare. I'm also afraid if the time comes and I have to put my mother in a nursing home medicaid won't be there for mom. My dad fought in WW2 and he fought for our rights. I think health insurance for all should be a right. Thank you Patti Criscitello

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David Love [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public comment on Graham–Cassidy

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I oppose the Graham–Cassidy legislation to repeal the ACA. This immoral legislation will cause 32 million Americans to lose their healthcare and jeopardize the health of Americans with preexisting conditions (most of us), children on Medicaid (CHIP), seniors, nursing home residents, and many others. In fact, Medicaid will be totally defunded in 10 years. In my state, New Mexico, rural hospitals will close, and 30,000 healthcare jobs could be lost.

It's so unfair that we have to continually contact elected senators and representatives to beg for our healthcare. This legislation benefits only the rich and is so very, very cruel to most Americans.

Jane Love

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Polly Mcnamee [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: PLEASE VOTE NO

Please vote no on Graham/Cassidy "Healthcare" Bill. This is IMPERATIVE.

Polly F. McNamee
[REDACTED]
Norwalk, CT. 06854

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Denise Tyson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to Graham Cassidy Bill

I am a concerned citizen of North Carolina and I'm opposed to this disastrous healthcare bill. The AARP and Blue Cross Blue Shield have said it does not protect those with pre-existing conditions.

Denise Tyson
Bryson City, North Carolina 28713

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Crowell [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Latest health bill

What a misnomer, since it's all about appeasing an ignorant base. What a disgrace! Please do not allow this bill to pass. It would be disastrous for millions of Americans, especially the most vulnerable, veterans, the poor, the disabled. There must be bipartisan efforts and time to properly debate and research.
Susan Crowell

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Janet Voigt [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

My family relies on the benefits from the Affordable Healthcare Act. We are fortunate to get our healthcare through work, but my husband after being diagnosed with a brain tumor had to retire and we then had to switch our healthcare from his work to mine. What a relief not to worry about pre-existing conditions!

And as anyone who has had to contend with cancer treatments the cost is huge. We can't image having to live with life time caps. What would you do, choose the health of your loved one or going broke? Unthinkable. But that is exactly what the Graham-Cassidy bill would potentially open up again.

This continued revival of repealing the ACA is an added stress our family, as well as any family with health issues, don't need. STOP this insanity. Work on a bipartisan bill to FIX the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you,
Janet Weissman-Voigt
[REDACTED]
Beachwood, Ohio 44122

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: sandra [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no

I have been a nurse for 29 yrs. Please do not pass a healthcare bill that does not benefit patients. Fix the ACA. It is not perfect, but it does not need to be scrapped either. Be the leaders you were elected to be. Help the country not your party.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stephanie Bell [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to GCHJ Proposal

Senators Hatch, Wyden and committee members:

I am writing to record my opposition to the GCHJ Proposal for the following reasons:

- It will strip health insurance from millions.
- It will cause insurance premiums to skyrocket.
- It will decimate funding for medicaid.
- It will remove protections for Americans with preexisting conditions.

I strongly urge the Senate to return to regular order and support bipartisan efforts to stabilize the healthcare markets.

For the well-being of all Americans, I strongly urge you to oppose GCHJ.

Stephanie Bell Finkle
Philadelphia, PA

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Stonaker [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Jennifer Stonaker
Sunnyvale, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: N Rice [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Important message

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. After getting laid off at the age of 55, I am semi-retired at the age of 61 and purchasing insurance privately. Although expensive, I know we cant go back to a system that can deny based on pre-conditions, because really, at 61 what isn't a pre-condition.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. This is where the time, energy and resources of Congress should be spent!

Sincerely,

Nancy Rice

Frankford, DE 19945

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margaret Briand [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: health care

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband has two pre-existing chronic conditions, a seizure disorder and diabetes. We would struggle with his many prescriptions and doctor visits without reasonable healthcare. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Maggie Briand

Silver Spring MD 20910

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Natali [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

Thank you for inviting comments on efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act through a politically-advantageous procedural mechanism that bypasses democratic, bipartisan negotiation via a low-threshold vote with little time allowed for debate and no time to analyse impacts on the American people.

Please know that my family depends on provisions of the Affordable Care Act that will be repealed by the Graham-Cassidy bill. Nearly all members of my family have pre-existing conditions and because we rely on employment through the "gig economy" we have finally been able to purchase health insurance and take care of ourselves through routine doctor's appointments. In one case, my partner broke his leg a few years ago and was denied insurance coverage until the ACA went into effect. In my case, I work as a consultant on a part-time basis which helps me stay productive and contribute to my family's income despite battling a chronic illness. Without the ACA, I could not get insurance either. Without insurance, if any of becomes ill or gets in an accident, we could lose our house, our life savings and this puts us in a position of great stress which only further threatens our health.

We have extended family who live, work and contribute to our society despite battles with cancer, heart disease and mental health disorders. We have seen their healthcare and peace of mind improve with ACA. Those who are disabled by their illness can get help. But for friends with mental health or drug abuse issues, they STILL fall through the cracks. In many ways, we see the ACA as NOT ENOUGH support for our health, which should be guaranteed for equally as a right. We have seen firsthand how without health insurance and care, people become vulnerable to irrecoverable debt, homelessness, and even the threat of imprisonment.

Over generations, people have worked hard to build our democracy, a stable and caring society. Every American deserves humane, equitable healthcare coverage. After reading the Graham-Cassidy bill, I am horrified to learn that it deeply cuts Medicaid (a much-needed safety net), it eliminates protection for people with pre-existing conditions on a state-by-state basis, it includes tax breaks for only the wealthy Americans who can pay out-of-pocket for healthcare, and it eliminates insurance coverage for critical aspects of women's health needs.

I live in California, a state that expanded medicaid to help. The Graham-Cassidy block grant program would reduce federal funding for healthcare to our state by billions of dollars (thru 2026)! I am sure that these cuts will make our healthcare more expensive, if we can find an insurance company that will cover us given our pre-existing conditions. By 2026, we will be in our 50's and I fear that as we age, our country will have left us to die in poor health because we will not be able to afford preventative care -- despite doing all that we can to take care of our own health.

Please consider how this bill (and its procedural maneuvers) will bypass negotiation and review with debilitating impacts to everyday Americans. Our health is our lives -- this is sacred territory. My family will be left without coverage and I fear that the many disabled citizens who are bravely living with disease, cancer, and debilitating conditions will be left without much-needed support that enables them to live with dignity but

without pain, immeasurable stress or fear. It is a shame that this could occur in our advanced, privileged and democratic society.

The caring for our citizens' health deserves a bipartisan Congressional efforts to improve the current state of our healthcare legislation, not dismantle it in the face of a political ticking clock. The Graham-Cassidy bill threatens to leave millions of American citizens legitimately fearing for their lives because they will no longer be able to access critical, quality care for their health. Lives are at stake. Please consider this matter with due respect and due process.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Natali
U.S. citizen from Berkeley, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Kochevar [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

Please do not pass this bill. You must be wondering why so many medical groups, governors , etc have come out against this bill.

The ACA is not perfect, but can be fixed.

DO NOT REPEAL the ACA.

Nancy Kochevar

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lynn Warner [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:29 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill comments

Senate Finance Committee,

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

My son was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes last December. He is insulin dependent, and affordable healthcare is essential to his health and wellbeing. T1 diabetes is a condition that he will live the rest of his life with.

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

Sincerely,
Lynn Warner
Cincinnati, Ohio

--
Lynn Warner, MLS

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Greg Tamura [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:29 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

Greg Tamura
[REDACTED]

Bellevue, WA 98006

The Graham-Cassidy bill is morally reprehensible and fiscally irresponsible. Those who vote "yes" for the bill will be remembered in the next election, and in history books as un-American, swayed by "lobbyist contributions".

The bill is universally opposed, among most citizens, insurance companies, and the medical profession.

Vote "NO" to the Trumpcare bill.

Regards,
Greg Tamura

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Betsy Davis [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:29 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill - no

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. and has benefitted from the ACA.

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

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Davis
Chicago, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Erik Halls [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:29 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fix the ACA

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

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

Sincerely,

Erik Halls

St. Louis Park, MN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ashley Blackburn [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:26 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Pearson, Beth (Warren); Hurt, Nikki (Markey)
Subject: Comments on Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson to Senate Finance Committee
Attachments: Senate Finance Committee_Story_9.25.27.pdf

Good morning,

My name is Ashley Blackburn and I'm a resident of Winthrop, Massachusetts. Please find attached my letter in opposition of the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal in advance of today's hearing in the Senate Finance Committee.

Thank you to the committee members for the opportunity to share my thoughts and my mother's story. I'd also like to thank Senator Warren and Senator Markey for their leadership and dedication to the residents of Massachusetts throughout the debate to repeal the Affordable Care Act this year. I very much appreciate your steadfast opposition to the various proposals to repeal the Affordable Care Act and to fundamentally change the Medicaid program through funding cuts.

Thank you,
Ashley Blackburn

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: ThomasAMarshal [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Hello,

How is it, and why are you holding only one hearing for something that is so important to Americans?

Thomas Marshall
Evansville, IN
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Caren Burgess [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:28 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Kill the bill

I am begging the senate to say no to the horrible bill. I can't understand why the GOP is set on hurting the citizens of our country? The government needs to work to help everyone in our country regardless if wealth, health or pre existing conditions! Millions will suffer. How in the hell is this ok? All to real and replace something our country wants to keep. My father is almost 88 and is assisted living. He has the late stages of Parkinson's. We can't afford his care if this passes. What will my family do? I have already injured my back seriously, lifting him. This makes it a pre existing condition! There is NO upside to this bill. Only if you are mega rich. Our voices need to come before the damn donors! You party will be known as the party that passed a bill that will kill millions. Please do not take this lightly! 😞

Caren Burgess

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol White [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:28 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

What is being proposed in this bill would take insurance away from millions. It would strip the guaranteed benefits from insurance coverage. It would allow insurance to institute lifetime caps. It would take away insurance from those of us with pre-existing conditions. You know this is true. Why would you do this harm to your constituents?

Why do you want to take health care away from children, the elderly, the poor, those with pre-existing conditions? Why do you want to allow insurance companies to institute life-time caps again?

Are tax cuts for the wealthy so important to some of you that you would allow children, cancer patients, the elderly in nursing homes to lose insurance coverage and die?

Are your wealthy donors more important to you than the child with diabetes who will need medical care for the rest of his life? Are your wealthy donors more important than the young mother who is diagnosed with Stage 2 breast cancer? Are your wealthy donors more important than the veteran with PTSD? Are your wealthy donors more important than the elderly man in the nursing home with Alzheimer's who worked all his life & raised his family but now needs Medicaid to help pay for his care?

Are tax cuts for the few wealthy who don't need that money more important than the millions who will lose health care? Are donors who write checks for millions of dollars the RNC or DNC more important than the millions of people who will lose medical coverage and care?

Everyone in this great country has a right to health care. Period. The ACA brought us closer toward that goal. The ACA needs some BI-partisan fixes to lower premiums and get more people covered. Why aren't you working towards that?

Thank you. Please vote a resounding NO to this immoral piece of legislation.

Carol White
Springfield, Oregon

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Amanda Wortman
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:27 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Title Of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017
Amanda Wortman

[REDACTED] Orange, CA 92868

To whom it may concern:

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

My sister was diagnosed with breast cancer at 27. After undergoing chemotherapy and a lumpectomy, she “beat cancer” and tried to leave cancer behind her. At 36, she was diagnosed with both ovarian and uterine cancers and this time, she wasn’t so lucky. The cancer was so aggressive and had spread to other organs. Though her doctors tried to treat her with everything they could think of, she passed away within 6 months of her diagnosis. This time, she left behind a husband, a 4 year old son (my nephew) and mountains of medical debt that her family is still struggling to pay off, 6 years later. My sister didn’t benefit from the ACA, but I have.

You see, when my sister was diagnosed with breast cancer, I was also diagnosed as having a pre existing condition by my insurance company. For no other reason than because my sister had cancer. So now, I am screened 4 times a year for various cancers using expensive machinery that didn’t exist when my sister was diagnosed in the hopes that if I am ever diagnosed with cancer, I will survive. I absolutely would not be able to afford these expensive tests without the subsidies the ACA has provided. I would also struggle to get any other insurance to cover me because of my “pre-existing condition” that my insurance company pegged me with by no act of my own.

Health care is complicated. And prevention, while cheaper than treating an advanced stage of cancer, is still costly. I understand that the ACA isn’t perfect or needs changes. That may be. But the solution is not the Graham-Cassidy bill. I implore you to keep the ACA on the books until a solution that doesn’t harm a large percentage of the American people can be agreed upon. When the AMA, AARP, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Planned Parenthood, and the National Association of Medicaid Directors all in agreement that the Graham-Cassidy should NOT be passed, it is clear that this bill must not be passed.

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

Thank you,
Amanda Wortman

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kristin Breiseth [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:27 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA repeal / Trumpcare

Dear legislators,

The Graham Cassidy Bill is morally reprehensible and finally irresponsible. This who vote "yes" on this newest iteration of Trumpcare will be remembered in the history books — and the next election — as anti-American.

The medical profession has come out in opposition to it, as have the majority of the voting citizens in this country.

Please do not allow this bill to pass.

Sincerely,
Kristin Breiseth
Arlington, MA
02476

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tiffany V Thiele [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:32 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

This bill is not only following regular order, but would punish me disproportionately as a woman, making it harder for me to access birth control. One hearing is not enough to reorder one-sixth of the economy. Thank you for your time.

-Tiffany Thiele
Connecticut

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michael Laser [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:32 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

September 25, 2017

Michael Laser
[REDACTED]
Montclair, NJ 07042

Dear Committee Members,

Three of the four members of our family have minor medical issues that would be considered pre-existing conditions under a changed health law. I am an adjunct professor; my wife is a freelance book publicist. Our combined income has allowed us to live modestly and raise two children... but paying for our own health insurance has always taken the biggest bite out of our income.

If insurance companies are allowed to charge more for members with pre-existing conditions, we will be forced to make some desperate choices.

Whatever the flaws in the current system, they are NOTHING compared with the misery you will create if you pass the Graham Cassidy bill. I can't imagine how anyone could vote for something that will benefit a few (most of whom are already doing quite well) and harm so many.

Please vote No!

Sincerely,
Michael Laser

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Donna Weeks [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:31 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to Cutting Medicaid for Those with Disabilities

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am a North Carolina resident and a parent of a special needs adult. Also I am a licensed special education teacher and school administrator.

Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are among our nation's neediest and most vulnerable individuals. They are uniquely innocent and precious. The only voice they have for their livelihood and advocacy is ours.

As you are aware, the quality of their lives is primarily dependent upon Medicaid funding. I urge you not to cut funding that will result in their needs being unmet and which will cause their suffering.

Thank you for your attention to my request and your compassionate leadership for the lives of those who are so dependent on your decision.

Sincerely,

Donna Weeks

Donna Weeks
[REDACTED]

Eastover, NC 28312
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Virus-free. www.avg.com

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jan Sullivan [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:56 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Hello,

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare that I've gotten through the ACA. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Before the ACA I was denied health insurance due to a preexisting condition (high cholesterol for which I've never needed to be treated yet still I was denied.) I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Jan Perron
[REDACTED]

Mt Hood Parkdale, OR

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara DeSantis [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:30 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No ACA repeal

My family, like millions of others, relies on quality, affordable healthcare. I am stuck in the gap between Medicare at 65 and private insurance (COBRA) running out at 62. Because of this, and for many other reasons, both personal, moral and political, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, [name]
[town, state]

--
Barbara DeSantis
Owner/ Boulder House

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

BOULDERS OUTSIDE. BOLDER INSIDE.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: JIM MANSFIELD [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:31 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Senate Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Proposal

Please vote NO to bill that may decrease/destroy Medicaid, Health Insurance, and use preexisting conditions as a clause to decrease/destroy health insurance.

My grandson is 23 yo and due to irreversible brain damage at birth he can neither write nor read.

My Mother is 90 yo and we are currently trying to get her approved for medicaid for long term health care- after spending down almost \$100,000 to assisted and long term nursing facilities.

Please think of your mothers/fathers/children and your children's children's healthcare and how you want them to be cared for at any stage of their lives.

I do believe that our legislators should rightfully share in the use of the healthcare programs for which they vote. How do you want to receive your healthcare?

Thank you.

Mary & Jim Mansfield

[REDACTED]

N Cape May, NJ 08204

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: sean collins [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:31 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Graham-Cassidy

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill because it would drastically, destructively reduce the ability of many thousands of people in the United States to live healthy lives. This country has long considered it important to care for its most vulnerable citizens, and this bill would have devastating effects on those people most in need. It amounts to a death sentence, and callous disregard for human life from a privileged group of lawmakers who themselves have access, by virtue of being public servants (supposedly), to the very kind of quality care they are trying to deny others. If you have any regard for your duties as a publically elected official, you will vote against this harmful bill.

Sincerely,
Sean Collins

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:31 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

Hello!

Respectfully, you folks could really FIX healthcare if Republicans and Democrats actually worked TOGETHER (the way it's supposed to be done in Congress) to improve the flaws in the Affordable Care Act (and stop calling it "Obamacare"!); Forget "repeal and replace" and how about trying "let's ALL have a win and make this thing work better."

Raymond Benson
(American citizen)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Krohn Bourgeois [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:31 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy Bill

Hello,

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

I'm currently receiving test to diagnose a stomach condition. While I don't yet know what I'm suffering from, there is comfort in knowing that with my insurance I will be able to treat it. However, if the Graham-Cassidy bill passes, and I'm diagnosed with what my insurance deems a preexisting condition, I will like loose the insurance. I shouldn't have to worry each time I get sick that I'll lose my health insurance.

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

Sincerely,

Jennifer Krohn Bourgeois
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Heather Roell [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:30 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Senate Finance Committee, Graham-Cassidy Bill hearing Monday, September 25th at 2:00pm EDT

My Info:
Heather Roell Oshman
[REDACTED]
Austin, TX 78727

Hearing Info:
Senate Finance Committee
Graham-Cassidy Bill
Monday, September 25th at 2:00pm EDT

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am a constituent from Austin, TX and am against the Graham-Cassidy Bill. This bill is very harmful to those with pre-existing conditions and those on Medicaid.

My son was born with a Congenital Heart Defect (CHD). One top of our employer sponsored insurance, we pay thousands of medical care each year due to deductibles for his heart preventative care. Giving states the rights to waive the pre-existing condition coverage will bankrupt us and possibly kill my son.

Medicaid is an efficient program which helps many. Thousands of families with CHD depend on Medicaid for their medical care. I agree, it's difficult for them at times to find doctors which take the program, however, at least they can get care. Capping, slashing, and introducing block grants is not an effective way to improve this system. Giving the program more funding to allow it to pay more to doctors or expanding it to help more people would be better.

Please reject this bill.

Thanks for your time,

Heather Roell Oshman

--
Heather Roell Oshman
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Mintz [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:29 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: testimony on the Graham-Cassidy health care bill

I am writing on behalf of the many families my social service agency serves who benefit from Medicaid coverage for children who are fostered and adopted through the public welfare system in this country. Of the 400,000 adopted and fostered children who benefit from public healthcare, a significant percentage have complex medical and psychiatric needs. Many families who adopt medically-needy children can do so only because they are assured that their "pre-existing conditions" at birth or in childhood will be covered by the insurance that they are guaranteed at finalization of the legal adoption.

Often times the very reason these children are in need of an adoptive family is precisely because of their complex medical needs that cannot be managed by the birth family. I implore the Finance committee to include and account for the unspeakable hardships these adoptive families would have to endure if their medical coverage for their medically-needy children is in any way compromised!

Sincley,
Lisa Mintz

Lisa Mintz, M.Ed.
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Florence, MA 01062
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Please do not print this email unless it is absolutely necessary. Spread environmental awareness.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Janice Nielsen [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:30 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

To Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal would have too great a negative impact on the country as a whole not just the 32+ millions that will not have healthcare. It will have a negative effect on the economy of every state and the federal government. We will lose people who would have survived under the Affordable Care Act but will not survive should this proposal pass.

Please do not let this happen. This proposal should not pass. It should be voted down. Please vote no.

Sincerely,
Janice Nielsen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Larry Baker [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

Ladies & Gentleman:

With regards to the Reoesl and Replacement of the ACA. Vote "NO".

It is yet another 1/2 thought out, no debate, no information to the public, open ended bill to replace healthcare for many in this Country. As there is no CBO score, but estimates are 32,000,000 will lose healthcare some way or fashion. That is 10% of the population.

Wake up. Fix what is there. Or come u with a better plan than that now exists.

How many times are you going to throw this trash in front of the American People and tell us it's good to eat. No it's not. If it was, there would be debate & conversation. All you're doing is a Vote.

Junk Legislation to satisfy your Donors.

Vote No. once again, as in the past, it helps nobody except the 1%.

Start operating the House and Senate in NORMAL procedure and process. You may find yourselves getting something done for a change.

NO!

Larry R Baker, II
United States Citizen
United States Army Veteran

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: S Burkemoore [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

Dear Senators,

I am a parent of two young children. We rely on high quality, affordable preventative and comprehensive healthcare. My children need me to remain healthy, and they rely on a full schedule of well-child visits and treatments when necessary.

Because of this, and because I stand with millions of my fellow Americans in demanding coverage, **I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill**. Although my spouse works full time and receives health coverage through his employer, we could not afford to add even one more family member to his plan. Both our children receive subsidized insurance. We expect our representatives to improve the ACA, not repeal it. We expect all of our Congressmembers to work together, in a bipartisan effort to continue the long work begun during the Obama administration. The Graham-Cassidy bill, and other efforts to repeal the ACA in this way, leave my family without coverage and waste the research and collaboration achieved with the ACA.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Burkemoore
[REDACTED]

Seattle WA 98117

Stephanie Burkemoore
M.S. in Outdoor & Environmental Education

Please print this email only if necessary. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Britt And Jeff [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy NO

I do not support the graham-Cassidy healthcare bill- as a human, American, woman, and mother. People will be hurt if this bill becomes law, and the sneaky partisan machinations on health care only make Congress seem suspect, and untrustworthy.

Thank you,

Britt Sando
Sparta, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Louise Schmelzer [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: the bill

From what I understand, the pre-existing condition section would have the most egregious effect on Americans. Apparently, a person with a pre-existing condition of metastatic cancer, for example, would have a premium of roughly \$142,000 per year. I'm sure you can see how ludicrous this is. Laughable, in fact. Most Americans don't have that much money as family income for a whole year, let alone have that much left over after food and shelter to pay health care premiums.

We all understand the issue. The Kochs and other big donors have threatened to not make promised contributions unless the ACA was "repealed and replace" AND tax cuts for the wealthy (with the money saved from a real healthcare bill) were passed by Congress. Senator McConnell and others are rushing to ensure the ACA is dead, no matter what replaces it; no matter what kind of healthcare coverage it provides; no matter who dies as a result. All for money. All for contributions to campaign chests so Senators can stay in office and do... what? Make more money for themselves? They certainly aren't looking out for the welfare of American.

I have to believe that there are men and women in the Senate who cannot be forced to sacrifice the health and very lives of their constituents for a few pieces of silver. If I can't believe that, then all is lost. Our country finally will have been taken over by the US version of the Russian oligarchs. That would be very sad indeed. It would break my heart. I spent four years living in Arlington and Alexandria, VA. I walked the Mall many times and read the inscriptions. I walked the streets of Old Town Alexandria where George Washington walked, the pub from which he gave his last public address. My heart would swell with what our founding fathers had created. They were only men; they weren't perfect. The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution aren't perfect. But both have served us well for over 200 years. For all of that to be just a memory, just something kids will not understand as real, but as only an old story from grandparents does a terrible injustice not only to the founding fathers who pledged life and fortune, but to every single man and woman who have perished in defense of this country and its ideals.

What is happening is bigger than just the ACA. Please make it stop.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Davis [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:43 PM
To: gchcomments; Pearson, Beth (Warren); Nikki_Hurt@marky.senate.gov
Subject: Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy

I write in vehement opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill, which would destroy my son's health insurance and that of many millions of Americans. I write as a cancer patient in remission with one cancer and on medication for a second, pre-cancerous condition. I write as the full-time caretaker of my son, Randy, age 31, who lives at home. Randy is autistic and taking medication for a seizure disorder.

Randy's seizures began late, when he was 30. Without his state-funded health insurance, which relies on Federal funding, I don't know how my husband and I would have paid for the medical tests and appointments with specialists Randy needed to see in order to get a diagnosis earlier this year. As it was, Randy's neurologist was able to make a diagnosis in good time and put Randy on medication. My son has not had a seizure since the last one-- for eight months. It's been eight months since I last found him on the bathroom floor, bloodied and confused, unable to explain what happened, his sweet face cut and bruised. Miraculously, he suffered no serious injuries beyond mild concussions. Eight months since the last trip to the emergency room.

I am 64, and will be on Medicare with a supplemental health insurance policy in a few months. My husband is already on Medicare but still working full-time with no end in sight. We are not wealthy. We have cared for Randy at home for 31 years, and been paying for two life insurance policies for him since he was a little boy, even in the leanest financial times. But we cannot absorb the costs of his health care if Medicare is destroyed, and neither can anyone else in our family.

As I write, I wonder why American citizens have to keep making this case to Congress. Is everyone in Congress independently wealthy? Do any of them have elderly or disabled family members? Do they share the very human worries of other Americans? Do they begin to understand that being a full-time caretaker, for over 30 years in my case, is hard enough without having to make phone calls and write letters to plead, constantly, for decency and fairness in health care and so much else? I need to preserve my energy in order to care for my son, to stay healthy myself, and to work as I can. I need to live as long as possible to be here for Randy. I am already profoundly weary from this unremitting fight. But I am determined to continue it as long as needed -- not only on Randy's and my behalf, but for all Americans.

Please put aside all thoughts of block grants, Please reject any legislation that fails to provide quality, stable, affordable health care for cancer patients, the disabled, the elderly, the poor -- for all Americans. And know that I vote and I will be working to get out the vote in the coming elections, even outside my state.

Yours sincerely,

Linda H. Yanikoski
[REDACTED]

Harvard, Massachusetts 01451

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Halpern [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller in favor of the bipartisan bill the Senate HELP Committee was considering. Graham-Cassidy-Heller would cause 32 million people to lose their health coverage while destroying Medicaid and harming some of the most vulnerable members of our communities, seniors and people with disabilities. And I would be one of them as small business owner who has survived breast cancer.

Susan Halpern
Columbus, Ohio

Sent from my iPhone so please excuse any spelling errors and the brevity of my message.

Susan
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eileen iPhone [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care bill

Vote NO. DO NOT pass the Graham Cassidy bill. It will not improve on the ACA and will drop tens of millions is citizens from insurance!

Eileen Reidinger
Columbus OH 43235

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jill Christenson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: no ACA repeal

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. As a self employed mental health counselor, not only do I rely upon the ACA for affordable health coverage, I also see clients who rely upon the ACA for access to vital individual and family counseling. Many American families are significantly and negatively impacted by mental health and substance abuse issues; providing low income families access to services to treat these issues is vital for a healthy and successful community.

I realize the ACA is not without problems, but I want to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, NOT A REPEAL.

Thank you,

Jill Christenson, LPC

St. Marys, GA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Greg Winston [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham-Cassidy Bill

My wife and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare, which we wouldn't be able to afford without ACA & expansion of Medicaid. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. The story with our being disabled is that we weren't able to even obtain insurance as what we deal with were considered a pre-existing conditions. With ACA we were eligible for Medicaid, without which we would have been unable to get the treatment we desperately need.

Therefore, I would sincerely like to see a true bipartisan Congressional effort to make the ACA better, not repeal it.

Sincerely

Greg & Dorothea Winston

Green Valley, AZ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Shepard Hughes [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Mary Hughes
Decatur, Alabama

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathy [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Proposed Healthcare Bill

To the members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I was encouraged by my Congressman Joe Kennedy to share my thoughts with you.

I encourage you all to vote against the proposed healthcare bill tomorrow, as it would be cruel and devastating for our country and its citizens. The worst part about it is you already know that. It is politically motivated and would only benefit the rich, and that's not what America stands for. I propose you all do your job and come up with a thoughtful bipartisan bill that will serve the American people - the ones who put you in Washington in the first place. Build upon what's good about the Affordable Care Act. There's plenty of good there. Improve upon it. You're all smart enough to do that. You need to stop playing politics with people's lives. And while your at it, let's have one healthcare plan for all. Whatever you come up with, you should have to live with too. You are not special and your position does not afford you additional privileges. Don't forget, who you work for - the American people. We are your employer. You answer to us. Your recent behavior is shameful and disgraceful on so many levels. We are leaps and bounds behind most other countries in the world in terms of infant mortality and life expectancy. It's time to get our act together. We can do better. You can do better - a lot better. Please work together, if for no other reason than your own legacy.

Thank you,

Kathy Howard, RN
Medway, MA
USA

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kevin Scibilia [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Kevin Scibilia
Robbinsville, NJ

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose Graham-Cassidy Trumpcare and the Repeal of the Affordable Care Act

Graham-Cassidy Trumpcare is a travesty that will rip health care from millions of Americans and kill many of us.

Please reject this bill and work vigorously and in good faith to protect and improve the Affordable Care Act.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ilene Levine [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Finance Committee,

I am a retired teacher living in Princeton, New Jersey. I'm very concerned about the millions of people who would be affected by the Graham-Cassidy bill if passed. This bill will take away health care for the most vulnerable as well as all people, poor and middle class, who have pre-existing conditions. Who past the age of 40 doesn't have a pre-existing condition?

I have had breast cancer twice and have received chemotherapy twice and radiation once. The first time I had cancer, I was not a candidate for a new designer drug called Herceptin. When I had a recurrence, I was a candidate for the drug, which saved my life, since my HER2NEW positive breast cancer is a very aggressive kind of cancer. If I get the same kind of breast cancer again and do not have access to affordable health care, I will die. Do you want my death multiplied millions of times on your conscience? Put your conscience to good use NOW and vote no for the Graham-Cassidy bill. It is better to save lives than save face.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Ilene Levine

--
"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."
— Barack Obama

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

To whom it may concern:

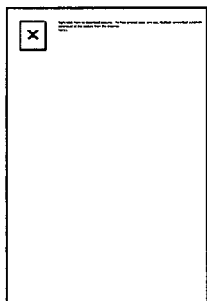
I am urging all Senators to vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill and instead, work together to make improvements to the existing ACA (Affordable Care Act). The goal of every member of Congress should be to INCREASE the number of people who have healthcare, not decrease it.

The healthcare system in the U.S. needs improvements but the GC bill is not the way. It will take away all the protections that the ACA put in place and people like me, who are over 50, will see increases to their premiums, which are already quite high.

Even though my husband and I are not wealthy (by any means) we would gladly pay more to ensure that ALL people have healthcare. We live in a society and realize that taking care of everyone benefits ALL of us.

Surely if everyone in Congress would start working together, they could figure out a way to expand healthcare to everyone. For example, expand Medicaid to cover everyone.

--



- Nancy Roblewsky

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

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[Read Our Blog!](#)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Annie Leveritt [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

To whom it may concern --

I am writing because I believe this bill is not the answer to America's healthcare.

First, this bill needs to be scored by the CBO. Healthcare impacts the life of every American and accounts for 1/6 of the economy. Irresponsible to pass this without understanding it's impacts.

Second, what is being proposed will make insurance unaffordable for me. I am over 60 and a cancer survivor.

My income doesn't come close to covering the cost of insurance with this plan.

Third, every group that has any stake in healthcare-- AMA, AHA, health insurers, state Medicaid directors -- is opposed to it.

Finally, should this pass, you will be astounded by the backlash from the American people when they realize what this means in their lives.

Please think this through!

Annie Leveritt

60625

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: CATHY DILLMAN [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare hearings debate

Sent from my iPad the first, VERY FIRST, question that must be asked of each politician..... is healthcare a human right or a privilege for those who can afford??? First Question. One or the other. Than solutions can be discussed.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Andrew Tremblay [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Humans

How is it possible for you to pass a bill with no debate in public and not knowing how many humans will lose insurance?

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Chiccehitto [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy Graham Health Care Bill

Dear Senators,

My name is Susan Chiccehitto and I am a resident of the state of Virginia. Please VOTE NO on the Cassidy Graham Health Care Bill. In composing this letter, it is difficult to focus on just one of my loved ones who will be negatively affected by this health care bill. I have a young daughter with Crohn's disease and receives her health insurance through the ACA exchange. She is employed full time and the ACA has kept her health payments at an affordable level. The cost of the required colonoscopies are manageable. Additionally, she will be pursuing a new job in another state and the ACA covers her preexisting condition. Loss of these benefits would be costly to her medically and financially.

Also, I have a dear friend, Liz, whose renal dialysis is covered through Medicaid. Liz is a classroom teacher and continues to work full time as she awaits for a transplant. Please, Liz will die without the dialysis.

I know there are issues with the ACA. It is not a perfect bill. You have the power to fix it. Do you have the moral and ethical courage to do so?

Thank you,
Susan Chiccehitto
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Berggren [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:48 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,

Nancy Sieper Berggren

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mila Nicole DeWitt [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:48 PM
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

In regards to Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal on Monday, September 25, 2017

Hello,

I have an 18-year-old daughter with autism. She has many challenging behaviors and we do not have any support from family.

The Patient Protect and Affordable Care Act and North Bay Regional Center Services have allowed my husband and I get much-needed respite services. This has helped us stay healthy and keep our jobs.

Sincerely,
Mila DeWitt

Mila DeWitt [REDACTED] CA, 94558

[REDACTED]
Napa CA, 94558

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Lindenberger [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

I'm a voting, tax-paying American so thankful I live in Canada and don't have to worry about my healthcare. I am appalled by the Republican -- not just trump -- efforts to destroy the ACA instead of working in a bipartisan way to make it better. I am especially appalled at the Graham-Cassidy bill which would strip even more people from health care and deliver questionable care to all the others -- if the states can get their acts in order, which is dubious. Plus once again the rich get richer and the middle-class gets shafted and the poorest get left in the muck.

REJECT Graham-Cassidy.

Susan Lindenberger

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (in US; am voting ex-pat)

Blowing Rock, Paraná 28605

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Zsuzsa Berend [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators,

my best friend's daughter had cancer at age 14. Thanks to the ACA, my friend was able to get a reasonable and affordable health insurance for her - she has checkups twice a year and has been doing very well. She is 24 years old and just started graduate school. She may well be one of the "casualties" of the bill.

Beyond personal stories, it is unconscionable to take away people's insurance to distribute the savings to billionaires as tax cuts.

The Senate should be working for all Americans, not just for the wealthiest ones.

Zsuzsa Berend
Los Angeles, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lorianne DiSabato [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Both my husband and I have preexisting conditions and need good, affordable healthcare (including prescriptions) to stay alive. We oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill and its dismantling of consumer protections for people with preexisting conditions.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Healthcare is not a luxury: it is a matter of life and death for countless Americans. It is morally reprehensible for the Congress to ram through a quick repeal of the ACA for political purposes. Please take the issue of affordable healthcare as seriously as your constituents do.

Sincerely,
Lorianne DiSabato
Waban, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller!

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller in favor of a bipartisan bill, for instance the bill that the Senate HELP Committee was considering.

Graham-Cassidy-Heller will cause more than 30 million people to lose their health coverage and it will destroy Medicaid, harming the most vulnerable members of our communities — seniors, people with disabilities, and people who are sick, often due to no fault of their own.

Pushing Graham-Cassidy-Heller through the Senate before September 30 and casting aside regular order would be a cruel and unacceptable course of action.

Please consider your constituents. Most of us do not have the resources and connections that you do.

Thank you,
Ruanna Waldrum
Truth or Consequences, New Mexico

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Rottmann [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

We all rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I currently have employer sponsored care, but I know I'm only a medical condition away from being on my own. Knowing that we have a strong independent insurance market gives freedom to families like mine to not be as afraid of losing a job or even starting a new business. I also expect that my senior parents who are now on Medicare will also be on Medicaid at some point in the future, and it terrifies me to think that their access to care could be limited at the end of their lives.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. This process has been disgusting and cynical and it's terrifying everyday people. Please go back to the regular legislative process.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Rottmann
Portland, Maine

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: artisanrox . [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO ON GRAHAM CASSIDY

NO ON GRAHAM CASSIDY
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CASSIDY NOOOOOOOOOOOOOO on this evil bill!! NO!

This bill will kill people, it will fiscally ruin the health care system and will do nothing but give tax breaks to people who don't need them!

God is watching!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Darien Reece [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham- Cassidy bill and the ACA repeal

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully
Darien Reece

[REDACTED]
Woodville, VA 22749
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mariel Spengler [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Hello,

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

My son was born with a complex combination of heart defects as well as some other issues, and required surgery soon after birth. As he has grown, he has needed more surgeries, so he has had 7 open heart surgeries throughout his life, the most recent of which was 2 years ago. He is now 21 and in college. He will continue to need surgery as the donated artery that was placed in his heart needs to be replaced. He will need care for the rest of his life.

When our son was a little, my husband and I would lay awake at night worrying about how we would be able to cover our son's life saving care when he was grown up. This continues to be a concern for many families like ours.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Please help families like ours who just want to make sure that their children get the care that they need.

Sincerely,

Mariel Spengler
Palo Alto, California

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Martin Warner [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Repeal Bill

On March 18, 2015, my late husband who was a US Army veteran passed away at age 59 from Young Onset Parkinson's Disease. He was diagnosed at age 42 and I married him ten and a half years before he passed away. At the time I met him, he and his three teenagers were nearly homeless struggling to live on his social security disability and cover his medical costs with no health insurance. The last five years of his life he also struggled with dementia. If it had been for the provisions of the Affordable Care Act, I don't know how I could have continued to work full-time as a state government policy analyst and care for him.

For families whose family member has a chronic debilitating condition, health insurance can be the difference between being housed and homelessness. Legislation which would exempt those persons with preexisting conditions is cruel as it dooms them to a life of abject poverty and likely speeds their deaths. Instead of repealing the Affordable Care Act, our legislators should work together to make this vital program a success.

Respectfully,

Linda Martin Warner

*Laugh when you can, apologize when you should,
And let go of what you can't change.
Kiss slowly, forgive quickly, play hard, take chances,
Give everything and have no regrets.
Life is too short to be anything but happy!*

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Loralee Dolan [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO

As an older, self-employed farmer in rural America with a pre-existing condition for 30 years, I urge all Senators to vote no on the Graham Cassidy healthcare bill. It is abusive to kids, the elderly, and vets on Medicaid.

Our individual marketplace, which I rely upon, would be unaffordable without our tax credits to limit the cost of a silver plan. Taxable income of \$35,000 with premiums for the two of us at \$18,000 would be devastating financially if we got sick and had to pay our \$13,000 deductible.

This bill is worse for many more people than previously rejected ones. Campaigning on repealing Obamacare is not reason enough to pass a bad Trumpcare bill, especially without a CBO score.

Vote no,
Loralee Dolan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carry [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:22 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no

Healthcare is a human necessity and therefore should be deemed a right, NOT a privilege.

Vote no on ACA repeal.

Kindly, thank you.
Carry Thomas

Please excuse any "thumbos"!
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Bunnewith [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:08 PM
To: gchcomments

My thoughts on the issue of health care? This is the issue that is going to take this country down. It is the only issue at this moment in time!. If you don't have your health,nothing else matters. What is wrong with you politicians? If your people are sick and dying, they can't work which then means they can't purchase goods and services.Figure it out! The health insurance industry is going down one way or another. We all know it!
Medicaid for all NOW!!! Karen Bunnewith

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Don Ederer [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Re: Senate Finance Committee hearing on Graham-Cassidy-Heller healthcare bill

From: Donald Ederer
[REDACTED]
Shoreline Wa. 98155

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 me because I am a Registered Nurse, and would see first hand how this would effect the underserved.

As you can see, the outcome of this bill is not simply important to me--it is a matter of life and death. I hope you will do the right thing and vote NO on this unfair bill.
Thank you for your time

Donald Ederer

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judith Blaustein [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Q for Monday's Debate

What steps would be necessary to fix the ACA, i.e. what needs to have funding to work? Contrast that to the cost and risk of implementing an entirely new system.

--

Judith Blaustein
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lionharp [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham-Cassidy Bill to Repeal ACA

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

Aryeh Frankfurter
[REDACTED]

Monroe, Oregon 97456

To Whom It May Concern,

The Graham-Cassidy Bill designed to repeal the ACA will negatively and catastrophically effect me and my wife.

My wife and I are 50 year old self-employed entrepreneurs. We are hard working tax paying citizens. The ACA has enabled us to afford quality health insurance and cover my wife for preexisting conditions. The repeal of ACA would devastate our financial portfolio and we would never be able to obtain insurance to cover my wife's pre-existing condition which occurred to an unforeseeable accent in her early 30s.

I urge you to withdraw this cruel bill from consideration and work on a bipartisan measure to improve the ACA.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Aryeh Frankfurter

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alexi Scheiber [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect obamacare from Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senate,

I am an art student in Baltimore and a voter/resident in Charlottesville Virginia. I have asthma and intense allergies, scoliosis, & chronic pain that I have struggled with all my life. I am also a young woman, and while i don't personally, I know many friends who regulate their periods with birth control. Graham-Cassidy would make me a pre-existing condition. My friends and I deserve to live. to make art & contribute to society.

Don't rush a cruel bill to just get a win. Work as a senate to make healthcare a right for all. Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of happiness are supposed to be innate in this country. Guaranteed, Affordable Healthcare is Life.

Respectfully
~Alexi Scheiber

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stop Graham-Cassidy death spiral

First, The provision in the bill allowing states to "opt out" of covering pre-existing conditions, along with the "erasing the lines around the states" already in the ACA, the combination will result in a "race to the bottom" where most Americans will not have pre-existing condition coverage.

Make no mistake, thousands of those that need continuous care will die.

Second, Amending the bill to prevent States from using the funds to start single-payer systems is an outrage; I simply cannot understand how any state's-rights individual could propose it.

Best regards,
Ed Oliveira
02766

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joy Legge [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

PLEASE do not repeal and/or healthcare and leave millions of people without insurance or unable to get or have to pay more to get it if they have pre-existing conditions!

Thank you.

Joy Legge

[REDACTED]
Middletown VA 22645

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anna Wilson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:10 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 father had cancer (chondroblastic osteosarcoma) and were there coverage caps or pre-existing condition restrictions, my family's time with him would have been cut tragically short. I can't bear to think of going through that with another family member, or other American families having to go through it. It goes against what I understand as the fundamental values of our country. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Anna Wilson

--

Anna M. Wilson, Ph.D.
Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes [REDACTED]
University of California, San Diego
Scripps Institution of Oceanography

[REDACTED]
La Jolla, CA 92093-0224
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Samuel Tadesse [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: graham-Cassidy bill

I do not support nor believe in the Graham-Cassidy bill for the simple fact that it does not protect all Americans against healthcare rising costs. This country needs to do better, and our senators should do better!

Regards,

Sam

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tommy & Marie Armstrong [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

If Senator Grassley can "think of a hundred reasons not to vote for" this bill, and Senator McCain has decided to vote against it, I certainly must oppose it too. It's a pretty sad day that the folks we elected to govern hurry to throw something together and pressure party members to pass a bill merely to be able to say that they repealed Obamacare. Governing our nation has become a game.

Please vote against the Graham-Cassidy Health Care (but not really) bill.

Thank you,
Marie Armstrong
Reedville, VA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Janine Tursini <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re: Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

In reference to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson (GCHJ) bill, two thirds of medicaid consumers are in nursing homes in the US. One in five Americans use medicaid. Long-term care and health care in general bankrupt swaths of the middle class forcing them into the system of "takers"---"losers" in the presidential parlance of our times---in the "retirement" years of their lives.

There are millions there already, from decades, centuries, of laws and policies stacked against them. And here comes some more.

A partisan Republican proposal for funding cuts to be jammed through Congress, without review and scoring by the Congressional Budget Office, that ruthlessly targets States that most successfully enrolled citizens in the health care system.

This will devastate people's lives and families for generations. It is mind boggling.

The Republican party is out of the closet as a bunch of thugs, stealing for tax-cuts from those they have forced into medicaid and poverty.


I would like to be sure I fully understand the effect this bill will have on Americans. Here is a set of questions that I hope this hearing and this committee will answer for the public good. From Forbes contributor, Josh Archambault:

1. "Some ACA supporting groups (like CBPP) have claimed that the GCHJ block grants 'create a funding cliff that Congress likely couldn't afford to fill.' If this is the case, how will Congress afford the current (status quo) projected level of spending in 2026 if it will be *even higher* than under GCHJ?"

2. Does the GCHJ bill spend more dollars in 2026 than it does today on Medicaid, subsidies and reinsurance? If more, how is this a cut? It sounds like slowing the rate of growth, right?
3. For a few decades, health policy experts on both sides of the aisle have agreed that slowing the rate of growth in health care is a good first step. If slowing the rate of growth in Medicare by over \$700 billion in Obamacare was seen as a good thing by ACA supporters, why would slowing the rate of growth in Medicaid by less mean the sky will fall?
4. Most consider the bipartisan welfare reform of 1996 a success in helping millions of Americans out of poverty, especially single mothers. It also helped focus states on employment and increasing earnings. Part of that reform was changing the financing structure to block grants. The outcome has been to spend far less money over time on TANF, but deliver better outcomes. Doesn't fixing the Medicaid finance structure better focus state efforts to best coordinate care for enrollees, and fight fraud?
5. Has research shown that spending more money on health care is always correlated to better quality care? If no, then why do we make this mistake when funding it?
6. Do states have the right incentives under the current Medicaid matching funds system to control costs by coordinating care, and fighting fraud?
7. What percent of health care spending is considered wasted?
8. What percentage of covered lives are in the individual market? If a state decided to apply for a GCHJ waiver for the individual market to allow health underwriting, would they be required to state how they intend to '...maintain access to adequate and affordable health insurance coverage for individuals with pre-existing conditions if such waiver is approved'? Could mechanisms like invisible risk-sharing, traditional reinsurance and high-risk pools be used to accomplish those goals?"

Thank you,

Janine Tursini


Washington, D.C. 20009

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gail Gentling [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with pre-existing conditions is that I am a cancer survivor, and my husband has high blood pressure. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Gail Gentling, Los Lunas, New Mexico

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:52 PM
To: gchcomments

Dear Senators,

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare and some members have complex, pervasive health issues. I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

My family's health and that of others I know is undermined by fears of having no insurance, or losing their insurance, and not being able to pay for their healthcare. This is the case with all who need Medicaid, have pre-existing conditions, disabilities, are unemployed or work as independent contractors. Many of your constituents fall into one or more of those groups. I want to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Please, please improve ACA, and do not put unnecessary burdens on the most fragile Americans. You and your family have excellent options for your healthcare. Think for a minute what you would do without your insurance and financial resources.

Respectfully,
Susan Rives

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anna MacNiven [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment from Vienna, VA

To whom it may concern,

Without access to healthcare, I will die. I live with bipolar disorder, an incurable mental illness that causes my moods to swing uncontrollably from intense anxiety to crushing depression. I began seeking help five years ago and once spent two weeks in an intensive outpatient hospital program because I was suicidal. I got help, but later lost my job and my insurance, making my disorder a pre-existing condition. Thankfully, the Affordable Care Act prevents my new insurance from refusing coverage, and I was able to continue treatment. I will need to control my bipolar disorder with medication and therapy for the rest of my life. Without treatment, I am at a higher risk for long term unemployment, becoming homeless, incarceration, and dying by suicide. With treatment, I work full time, pay my taxes, volunteer for local charities, and am a loving daughter, sister, and friend.

Thank you for your time,

Anna MacNiven
Vienna, VA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ben Lazar [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

To the Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller and work with Democrats to shore up the ACA exchanges. Graham-Cassidy-Heller would cause 32 million people to lose their health coverage while destroying Medicaid and harming some of the most vulnerable members of our communities, seniors and people with disabilities.

Benjamin A. Lazar
Reno, NV

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marsha Belfer [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Marsha Belfer
Cedarburg Wisconsin

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Mariann Sullivan
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

I consider quality, affordable healthcare to be a necessity of life. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Although I am lucky enough to be on Medicare, and have employer paid insurance for my other needs, I am not so selfish that I would want my fellow Americans deprived of the peace of mind and basic safety net of quality healthcare. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Mariann Sullivan

Germantown, New York

--

Mariann Sullivan

[The Our Hen House Podcast](#) // [The Animal Law Podcast](#) // [Facebook](#) // [Twitter](#) // [Instagram](#)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Doug Loeb [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment on Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Dear Honorable Senators,

I am writing today to voice my extreme disapproval of the Graham Cassidy health care legislation currently making it's way through the senate.

Before the ACA was enacted, I was without healthcare for 14 years. During that time I put off basic health care like seeing your doctor once a year, cholesterol screening, and the colonoscopy that is recommended when you turn 50.

Now, under the ACA, I pay \$124 a month after subsidies and am able to afford to see a doctor if I need to.

I know there are issues with the ACA and we should work to fix those. However, pushing millions off of health insurance, cutting medicaid funding, and charging huge amounts for people with pre-existing conditions is not the answer.

I am one of the millions that will lose my coverage if this bill passes. Please stop this legislation and give us quality health care at affordable prices.

Sincerely,
--Doug Loeb
Gainesville, FL

--
Doug Loeb
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Monica Mulanax [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Harris, Press (Harris)
Subject: ACA repeal will ruin my life

To whom it may concern,

I am writing today to express my extreme opposition to the Affordable Care Act repeal efforts that the Trump administration is trying to make reality. Like many other millions of Americans, my life as I know it will be turned upside down if this healthcare repeal is successful. I am a tax paying, hard working contributor to society and my community in Berkeley, California. I also live with two grave pre-existing conditions on my medical record: Type 1 Diabetes and Ovarian Cancer. Contrary to Mick Mulvaney's incredibly ignorant and callous comments about Diabetics not deserving health insurance, I didn't get Diabetes by "sitting at home and eating poorly". I was merely a child when diagnosed with this autoimmune disease that has no prevention, no cure and is not caused by lifestyle. Type 1 Diabetes is occurs as early as infancy for some, and is a constant challenge that requires 24 hour attention, for life. Without access to the insulin and sophisticated medical equipment I need daily, my quality of life will be drastically impacted. I have worked hard and managed my condition to avoid many of the complications that can come from living with Type 1, and I deserve to keep it that way. Insurance companies should not have the right to discriminate against people like me who can't help that they were dealt an unlucky hand with their health. Fears of losing my insurance literally keep me and my husband up at night with the anxiety of how we will afford living expenses and the life saving medication I need.

As if that were not enough to worry about, if my cancer ever returns I am positive that my family will not be able to afford treatment under this shameful Republican health plan. If denying cancer survivors the coverage they need to fight and survive becomes the norm and if lifetime coverage caps are instated, I am truly afraid that I may die while bankrupting my entire family in the process. For me and many others, this is personal and it is outrageous that anyone can pretend that a repeal will help American lives. In reality, this plan will cost lives and cause unnecessary suffering for so many. I am so tired of us having to fight for such as basic need that should be accessible for all instead of treated like a luxury for a fortunate few. It's time for America to catch up with Canada and the rest of the modernized world and adopt a single payer healthcare system- healthcare is a human right, period!

In the meantime, we need to stop an ACA repeal from ever becoming reality. Vote NO on repealing Obamacare!

Sincerely,

Monica D. Mulanax-Crawford

[REDACTED]
Berkeley, CA 94702

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Melissa Cox [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: M. Cox - Graham Cassidy Hearing Comments for the Record

>>

>> Hello:

>>

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

>>

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

>>

>> My husband and I have both been paying into the healthcare system for well over 25-30 years. The past 3 years we both had our first significant health events requiring extensive health care treatment.

>>

>> My husband suffered an Arterial Dissection and a Heart Attack earlier this year and nearly died. But thanks to the great medical staff with our local care providers in San Francisco he survived. His treatment included 3 weeks in the hospital and a surgical procedure to install an internal Pacemaker-Defibrillator which he will keep and maintain for the rest of his life. He could not have received these services cost effectively and quickly without his quality health care plan.

>>

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

>>

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

>>

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

>>

>> Best Regards,

>> Melissa Cox

>>

>> [REDACTED]

>> San Francisco, CA. 94107

>> [REDACTED]

>

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Theresa Russo [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story is that I am a cancer survivor and am concerned that this may be used to deny me insurance coverage. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.
Sincerely,
Theresa Russo
Syracuse, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Saul Finkle [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to GCHJ Proposal

To Senators Hatch, Wyden and committee members:

I am writing to record my opposition to the GCHJ Proposal for the following reasons:

It will strip health insurance from millions.

It will cause insurance premiums to skyrocket.

It will decimate funding for medicaid.

It will remove protections from Americans with preexisting conditions.

I strongly urge the Senate to return to regular order and support bipartisan efforts to stabilize the healthcare markets.

For the good of all Americans, I strongly urge you to oppose GCHJ.

Saul Finkle
Philadelphia, PA

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Thea Hogarth <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

To all who will be voting on this bill:

Nearly everyone in my life (myself included) relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story begins with a life-threatening peanut allergy and fortunately hasn't ended yet because I have been fortunate enough to have continuous insurance coverage. The ACA allowed me to stay on my mother's insurance while I was applying for jobs after college. It saved me from pre-existing condition bias when I signed up for a plan of my own. It has made it possible for me to go to the emergency room every time I feel my lungs seizing up, refusing to let air in or out. My life depends on the ACA, and I'm not the only one.

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

Sincerely,
Thea Hogarth
Queens, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anne O'Donnell [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Support and fix the ACA

I am bitterly disappointed that the Senate is again attempting to repeal the Affordable Care Act, this time on even more draconian terms. As a self-employed free-lancer with mild mental-health issues (easily controlled by medication), I struggled for years to find affordable insurance. Since the ACA, I've had excellent coverage for a decent price. Under the GOP cuts, I risk losing these important ACA protections, while my premiums skyrocket due to the "age tax" that will hit people in my age bracket (54). Every affected party, from the AARP to the AMA and AHA and the insurance industry itself, not to mention 75% of Americans polled, condemns this plan for its negative impact on individuals and the shock it will cause the health care system—a 6th of the economy. A recession is likely to follow such this rushed and irresponsible repeal, which will not even be scored by the CBO before a vote. I believe investing in our workforce by providing health care for all citizens is the responsibility of any advanced society, and helps the economy instead of hindering it. PLEASE WORK ACROSS THE AISLE to fully support and fix the ACA and prevent the Trump administration from sabotaging it, rather than gutting health care in order to give yet more tax breaks to the richest Americans.

Many thanks for your consideration.

Anne Stewart O'Donnell

[REDACTED]
College Park, MD 20740

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Franklin [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: (6) Story Submission for GC Hearing

Good morning –

My Indivisible organization spent last spring collecting health care stories from around our state to be shared with Senators Murray and Cantwell. This participant requested that I share their story with the SFC to be part of the record for the Graham-Cassidy hearing taking place on 9/25.

Kris Melrose
98501
[REDACTED]

I found myself pregnant while in college before the Roe vs Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion. I was away from home on an internship in New Mexico and had to search out a doctor who would be willing to do an abortion.

I was given a phone number and made arrangements to go to Santa Fe. Once in Santa Fe, I had a second phone number to call for the actual address. Alone, I went to a house, walked up the dark stairs, and did the designated knock on the door. A woman with a medical facemask answered the door and quickly ushered me into another room that held an examination table. I paid the requisite fee in cash to the woman.

Once on the table, with my feet in stirrups, the “doctor” came into the room. He was also in a mask, thus making it impossible to later identify him. He was ready to begin, but stopped when the female assistant asked me for more money. She then searched through my purse and took all the remaining cash I had. The abortion, D & C, took place swiftly. The doctor left. Ten minutes later I found myself walking down the stairs, shaky and alone.

The money from my purse was supposed to be used to catch a bus to the airport in Albuquerque seventy miles away. I made it to the airport by hitchhiking and holding it together as best I could.

Trump's policies are closing more clinics, making reproductive care harder to get and more costly for women. I don't want any other young woman to have to go through what I experienced trying to get a safe abortion. Please stand up against Trumpcare!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sarah Franklin
Indivisible Kirkland Kenmore
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Faucett, Mr. Joshua Eugene [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: REPEAL OBAMACARE

You have my full endorsement to pass Graham-Cassidy!! Stay the course and pass this bill!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marina Heau [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Bill

Hello,

I'm writing about the proposed Graham/Cassidy Bill. I'm concerned about the bill for many reasons and am stunned that any Senator could in good conscience, put the bill forward.

- 1) It is being voted on before it has a CBO score
- 2) There have been no bi-partisan discussions amongst Senators
- 3) It leaves our most vulnerable in an even worse situation- the poor, the disabled, and disadvantaged children will be subject to loss of coverage. Those with pre-existing conditions face steep (possibly not affordable) insurance hikes or must again fight for coverage, with possible long probation periods (the way it used to be before Obamacare).

We are in need a universal health care solution, not something that doesn't provide affordable access to healthcare for those that truly need it. Not something that has limited coverage. Not something for only the healthy, and young.

I am a single parent and work full-time as a teacher's aide and luckily have health- benefits from work. The premiums are so expensive I can barely cover food and rent. I have no savings and when something goes wrong with my car it is a financial crisis. Which I go through every year. I am trying to help my father (he is 90) and there is very little I can do for him financially. It is scary and sad. We are good people- college educated and worked hard all of our lives but we are struggling and we are running out of steam.

Thank you
Marina Heau Stuart

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kirk Heer [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing, 9/25/17; Please FIX ACA

Regarding: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
September 25, 2017

From:
Kirk Heer,
[REDACTED]
Olathe, KS 66061

Please do NOT repeal the ACA. Fix it instead.

It is simply the easiest course to answering the desires of the majority of Americans.

Continued attempts to repeal the ACA are a brazen attempt to appease a limited number of big money donors.

Thanks
Kirk

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kara McMullen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham-Cassidy

Both my family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. My mother has MS and I can't imagine her quality of life without the basic healthcare she's been afforded. She needs this to continue, and I need this to continue. 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,

Kara McMullen

Portland, Oregon, 97203

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chris Wood [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

I would like to go on record as opposing the Graham-Cassidy bill. This is a terrible bill that will result in millions of people losing their insurance coverage. Go back to the drawing board and craft a bi-partisan bill that ensures all Americans have affordable, quality, health insurance

Christine Wood

[REDACTED]
Reno, NV 89509
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: York, Deborah [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare Bill

Good evening, Senators. I am a pediatric nurse practitioner student writing on behalf of my patients whose health care coverage is dependent on the provisions of the Affordable Care Act which is currently being reformed. I ask you to seriously consider the negative impact that would be incurred by cuts to programs that underwrite the provision of health care services to under-resourced children and youth.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to the people of the United States,

Deborah

Deborah V. York, MPH, RN
Yale School of Nursing
MSN Candidate, Pediatrics, Class of 2018
E: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Aaron Stroud-Romero <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Amendment

To Whom It May Concern,

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson amendment will have a terrible impact on our healthcare industry and will negatively impact millions of Americans receiving insurance through the ACA.

Personally the ACA has been costly for my family, as I was required to have insurance despite living in Uganda working with an NGO. While I would have preferred to not have this added cost or to purchase catastrophic coverage I am well aware of the benefits that the ACA has provided for around 20 million Americans. I am more than happy to participate in order to create a better system for all.

The answer is not to ram through an amendment that is not debated nor scored by the CBO, but to come together as Republicans and Democrats to fix the issues with the ACA, create competitive marketplaces in every state, and continue to work to sign more Americans up so that no one worries about medical bills in the midst of handling a medical emergency or dealing with a chronic disease.

Thank you,
Aaron

Aaron Stroud-Romero
North Charleston, SC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Constable, Nicole [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators,

I am appalled at the problems with the Graham Cassidy Bill. It is worse than the previous Trumpcare proposals. It does not provide coverage to those with preexisting conditions. It will result in millions more people without coverage, and it effectively puts a cap on maximum coverage. Fix Obamacare instead of passing nonsense bills that are rotten to the core and purely politically motivated. While you are at it, pay attention to helping US citizens who are less privileged than you are. Stop helping big money. Do what is good for ordinary people and those most in need of help.

Sincerely,

Nicole Constable
[REDACTED]
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Deena Berg [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: We need an open, bi-partisan, well-thought out solution

As a U.S. citizen living in Texas, I urge a "NO" vote on the Graham-Cassidy bill. Repeal will result in more uninsured, more deaths, delays, and longer term costs.

Any reform and/or repeal of ACA to fix its flaws needs:

1. Broad bi-partisan support conducted in open hearings;
2. Details of budgets, with coverage of pre-conditions and standards basic care across all states, worked out with real projection numbers from the CBO;
3. Solutions to the problems of over-priced medications, pay-to-delay drug deals and patent tinkering, fraudulent billing, fraudulent marketing "off label," price fixing, monopolies, political contributions, the ethics of insurance companies and hospitals being run for stockholders instead of patients, fair pay to health care workers, and other factors that make health care far less affordable and less efficient in this country.
4. Considerations of how the system will be able to sustain itself for future generations.

Harry Truman first proposed universal health insurance in 1946. Germany began its system under Bismark in 1883. It's time we entered the 21st century. We can learn from models in other countries. We have the best minds, the best schools, and the will to do so as people. What we need now is leadership with courage to do the right thing.

Deena Berg, Ph.D.
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mark Poth [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Comment - globally competitive American workforce

The bad effects of this bill on individuals and the health care system are compounded in the overall bad effects on the American workforce. How can we win in the competition of the global economy when our workforce is unhealthy or worried about becoming sick or injured?

Thank You for considering my comment.

Mark Poth
[REDACTED]
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chris Dewey [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care legislation

DO NOT SUPPORT THIS DISASTROUS LEGISLATION !!! So many Americans, aside from those in the proverbial 1%, will be DOOMED by this bill: people with preexisting conditions, hard-working men and women, children...the disabled, the poor...MOST Americans are unable to FATHOM, let alone afford the ridiculous prices quoted for the proposed "insurance" premiums. Additionally, how would they pay the expenses over-and-above that which is not covered under the terms set forth by this bastardized version of a health "care" policy ???

People are already struggling to pay their bills and feed their families !!! This health 'care' bill is nothing but a TRUE betrayal of the trust placed in those 'representatives' who were elected to serve as the voice of the people...hear OUR voices: This is a very bad bill, a disaster, a sham, a betrayal of the American people...and, ultimately, a death sentence for many !!! VOTE NO!

Sincerely,

C. Dewey

A concerned citizen, taxpayer, and voter !

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: kay.kirkpatrick@gmail.com on behalf of Kay Kirkpatrick [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

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

Kay Kirkpatrick
Urbana, Illinois

--

Kay Kirkpatrick
Blackwell Scholar and Associate Professor of Mathematics and Physics
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Richard Payton [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Thus healthcare bill is life threatening to a family member

My family member relies on Obamacare/medicaid for the drugs that stabilizes their bipolar disorder. We fear this bill if left up to Florida will deny their coverage. Floridas track record is abysmal on healthcare. I'm afraid they eill die if this bill passes.

Richard Payton

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alisa Keeling [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Vote no! This bill is stripping healthcare from millions of people. Medicaid and pre existing conditions have to be guaranteed to all Americans without us having to file bankruptcy just to afford premium and deductibles. I don't know why you can't just fix the ACA ! We didn't elect you to give your allegiance to your rich friends.

Sincerely,
Alisa Keeling - Arkansas

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judith Jensen [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham-Cassidy Disaster

Dear Senators:

Please do not pass this bill. Please do not do this to our veterans, many of whom have pre-existing conditions due to serving for our country. Women, those who do not wish to become pregnant will not be able to afford birth control. Our rural hospitals and small clinics in our rural towns in Iowa will fail as more people lose health insurance. I want a bipartisan bill that is more moderate and less about saving money! Please think what you will be doing to our elderly and our most vulnerable children by cutting Medicaid and Medicare. We are America: we take care of each other with compassion. This bill does not.

Thank you for your attention.
Judith Jensen
[REDACTED]