

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Emily Brooks [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not repeal the ACA

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Emily Brooks and I am an educator who has several pre-existing conditions. Because of Medicaid expansion, ACA subsidies, mandatory coverage, and nondiscrimination against those of us with pre-existing conditions, I have been able to have healthcare as an adult. The Affordable Care Act has provided health insurance as my work does not cover this.

I have asthma and anxiety and I am autistic. To control my asthma, I need to take four doses of asthma medication daily, and the monthly price for the asthma medication without insurance is over \$300. I see that the Graham-Cassidy plan could add upwards of \$4000 to my yearly healthcare costs. I'm here to tell you that even as a working individual, paying that much money is simply not doable. I don't want to die from not breathing, and I don't want my country to turn its back on me.

The way I think this country should work is that we can all help each other. In the long run, it would be more costly to cut services until people are bankrupt from medical debt and unable to stimulate the economy, too sick to work, and/or dead. Instead, the ACA must stay. It is the reason that many of us are able to participate in our lives as citizens. Taking it away is cruel because there is no other way for many Americans to receive healthcare, when paying out of pocket prices is a financial infeasibility.

On top of that, to allow health insurance to discriminate against people for disabilities and chronic illnesses, as well as gender (pregnancy), is unfair. If this is what those entrusted to represent us choose to do, then those representatives must have the guts to speak out and say, "I don't mind if millions of Americans are sick or die because I don't think everybody has the right to healthcare access." To hide behind a bill and misrepresent it as a good option for Americans is just as sick as we all will be if this bill passes. Live up to your words to us, the American people. If it isn't something you would want for yourself or your own family, it isn't good enough for the rest of America, either.

Whether you look at this from a moral standpoint or an economic standpoint, the Graham-Cassidy Act is wrong. Please do not repeal the ACA. If you do, I will be thinking of my own lungs, my friend's autoimmune disorder that requires medication and treatment, the children I know with disabilities and serious chronic illness, the family members who have given birth and survived medical ordeals including cancer, and the many people I do not know but who I know deserve access to healthcare that is affordable and available to people whatever their pre-existing condition.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Emily Brooks

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah B. Mundal [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:26 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject the Graham-Cassidy bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Both my son and I were recently diagnosed with a genetic disease that is potentially life-threatening. However, it is also a very manageable disease with proper medication and regular imaging such as echocardiograms and MRI's. The cost of these routine scans would bankrupt us over time, given the need to have them so regularly. We live in fear of losing our health insurance, because of our pre-existing conditions. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. It is unfathomable to me that you would rush to pass legislation with such far-reaching and potentially deadly impacts. Please do your job by working together and pass a law that won't hurt Americans like me and my son.

Thank you,
Sarah Mundal

--
Sarah B. Mundal
sarah.b.mundal@gmail.com

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Clarke [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Health Care bill

I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy health care repeal bill being rushed through Congress. This bill vindictively cuts health care from millions of Americans. Please don't steal the benefits of the ACA away from me or the many millions who rely on it. Thank you.

Barbara Clarke

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: veronica hippenstee [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:26 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: disabled and medicaid

My son is on the autism waiver and he really needs it. Multiple disabilities, intelligence disorder, severe autism anxiety, adhd, It is important that parents that do not make much have this benefit. If cuts are to be made they need to be to the parents that make good money. Currently all waiver's are based on the child money but if the program must be cut it needs to be from the parents that have money to pay for this themselves. The parents insurance should also be billed first then Medicaid. For those making less the sixty thousand or even fifty thousand should not lose any of the help they get.

The disabled should always get the help they need because they can't help themselves but if changes have to be made it needs to be to families in the upper incomes.

Veronica

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Admin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:20 PM
To: [REDACTED]ncomments
Subject: Feedback on the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

I'm a concerned citizen firmly opposed to the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill. Although it's not yet scored, industry experts who have reviewed the draft legislation in detail believe it will deprive more than 30 million Americans of affordable healthcare by 2027.

In addition, it will harm productivity and the economy since those deprived of preventative healthcare will more often miss work and perhaps lose their jobs.

Furthermore, rural hospitals, in areas primarily serving Trump supporters, will be at greatly increased risk of closure due to declining Medicaid funds, and increased emergency care demand.

in addition, the failure to mandate maternity care and coverage of pre-existing conditions is both heartless and ill-advised.

As if that were not enough, each state will have to come up with their own rules and systems, something expected to take a minimum of two years, but likely to take longer.

Industry associations, patient advocates, hospitals, and insurers all oppose this bill. That should be a giant heads up to our Senators, who have been entrusted to put the best interests of Americans before the interests of campaign donors.

Collectively, from my understanding of the bill, our healthcare system would take a giant step backwards and into chaos.

I hope our elected officials will forget about power and money for once, and think about the needs and lives of the citizens they have been elected to serve.

Thanks for your consideration.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mair708 [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Sent from my iPad This bill is proof positive that the GOP is NOT Pro-Life!! If they cared this bill would not be even a thought!! The American people deserve more from our representatives than cruelty. To quote Senator Grassley : this bill unleashes death panels!

Maryann Durkin a cancer survivor, mother of a child with a disability and a grandmother who would like my grandchildren to have healthcare!!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Molly Eacret [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Health Bill

Dear Madams and Sirs, for years the American people have been asking our elected leaders to make common sense changes to the ACA. Instead it has been used like a political football by both parties. Americans are sick of this behavior and this bill makes everything that is wrong with the ACA worse and eliminates many of the things that are right with it.

My family has a member who is disabled. Guarantees regarding pre-existing conditions are something we should be able to count on as well as being able to buy affordable health care. We are willing to do our part - pay our FAIR share. This bill hurts Americans. It is unfair. It is cruel. It will make health care unaffordable to my family.

It is my fervent hope that the U.S. Senate will once again become a place of integrity where the parties work together. Where passing bills by 60 votes is expected.

Please listen to the many, many people who will be harmed by this bill and write and pass a bi-partisan bill that actually helps the citizens of this great country with their healthcare needs.

Most sincerely,
Darrel Eacret

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nils Irland [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:10 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose Grham Cassidy

I wanted to state my opposition to the Graham Cassidy health bill on account of how it will strip millions of health insurance, open up the possibilities for rescinding protections like no lifetime insurance caps, and for the fact the bill hasn't been properly debated or even scored by the CBO. Please, do your jobs and work to support ALL Americans and vote against this legislation,

-Nils

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Charlotte Glover [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to Graham/Cassidy Bill

Hello,

Thank you for reading. I cannot understand how this bill is good for anyone. Millions will lose their insurance and critical, life-saving treatments will be out of reach. What about your kids? Your loved ones? Does any of them have pre-existing conditions? Can you imagine any one of them not having insurance? Again, I do appreciate your reading and I hope that you staunchly oppose this bill.

Thank you,

Charlotte Glover

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chris Flygare [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:05 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Your Bill Is Really Bad -- What Are You Thinking?

Hello Sirs (and Madams?, seems like there are mostly Sirs over there),

As someone who is living with Multiple Sclerosis, your bill is a direct threat to me and my ability to afford my medications. It threatens my whole family. As someone who cares about more Americans having health care coverage, your bill is confusing to me, as it will adversely affect vulnerable elders, children, and the economically disadvantaged. It will also actually make premiums go up for most people, which is the opposite of what you are saying/selling on, which seems like a bad long-term plan when people figure that out. Every major health organization is against this bill, including even insurance agencies, which is quite astounding. I don't understand what you bill is even trying to accomplish besides just sticking your nose to former-president Obama and Democrats. That seems kind of pathetic, and hurtful to the people who have entrusted you to do our bidding, to make our live better, not more fraught with anxiety about out health security.

How far are you willing to go for the Koch Brothers? History will judge you accordingly. Please do the right thing and make normal people's lives easier.

Thanks,
Chris

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lesley Boyland [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:03 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I urge you to strike down the hastily-proposed and ill-conceived Graham-Cassidy Bill, because it would adversely affect millions of Americans. Recently I was encouraged to hear of a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it – please continue this for the good of the nation rather than rushing headlong on purely political grounds to overturn the system in place.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Dow [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:52 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: health care

As I understand it, the Graham Cassidy bill is yet another attempt to repeal the ACA with no valid or valuable alternative. A few old men trying to ply power and make some kind of business deal for the benefit of the insurance industry rather than the citizens that they should be representing. This is devastating to anyone with financial challenges.

This is an amazingly serious issue that needs planning and discussing and negotiating for the benefit of the people and for the health of our nation. I personally, along with more and more Americans, am in favor of a single payer public option. Of course we can do this, we should this and the time is now. I am on medicare and have a supplement. This can work for us all. We should be proud and enthusiastic to finally have a plan, like so many other nations, which will ensure that we all get the care we need without financial worry. I want my neighbors, the kids in school with my grandchildren, the people I meet in the community to be well. Can't we realize that a few more dollars in taxes paid by everyone will keep everyone from having to pay rising insurance bills, deal with in network doctors, worry that they won't be able to pay for necessary care?

A great nation prioritizes health and education.

Susan Dow
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol O'Hear [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:43 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Hurt, Nikki (Markey); Beth_Pearson@markey.senate.gov
Subject: Please oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Carol O'Hear, MD/PhD FAAP

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cate Kurowsky [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Medicaid cuts in Graham Cassidy bill

As a family we will be devastated by cuts to Medicaid programs that support our disabled son. These programs are the only source of support we have for his needs. Please do not cut Medicaid.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Juliana L'Heureux [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:31 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy & military families in transition

USMilitary families! When the active duty sponsor is discharged, with less than 20 years service, there is no coverage for families after the day of the discharge. All military families are in transition to civilian life at this time. These families frequently have children with pre existing conditions like asthma, juvenile diabetes or heart anomalies. Having access to quality and affordable health care with insurance is essential while these families settle into civilian life. In fact the Affordable Care Act is the only way for the families of discharged military (veterans) who leave active duty with less than 20 years of service can afford for their health insurance. Although the discharged military service member can access the Veteran's Administration, the fact is, their families don't receive this benefit and must rely on buying coverage on ACA insurance exchanges. Do not repeal the Affordable Care Act! Juliana L'Heureux BS, MHSA, RN (My husband is USN-Ret)

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Indra Levy [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:17 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

To members of the Senate Finance Committee:

As a U.S. citizen who still believes in and remains dedicated to the democratic process, I write to express my conviction that any bill that affects 1/6th of the U.S. economy should only be voted on by the Senate after *thorough* consideration, debate, and the "regular order" that Senator McCain is calling for. The Graham-Cassidy bill not only impacts 1/6th of the U.S. economy but also tens of millions of American lives. The attempt to rush it to a vote without proper vetting and debate makes a mockery of our democracy, and a mockery of our lives. You are elected by voters, not by the donor class. Pay heed to the massive opposition to this bill — which includes not only the vast majority of Americans but also virtually every organizational stakeholder in the U.S. healthcare system — and commit to engaging in the arduous bipartisan process of solving problems for your constituents. Rushing headlong over a cliff that everyone else can see only sows deeper distrust of our government, which is the last thing we as a country need right now.

Sincerely yours,
Indra Levy

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joe Maruca [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:16 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Aloha Senate!

Please do not push for this inadequate bill. It is wrong minded and hateful. Only a bi-partisan solution should be found and passed. respectfully, joe

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Matt Meigs [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:09 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Hello,

This bill is a horrific miscarriage of the law. The health and welfare of my fellow citizens is something I will fight for until the end of time. Vote yes on your own conscience. Trust me; you will be judged.

Xo,
Matt Meigs

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: john munzer [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:26 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Medicaid funding saves the government more than it costs. Stop trying to cut it.

I'm sure you've already had countless e-mails telling you about the ethical reasons not to pass the proposed bill. So I'll instead focus on one of the many ways that the proposed cuts would cost far more money than they would save.

I make a living working with people who have developmental disabilities. Their services are paid for in large part by Medicaid. I can tell you this from 17 years of firsthand experience: The idea that if the government stops funding their services, then the country will somehow save money, is simply untrue.

Certainly their services are expensive. Many live in group homes, and require staff assistance and supervision 24/7. Many more live in foster homes or with their families (augmented by professionals helping them), and likewise require a great deal of assistance and supervision. Many require a great deal of medical assistance. Many require a great deal of psychiatric support. Many also require behavior support services - they need a Behavior Specialist like myself to assess the reasons they engage in dangerous behavior and create a plan to help them learn safe, appropriate ways to meet their needs. And that plan has to change over time, because human behavior changes over time. All of them need case management to ensure that their services are actually being provided correctly. All of these things cost money.

But I've seen what happens to these people when they aren't getting enough support from the system.

They end up in the hospital for medical or psychiatric emergencies. That costs the system a lot of money.

They end up using illegal drugs to self-medicate when they can't get the medication they need legally. That costs the system a lot of money.

They end up in jail because they didn't have sufficient behavior support, or sufficient supervision, to prevent them from doing something illegal. That means more money being spent on police, on lawyers, on judges, on prisons, on parole officers... and all of that comes from tax dollars. That costs the system a lot of money.

Their families stop being able to work, because they have to spend all their time taking care of their kids. Without any money, because they CAN'T LEAVE THE HOUSE TO GO TO WORK. So people who were productive, tax-paying contributors to the economy end up needing even MORE government support than they did before. That costs the system a lot of money.

The other way that cutting services will cost the country is in jobs for the people who provide support.

Foster providers, group home staff and managers, doctors, nurses, behavior consultants, case managers... what will it do to the economy, and to tax revenue, if the hundreds of thousands of people who make a living providing support suddenly are unemployed? In an economy where far too many people are already competing for fewer and fewer jobs, is it wise to wipe out an entire industry? That's what will happen, if these funding cuts are approved. We're already trying to make do with insufficient funding. We already have a great deal of trouble retaining staff because the pay is so low, and the work is so difficult (and often dangerous as well). Any further cuts will spell the end. And that means we, who have been productive tax-paying contributors to the economy, would now require government assistance.

Neither the people we support, nor their needs, nor the families or the professionals who provide their support, will simply disappear just because the funding does. Their needs will simply increase. And one way or another, that will cost the system far more money.

I understand that there's a lot of pressure to change the system so that government spending and taxes can be decreased. I'm even in favor of doing so, if there's a practical way to do it. But cutting Medicaid funding isn't the way to do it. It's just not going to work.

Make the fiscally responsible decision. Fund Medicaid properly.

Regards,

John M. Munzer

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: karen helms [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:31 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Support the ACA

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Graham-Cassidy bill, which is a bill that I vehemently oppose. My husband has medical issues. Without the protections against raising premium rates and out of pocket costs on pre-existing issues guaranteed by the ACA, my family would be bankrupt. I have devoted my entire professional career as a woman's health care provider to taking care of women of all economic levels, and I can personally attest to the health benefits of universal coverage for all citizens. The economic and health benefits of preventive health care are well documented, and the cost of lack of affordable health care for all citizens cannot be underestimated. I strongly encourage this committee to vote against any repeal of the ACA, and instead to devote bipartisan efforts to strengthen the life-saving tenets of the ACA and work towards stabilization of the insurance marketplace.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Wilhelmina Dixon [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:16 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Trumpcare!

Don't take away healthcare for millions

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Roy Edwards [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:14 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy comments

My name is Roy Edwards. My girlfriend was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease two years ago and can no longer work. She is only 44 years old. My company won't let me put her on my insurance because we are not married. She now has zero income and the only option for her to receive healthcare is through medicaid. The cuts to medicaid included in this bill would end her healthcare and eventually her life.

You want the best care for your loved ones. I am completely convinced Graham-Cassidy is not the healthcare you want (members of congress would not be exempt if it was a good system!). It's not the healthcare America wants.

Please do not pass this horrible bill. It's not good for America.

Thank you.

Roy Edwards

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dana Sorvillo [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:18 AM
To: gchcomments

GCHcomments@finance.senate.gov

"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.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Erin Oliver [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:07 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments For The Record On Cassidy-Graham Bill

Everyone is healthy, until they are not. If this bill goes through, maybe not today, but I will hit that cap on medicaid and I will have no insurance and I will die. Without coverage for preexisting conditions my father will die, my mother will die, my brother will die. None of us asked to be asthmatic, my mom certainly did not ask for MS. I did not ask to be Bipolar, asthmatic, and have Kidney Issues.

My father went to college on a football scholarship out of Muleshoe Texas and became a real estate attorney for 40 years and just retired. My mother was a teacher who went back to school for two masters and was in charge of The Education Programs in all of the prisons in New Mexico. She served the N.M State Government and the people her entire life until she retired. My brother has been a manager at apple for over ten years. I am back in school at the age of 37 to better myself, despite making a living as a Doula. We are not drains on the system. We all pay taxes, but why?

The United States Of America seems to be the only 1st world country that doesn't think that every citizen deserves to live. Because that's what this comes down to life and death. We are a sham of what countries like France, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, The UK are because they actually care about the quality of life of their constituents.

Just one month of one of the medications I MUST take everyday costs \$500, I would no longer be able to see a psychiatrist, or psychologist and not being on my medications is a death sentence, it may be asthma that takes me, but most Bipolar people have a tendency towards suicide if they don't stay on their meds, which I have for 15 years. So what do you say to the millions of people who suffer from a mental illness NONE of US WANT! What about the 3 million people who will lose their jobs?

Why is it that every single medical organization and every medicaid state director has come out against this but Lindsey Graham and Bill Cassidy know better than they do? Without a CBO score, trying to bribe their own party members to vote for the WORST plan so far.

And by the way, telling Blue States That They Have to Pay for the red states sound an awful lot like redistribution of wealth, it is also taxation without representation. I honestly cannot fathom how a group of people have gone so far to the right that inevitable death of Vulnerable American Citizens doesn't make a bit of difference. The inevitable loss of jobs and likelihood destabilizing of the economy matters less than getting rid of President Obama's legacy.

This is hurtful, it is hateful and for those who think they are serving God: Whatever you do to the least of us, you do to me - It is very unchristian of you. I hope that my life is worth more than a billionaires campaign contribution.

Shame On You

Erin L Oliver
Founder [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Duncan Teater [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:08 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No

I urge the members of the Senate Finance Committee to vote no on Graham Cassidy. It is far to disruptive to the American health care system. The Senate should resume the bipartisan Alexander-Murray healthcare process. Incremental improvement, not drastic change, is the way to go.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cele [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:09 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care bill

Please record my voice as one of solid opposition to Graham-Cassidy. I have contacted my senators and asked them to oppose it as well. I have been the beneficiary of Obamacare provisions and am happy and grateful to have it. I urge you to vote no. This bill will hurt millions and is not the answer to any fiscal revisions that just be made. Thank you.

Sent from my

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eileen Bugnitz [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

I am writing to express my feelings about the new bill being proposed to replace the Affordable Care Act.

I think it is a shameful travesty that this new bill is being jammed through Congress without the proper and normal hearings and procedures deserving of any legislation, specifically something that would have such a huge bearing on not only the health of this country's citizens, but also its economy. I feel that Graham-Cassidy would be disastrous for the people of this country, resulting in unnecessary death, illness and potentially crippling financial debt. Every citizen of this country is deserving of healthcare. I feel the Graham-Cassidy bill would ultimately deprive millions of this basic right.

I would like to see bi-partisan successful negotiations to amend and improve the ACA proceed as they had been before they were halted to make way for this highly partisan effort.

Please stop this fatal piece of legislation now before it goes any further. This wonderful country deserves better.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Eileen Bugnitz

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Connie Hillman [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:11 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Dear Senators,

I am writing to implore you NOT to vote for the Graham Cassidy healthcare bill! I am a disabled woman who has worked all my life in the private sector. As a triple amputee, I worked first in financial services, then as a clinical social worker. I was able to do this only due to great healthcare and coverage for durable medical equipment.

The Graham Cassidy bill would decimate the kind of healthcare that kept me active and employed all my adult life. PLEASE do not let this bill pass.

Sincerely,
Constance Hillman, LICSW

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Cortese [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:13 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: CBO Score for Healthcare Bill?

My family is very concerned about the fact this bill is being put to a vote without a CBO Score and object to this process so far out of regular order.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Prince Whitaker [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:13 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: #voteno

Vote no to GC bill!

I am a 2x cancer fighter and I have many friends in the cancer world. People are fighting for their lives. We do NOT need to have this anxiety while you play games with our 'life and death'.

Please stop putting your money, greed and corruption ahead of people's lives.. We know that the Koch brothers want their tax cuts but STOP and look at the real people who will suffer.

The people of the United States see you and what you are doing.

Vote NO!
Allison Carney

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Betty Wilfong [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:17 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

First of all, it is completely irresponsible of Congress to consider a bill that affects millions of Americans without allowing a full analysis of how it will impact its citizens!

And this bill, which will remove the protection of not being denied coverage or being charged prohibitively high insurance premiums due to pre-existing conditions is indefensible! Anyone who has had cancer, or a heart attack, or diabetes, or asthma risks being priced out of insurance coverage!

The point of insurance--how it works for homes and automobiles--is for everyone to buy in and the cost of paying out is spread across many insurance holders. I may never need to use my car insurance, but my premium goes toward paying for someone else's accident. But the reverse could be just as true, my neighbor might never has an accident but I could.

Why don't the supposedly intelligent members of Congress understand this?

And how can they be so heartless as to take blithely take away the health care coverage of millions of people?

I am very angry at the way the current Congress ignores the needs of anyone who isn't wealthy!

The Graham Cassidy bill must not be passed!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth S Wilfong

[REDACTED]
Chicago IL [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Charles R Pikcunas [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:17 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repeal of ACA

I am 65 and my wife is 61. We are both in good health with no disqualifying pre-existing conditions. However, without the ACA subsidy and Medicare, we would be paying over \$24,000/year for medical insurance which is insane. Repealing the ACA and limiting Medicare and Medicaid coverage will only inflate that number more. Medicare for All as a Social Safety Net is needed. Insurance companies will still sell excess coverage policies like Medicare Supplemental C and D plus contract with the Government to administer the claims process, so they will not be cut out of the system. But to repeal the ACA and block grant the money (scheduled to decline annually) is just irresponsible, especially since the States do not have the infrastructure to manage this new responsibility. Plus, we would then see an internal migration of citizens to States with better and cheaper benefits. Medical coverage should be location neutral and this plan will just encourage the opposite. Thank you for your time. I wish that I could testify before the Committee in person but travel from Hawaii to DC will rival the cost of my monthly insurance premiums. Please vote NO.

Charles R Pikcunas
Attorney at Law
[REDACTED]
Hawi, H [REDACTED] USA
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: HJAless [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:45 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

PLEASE VOTE NO against the new attack on the Affordable Health Care plan! This new health care plan in the works is an insult to every American citizen in need of affordable health care! When I was let go from my job due to a work related injury, they offered me Cobra insurance for close to \$400.00 a month! And when I worked at Walmart, they cut our hours so that we would not be eligible for their health care plan. I went for 3 years without any insurance before I was enrolled in the AHC plan. It saddens me to think that our citizens with health issues have to be worried about loosing their health care. Even something as simple as a sinus infection can be tragic for a lower income family or seniors on a fixed income. Even with AHC and disability payments, my husband and I owe thousands of out of pocket expenses to our Doctors and hospital. My husband has many hereditary health issues and is on disability. He was all but fired from his full time job due to his diabetes. They told him that he could come back to work " when he got better". He has tried to find work that he can do, but employers are worried about hiring him due to his health and his age of 61. We all know employers aren't supposed to discriminate against an applicant due to their age. But we know first hand that they do!

Taking away affordable health care for low income citizens is going to cause grief, stress and deaths! President Trump has to be stopped in his war on affordable health care! Please vote NO!

Holly Alessi

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alison Mandaville [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:46 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Graham- Cassidy Bill

Dear Congress,

I write to let you know that as a voter from a conservative California region (Central Valley), even Republican voters do not want this bill to pass. It leaves health care for poor and vulnerable elders, children, and the disabled subject to whims of state governments who do not have the wherewithal to just "create a plan." This pan penalizes the states that actually worked hard to get folks on insurance -- and would result in many of those folks losing their insurance, and many others paying prices they cannot afford.

We want bipartisan work on health care. We do not want our health care to be a sacrifice for a partisan politics "win."

Trump was elected to make deals. Make some actual deals. That is, with and for the American people, all of them, not for your political cache.

Please vote no on this bill.

Sincerely,
Alison Mandaville
Fresno, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kim Foye [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No on Graham-Cassidy

My mother-in-law has advanced MS. Her monthly treatments to slow this horrible disease's progression would cost over \$18,000 per month without her ACA coverage and Medicaid expansion. Your bill would likely end her benefits, price her out of coverage (because MS!), and bankrupt her before it kills her. Her life is literally in your hands.

Shame on you for looking for political gains at the cost of American's lives!

This bill is an abomination and needs to die the quick that death Senators Graham and Cassidy are hoping thousands American's will. End this debacle and kill the bill! It's morally corrupt and fiscally idiotic.

Kim Foye
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rose Benninge [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

Dear Sir,

Vote No!!!!

We the people of the United States of America are tired of you in Washington D C screwing with our right to life and our pursuits to happiness. I am 49 yrs old and a disabled gal who with this vote you will make my rights nullified. For I am only one of many who are a blessed as you and your family when it comes to \$\$ and good health. Neither have I always suffered on "the less then" side of these "American rights". At one point in my life I had the "American Dream". I had a job making over \$50,000 per yr, married to my high school sweetie and had two beautiful kids. Not to mention the material stuff like a house, nice cars and a savings account. But what turned out to be the most important thing I had then was my health insurance. The company I worked for had a great benefit program. That same company today, after my accident leading to my inability to work. That company no longer offers that benefit package. In fact most employees can only work part time. I had life threatening injuries which I will never recover from completely. So I'm now a disabled single adult gal who can't sustain my health with this deal your trying to sneak past us at last minute. This deal has had no public comment hearings. It's had no CBO accounting review for effects to people like me. Now why did my company and myself fight so hard all those years to protect my right to health and happiness, for you to go and screw it all up again. I may just die this time?? I'm sorry sir, but I've got a prayers to say.

God the father, please show us we all matter to this senator. Keep him from passing any legislation which put my health care at risk and more costly. I already struggle to get the care I should with Medicaid. Lord can you imagine??? Where would I get the \$\$\$???? What would I do with cuts to my healthcare coverage that my government has helped to protect me??? Now this man wants to take it away?? Lord please talk to his soul? Tell him he's got plenty of power and ego where he's at already. He doesn't have to risk my life or anyone else's. Help him to see the truth, please lord.

Peace Be W/You

Rose

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Caryn Avery [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:54 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: This bill will hurt my patients

I am a hospital-based pediatrician in Washington state.

This dangerous bill will hurt my patients, many of whom have complex medical needs (through no fault of their own) and rely on Medicaid.

My professional society, the American Association of Pediatrics, opposes it because we know it will lead to harm and heartache. It's cruel to play politics with children's health.

I oppose this bill on behalf of my patients and their families who shouldn't have to choose between bankruptcy and their children's health or lives.

Dr. Caryn Avery, MD, FAAP

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Malia McCollister [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:56 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: RE: Health Care Law

To the committee,

My name is Malia McCollister. I am a concerned citizen from Portland, OR, zip code [REDACTED]. I'm writing in because the proposed Graham-Cassidy legislation would be disastrous for Americans in need of health care solutions. It would devastate medicaid, destroy protections for pre-existing conditions, cost Americans millions of jobs, and devastate rural hospitals. I'm upset that senators are trying to rush this legislation in a reckless and partisan manner, ignoring procedure and deliberation in a way that undermines the foundations of our democracy. This issue is important to me because I am currently a recipient of medicaid through the Oregon Health Plan. As a student who cannot afford the university's health care, having coverage through medicaid with the Oregon Health Plan is critical to me. I have a number of conditions that require treatment including asthma, chronic migraines, and depression. Without the existence and support of medicaid, I would have very drastic and potentially life threatening health issues. I implore the committee, and the senate at large, to reject this wrongheaded legislation.

Sincerely,
Malia McCollister

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sue Scarlett Montgomer [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:00 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Behave!

Koch money? We gotta compete with [REDACTED] Koch money?

[REDACTED]

Universal Healthcare for All, NOW!!!

Ssm

Sent from inner space

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sandy Rock [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:06 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/ Cassidy bill NO!!!

This bill is absurd. The Republicans are interested in only adding to their coffers and not in assuring adequate, much less excellent, healthcare to Americans. NO to the Graham Cassidy bill!!!

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Nothing exists except atoms and empty space; everything else is just opinion. –Democritus of Abdera
Dictated on and sent from my iPhone 6

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gabe Arquilevich [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:10 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO REPEAL OF OBAMACARE!!!

The Cassidy-Graham bill is opposed by almost every medical and patient group across the country, not to mention insurers as well. It's beguiling that our elected officials cannot simply repair what doesn't work with Obamacare.

NO to Cassidy-Graham!!!!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Harvey Leff [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:12 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Ellen Leff
Subject: ACA Protections for Health Insurance

Three of our four grown children have medical pre-conditions and fortunately, have been able to get insurance under the ACA. Without the safeguards of the ACA, they would be unable to receive the healthcare they need. This could become a matter of life vs. death. Please maintain all protections of the ACA and focus on containing medical and pharmaceutical costs. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Harvey & Ellen Leff

~ ~ ~

Harvey & Ellen Leff

[REDACTED]

Portland, OR [REDACTED]

~ ~ ~

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kimber Morris [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:13 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fighting a rare lung cancer

Hello,

My name is Kim Morris. I'm currently fighting Stage IV Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer with an ALK mutation that has metastasized to my liver, brain and bones. The medication that helps me fight this cancer costs 8,000 dollars per month. If the pre-existing conditions mandate is rescinded, I will have to make a grave choice: go bankrupt or die. I cannot believe I have to fight this cancer in order to live AND the republicans in the senate IN ORDER TO LIVE. Have you ever had to make the choice between living and dying? The republicans in the senate are prepared to do just that. It is unacceptable. Stop the Graham-Cassidy bill immediately. American lives and my life depends on it.

Kim Morris

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: dizzyg1970 [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:18 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: ASlavitt@finance.senate.gov
Subject: GCH Comments

I had a pre-existing condition since the day I was born! Despite that, I served this great country in the US Army Reserves (Quartermaster) and the US Navy (Advanced Electronic Computer Field). I worked as an EMT and Paramedic for 17 years. I've spent my entire adult life serving my country and my community.

None of that would have been possible if my health insurance was raised due to pre-existing conditions. I have been uninsured for a time, and my health suffered significantly. I am now unable to work. Without the VA, I would probably be dead! Many Americans have given to this country and do not have VA healthcare to fall back on.

Killing Americans is decidedly un-American. I hope you consider how many millions of Americans you would be killing if this unethical and immoral bill is signed into law.

Kristi Kalis

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rebecca Kaasa [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:23 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Graham Cassidy.

Hello,

I am writing to express my deep hope that the newest version of the ACA repeal will receive a clear and sensible NO vote.

There is no denying that the health care system in this country is not serving most well. It is obviously a big job, and I am pleased that the government is poised to take it on, but it need to be a bi-partisan effort with new ideas from all sides. There must be a solution that preserves care for folks with preexisting conditions, protects the most vulnerable, and promotes healthy living for all Americans.

The current Graham Cassidy version is not the way to go.

Thank you,

Rebecca Kaasa, South Pasadena CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sheree Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:26 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare is life care

Before the ACA I was in debt due to medical expenses related to a pre-existing condition. Although I worked full-time professional wage job, which offered health insurance, my insurance was allowed to not cover me. It's outrageous since I was paying for something that was not there when I needed it and was in a perpetual pit of debt. ACA took that problem away. Now I'm older and have children, I'm more concerned than ever that Graham-Cassidy will push me and my family over the edge, and for what, so that rich men can be richer?! This bill helps no one but billionaires. No one is fooled by this terrible bill. STOP PLAYING WITH MY FAMILY'S HEALTH AND WEALTH!!!!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margaret Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:26 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCHcomments

I support the Affordable Care Act. I worked as a Covered California Enrollment Counselor for two years and signed up hundreds of Californians for either an insurance policy or Medi-Cal. Some people cried in my office when they finally had health insurance for the first time in their lives. Others told me they hugged strangers after they left my office. A young woman with a student visa received coverage despite having a previously uninsurable chronic condition. One person had been burned over 70% of his body and also found coverage through the ACA.

CBS reported that the Kaiser Foundation completed a survey post-November 8 election where 30% wanted to expand the ACA, 19% wanted to keep as is, 17% wanted to scale back and 26% wanted repeal ACA.

<http://kff.org/health-reform/press-release/after-the-election-the-public-remains-sharply-divided-on-future-of-the-affordable-care-act/>.

A Republican congresswoman's twitter survey found that a majority of her respondents favor the ACA <http://finance.yahoo.com/news/republican-congresswomans-twitter-poll-obamacare-205625592.html>.

An Urban Institute report found that the cost of so-called uncompensated care sought from hospitals and doctors would equal \$1.7 trillion over a decade—\$1.1 trillion more than if the Affordable Care Act was kept in place. https://www.yahoo.com/news/m/99322533-07a2-3ef2-8744-ddd3e584826f/ss_a-new-%241-trillion-medical.html

And lastly, under ACA, personal bankruptcies have gone down.
<https://qz.com/1043627/personal-bankruptcies-are-down-50-in-the-us-thanks-obamacare/>

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: beth porch [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:22 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Millions of people will lose coverage, thousands will die. Please think of the human beings you affect with this disastrous bill, and do not let ACA be repealed. Women's health and reproductive care, pre-existing conditions, mental health care, prenatal and well-baby care, all of these important and necessary coverages will be hurt by this bill.

Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, America's Health Insurance Plans, the American Medical Association, the American Hospital Association, AARP, the American Cancer Society, nurses groups and other providers of care, as well as the Governors of many states, and a lot of people who will be affected, are all opposed to this bill.

We need to protect ACA and expand Medicare, so that every American has the safety net of Good Health. Healthy people that don't have to worry about paying for unforeseen medical expenses, are more productive and help create an expanding economy, which will benefit everyone. Please do not let this bill pass. Too many people will be negatively affected for this to happen.

Thank you.

A Concerned Citizen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:32 AM
To: gchcomments

My name is Eric Chaney and I would like my comment on record

I am a small business owner in Bellevue, WA. I do financial planning for individuals and families. My business is going very well. So well I brought on a partner last year to handle the additional work load.

I am married and have two children 18 and 13

Both of my children and I have pre-existing conditions.

But that's okay, because of the ACA I was able to buy individual health insurance for my whole family.

I recently had open-heart surgery to correct my pre-existing condition. The total for this procedure was \$238K. Without the ACA, I would either be working as an employee at a company with group benefits or bankrupt.

My oldest son is autistic and has the same heart condition I do. He will need the same surgery that I will in the next several years.

By repealing the the ACA you are forcing me to make the following choice

1. Sell my share of the business and go get a job somewhere
2. Move to a civilized country like Canada or England where we don't have to worry about being able to receive affordable care
3. Go bankrupt

I cannot pre-load half a million dollars into a health savings account to pay for impending medical procedures. What kind of country would force someone in my situation to make any of these choices? Have we no shame?

Please do not repeal the ACA. Fix it! It has flaws, I deal with clients every day that have challenges with the ACA. However, several have been able to retire before 65 solely because of the ACA. They now live in fear that they'll have to go back to work in order to avoid the risk of lack of coverage for their own pre-existing conditions.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:33 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: RE: Graham Cassidy hearing

My name is Eric Chaney and I would like my comment on record
I am a small business owner in Bellevue, WA. I do financial planning for individuals and families. My business is going very well. So well I brought on a partner last year to handle the additional work load.
I am married and have two children 18 and 13
Both of my children and I have pre-existing conditions.
But that's okay, because of the ACA I was able to buy individual health insurance for my whole family.
I recently had open-heart surgery to correct my pre-existing condition. The total for this procedure was \$238K. Without the ACA, I would either be working as an employee at a company with group benefits or bankrupt.
My oldest son is autistic and has the same heart condition I do. He will need the same surgery that I will in the next several years.
By repealing the the ACA you are forcing me to make the following choice
1. Sell my share of the business and go get a job somewhere
2. Move to a civilized country like Canada or England where we don't have to worry about being able to receive affordable care
3. Go bankrupt
I cannot pre-load half a million dollars into a health savings account to pay for impending medical procedures. What kind of country would force someone in my situation to make any of these choices? Have we no shame?
Please do not repeal the ACA. Fix it! It has flaws, I deal with clients every day that have challenges with the ACA. However, several have been able to retire before 65 solely because of the ACA. They now live in fear that they'll have to go back to work in order to avoid the risk of lack of coverage for their own pre-existing conditions.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michael Gordon [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:34 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy/Graham

This unpatriotic and selfish bill will leave millions without healthcare coverage. Where is the debate, the CBO score, the bipartisan dialogue?

This bill will impact 1/6 of the U.S. economy and nearly all Americans, one way or the other - badly. You know this does not serve the American people.

THIS is the time for Country over Party. Don't hurt us. We will never forget, nor will history.

Do your jobs.

Michael Gordon
Oceanside, CA

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: klars [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:35 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Trash Republican's "so called" health care bill

How can republicans gamble once again with people's lives and sell it as an improvement.

I am enraged and insulted that they do not even know what it is supposed to do. I took the time to dig into it...why can't they and their staff do the same?

To watch them stand in front of a camera and lie, lie, lie and assume we are stupid enough to believe them is insulting.

But here is the kicker: When they stop lying, they say they support this travesty of a bill because they promised their voters they would kill Obama care. i.e. they are afraid to loose votes....they would rather put at risk the health of their constituents than loose a vote.

WHEN WILL THEY FIGURE OUT THAT WHEN THEIR VOTERS HAVE TO LIVE WITH THIS BILL, THEIR VOTES ARE HISTORY!?!

What they will be left with is an enraged public which will guarantee that the next plan we get is single-payer.

REPUBLICANS...YOU ARE LOOSING THE TRUST OF YOUR VOTERS BY ACTING LIKE SNAKE OIL SALESMEN!

KATHERINE LARSSON

MARION, IL [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: James Benjamin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:36 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Against Graham-Cassidy bill to repeal the ACA

To whom it may concern:

I have been following the news regarding health care with great interest since the start of the year. Obviously, I have plenty of reasons to be worried whenever the topic of ACA repeal comes around.

I remember what health coverage was like during the bad old days before the ACA went into effect. That might not have seemed like a big thing as I was a young healthy adult. However, I am married to someone who has cerebral palsy. I fell in love with her long before I had an inkling that I lived in a society that would consider it okay to punish people who fall in love and marry people who have pre-existing conditions. And yet, the love of my life is just such a person. She is high functioning given her condition. When we were both young, she could run - with a bit of limp, skate, ride horses, and so on. She was and still is fiercely independent.

One thing I learned from my in-laws was that insuring her was a nightmare. I noticed that as well as we both went through college together, and later on when I landed my first full-time job. I got my health coverage immediately. We had to wait for hers to kick in, because insurance companies had the power to do so. As it turned out, the plan my work gave us had lifetime caps, and was really useful for covering head colds and little else. When my wife broke a kneecap in 2003, we learned the hard way that our coverage was almost worthless, and before long we were buried in bills without any hope of paying with my modest income. The thought of choosing between repairing her knee enough to walk or eating seemed insane to us, but there we were. We declared bankruptcy after a futile attempt to pay what we could. If any of you have experienced bankruptcy or know someone who has, I can tell you that one never truly recovers from the experience, even a decade later when the record of the bankruptcy rolls off the credit reports. But at least she could walk, and do all the things that were of value to her.

At my current job, the health coverage was not much better at first. And then the ACA reforms kicked in. Overnight, the lifetime caps went away. The pre-existing condition discrimination went away. We had a deductible that made sense to us, and actually had a sensible limit in terms of how much we would be required to pay out of pocket. That did not really matter much at first. And then in February of last year, my wife took a fall while I was at work. When I came home for lunch, she was on the floor unable to move. By the time we got her to a doctor, and had x-rays done, it was obvious she had a broken hip and would require hip replacement surgery. After surgery, she had a mini-stroke (as the doctors called it) that affected the vision in her good eye. To recover, she would require over a week of inpatient care at the hospital, and then about a month and a half of inpatient care at a rehab facility. She would also require another month and a half of outpatient rehab and some specialized equipment like a forearm crutch. As you can imagine, all of that could be prohibitively expensive. In fact, when our kids - all of whom lived through the bankruptcy and its aftermath - heard the news about their mom's broken hip, the first question I was asked was if we would lose our house. As stressed out as I was about her immediate situation, it was a relief to be able to reassure our kids that we would not lose our house and mean it. We would not be forced into another bankruptcy and living in unsafe circumstances. We'd have a few bills, but I could already project what the payments would look like and they were doable. We are about to pay off the last of the bills as I write this. I reassured our kids that all we had to do and all my wife had to do was to focus on her recovery and nothing else. And recover she did. As of now, my wife is able to walk unassisted most of the time and has regained most of her vision in her good eye. She has regained most of her

independence and is within reach of regaining the rest of her independence. It has been a long struggle. Thankfully, we chose well when we put the down payment on our current house - it had been remodeled for a person with a disability and it has been an ideal place for her to regain her balance and her confidence. And thanks to changes in how mental health is covered (due to ACA), we have received the counseling we've needed individually and as a family as we have learned to adjust to this particular chapter in our lives. If we were living in the bad old days before ACA, I honestly do not know if my wife would have been allowed to recover. Would she be stuck in one of our town's dive motels in a wheelchair and barely able to see? Would our kids still have dreams of going to college? Would our family unit have survived another bankruptcy? Would we have been punished simply because we are of modest means and I happened to fall in love with someone who faces the challenges of a disability, yet is so full of life and love? One more thing - a former student and someone I now count on as a friend had an ovarian cyst that went undiagnosed until she and her husband qualified for coverage under the ACA. She received her surgery in the nick of time. Had she waited much longer, given the complications she was experiencing, she would have died. Instead, just days after my wife was admitted to the hospital, my friend and her husband treated my family to dinner in order to comfort us during our difficult time. That friendship is worth more than any tax cut, or any dollar amount.

I share this personal story because I know that you all should have access to the facts and figures I see reported in the news. I could write about those, and while those certainly impact me - my work involves me instructing others how to compute and consume statistical information - those may not be of much interest to those motivated to ignore them. I could go on about how my state, which opted for Medicaid expansion, would be hurt by Graham-Cassidy. My state is not the only one that would be hurt. And that pain would be felt by those most vulnerable - the poor and middle classes. I could talk about that, and I wonder if it would matter. So instead, I share with you something deeply personal to me, because the ACA may well have made the difference between life and death for a friend and certainly made the difference between my wife recovering as fully as possible and merely lingering with a highly diminished quality of life. I used to believe that one of the things that made our country exceptional was that our leaders were willing to expand its citizens' rights to a better quality of life - sometimes reluctantly - but to improve our quality of life nonetheless. Lately I have begun to question whether our leaders still have that necessary moral compass to at minimum maintain the current quality of life our citizens have, let alone look for ways to genuinely empower us to have a better life, and for our kids to look forward to a brighter future. I tell you our personal story because I hope that enough of you still have enough of a moral compass to do the right thing by those of us who have worked long hours and sacrificed, played by the rules, and who just happen to be imperfectly human - disabilities and all. I hope our lives matter enough that our leaders - you - will call off the ACA repeal plans and focus instead on reforms to stabilize the insurance markets. I hope our lives matter enough that you would see clear to not impose the pre-ACA nightmare on us once more.

Do the right thing. Vote no on Graham-Cassidy. Our country deserves so much better. My wife and I would certainly sleep better.

Thank you for your consideration.

Arlin James Benjamin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Katherine Larsson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:41 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: TRASH REPUBLICAN'S SO-CALLED "HEALTH CARE" BILL!!!

How can republicans gamble once again with people's lives and sell it as an improvement.

I am enraged and insulted that they do not even know what it is supposed to do. I took the time to dig into it...why can't they and their staff do the same?

To watch them stand in front of a camera and lie, lie, lie and assume we are stupid enough to believe them is insulting.

But here is the kicker: When they stop lying, they say they support this travesty of a bill because they promised their voters they would kill Obama care. i.e. they are afraid to loose votes....they would rather put at risk the health of their constituents than loose a vote.

WHEN WILL THEY FIGURE OUT THAT WHEN THEIR VOTERS HAVE TO LIVE WITH THIS BILL, THEIR VOTES ARE HISTORY!?!

What they will be left with is an enraged public which will guarantee that the next plan we get is single-payer.

REPUBLICANS...YOU ARE LOOSING THE TRUST OF YOUR VOTERS BY ACTING LIKE SNAKE OIL SALESMEN!

KATHERINE LARSSON

MARION, IL [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lara Moore [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:45 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy comment

To whom it may concern,

I oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson. Millions are likely to lose access to healthcare if this bill passes; since I'm on the Medicaid expansion, I'm one of them. The loss of pre-existing conditions and premium hike protections would easily block me out and price me out of other forms of insurance. I'm on several non-optional medications that require regular doctor's appointments, and losing Medicaid would put my health and life at risk.

I'm only one of the tens of millions likely to be in a similar spot on healthcare. This doesn't count the millions that will lose jobs, or the impact that the national economy will feel. It's hard to know how bad this will be without proper vetting by the Congressional Budget Office before there is likely to be a vote - which is so unprofessional that the lack of CBO score alone should disqualify this bill from even making it to the floor of the Senate - but to say that it will be bad dramatically understates the matter.

There is nothing about this bill I support. I want Congress to scrap it completely and work on bipartisan measures to stabilize the Affordable Care Act. Judging by polls, it's what the American people want, too.

Sincerely,
Lara Moore

[REDACTED]
Sparks, NV [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elsa Peterson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:45 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy must not pass

I am a voter and a health insurance customer with grave concerns about the proposed Graham-Cassidy health care bill. As a small business owner, I've always had to buy my own insurance and I've experienced the reality of being excluded because of a pre-existing condition. This happened when I was in my 30s and in good health, but I had had a benign polyp. When I was denied insurance I called the state insurance commissioner and I was told "they don't have to insure you, and they don't have to give you a reason."

The ACA provides peace of mind that no one can be turned down for having a pre-existing condition. This in tandem with the individual mandate makes the system work.

Graham-Cassidy would return us to the days when people like me can be turned down for insurance, and it would fragment the insurance market even more than it currently is by giving each state way too much power over how health insurance is made available to people living in that state.

Analysis that I've read indicates as many as 30 million Americans would lose their health insurance under Graham-Cassidy. Furthermore, you are not even allowing time for a CBO assessment. This is madness. The bill must not pass. Instead, please return to regular order and work out a bill that retains the best of the ACA and improves the areas where it can use improvement.

Sincerely,

Elsa Peterson Obuchowski

Norwalk, CT [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David Williams [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:46 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Pre-existing conditions are immoral

This bill is not the solution. Fix what is broken. Look to other countries for models that work.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: N [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do NOT Repeal the ACA

Please do NOT repeal the Affordable Care Act. The replacement plan is inadequate.
Thank you.
Nancy Cardozo
[REDACTED]
Brooklyn, NY [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julie B [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:57 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: CBO score for GC bill?

No score, no bill!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Erfert Fenton [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:57 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy comments

I have several pre-existing conditions. I am self-employed. If G-C passes, I will be unable to afford health insurance. If I don't die in short order, I will likely become a financial burden for someone or something -- most likely by repeatedly visiting hospital emergency rooms. Is that a financially sound plan? I don't think so. It's a callous way to bring untold misery to poor (and middle class) Americans.

Graham-Cassidy is a terrible idea, and seems to be mainly about erasing "Obamacare."

Erfert Fenton
Los Gatos, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ellen White [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:05 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for the SFC hearing

I am writing because of my deep concern about the Graham-Cassidy bill, which will decimate millions of Americans unnecessarily, and God only knows how many will actually die for no reason.

Before the ACA, I had what is now known as "junk insurance." I suffered an injury, and it destroyed me financially. Years later, I am still trying to catch up from all of those terrible medical bills. With the ACA, people no longer have to worry about that.

Yes, the ACA needs to be fixed. First--and most importantly--we need a government option. Health insurance simply should not be a for-profit enterprise. Second, the narrow networks need to be expanded. Third, the out-of-pocket costs and deductibles must be lowered to a level normal people can actually afford.

The Graham-Cassidy Bill will kill people, and bankrupt millions more. These constant "let repeal and not actually replace Obamacare!" assaults by Congress have been terrorizing Americans for months now. I have many friends who actually cry about this, because they suffer from pre-existing conditions, and know that they will not survive without treatment. I am one of millions who has lost many nights of sleep to worrying about what I will do if Congress snatches my healthcare away.

This is an atrocity.

Sincerely,

Ellen White
New York

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lynne Hughes [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

I am a Truncus Arteriosus survivor. I am thirty-four years old, I've had multiple open heart surgeries, and will require a lifetime of care and intervention.

Being financially privileged, it doesn't so much matter to me if states allow the waivers enabling insurance companies to discriminate against people with congenital heart defects.

I'll be able to afford health insurance no matter the premium, no matter the lifetime cap, no matter the cost.

With every test, every surgery, every prick of the needle, I've told myself that being among the first people to reach adulthood with Truncus is worth it, if it means making things a little easier for the children who also have my condition.

I am writing because I am fighting for my friend Hank, a little boy with Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome.

And I am fighting for my friend Judah, a little boy with Truncus Arteriosus, who almost died on the operating table.

Hank and Judah have spent every single day of their lives fighting, just to stay alive. They will reach adulthood, and the Republican Party believes it's acceptable for them to have to worry about medical bankruptcy.

This healthcare bill does not make it easier for the children who also have Truncus Arteriosus.

I know Republicans like to say "no child will be denied care." But children with Truncus Arteriosus grow up to be adults with Truncus Arteriosus.

The Children's Hospital Association, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and the American Heart Association have all come out against this bill. These are all groups that I rely on for patient advocacy.

The single greatest threat to my existence, the single greatest threat to Judah's existence and to Hank's existence, isn't terrorism. It isn't illegal immigrants.

The single greatest threat to our lives is the Graham Cassidy bill, backed by the Republican Party, who holds us in such contempt that they won't even allow one public hearing.

Well, I'm here to tell the Republican Party-- hell knows no fury like the fury of congenital heart defect survivors.

We've been fighting our whole damn lives, and if the Republican Party comes after us, they should know:

We're literal warriors. We have more physical battle scars than any of the Republican legislatures crafting this bill.

We're the super heroes of the real world.

And if they come after us, if they come after our friends, we'll fight back.

Don't believe me?

Ask Congressman Tim Murphy how Mondays with Murphy came to be. Ask him how it came to be that he has three challengers for the first time in two election cycles.

Because the answer is this:

It started with me.

And I'm not done fighting.

Regards,
Lynne Hughes

Lynne Hughes

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lex Friedman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re: GrahamCassidy

Please do not allow this bill to go forward. It is irresponsible in literally every way. It is immoral, it is not economically sound, and it is careless.

No one will win here.

Lex Friedman
Citizen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mrs O [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GrahamCassidy

This is grossly cruel and obscenely rotten legislation that will ultimately tank the insurance industry and kill millions of our most vulnerable citizens. Have you no humanity? No decency? I'm so [REDACTED] done with the GOP after all these shady shenanigans. Why are our elected officials trying so desperately to kill millions upon millions of our citizens? Either FIX THE ACA or go SINGLE PAYER [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pat [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:42 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Kill the Graham so called health care bill, not us!

Kill this bill. It is irresponsible and immoral. People will die without basic health care.

Pat Langley

[REDACTED]
Athens IL [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ryan Osborn [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:45 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for SFC Hearing on Monday

This statement sums up what every American is dealing with the repeal of ACA. From a friend.

Chairman Hatch, Senator Wyden, and members of the committee,

I'm writing you with regards to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal. Like millions of Americans, a pre-existing condition made it nearly impossible for me obtain useable health care coverage before the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Access to affordable coverage didn't just improve my quality of life. It resulted in a significant increase in my personal income and the ability for my wife and I to buy a home.

I was born in Ohio with a birth defect that requires me to wear a prosthetic - a glass eye. Technically, this counts as a pre-existing condition, although the only real hardship my disability causes is that I over-pay for 3D movies that I can't really enjoy. It's recommended I replace the prosthetic every 4-7 years, and a new eye would cost me roughly \$3500 out of pocket. In other words, my pre-existing condition would cost my insurance company roughly \$60/month if they paid market prices, which is never the case.

Because of this pre-existing condition, I was denied health insurance on my employer's plans from 2004-2014. For a brief period of time while living in Ohio, I was eligible for an employer's high-deductible plan, but the associated costs meant that a simple physical cost me as much as I was making in a week.

In 2009, I moved from Ohio to California to pursue work during the recession. In 2014, I had usable health insurance for the first time in a decade. In April of 2015, I saw a doctor for the first time in years. In May of 2015, I was hospitalized.

I've dealt with depression my entire adult life. Unlike my birth defect, this pre-existing condition has a real and tangible effect on my day to day life. Shortly after discussing this with a doctor for the first time since high school, I was admitted for in-patient mental health care on a doctor's recommendation after reacting poorly to the first antidepressant I was prescribed.

The week I spent in the hospital was one of the best things that's ever happened to me. Close observation meant that we were able to find a medication that worked for me. The impact this treatment has had on my life is undeniable. My income now is more than triple what it was in 2014, and my wife and I were recently able to afford our first home. That's the effect that \$20 worth of medication every month had on my life.

When I look back on the ten years I went without health coverage, I'm incredibly saddened. I wonder where I would be in my life if I'd had access to the care I needed when I was 22, and not when I was 32. Right now, there are recent grads from UC San Diego and Ohio State that are in the same position I was. The difference is that they have access to care, and no minor birth defect can take that away. Their potential is so much greater than mine, simply because of their access to care.

Senators, I implore you to reject this bill. Its passage and implementation will cause irreparable hardship to your constituencies. Millions of your constituents will lose their health coverage. Some of them will be unable to afford continued care. Some of them will be forced into bankruptcy. Some of them will die.

Senator Portman and Senator Brown, I mentioned that I'm originally an Ohioan. The passage of the Graham-Cassidy proposal would prevent me from permanently returning. Simply put, if this bill passes, I have more faith in the government of California to protect my access to care and essential services than I do in the government of Ohio. If this bill passes, I will encourage my friends and family to relocate themselves and their businesses to a state that will make their health care a priority.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: kitti tesh [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:33 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham - Cassidy Bill

Please vote NO on the Graham - Cassidy Health Bill.

It is too much of a burden to be placed in a High Risk Insurance Pool after a catastrophic illness. In 2005 we had to sell cars and belongings to keep house and pay Insurance. Our Church helped feed us. When we hated being a burden, we tried eating dog food.

Please vote NO on the Graham - Cassidy Health Bill.

Thank you,

Kathryn Tesh

[REDACTED]
Schertz TX [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:34 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Americans' healthcare in exchange for Koch money? You should be ashamed for even considering passing this bill. Illness knows no political party.

Flora A. Podratz
Palmdale, CA

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: M. Green [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:37 AM
To: gchcomments ✉
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Vote no please on this bill. Please enact Senator Sanders Single payer program. US is 20 trillion in dept. Single payer covers everyone and he people have more money to spend on cars, homes, retail, savings etc. good for business. This bill trump care is not about helping working man its about giving tax breaks to trump and other billionaires. The GOP is not conservative they are a bunch of liars and Russian loving traitors, the party of putin. GOP defunded the risk corridors of ACA. This was so sociopathic, terroristic, criminal caused many people to die because of the GOP. All involved should be in jail and they know it. Hypocrisy, saying Obama care is in a death spiral, GOP caused the death spiral.

This bill is about stoking US racism by destroying what the Black president has done. Don't be a Mercer/Koch lap dog Vote No on Graham Cassidy. If you hate the American people this much move with snowden to Russia, take ryan, mconnell with you.

Michael Green
Orlando Fl.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marilyn Hatcher [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:39 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Please do not approve this bill. I rely on rural health care in Northern California. ACA made it possible to deliver care here and it has made it possible to stay here in my home.

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathy Dice [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:40 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Bill to repeal ACA

Dear Senate Finance Committee - The latest bill (Graham/Cassidy) to repeal ACA is not an improvement for the American people - it will do more harm than good. The Federal Gov would be abdicating its responsibility and kicking the can to the states. It would be a mess for insurance companies to comply with each state and confusing for Americans as well. Repeal of ACA should not be considered an option - fixing the problems within it makes more sense. Please do not let this partisan move go any further. We are counting on the Senators to do the right thing for their constituents and stop playing politics. I hope single payer health care will eventually be considered! Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Kathy Dice

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Donald Simpson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:41 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

Outraged about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because my husband and I are over 65, retired, on a fixed income and both have pre-existing conditions which means that we could be dropped from insurance coverage altogether OR we would have to pay up to 5x what younger people pay for insurance coverage AND pay be charged an insurance surcharge for certain medical conditions. My husband and I cannot possibly afford either of those choices. We would be totally WITHOUT health insurance. Is this how the United States of America repays it's seniors!

Donald Simpson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Angela Masdary [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:41 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposing the Graham-Cassidy legislation

To the committee,

My name is Angela Masdary. I am a concerned citizen from San Jose, California, zip code 95120. I'm writing in because the proposed Graham-Cassidy legislation would be disastrous for Americans in need of health care solutions. It would devastate medicaid, destroy protections for pre-existing conditions, cost Americans millions of jobs, and devastate rural hospitals. I'm upset that senators are trying to rush this legislation in a reckless and partisan manner, ignoring procedure and deliberation in a way that undermines the foundations of our democracy. This issue is important to me personally because I have Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome, a condition that puts me at a higher risk for conditions such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and cervical cancer. Besides this, it may be considered a "pre-existing condition," which may potentially make health insurance impossible to afford, or worse yet impossible to obtain, under this legislation. I implore the committee, and the senate at large, to reject this wrongheaded legislation.

Sincerely,
Angela Masdary

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Peggy Pope [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:40 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill because it will leave millions uninsured.

Peggy Pope
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: cynthia first [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:41 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because
....
my husband and I would lose our healthy insurance. He has Rheumatoid artharitis and needs a hip replacement in the next year or two and I have many spinal problems. We are 58 and 62. We have literally paid hundreds of thousand of dollars to private insurance companies over the years and barely used our benefits until recently. We have worked hard and paid our own way as small business employers and self employed for decades. This bill is more than cruel. It is a death sentence for many and will bankrupt others. But first it will wipe out all our retirement savings as we struggle to survive. Please stop this insanity now!

cynthia first

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jacqueline DeMuro [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:42 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Passing a horribly flawed bill so that the President can keep a campaign promise is morally reprehensible. More morally reprehensible will be when the money saved is used to give tax breaks to the wealthy. Most morally reprehensible is that the GOP is allowing the Koch's promised contributions, if The ACA is repealed, to influence their votes. That's extortion.

If this bill passes you will all be guilty of extorting the American people, the very people that you swore an oath to serve. Shame on you.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dr. Bronwyn Baz [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:44 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 as a pediatric hospital doctor, I know a significant proportion of my most vulnerable patients--who depend on the ACA for essential access to health care--will lose their coverage and suffer preventable complications and possibly death as a result. Aside from the obvious needless cruelty of this, the significant harm to the US economy in lost jobs and productivity should give you pause. Every national professional medical organization opposes this proposal. Please listen to your experts, who only want the best for their patients. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Bronwyn Baz, MD, FAAP

Dr. Bronwyn Baz

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Britta Couris [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:46 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO Graham Cassidy

✉

Please do not make this a reality. We need to take care of people. Period.

We can do it!
Thank you
Me

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hannah Strang [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on GC

Hello,

I would like to submit the following to be an oral statement at the hearing on Monday.

My name is Hannah and I live in Kentucky. I am 24 years old and I have been fortunate to have a healthy life thus far. When my husband and I had our son in 2015, we never imagined that our journey into parenthood would involve anything especially traumatizing or uniquely painful. Little did we know that our son would unexpectedly be diagnosed with a genetic condition that is incurable.

Our two year old son receives Medicaid, which has relieved us of hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of medical expenses. He is more fortunate than many medically complex children, but his needs are still great.

He sees 14 doctors and therapists on a regular basis. If he no longer had free healthcare, we would not be able to afford his medical care on our own. Even with a private insurance plan, the out of pocket expenses would be unbearable. We make less than \$40,000 per year and it is terrifying to think that we may not be able to sustain his therapy enrollment and health care needs by the time he is only in elementary school.

It is a no-brainer to vote NO on this harmful bill. Please represent my son well.

Sincerely,
Hannah

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:50 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: healthcare

Gentlemen, if I may call you that- and ladies of the Senate, I urge you to VOTE NO on this proposed Graham/Cassidy proposal to do away with the ACA. Every legitimate healthcare organization in the country is against this measure. Millions of US citizens are against this measure. This proposed measure is simply an attempt to shove an evil bill down the throats of innocent victims of political greed. Where is leadership in this shameless posturing and criminal indifference to the real needs of the American people??? Where is common decency in continuing to attempt to resuscitate a plan that would be so harmful to so many people??? Where is rational thought and sanity in pushing a measure that delivers nothing of value??? You are proving yourselves totally unworthy of being in positions of "leadership." Do the right thing - kill this mess once and for all and get down to the business of producing positive outcomes that will benefit everyone - not just the few wealthy cash cows you currently kow-tow to.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jessica Sexton [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:50 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: DO NOT PASS GRAHAM-CASSIDY

"The Graham-Cassidy Amendment ... violates the precept of "first do no harm."

-James Madara, CEO of the American Medical Association

If those who vote for Graham-Cassidy had to rely on it for healthcare, would that make any difference in YOUR vote? If so, it is unconscionable that you would inflict it on any other person.

Jessica Sexton

Oakland, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: dwn robertson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham Cassidy Act!

Vote NO on Graham Cassidy Act!!!!!!!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Huber [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy repeal bill

When I was 29 years old, I got cancer. I was lucky though, because my Hodgkin's lymphoma was very treatable. I was also lucky because I lived near Stanford, one of the premier hospitals for treating Hodgkins. And I was smart because I had an individual health insurance policy (not provided by my school or work), which was incredibly rare for a graduate student. I am now healthy and living every day with gratitude.

The only problem is health insurance. I used up my lifetime cap due to my Hodgkin's chemotherapy, radiation therapy and related complications. And I've been told by insurance companies that they won't cover me because I had cancer. The Affordable Care Act has saved people like me, who couldn't afford or couldn't get health insurance without it. So I plead with you to vote no on the Graham-Cassidy bill. You are playing with people's lives and you need to step up and rise above partisan politics. We can do better. We must do better.

Jennifer Huber
El Sobrante, CA [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patricia Coyne-Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Health Care Bill

Let it be known to all Democratic and Republican lawmakers in Arizona and the United States, as a consistent and loyal voter, I am against any bill that would prohibit or limit the insurance coverage for anyone who has a pre-existing condition.

Patricia Coyne-Johnson
Tucson, AZ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:52 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO REPEAL

If passed, the Graham Cassidy bill would have a devastating impact on many people, especially those of us with disabilities and pre-existing conditions. Take a cue from countries with Universal healthcare. It works.

Matt

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susanna Garcia [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect affordable health care for all Americans!

No vote with CBO analysis.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: acnukunuku [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no to the horrible graham-cassidy bill

Vote against and speak out against the bill proposed by Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA), which couples steep cuts to federal health care spending with an overhaul of much of the nation's health care system. An estimated 32 million people could lose health coverage by the end of the decade if Graham-Cassidy becomes law.

Currently the Affordable Care Act forbids insurers from discriminating against sick patients by denying them coverage or charging them higher premiums. Graham-Cassidy, however, wouldn't simply allow waivers of Obamacare's protections for people with preexisting conditions. It would also permit insurers to charge higher premiums to people who are currently insured through the Obamacare exchanges as a condition of "continued enrollment."

In essence, an insurer could take someone's money for years while that individual is healthy. Then, on the day that that person is diagnosed with cancer or an illness, jack up their premiums so high that they are no longer affordable. Healthy people would have insurance until the moment they need it, at which point their premiums could become prohibitively expensive.

Health "insurance" under Graham-Cassidy, in other words, would no longer provide any real insurance whatsoever. Don't let this happen. Don't punish people for getting sick. Vote against this.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: jt [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:54 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: PLEASE DO NOT PASS THIS BILL

I am a cancer survivor - plus i rely on medicines everyday to keep alive.

i am drowning in student loan debt & currently unemployed.

i am trying to climb back into life as it used to be. if you pass this bill the probability of being able to afford my medications & stay alive in very small.

#mylifehasmeaning

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Fredric Gilde [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:54 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Sirs:
By all accounts, this may be, for millions of Americans, the most destructive piece of legislation imaginable. Please do not allow this to go forward.
- Fred Gilde

[Fred Gilde]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Riling [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:55 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GrahamCassidy

This bill is no better than to others that have already failed. Pushing control off on states that are already financially strapped like CT is will be a disaster. Taking funds away from states who expanded Medicaid is going to be a disaster. Preexisting conditions will be a death sentence when premiums sky rocket.

The GOP wants a win and this is not the way to get it. Funds from the Koch brothers are not worth the lives of good hard working American people.

Economically this bill will be a disaster and not just to the healthcare or insurance industries. As people become sick and can't work or need to be home to care for a loved one they won't be able to work and provide. Bankruptcies will increase.

Do not allow this vote! It is for the good of our country!

Nancy Riling

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lissa Lebel [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:57 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I HAVE A PREEXISTING CONDITION & I WAS ALSO PREVIOUS TO ACA IN A HIGH RISK POOL

DEAR SENATE FINANCE

MY PRE-EXISTING CONDITION ARE THYROID AND PCOS. VERY BENIGN CONDITIONS THAT MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO GET AN INDIVIDUAL POLICY.

I RETURNED FROM LIVING IN THE UK, WHERE I WORKED FOR HBO TO AN EMPLOYER THAT DID NOT OFFER INSURANCE. I HAD TO GO OUT AND BUY MY OWN. I ENDED UP BEING DUMPED INTO A HIGH RISK POOL.

I PAID \$900 A MONTH FOR A POLICY THAT PAID \$75,000 MAXIMUM PER YEAR AND \$750,000 LIFETIME BENEFIT.

DO YOU THINK THAT'S A REASONABLE MONTHLY INSURANCE PAYMENT??? I DOUBT ANYONE OF YOU HAVE EVER PAID SUCH A PAYMENT.

YOU SEE DEAR SENATORS, MANY, MANY EMPLOYERS NO LONGER OVER GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE POLICIES.

I'M NOW SINGLE, LIVING WITH MY PARENTS, 56 YEARS OLD AND STARTING OVER IN REAL ESTATE AFTER A CAREER IN THE FILM BUSINESS.

I CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE THE MEDI-CAL OR ACA WHEN I CAN AFFORD IT.

PLEASE DO NOT PASS THE CASSIDY-GRAHAM BILL.

HEALTHCARE SHOULD NOT BE FOR PROFIT.

Lissa Lebel
[REDACTED]



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: LYNANNE ATTREED [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:57 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

....
This bill doesn't protect coverage for pre-existing conditions or fully fund Medicaid. Turning Medicaid into a block grant means forcing the states to do the dirty work of cutting off many people their health care. Long before this travesty of a bill passes, Congress should pass a bill that requires its members to ONLY have Medicaid coverage, and members would NOT be able to buy supplemental coverage with private monies. When the insurance industry, hospital groups, doctors groups, AARP, state governors, groups like the American Cancer Society and other patient groups are ALL opposed to this bill, why is Congress in favor of it? Is it because rich political donors want their tax cuts? For shame! You are supposed to do what is best for the citizens of this country!

LYNANNE ATTREED

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeffrey Sweet [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:58 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re: Cassidy-Graham Bill

The bill simply doesn't do what its advocates claim it does. To pass it would be to endorse the further degradation of our language and faith in the US as a country based on a democratic foundation. It would, in short, promote cynicism. Reject this bill and set the stage for true bi-partisan conversation and necessary adjustments and reforms.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laura Cofsky [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:58 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because the ACA in it's current form allowed my mom to afford cancer treatment. It took away the yearly and monthly caps, and I'm so grateful because my mom's still here. She's been a source of endless compassion and support for me, even as I'm grappling with unemployment and, yes, potentially starting Medicaid after my 26th birthday in a month. The ACA has given people like us who are down on our luck the opportunity to keep pursuing the American dream. You can't put a price on that (and even if you did, it's well within our national budget).

Senators: there is no reason to pass this repeal. If anything, America would benefit greatly from universal healthcare; the exact opposite of what's being proposed today. But until we get there, I depend on you to keep us alive.

My mom deserves better. I deserve better. And I assure you that you can do better.

Thank you.

Laura Cofsky
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beverly Welch [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017, 12:59 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

This 11th hour move will destroy the GOP party. It's putting stupid party promises kept over sound policy development. Yes, your donors will be happy, but no amount of money will keep control of Congress after this implodes in your faces. Listen to the experts, do your homework and make a greater-good decision based on solid input and improved outcomes for the people... who you were intended to serve.

The entire healthcare industry is against this including insurance companies. That's how bad it is.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Black-Tanski [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:59 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GrahamCassidy

Sirs/Ms.

I am a cancer survivor. I was lucky that the spot on my lung was found early. The lowest lobe of my lungs was removed, and I've been healthy since. I take care of myself, and visit my doc a couple of times a year, at most. I would be denied affordable health care due to this pre-existing condition. How can this not do harm to my health moving forward, including the stress related to the continuous fight to take away affordable healthcare FOR MILLIONS? If you deny healthcare to American citizens, you should deny it to yourself. You work for us.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Virginia O'Herin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:02 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Understand This

I want every Senator who votes for this Anti-ACA, Pro-Koch bill that Cassidy/Graham are trying to shove down the American people's throats, that I not only do not want you to support it, I will also make a point of supporting financially every Republican candidate who votes against it, and financially supporting every Democrat who opposes Republican incumbents who vote for this horrific bill.

This is a promise.

V. O'Herin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Owen Whooley [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:05 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stop Graham-Cassidy and return to regular order

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to condemn the farce that is the Graham-Cassidy bills. This bill is poorly conceived, wildly unpopular and potentially devastating to American families. Republicans are acting irresponsibly in trying to cram this bill down the country's throat. If you believe in your ideas, you should defend and vet them through significant and honest committee hearings. That's how democracy is supposed to work.

Sincerely,
Owen Whooley
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Leia Mahanay [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:07 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare

I just spent the last hour sobbing because of the graham-cassidy healthcare bill. I am a type 1 brittle diabetic. What that means is that I have a very, very hard time regulating my blood sugar. I can do everything perfectly and I will still go so low I have seizures or go so high I go into diabetic ketoacidosis. I have a pump after years of almost dying and being too poor to afford to do anything but survive. I did my best without being able to always take my sugar and only taking insulin shots in the morning and as needed. The Affordable Care Act finally allowed me to get basic care, not survival care. I got a pump. I was able to take my sugar the ten times a day that I needed to in order to regulate it and get it to a normal level. I went from a 9 to a 7.6 A1C. That means my sugar average went down after years. The damage is done but I finally had hope of not losing my sight, not losing my body to the ravages of a disease that is an autoimmune response. (The exact cause is not known but it is an autoimmune disorder) I didn't eat myself into this, I didn't ask for this and no one, type 1 or 2 would ever. This bill is only going to put me right back to survival mode and this time I won't actually survive it intact or at all.

This is a waste of my taxes. This is merely a tool in which the Republican Party will kill the poor and the sick. Do not sign this into law. Stop taking away my rights. Make it better or return it to the way it was when it was signed into a law.

Leia Mahanay

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eva Simonsson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:34 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: senator@feinstein.senate.gov
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

This email is to share with you the story about my 7-year-old son, Liam August. Liam is in 1st grade. He is the bravest kid I know, has the best sense of humor, a contagious laugh and loves to read. On the outside, he is a happy-go-lucky kid, but he has been through a lot. He was born with Noonan Syndrome and a serious congenital brain disease called Chiari malformation with syringomyelia. He sees more than 17 specialists, has been hospitalized 3 times (once for brain surgery), has 2 MRIs of his brain every year, gets poked twice a year due to a blood coagulation disorder and is at increased risk of developing leukemia. His glasses and hearing aids help him navigate through life and he takes it all in stride. Did I mention he also loves music?

We are a working family - I work at a local nonprofit advocating for the early care and education of young children while my husband is a stay-at-home Dad and primary caregiver for my son. Without access to affordable health care through the ACA's Medicaid expansion act, my family would be bankrupt and Liam's health would suffer greatly. We would probably have to cut back the number of specialists he sees. Would that one appointment we decide to skip be the one where we discover early and treatable leukemia? No family with a child with special health care needs and at greater risk of developing a life-threatening disease should have to worry about the cost of life-saving medical treatment.

Liam needs a second brain surgery next year to treat a growing cyst on his spine. Without treatment he could be paralyzed or worse. If states are allowed to make the decision about pre-existing conditions, our family could be facing medical bills in excess of \$500,000 next year. The federal government needs to protect children with special needs to make sure that they have access to continuous and affordable medical care and the best way to do that is to keep the ACA. Please keep our children covered. #ProtectOurChildren.

Thank you for your consideration.

Eva Simonsson
(Liam's mom)
Napa, CA
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Andrew Lear [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:37 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA helps entrepreneurs

Dear Senators,

Four years ago, for a variety of reasons, I had to leave my academic career. Since then, I have developed a small business that takes in several hundred thousand dollars a year and is now in the process of finding investors to help with a major expansion. I could not have done this without the security provided by the ACA. Under the law that is now proposed I would have been forced to look for employment that provided health insurance—at a loss to the economy in the long run of millions of dollars. The Graham Cassidy bill would not only cause enormous harm to a large part of the population but ultimately enormous harm to the economy as well. Yours, Andrew Lear, president, Shady Ladies Tours

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eunice Esomonu [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:37 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Repeal Bill

Hello Senate Finance Committee,

I am voicing my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Repeal Bill because it is harmful to Americans like my family. I have a mom with pre-existing conditions who works as a nurse at a county hospital and she has the possibility to lose both her job and her health insurance. if she loses and find another job due to her pre-existing condition, she may be priced out of her insurance because of her pre-existing conditions. Furthermore, I want to talk about my grandmother who has terrible arthritis in her hands that she cannot open doors and she is dependent on an aide.

Please, do not harm my family by voting for this bill. Please consider my family and the American people.

Best,
Eunice Esomonu

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: lisa willinge [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:30 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: LATEST HEALTHCARE BILL

I'm writing to beg you NOT to repeal and replace the ACA or to pass any legislation that undermines the ability of millions of Americans like myself to receive quality healthcare!

For many years I was a hard working member of the Motion Picture Editors' Guild, (IATSE Local 700) toiling my way up the ladder of the Film and TV biz, starting out as an Apprentice Editor in feature films and eventually becoming an Editor in scripted TV, a job that I loved.

And then I had a baby and came down with a rare pregnancy complication called HELLP Syndrome (an extreme form of eclampsia) that ruptured my liver and gave me a stroke which put me in a coma, so that on the day my daughter had to be delivered via emergency C section the doctors told my husband to accept the fact that I was going to die.

"That is not an option," he says he told them. And when they stared at him like he was crazy he informed them that I'd always said if I were ever in a coma I'd want everything possible done to preserve my life.

And so the doctors did that--performing a tracheotomy, hooking me up to a respirator, ventilator, and a feeding tube, transfusing me with \$11,000 in blood to stabilize me, and performing the emergency brain surgery that saved my life.

On the second day of this hellacious experience my husband received a call from a Rep from our insurance company. "You should know that your insurance policy has a \$2 million lifetime cap," she told him, adding, "But don't worry, we are keeping an eye on it."

"We'll never go over that!" he recalls thinking.

But we did. And just as we did so (after which we'd lose coverage) the ACA passed, lifting lifetime caps on insurance payouts, enabling us to stay covered!

I wrote President Obama, for whom I had campaigned twice, a letter thanking him and when his former Campaign Advisor/Chief of Staff, David Axelrod, was in LA promoting his memoir I bought a copy and as he signed it, told him, "Thank you SO much for helping President Obama get elected! His healthcare reform literally helped us pay for the care that saved my life!"

He smiled modestly.

Anyway, I am writing you now to BEG you to take stories like mine into account. Please know that there are millions of honest, hard working American Citizens like myself who through no fault of our own have experienced horrible, life altering illnesses and that without the ACA we would either have died or become destitute while trying to survive.

Please keep us in mind as you consider voting on the latest healthcare proposal under consideration (the Cassidy-Graham Bill.)

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Lisa Willinger
Former TV Editor
Proud Motion Picture Editors Guild Member Wife and Mother

P.S. Before all this happened I had been a very healthy person--ten year long vegetarian and lifelong nonsmoker who exercised regularly so sometimes horrible illnesses do befall healthy people through no fault of their own!

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Katie Blake [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:30 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Cassidy-Graham

I am writing to ask you to please be careful about your consideration of the latest ACA repeal under Cassidy-Graham. For me this latest proposal is not just an attack on women but the elderly. I personally have a friend who is over 65 (lives in Anchorage, AK) who is handicap and even though she has two kinds of coverage (one is state) she is being forced to pay for her own cart, her alternative transportation besides wheelchair and the ANCHORrides the state subsidizes to some degree. How would she do with further cuts to that program? How would my parents? What do I tell my cousin who was diagnosed this year with Lyme disease, who is now saddled with a pre-existing condition. What do you understand that I don't that would make it worth agreeing to pass this? I don't understand how it can be a party goal to strip programs which keep people healthy, yes it's spendy but this supposed to be a rich country. That's what it looks like- a party goal. Your legacy becomes ... we abhors the previous administration so we banded together to repeal the program instead of just making sense-making adjustments. Why can't there be some bipartisan goals to get to single payer so the whole kit n caboodle is reasonable? Please don't just make your choice based upon pressure from the president or party. Please recognize you represent a wide variety of peoples who are from all strengths and weaknesses. We need help on this. You represent me on this, my friends, my family - if you say this is ok for me, for the People, then I am telling you, you are a sellout and should be stripped of your own healthcare and get what the rest of us do.

Do the right thing. Don't let this move forward.

Katie Blake

Alaska
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laurie Meyers [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:33 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Laurie Meyers
Subject: The Graham-Cassidy proposal will hurt Americans

I am strongly **opposed** to the Graham-Cassidy proposal.

I am a two-time cancer survivor. At age 47, I was diagnosed with stage 3b colon cancer; two years later, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. For each diagnosis, I was lucky - had full healthcare coverage through my husband's job. We were very fortunate to be able to get the aggressive treatment I needed to beat colon cancer, and all the surgeries needed for my mastectomy and reconstruction. I am grateful today to be clear of cancer and in good health. But I am sadly aware that many Americans are not as fortunate as I was. And if the Senate decides to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act with the Graham-Cassidy proposal, many more **millions** of Americans will find themselves unable to pay for the soaring costs of health insurance – or will find themselves unable to even qualify for health care coverage due to pre-existing conditions. What will happen when they face a serious illness or accident? How will they afford to get the diagnostic tests to identify what they are facing? How can they pay for treatment? Delayed diagnoses and treatment costs have a negative impact on our country's health care system, since it costs much more in the long-run to deal with an advanced illness, compared to the costs of early treatment, or prevention. And the economic impact doesn't end there. Medical expenses are a leading cause of bankruptcy in the US – although the rate of bankruptcy in our country has fallen by 50% in the years since the ACA was enacted.

But this goes beyond financial concerns. More Americans will be unable to afford the health care coverage they need, and will go without. Inevitably, this will lead to an increase in human suffering, long-term impairment, lost opportunities for a productive life, and death.

It is vital to provide adequate, affordable healthcare for all – for economic stability as well as humanitarian reasons! It is devastating to see how close we are to moving our country farther from this goal. There will be an enormous backlash within the electorate if the current administration succeeds in their efforts – and the human costs will be heartbreaking. **Please STOP the Graham-Cassidy proposal from being enacted.** Thank you!!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Matt Carman [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:33 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject Graham-Cassidy

Please. It's evil. It's wrong. You know this. You know that you know this. Don't lie to yourself and the people around you. You know it's bad.

Thanks!
Matt

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jen [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017, 12:33 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote NO on Graham-Cassidy

This bill is a threat to the people of America, it is not an acceptable solution to health care reform.

It is not about states' freedom - if they don't have enough money to provide their citizens with the current level of health care coverage and options, then what kind of freedom or choice is that?

It is completely hypocritical to say you want states to have options, and then tell them they can't use their funding for single payer. That seems like a direct attack on the state of California.

But most of all, this bill is being bullied through the senate, with lies and bribes, at the last minute, rather than following reasonable procedures, allowing debate, a CBO score, and bi-partisan input. Where maybe the challenges of having individual state laws over multi-state insurers would come out and be addressed. Along with the fact that this bill does nothing to address the challenges of rural areas (for example, in Alaska) which are less profitable for insurers to carry.

It is unreasonable, irresponsible, and unacceptable to pass this bill, or anything like it, in the next 10 days. I urge you to have a reasonable discussion with all the appropriate parties at the table to find a better solution to make health care in America better for everyone.

Thank you.

Jen Francis
San Diego, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Franklin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:33 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GC - NO

Senators –

Please vote NO on Graham-Cassidy. It's a bad bill, being pushed through a bad process. I expect more from our lawmakers. Please do better.

Thank you,
Sarah Franklin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alison Loukeh [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:27 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy health care bill - ACA repeal and replace

Good evening,

I am writing to express my disgust with this current version of a health care replacement bill. Do understand that I have voted Republican for much of my life but this is a blatant attempt to gain a political win without regard for many of my fellow Americans.

These are my primary concerns although not all of them:

- It is specifically targeted at issues that pertain to women, this includes pregnancy, abortion, PPD and birth control (among others) while preserving Erectile Dysfunction medications. This is ludicrous. It is as if the GOP decided to specifically target half of the population.
- As an older American, it also will increase my premium as well as the premium of my parents. My parents generation built this country and sacrificed many years of their lives (and some their very lives) and now they will be forced to pay ridiculously high premiums with less benefits.
- Bribing Senator Murkowski so Alaska can keep the ACA while depriving the rest of us of its benefits is unAmerican and dishonest.

I urge all senators, and particularly those of the Republican party, to stop this nonsense and work in a bipartisan fashion to correct the problems with the ACA.

I honestly never thought that I would have to beg my elected officials to keep health care. Get a hold of yourselves and do this the right way.

Trust and believe that I will do my best to ensure that every single Senator that votes to kill Americans by depriving them of health insurance loses office and spends the rest of their days embarrassed and ashamed. That's what they deserve.

Sincerely,

Alison Loukeh
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laura Stackhouse [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Regarding Graham/Cassidy 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,

Laura Stackhouse
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] NY 10011

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gretchen Miron <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: September 25, 2017: Graham-Cassidy Proposal

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

I am writing to voice my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal coming before you September 25, 2017. This proposal is a cruel attempt to repeal the ACA for the purposes of sticking to a Republican campaign promise, rather than doing what is actually right for the American people. This proposal includes extensive cuts to Medicaid and also per capita caps, which weakens the protections that consumers need when dealing with healthcare.

I am particularly concerned for the effects this proposal would have on people with disabilities and those with pre-existing conditions. Across the country, people with disabilities would be disproportionately harmed because they rely on services like Medicaid to help keep them healthy and safe for long-term periods. Cutting Medicaid this drastically would kill people with disabilities, plain and simple. This bill would also allow states to roll back protections for people with pre-existing conditions by not mandating insurers cover essential health benefits, including mental health care, pregnancy, rehabilitative services, hospitalizations and prescriptions. Taking these benefits away from consumers is unjustified and unfair when they are at a disadvantage through no fault of their own. They would also be charged higher premiums for their pre-existing conditions, which is discriminatory.

The Medicaid cuts in this program are so drastic that states would have to completely remove or cover only a small proportion of those who require their services. Forcing people off of a system that keeps them healthy is wrong and unjust. There are issues with our health care system in general, but leaving citizens without care is not the answer. Instead of removing options and kicking people off of their insurance, we should be finding new ways to help those who are currently not being serviced.

I am fortunate to not personally rely on Medicaid, but by neighbors, colleagues, friends, and extended family members do. It is in the best interest of a society for its citizens to be healthy so that they can contribute fully. Please oppose this dangerous bill and work to improve our current healthcare system instead.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Miron
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 46204

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathy B. <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No on Graham-Cassidy

I'm pretty fed up with the lousy bills coming forward on health care and I'm fed up with the Koch family dictating policy to our legislators. The whole lobbying/money in elections thing needs to stop. If the Kochs don't give you guys money anymore then, good riddance to them - they're a pox on our entire country.

It would be amazingly cruel to pass the Graham-Cassidy bill. It's just the latest useless, harmful piece of baloney to come out of your offices.

Kathleen Bayly

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christian Witschy <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA Repeal bill

I'm writing to voice my opposition to the Cassidy-Graham ACA repeal bill. It's appalling the Senate GOP is pushing through a bill without a CBO score instead of working to strengthen the ACA's individual markets. The American people want a bipartisan approach to repairing the ACA, not a repeal of it.

The facade of federalism is really an attempt to destroy Medicare and Medicaid, while removing federal protections for those with pre-existing conditions at the same time. The only people to benefit from this will be the extremely wealthy.

If this passes, we will be in a less tenable state than we were before the passage of the ACA. Repealing the ACA simply to repeal it is childish, ill-advised, and not in the best interest of the American people.

Please act in the actual best interest of American people, instead of merely trying to appease your partisan base.

Respectfully,
Christian Witschy

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: frederick Bucheit [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:02 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, first, there is no time to assess in any meaningful way the impact this bill would have on our lives. Though the CBO will issue an initial score in a few days, its final assessment will not be available for several weeks. This means that senators will be voting blind on a bill that, according to major health organizations and insurers, promises to remove healthcare from millions and severely disrupt the markets. Second, the bill's proposal to administer health care in the form of block grants to states -- a proposal favored by only 26% of all voters -- will balkanize our system, allowing individual states to determine how these funds will be administered without assurances that the most vulnerable of our populations (seniors, people with pre-existing conditions, those with disabilities or suffering from drug addiction) will be protected. Health care in America must be considered a right, not a commodity, and it is the responsibility of government to work not for partisan glorification but for the greater good. Graham-Cassidy is a bad idea.because

frederick Bucheit

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Daniel Efram+ <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Comment

To Whom It May Concern:

Please do not pass Graham-Cassidy. It will take healthcare away from up to 30 million people.

People will die.

Thank you.

Dan Efram

--

Dan Efram
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Vivat _R [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Coverage Losses Under Proposed Graham-Cassidy

Commenting to respectfully BEG the Senate to reject Graham-Cassidy by vote NO on it.

Four independent analyses concur that approx. 32 MILLION people will lose coverage over the next 10 years if it passes (maybe half of that number right away). We do not have a full analysis from the CBO, and will not prior to the vote. That in itself is unconscionable.

The bill will gut Medicaid in ways that are unrelated to the ACA, and so betray a hostility to the assistance it provides to those who already have very little in resources and more than their share of obstacles.

It will permit states to end protections for pre-existing conditions, lifetime caps and essential benefits.

It will leave no margins in funding assistance by individual states when demand increases due to recession, natural disaster, public health emergencies or any other contingency...which are events that will also subject those state budgets to additional strain.

This bill does all of this damage by continuing to eschew regular order and bipartisan efforts to address the very real problems of providing affordable health care solutions to everyone.

This bill will cost lives. You may be focused on how to spend less money, but how is that the only metric that matters? This bill, if passed, will have a body count.

I beg you as an American, as a person of limited means, as someone who has loved ones who rely on various provisions of the ACA to keep themselves and their families receiving timely and appropriate medical care, and simply as a human being brought up to value compassion and empathy over self-serving and short-term goals, to oppose this repeal by voting NO.

Christie Manussier
Racine, Wisconsin

Sent from [BlueMail](#)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary lou Yocum <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: G-C healthcare Bill

Please consider all the people that will die because you did not fully explore the ramifications of the Graham-Cassidy bill. And unfortunately, people will die even though most Republicans seem to think that their constituents will not understand what is going on until it is too late.

You do not pass a bill just because you said you would repeal Obamacare. You pass a bill because it is good for the country.

And, please stop the lies. Guess what, most people can read and can spot a lie.

Mary Lou Yocum

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: laura levine <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: graham cassidy bill

Senator Grassley and members of the Judiciary Committee:

I would like to register my opinion that the Graham-Cassidy bill should not be passed out of committee and on to the Senate for a vote. In agreement with the AMA, insurance carriers, and the AARP, I believe that this new healthcare plan will destroy the lives of millions of Americans who will no longer be able to afford the care they need. This will have a very negative effect on hospitals that will again have to shoulder the expense when people without insurance end up in the emergency room because they were unable to get preventive care that might have avoided extensive medical treatment.

For the good of the American economy and the American people, I urge you not to push this bill forward.

Sincerely,
Laura Levine

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bruce Jarrett <[REDACTED]@m>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

This bill does not help the American people retain affordable health insurance and may very well collapse our health care system. Please work to fix the ACA

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Miller [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Please do not allow this Bill to go through.

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..

Susan Miller

--
Susan Miller
[REDACTED]

Executive Producer/Writer
Anyone But Me
[REDACTED]

Writer/Creator
Bestsellers
[http://](#)
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Melissa Keating <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:01 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 believe that people should not have to die or watch their loved ones die due to lack of medical insurance coverage. All humans should see medical treatment as a basic human right, not as a privilege. Medical insurance should not be used as a weapon to keep the poor oppressed and make the wealthy wealthier.

Please be a voice of your constituents and not a puppet of lobbyists.

Melissa Keating

18444
5709839102

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: nsakmar <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Our story

I am writing to tell you the story of my family. I am a mental health counselor, providing services to addicted and mentally ill. With my modest wage I support my family. My husband is disabled and my daughter has a debilitating arthritis. The Affordable health care act has protected my family from extreme health care premiums. If the state takes this over, the insurance companies will make insurance UNAFFORDABLE. I know because before ACA our health insurance premium was one third of my income.

Please don't go backwards, this current bill is not the answer.

Thank you, vote no. Nancy Sakmar

Sent via the Samsung GALAXY S®4, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Donna Gilliland <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I implore you to VOTE NO on the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill. This irreparably harms millions of Americans. The very people each of you swore to protect. Thank you. - Donna Gilliland

Sent from my iPhone; I apologize for any auto-corrects or typos. 😊

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: joan mellon [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: DO NOT APPROVE THE Graham-Cassidy bill

The Graham-Cassidy bill does not consider the real healthcare needs of real people in our nation, the richest in the world. **DO NOT APPROVE THIS BILL.** People's lives will be hurt by it.

Sincerely,
Joan Mellon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lou Gale <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote no on Graham-Cassidy

I write to ask all committee members to vote no on the Graham Cassidy legislation. First, any piece of legislation that results in the reduction of healthcare for millions upon millions of citizens is an abomination and should not be passed. Second, any argument that this is a cost saving measure is laughable given how the Senate just passed a massive defense spending bill that dwarfs the costs of healthcare. Third, to take such drastic efforts without comprehensive hearings, testimony and debate is simply an abdication of responsibility by Senators. Fourth and finally, intentionally creating haves and have nots among the states in a vain effort to obtain the votes of key senators only evidences how foolhardy this effort has become.

Please vote no.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sharon and Park Furlong <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:02 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 block grants to states do not cover even half of what services might be needed. In addition it allows the states to refuse coverage for just about anything, and for just about anyone. Administrative fees become exorbitant and cut down in actual service dollars also. Political shenanigans enter the arena, along with vengeful rulings concerning the kind of care a politician may personally not need or hate due to, personal credo or religion. Insurance companies, doctors and nurse organizations, educators, health care administrators and providers, hospitals , many governors and many people who have read this bill hate it. Vote against it please. It is not good for anyone. And if insurance companies and hospitals and doctors hate it and are scared of it, YOU should be also.

Sharon and Park Furlong

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maureen Anderson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham-Cassidy

Every medical association is against this dreadful bill. It has not been studied, debated, or even scored. Please reject it. Thank you.

Maureen Anderson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Froderman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject Graham Cassidy

Dear Senators,

Please reject Graham Cassidy. Ramming this through half-cocked without the proper vetting, hearings, and procedure will hurt the American people.

Stripping Americans of their healthcare is a bad idea if you wish to stay in office.

Jen Froderman

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rachel Altman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Committee Members,

I believe that it is irresponsible to vote on this health care bill without it first being assessed by the Congressional Budget Office. The Republicans are pushing to vote before September 30th, without taking the time to be fully informed of the economic and social consequences of passing this bill.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Mrs. Rochelle Altman
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kevin Stanfield <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not repeal ACA

Just one taxpayer's opinion

Kevin Stanfield
Account Manager

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sharyn; Mad [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ms. Sharyn; Mad
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David Bernstein <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do Not Vote on Graham/Cassidy Bill!

Please do not hold a vote on the Graham/Cassidy bill without CBO scoring. It is dangerous and reckless!

Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: REGINA STEIMLE <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Healthcare bill

Please vote NO on the attempt to take healthcare away from 30 million people. How many people are going to die as a result of this bill?

Sincerely,
Regina Steimle
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Darius Holbert <d[REDACTED]n>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I thoroughly oppose this ridiculous bill and condemn the Koch puppets for trying to push it through. This is the antithesis to what the Founders envisioned for our Republic.

Thank you,
Darius Holbert

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bianchi <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: HealthCare

Please! I am begging you to PLEASE!!!!!! do not throw millions of people off of their healthcare. It's not only un-American it's right down cruel. You may say well the State can provide you with insurance....There is ZERO guarantee to anything in any state! There will be 10's of thousands of people who will die due to this Bill. Rather than bankrupt their families people will choose to not complain and not go to the DR. There are also countless amount of people that are on life saving treatments NOW that will lose them. Those people will die!

PLEASE HELP THOSE WHO NEED YOUR HELP THE MOST.

DO NOT SUPPORT THE #GrahamCassidy BILL

Wilma Bianchi

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kellie Overbey <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Say NO to Graham-Cassidy!!!

You know this bill is wrong and immoral.

If this bill passes, 32 MILLION Americans will lose healthcare coverage, people with preexisting conditions will not be covered, radical changes will be made to Medicaid, and there will be diminished funding for every state. AMERICANS WILL DIE.

And McConnell is only planning to allow 90 seconds of debate? Are you kidding?!

If you want to keep your campaign pledges, start by keeping your pledge not to touch Medicaid benefits.

Reject this bill.

Kellie Overbey
New York, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rene Steinke <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to Graham-Cassidy Bill comments

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am absolutely opposed to this bill, which would strip healthcare from millions of Americans, further damage healthcare for women, and punish those with pre-existing conditions. This is a cruel and inhumane bill.

Thank you for taking comments.

Rene Steinke

[REDACTED], 11232

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: HENRY CARTER <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

No! No! No!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: laura holland belk <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please reject the Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am reaching out to you to ask that you reject the Graham-Cassidy bill -- a bill that will take healthcare away from 10s of millions of people and kill thousands who will no longer be able to afford healthcare.

Please do the right thing, don't be evil.

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jcollem [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable Care Act Repeal

The only thing we truly own are our actions.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jo Douglas <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No on ACA Replacement

Please consider the majority and vote NO.

Thank you for listening.

Regards,
Jo Douglas

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judy Pray [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: graham-cassidy

I'm writing to express my complete disgust with the Graham-Cassidy bill.
It's a danger to women and a danger to anyone with pre-existing conditions.
Please take these comments into consideration.

Sincerely,

Judith Pray

[REDACTED] 11217

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Melanie Hoppes <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: healthcare bill

This bill would be devastating to my family. I have 4 disabled children and they all rely on Medicaid to cover their healthcare costs. My husband and I, as well as all of our children, have preexisting conditions. This is heartless, cruel legislation that would financially cripple our family. There is a high likelihood that my oldest son will die if his coverage is reduced. I am begging for you to vote NO on this legislation.

Thank you, Melanie Hoppes

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ashley Winkler <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:27 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.

Ashley Winkler
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], WI 54960
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maureen Collins <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care for ALL

I'm a cancer survivor. Don't punish my strength and good fortune with "pre existing " bull, and keep healthcare affordable and available to ALL!! Do not pass this dangerous bill. We are watching!!!!

Maureen Collins

One Mo Time!!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kedo Carter <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to Healthcare Bill

Im the mother of a 9 year old daughter that is autistic. I am against the cuts to medicaid. Healthcare should be affordable and available to all. A cut into benefits for most our children would mean that there will be no further progression in life. Our children are the future and we must protect them at all costs.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: William Lorton <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA YES

Dear Senate:

I urge you KEEP the ACA in place.

William Lorton
Los Angeles

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marilyn Richardson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

My name is Marilyn D. Richardson and I reside in Los Angeles, CA. I am urging you to reconsider this bill that will have the potential of leaving millions of citizens without medical care.

There is currently an Hepatitis A outbreak in San Diego and Los Angeles counties as we speak. They say it's from the homeless population, but there are restaurant workers that are homeless. These low wage earner are responsible for preparing the food that both you and I eat while we on the go.

How sad that they are the ones that would more than likely suffer by the Graham-Cassidy proposal.....please, consider all Americans when you present your proposed reform.

Reach across the isle until it hurts. These are the times in which someone needs to look out for the entire country!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julie Burish <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote NO on this healthcare bill

My name is Julie Burish and I am the parent of 21 year old daughter with a disability. The cuts to Medicaid and the elimination of essential services puts in jeopardy the lives of many Americans!

This bill threatens the safety, independence and productivity of people disabilities. This bill and the previous bills pay for the changes on the backs of children, frail older people and those with disabilities!!! Is this really going to make America great? I think not!

70% of Americans want you to fix the ACA not repeal and replace!!! Please put aside your partisan politics and vote "NO" on this bill! Please, be statesman and work in a bipartisan way to do good work!!

This bill is NOT good work.

Julie Burish

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], WI 53005

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: email to Senator Cassidy

I am a sixty-four year old retired teacher in West Feliciana Parish. I worked 40 years in Louisiana's public schools with students from all backgrounds and aspirations. Now I am looking forward to my retirement, but I have pre-diabetes, hypothyroid, high blood pressure and a hiatal hernia (My life is a pre-existing condition!). My carpenter-husband and I have paid dearly for our Blue Cross insurance throughout our lives and count on using Medicare. You claim to want to help people. Can you tell me anything good that the "Graham-Cassidy-TrumpCare" plan would do? Just one specific example.

- Our insurance bills could sky-rocket out of our limited income reach;
- My fellow teacher, whose child has cancer, will remain forever broke and bankrupt, as will every one of us who gets sick;
- Louisiana will receive much less money to help the many poor among us;
- Mental health problems, opioid addiction or AIDS care, all plague Louisiana and our nation but are not dealt with (those were promises too);
- The improved rates of coverage and care, the reduced teen pregnancy and abortion rates of the recent past will flounder and reverse.

Can you give me even ONE example of something good that comes out of this bill for me or my community? Three million more of us voted against the Republican promises than voted for this administration. We now also know that the 2016 election was compromised: 39 states were attacked digitally, and millions of social media falsehoods were illegally perpetrated. There is no mandate for Graham-Cassidy-Trump Care, but there is a striking need to solve these election-ruining problems BEFORE the next election. This is why so many see Republican repetitious talk, without examples, verification or proof as fantasies. Calling something "fake" does not make it so; getting and publicizing the facts does help. Will you do that?

There is no mandate for removing health care, there is no individual choice in unregulated insurance, there is no guaranteed care for the old or the sick, there is no economic or health advantage to political distribution of smaller blocks of money to states. Continued blind repetition will, however, insure that there is no confidence in free or fair elections and that there is no U.S.A. as a democratic nation or as a power in the world. Please put America first and refuse to repeal ACA or to support the Graham-Cassidy-Trump Plan. It's Un-American.

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal to repeal the Affordable Care Act comments
Date: September 20, 2017 at 4:13:47 PM CDT
To: GCHcomments@finance.senate.gov

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

On Monday, as you debate the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal to repeal the Affordable Care Act, I would like these concerns recorded. Any health care bill must:

1. Strip out harmful changes to Medicaid that will wreak havoc on the poor and vulnerable, including the "per capita caps" and block granting (and sunset) of assistance for the millions of families covered by the recent Medicaid expansion;
2. Ensure that any bill retains its current Hyde amendment protections for the unborn by prohibiting use of federal funds for abortions or plans that cover it;
3. Include conscience protections for those involved in the health care system.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has been clear that: no repeal ought to take place without a concurrent replacement; such a replacement must ensure that those who most depend on affordable health care can reliably access it; it respects the dignity of all including the unborn; and that such a replacement plan must not leave the poor in worse circumstances.

The Senate can fix problems with the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in a bipartisan way: by extending full Hyde Amendment protections to the ACA, enacting laws that protect the conscience rights of all stakeholders in health care, protecting religious freedom, and passing legislation that begins to remove current and impending barriers to access and affordability, particularly for those most in need.

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal to repeal the Affordable Care Act instead does the following:

- Creates block grants that replace both Medicaid expansion funding and marketplace subsidies and caps and deeply cuts the rest of the Medicaid program. And, after 2026, the block grant would disappear entirely leaving Louisianans high and dry.
- Ends the Medicaid expansion as we know it - putting at risk the 437,000 Louisiana citizens who are covered under Medicaid expansion (which reduced our uninsured rate by 10%).
- Rolls back protections for Americans with pre-existing conditions.
- Allows states to impose burdensome work requirements as a condition of Medicaid coverage.
- Eliminates tax credits that help 122,000 moderate-income Louisiana residents afford marketplace coverage and subsidies that help low-income residents with out-of-pocket health costs like copays.

Additionally the focus on getting this bill passed before September 30 draws attention away from the bipartisan Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) which must be re-authorized by September 30 and on which 1 in 10 Louisiana children rely. CHIP cannot be allowed to expire.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Executive Director
Catholic Charities of the
Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux
1220 Aycocock Street
Houma, LA 70360
rgorman@htdiocese.org
<http://www.htdiocese.org/catholic-charities>
(985) 876-0490
(985) 876-7751 (fax)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:23 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stop the Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am writing to implore you to stop the Graham-Cassidy bill that is threatening to upend the healthcare of millions of Americans. There is a BIPARTISAN bill in the works - why not give that a chance? I wholeheartedly agree with the governor of my state, John Bel Edwards, that Only Bipartisan approaches can achieve lasting healthcare reform. The process has started, please give it a chance.

Aline Baldiwn
Lake Charles, Louisiana

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy

Senators,

Please do not let this horrific bill get to the floor. The people of the United States deserve better. I voted for Bill Cassidy and this is awful. Work to find a fix for the ACA, and stop trying to reverse everything that President Obama did, just because.

Thank you,
Susan Crockett
70124-New Orleans

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect affordable health care for all Americans!

Dear Senators: I registered to vote as a Republican in 1975 when I turned 18. Before that I worked with my mom on Republican campaigns to help Louisiana become a two-party state. I was an LBJ summer intern for Congressman W. Henson Moore. I am a lifelong Republican. I have worked and paid taxes every single year since I graduated from school. I have never received any kind of government assistance. I am totally self-sufficient.

However, I am terrified by Graham-Cassidy.

Today, I am living in a church medical ministry apartment in Houston where I have been most of this year. I was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia in February. I had a stem cell transplant in July.

I am a single mother. I have two daughters--one in high school and one in college. I own my own business and purchase my own health insurance. Currently, I insure my secretary, my two girls and myself. My 2107 Blue Cross policy cost \$26,265.72, with a family deductible of \$3,500 a year. Blue Cross has been amazing and has facilitated the very expensive medical care that I have received. My daughters aren't orphans because I have insurance.

If Graham-Cassidy passes and there is no longer any Federal protection for those of us with pre-existing conditions, I fear for my life. It is unlikely that any health insurer will cover me, or if they will, it will not be at a price I can afford for long--even if I sell my house and liquidate my retirement and college savings. I know many families in my situation.

I beseech you, please do not let this horrible piece of legislation pass!

Katherine M. Loos
kate@katelooslaw.com
700 St. John Street, Suite 401 (70501)
Post Office Box 51345
Lafayette, LA. 70505-1345
T (337) 534-4770
F (337) 534-4772

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Dear Members,

My 31-year-old niece was diagnosed four years ago with a brain tumor. She's a biomedical researcher in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and has private insurance through her employer. She remains in on-going treatment at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

Under the provisions of the ACA, there is no cap on her lifetime treatment costs, her illness cannot be penalized as a preexisting condition, and leaving her present job will not affect health coverage from a new employer.

The Graham-Cassidy bill will be severely detrimental to my niece on personal, economic, and professional levels. It will threaten her life.

Any bill that affects health coverage for every American and which affects one-sixth of the U. S. economy must be bipartisan, carefully debated, and vetted. It must not be submitted and voted on until there have been hearings that allow comments from professional medical and health organizations and ordinary citizens.

Rushing to pass and implement the Graham-Cassidy bill with none of these things in place is reckless. The consequences are unknown. Many professional medical and health organizations are opposed to the bill because of the untold suffering, financial hardship, and possible death it would cause for millions of Americans. The economic repercussions to our economy are also unknown.

I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Kathy J. Higgins
4009 W. Esplanade Ave.
Metairie, Louisiana 70002
(504) 888-6473

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect affordable health care for all Americans!

Vote no on Cassidy/Graham bill! It will do more harm than good!! Millions of people will lose there insurance! This a regressive bill!! Veterns, children, the disabled and Seniors will be greatly impacted Individual rates will become completely cost prohibitive for people in 50's n 60s!! I care about our country and the insurance we have now and how many more people who have insurance and healthcare than they did 3 years ago!! Preexisting conditions will not be covered!! Work to improve the ACA not repeal n replace with this monstrosity of a bill!! A LARGE Majority of Americans OPPOSE this bill!!!!!! This is not a good bill but a political ploy!!!!!!

Thank you!
Molly Phillips
Prairieville, LA 70769

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill - NO NO NO!!!

Honorable Senators,

Please stop the madness! Our country is better than this! You are better than this! And we, Americans, deserve better than this!!

WORK TOGETHER to bring about a sound healthcare bill, and support the ACA until you get it done. This is not politics, it is people's lives.

Jane Fountain
Metairie, LA

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Why I oppose GC

I am making a plea against Graham-Cassidy and all the attempts to roll back Obamacare because my family relies on Obamacare to manage chronic illnesses. My husband and I both have life-long illnesses that require medication, and my husband has asthma requires medication to breathe. He broke his foot at work and was laid off after the first surgery so we lost his health benefits. I am covered under the Medicaid expansion and we pay his premiums on a marketplace plan with help from the subsidy advanced tax credit. If we lose that coverage, we can no longer afford medication or therapy. Medication alone would be one third of our monthly income. If Graham-Cassidy passes, my husband can no longer afford to breathe. Please stop this cruel legislation that will leave my family powerless and make our chronic illnesses unmanageable and potentially deadly.

Sarah Surber
Baton Rouge, LA 70816

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [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.

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

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

Sheila Jacobs-Anderson
sjacobsa@bellsouth.net
1103 Northeast Street
Jonesboro, Louisiana 71251-3041

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [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.

lauretta finiguerra
laurettafiniguerra@hotmail.com
502 S Stpatrick street
new orleans, Louisiana 70119

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

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

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.

Charles Morgan
rabbit12gauge@yahoo.com
705 Anderson Street
Louisiana , Louisiana 70538

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

[REDACTED]
Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:17 PM
gchcomments
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.

Marc Isaac
marcisaacson@gmail.com
736 Jefferson st
Lafayette, Louisiana 70501-6910

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:35 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Preserving the Affordable Care Act

I hope this finds you well. I'm writing to express how essential I consider the preservation of the ACA. The Graham-Cassidy Bill is an atrocity and no less than a death sentence for thousands - and that seems to only be short term!

That a doctor is behind this makes me feel ill, all the more so for his being one of my senators. Senator Cassidy has made a big mistake going on a late-night talk show and making a promise he so quickly trampled. This is a major underestimation of the American imagination, and ethics. I'm looking forward to helping elect him out of the seat he currently holds, and wouldn't be surprised if his medical license is revoked. He is so actively doing harm it seems to me to a slap in the face to the profession.

That, however, is hardly the point. The point is that people depend on their healthcare. Why this is so obvious in so many other places and yet still not here is a mystery to me, as is how anyone could possibly imagine that the US will remain a so-called superpower while advocating such backwards, despicable and violent ideas.

There is so much good to the United States. I want to celebrate and emphasize the highlights. On a very basic level, this will require more Americans being born and making it into healthy adulthood. Making this, what could be relatively simple, a near-unattainable goal, seems self-defeating regardless of one's political agenda. Children need to keep being born, presumably, to keep this country going; otherwise, where does the future go? To whom will it belong? I'm tabling everything else I want to talk about, including pollution and the thinly veiled ethnic cleansing currently taking place here - I will focus on the literal locus, childbirth.

The first step is pregnancy. Healthy pregnancies require the education and resources required to help women avoid becoming pregnant before they want to, and the same for supporting them through the process once they choose it (or decide to go through with it after an accident or episode of violence). Despite having had a lot of sex with men - all protected, as I'm privileged enough to have received said resources - I have never been pregnant, and I've not yet tried to change that. I am not sure I ever will. I do, however, have a number of friends who have; some have had abortions (a crucial component of healthcare, whether you want to acknowledge that or not) and others have gone on to had children. Luckily, all had healthcare to cover them along the way - some, including who who had a particularly disastrous ectopic pregnancy, would most likely not be alive if they hadn't. If they'd physically survived, they'd have taken on one of the least acknowledged crippling pre-existing conditions: catastrophic debt.

When I was a freshman in college, I was woken up by my mother screaming. She'd found my father seizing in bed next to her. We were able to call an ambulance and rush him to a nearby very good hospital in New York. It was by pure good grace that he lived - had my mother not woken up, had circumstances been slightly different, he likely would have died without making it to the hospital. But it was because of his healthcare coverage that my family was able to make it through his recovery. He's a celebrated professor and dean at an Ivy League university, someone our society even in its current state embraces. He's intelligent and a hard worker, he exercises, he just happened to have a blood clot in his brain no one had known about.

If the Graham-Cassidy bill passes, I will take it as a message that the current Congress wishes my father had died. I will take it personally, as I ought to. And I will be heartbroken.

Please, please, vote with your conscience, take a cue from Senator McCain and block this bill. It's an assault on humanity and will have devastating consequences. I recognize that McCain is grappling with his own mortality; I sympathize with him, but I disagree with that as a requirement for doing the good and decent thing.

I look forward to this bill's defeat and Senators Graham and Cassidy apologizing for such a despicable suggestion.

Thank you very much for your time,
Jess Pinkham
2436 Saint Bernard Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70119
www.jesspinkham.com

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stephen Hackett [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:46 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I own my own business and purchase insurance through the ACA Marketplace. Our oldest son has brain cancer, and the protections against lifetime caps and pre-existing coverage rate increases are the only way I could have left my old job to start a company and still know that I could care for my son.

Removing these protections, which is what this bill does, will put my family and my company's future at risk. I urge the Senate to vote it down.

Stephen Hackett
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tim Brock [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:33 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Vote No on Graham Cassidy

Hello, my name is Tim Brock. I'm a registered Architect in New York State and the son of a medical doctor who has practiced family medicine for over 30 years. I'm writing to beg you for the future and lives of my loved ones to please relegate this murderous bill to the garbage pit of history where it has always belonged. Please, for the love of all that is good in this world, vote no on this unvarnished abomination of a bill.

This bill would eviscerate medical coverage my brother relies on to live. My niece has autism and requires special care. Under this bill her "pre-existing condition" status would render her uninsurable and therefore threaten her very existence in the starkest terms imaginable.

I have a history of depression and that would obviously be zealously used to deny me life saving coverage under this smallpox soaked blanket of a bill.

And these are merely stories of my own family, one that is relatively well off compared to most folks who would suffer unimaginably cruel fates under this legislative weapon of mass death and destruction.

Please listen to your screaming conscience and consider the millions who absolutely will die as a direct result of a "yes" vote versus the millions who will continue living and pursuing their dreams under the imperfect but lifegiving status quo.

Please listen to your screaming conscience that is telling you not to kill millions of hardworking Americans using closed-door legislative subterfuge that is so plainly cowardly and evil even TV show hosts can make sensible arguments against it.

Please listen to your screaming conscience for the millions of working families who rely on the status quo to contribute to the economy and will become unable to do so if this bill passes.

Please listen to your screaming conscience as it asks you to choose whether you a Proud American who cares for others, or a bootlicking stooge doing the bidding of bloodthirsty, lazy and cowardly anti-government billionaires eager to kill millions to avoid paying even a few dollars of their fair share. Choose Country and shore up the ACA, or choose sycophantic cowardice and kill millions to make a few inheritance baby billionaires chuckle. We will all be watching and will never forget on whose side you stood for this vote.

Please listen to your screaming conscience and vote No on Graham Cassidy or any weakening of the ACA.

Please vote No.

Best Regards,

[REDACTED], RA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:29 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

This bill is an attack or part of a war against people with disabilities and those that are low income. I do not know how any of our officials can vote for this bill in good conscience. The members of Congress do not have to worry about their health care insurance as they have some of the best coverage in the nation. Would the members of Congress who support this bill be willing to trade places with the people who will struggle to get adequate insurance if this bill passes? or be willing to pay more for health insurance just because they happen to have a pre-existing condition?

Kathy Sas

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hubbard, Stacy <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:29 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Hubbard, Stacy
Subject: GCH bill

Dear Senate Members:

Please vote NO on the GCH bill. You need to stop this mad drive to deprive Americans of health care. There is no rational economic or humane justification for this. The ACA has helped millions and can be retained and improved. The many failed attempts to repeal the ACA show that these initiatives are hasty, ill-thought-out and economically and politically unfeasible. In this case, there is not even a CBO score to tell us just how many lives would be devastated by this bill. And even if there were, it would be hard to rationalize dropping even a single American off their health care plan in order to save some millionaires money on their taxes. No advanced country in the world handles health care in the illogical and expensive way that we do. Why don't we catch up to the rest of the developed world and offer single-payer health care? Are we too arrogant to learn from other countries who have long given their citizens this kind of security? Don't those of you in Congress who talk about priming the economy through tax breaks to the wealthy (an approach that has proven faulty time and again) realize that a healthy populace is a productive populace?

My young adult daughter has a pre-existing condition; without reasonable insurance, her young life and career could be crippled by medical bills. My friend with cancer needs his treatments--without them, he will die quickly. His sons, who have lupus and diabetes, need to be covered so that they can continue contributing to the community and the economy, build their families, buy houses.

My younger women friends and colleagues need pre-natal care, infant care, and post-natal care, as well as access to birth control and abortion. All of these attempts to repeal ACA have targeted women for reduced health care, as if somehow we weren't a significant portion of the population, essential to the functioning of both homes and workplaces. And as if our children didn't need to be born healthy and cared for during their childhoods. It's an outrage that all-male committees are deciding that Viagra is an essential medical need, whereas birth control and maternity coverage are not. If you can't understand that women and children are every bit as human as you are, then step down and let the women in Congress lead!

Stacy Hubbard
Buffalo, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jean Boynton <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:28 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am against the Graham-Cassidy Bill. For more than 40 years, I have worked for a rural Family Planning and Prenatal Program that provides gynecological and obstetrical care and contraceptives to low and moderate income women. Until passage of the Affordable Care Act, most of our patients had gone for years having no insurance and little access to health care beyond emergency room visits. Now most have insurance either through subsidized purchased plans or expanded Medicaid.

I feel that to take this medical coverage away is cruel and heartless. Preventative medical visits are essential for a healthy population. Going back to a time when these citizens relied on emergency rooms for non-emergency health care is both expensive and ineffective. Ending coverage for pre-existing conditions would especially affect an aging population and again limit access to medical care for many citizens.

Jean E. Boynton

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] NH 03253

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Denise Buenzli [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:26 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: New health care bill

I urge you to carefully look into the provisions in this bill which appear to decrease the funding for Disabled children and adults receiving funds from Medicaid to assist them. Most of these recipients are unable to work full time at jobs that afford them enough money to spend on health care. These recipients, including my adult son have had to deal with enormous issues just to survive. My son was born with a disability he did not choose to have. He suffered a great deal of harrassment and eventual sexual assault just for being "different". This added a new dimension to his care needs as he has experienced post traumatic stress disorder in addition to his other issues. He is able to work in a restaurant kitchen 15 hours a week and as a courier for the University 4 hours a week (when the University is in session) and get some income but indeed not sufficient to meet his financial needs. He cannot drive and thus needs to depend on public transportaion and family for getting around. He occassionally needs to take a cab which is very expensive.

My son is one of thousands receiving this needed medical financial assistance to survive as a productive member of society. There are many more who can't even afford housing which leads to many other public concerns. I feel this bill is being generated for only political gains and not "to make America great again". I fear the aim is not to help our less advantaged citizens but to further ones political goals because they were directed to pass something to achieve an "election promise".

This bill really needs to be more carefully examined for other areas in which this country can truly serve everyones needs. It should not be rushed just because a deadline was imposed. It is too important!

Respectfully,

Denise Buenzli

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] WI 53711
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ian Nicholson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:21 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Hello:

My name is Nico Ian Nicholson. I live with diabetes and depend on the ACA to remain healthy and active. Without the care the ACA provides me, I cannot live life to the fullest; I will be deprived of Life, Liberty and, the Pursuit of Happiness.

Living with untreated diabetes is difficult. Prior to having my current form of insurance, I was forced to go without medications and testing supplies for several years. I've suffered nerve damage in my feet and when I was able to resume regular care, I discovered that I'd already begun to have excess protein in my urine due to kidney damage from uncontrolled blood sugars. Thankfully, the kidney damage has been halted.

If you allow or, worse, promote the advancement of the Graham-Cassidy bill, *you* are consigning me to a life which will be far less than it could be. You will be sentencing me to a Gulag of the flesh. Without access to medication and means to control blood sugar, I could end up blind, as my aunt was by age 44, or dead, as that same aunt of mine was by age 50. I'm currently 41 years old.

If you want to at least keep up the pretense that you care about human life, you will not advance this bill. Otherwise, your true agenda will be even more transparent than ever before. However, I'd like to think that maybe you have *some* human decency left in you. If so, prove me right and send this bill to File 13 where it belongs. Save human lives, for once.

Thank you.

--

N.I. Nicholson
[REDACTED]

Read me at:
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: liveindy . <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:18 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

As simple as I can state this. Having a daughter with disabilities only being three years old. You are already starting to limit her financial medical needs. Limiting what she may need in the future, bring her needs to the chopping block. It's already costly having private insurance through my employer and Medicaid, this bill would only make it worse.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Al Mezny <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:17 AM
To: gchcomments; info@dickdurbin.com
Subject: ACA

Dear Senators,

I wanted to let you know how important the ACA has been in my ongoing health care over the last few years.

After a 20 year marriage, and being a stay at home mother to three children (One with autism), my husband divorce me and I found myself a single mother with no healthcare insurance. I get a small amount of money for child support which is enough to barely keep us afloat, and to keep us above the poverty level (\$49,000.00 a year). Children are covered under their fathers employers benefits health care, but I am not. I have Chronic Anemia Disease, and require ongoing IV iron infusions three times a year through the supervision and care of my hematologist. If it wasn't for the subsidy that I got from the ACA, and the ACA for bidding the insurance companies from discriminating against me for pre-existing conditions, I would not be able to get healthcare. Now with the uncertainty of the market, my premiums have skyrocketed and I fear that I have to make a choice between buying food, and paying my insurance premiums. This is a serious issue for me and many Americans. Under your potential plan, it could mean the difference between my family being middle class, and poor. If you do not continue to forbid insurance companies from discriminating against people pre-existing conditions (without charging them additional cost), and you eliminate the subsidies many Americans will die.

I wake up every day worrying if I'm going to have health insurance, and this is a burden that no American should have to face on a daily basis!

Sincerely,

Rene Mezny

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:17 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

This bill is another massive insult to the American people. It will strip health care from millions. Shame on you for trying to perpetrate this assault on your constituents. Put yourselves & your families on policies like this.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Erik Weiner <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:16 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill
Attachments: IMG_3434.JPG

My daughter does not pre exist. She is not a condition. And she is not a number to be factored into who is covered and who is not. She is a human being. A sister. A friend. And she is my daughter. Don't push her aside for an agenda many are against. Vote no on the graham Cassidy bill

Sincerely
Erik Weiner

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lori Camp <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:14 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not pass this bill it will harm 90% of my family.

Please vote no on this bill.

The harmful effect it will have on my family cannot be measured.

I for one, as a very healthy adult am happy to pay for insurance and think that you should do more to cover all equally instead of making health insurance and by the bill, health care something only available to the very wealthy.

This bill will literally kill poor and middle income children and elderly folks.

Lori Camp

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 46614

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lydia Nunez Landry [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:11 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Cassidy/Graham Healthcare bill

I am writing as a disabled woman in a powerchair. I am a mother and a volunteer in my community. I have a degree in social work, but I am unable to work due to a rare, progressive, and untreatable form of muscular dystrophy. I did not know that I had this condition until the age of 41, so I worked hard my entire life prior to this. I even cared for a mother with dementia, worked in the paid labor sector, raised children, and engaged in my community. I am opposed to this bill because it will be detrimental to the lives of many Americans and people like me.

If this passes, I may not be able to remain in my home and in my community. I will be separated from my children and segregated in one of Texas's many substandard and poorly regulated nursing facilities (you know, the ones that aren't evacuated during hurricanes and residents were left chest high in filthy, flood water). Like other mothers, I care for my children. I provide guidance, both moral and educational. I care for their daily needs. With the passage of the Cassidy/Graham bill, my spouse will most likely have no other choice than to raise our youngest child alone. Our family would be separated. In addition to being a mother, I am a long-term care, certified, volunteer Ombudsman. I help residents in a nursing home advocate for their rights. The abuse and neglect that I see in these places is heartbreaking, and I can't imagine what further cuts to Medicaid would do to these already vulnerable people.

Because of my condition, I require special medical equipment, which is quite costly. I also take quite a lot of medication. As it is now, these costs impact my family and our quality of life. We cannot afford for our daughter to be in extra-curricular activities that other children her age enjoy. I am not sure how we could make ends meet if our insurance premiums were raised. I would not be able to afford to maintain insurance, which means that I can't take my medications, I wouldn't be able to afford my bipap machine, which helps me to breath at night, I couldn't afford powerchairs or parts or batteries or any other equipment that I need for activities of daily living. This is a cruel bill, and I cannot understand why people who claim to represent the best interests of the American people would even want to pass such barbaric legislation.

I find it difficult lately not to fall into despair. I feel that my legislators do not represent the interests of their average constituents. Rather, they represent large corporations and perhaps even foreign countries. I guess those are "people my friends," deserving of dignity and respect, but actual people like me, apparently, do not. No, people like me are thrown away and segregated in horrible nursing facilities, denied our right to live self-directed lives, denied the right to be apart of our communities and families. You know, Cruz once fried bacon on an assault rifle to demonstrate his passion and support for the second amendment. I just wish he cared passionately about the basic rights of disabled people and the average American as much as he cared about bacon and guns.

Sincerely,

Lydia Nunez Landry
(a putative constituent of Ted Cruz and John Cornyn)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bill Henning <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:09 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham-Cassidy re: people with disabilities and Medicaid/ACA
Attachments: MassHealth BCIL Consumer Profiles 3-17 (002) (002).docx

To the Senate Finance Committee:

Please accept the attached profiles of persons with disabilities who are on Medicaid and who have pre-existing conditions. These profiles convey the importance of Medicaid to people who are deeply worried about the Graham-Cassidy proposal to alter Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act. Medicaid coverage should be expanded, not reduced in this country.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bill Henning

Director
Boston Center for Independent Living

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 2111

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] x)

www.bostoncil.org

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Melissa Clark [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:10 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Pubic Comment on the Graham Cassidy bill

Hello Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I'm a Rhode Islander concerned about the devastating impact this bill would have on people, including people with disabilities and pre-existing conditions. I'm writing to implore you to reject and vote NO on the Graham Cassidy bill.

I have access to health insurance through my employer -- for myself and my daughter -- but it's expensive and I have no money saved to cover my annual 'family deductible' of \$6,000. Changes to the health care system that will make taking Accutane (a prescription I had in my 20s), or for having sought treatment for depression and anxiety (raising my hand on that as well), conditions for exclusion from care are unconscionable.

Everyone should have affordable access to the same basic health care.

Please listen to the people and reject this cruel bill.

Sincerely,
Melissa M. Clark
Middletown, RI

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judy Schwartz <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:05 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Grahm Cassidy Bill

Good morning,

I want to express my dismay at the new bill that would repeal and replace Obama Care.
How can you pass a bill with such long reaching negative implications without a CBO score or hearings.

The bill as I understand it is heartless or without heart. I have a pre existing condition, as does my daughter and grandson.. I can not let someone(not a md.) behind a desk at an insurance company or my state decide my future premiums.

If the bill is so amazing, why don't all of the government employees go on it first and see how it works.

For you to pass a bill just for the sake of getting something done, is reckless.

Please listen to what the majority of the country wants.

Judy S

Judy Schwartz

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joanne Wilson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:05 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare concerns

Dear committee members!

As I write this I am wrapped in a blanket in the family waiting room at St Thomas Midtown hospital in Nashville TN!

My son is in surgery! He is 50 years old and has had medical issues since birth at 32 weeks. He would have been UNINSURABLE from birth! He is my heart and I know special needs families struggle every day to get care for their children! If you allow insurance companies to cherry pick their clients or eliminate the Weakest of the world- my son would be in mortal danger!

Pre-existing conditions can hit anyone / preemies, seniors (cardiac issues especially), falls, car accident- you can become uninsurable at the drop of a hat!

Please slow down and do not rush to pass "something " just "anything " so President Trump can be happy! My son's LIFE depends on it!

Respectfully
Joanne Wilson

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:02 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Representatives and Senators

I am writing to you about an issue that is very important to me, the Graham-Cassidy Bill. Diabetes is serious, costly, and deadly. Nearly 26 million people have diabetes and 79 million have pre-diabetes. The proposal, crafted by Sens. Bill Cassidy (R-La.), Lindsey O. Graham (R-S.C.) and Dean Heller (R-Nev.), essentially turns control of the health-care markets over to the states. Rather than funding Medicaid and subsidies directly, that money would be put into a block grant that a state could use to develop any health-care system it wants. This bill also allows states to opt out of many ACA regulations.

This bill would make devastating cuts to Medicaid and cut and eventually eliminate funding that helps people in the individual insurance market afford coverage, leading to at least 32 million fewer people having coverage after 2026. Those who did not lose coverage would see their premiums increase significantly. In the first year, premiums would increase by 20 percent. But the increases would be even greater for people with pre-existing conditions because the bill would let insurers in the individual market charge a premium markup based on health status and history, which could increase their premiums by tens of thousands of dollars.

I was 29 years old when I contracted a virus that caused by immune system to view my pancreas as a foreign body and kill it causing me to rapidly come down with type 1 diabetes. There was nothing I could have done differently, it was just chance that I came down with the most expensive condition on the planet that causes me to be dependent on extremely expensive drugs and equipment to monitor and to replace the insulin my body no longer produces.


As with a previous Affordable Care Act (ACA) repeal bill in the House, the American Health Care Act (AHCA), Graham-Cassidy would allow states to eliminate protections for people with pre-existing conditions. And just as with the previous proposal, this would increase premiums for people with certain health conditions by tens of thousands of dollars. The ACA prohibits insurers from charging higher premiums based on factors such as health status or pre-existing conditions. Graham-Cassidy would let states eliminate that requirement and carriers could impose surcharges on premiums based on health status and medical history.

The Center for American Progress estimated what surcharges would be for various medical conditions in states that eliminate pre-existing condition protections. Graham-Cassidy would be devastating for individuals with pre-existing conditions. In looking at a similar provision in the AHCA, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget

Office (CBO) projected that half the population would live in states that waived protections for pre-existing conditions by allowing insurers to charge more based on health status or exclude coverage for certain types of services, a backdoor method gutting protections for people who need care for conditions such as pregnancy or mental health issues. It's time for the Senate to put an end to its efforts to strip millions of Americans of their coverage, and start focusing on bipartisan improvements to the individual insurance market.

Sincerely,

Jackie Woodruff

 WI 53711

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Becky Cawley <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:01 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I rise to OBJECT, figuratively

Hello,

My message is simple and direct. I object, in the strongest of terms, to the shameless legislation proposed by Senators Graham and Cassidy to gut the Affordable Care Act. Rather than continuing to be uncaring and obstructionist, the current ruthless regime should work in a bipartisan manner to improve the ACA. If we can afford \$700 billion for the Pentagon, certainly we can figure out how to create universal health care in these United States.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rebecca Cawley
[REDACTED] NH.

--

Becky Cawley
Concord, New Hampshire
USA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Boudreaux [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:52 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not replace the AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

On Monday, as you debate the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal to repeal the Affordable Care Act, I would like these concerns recorded. Any health care bill must:

1. Strip out harmful changes to Medicaid that will wreak havoc on the poor and vulnerable, including the "per capita caps" and block granting (and sunset) of assistance for the millions of families covered by the recent Medicaid expansion;
2. Ensure that any bill retains its current Hyde amendment protections for the unborn by prohibiting use of federal funds for abortions or plans that cover it;
3. Include conscience protections for those involved in the health care system.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has been clear that: no repeal ought to take place without a concurrent replacement; such a replacement must ensure that those who most depend on affordable health care can reliably access it; it respects the dignity of all including the unborn; and that such a replacement plan must not leave the poor in worse circumstances.

The Senate can fix problems with the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in a bipartisan way: by extending full Hyde Amendment protections to the ACA, enacting laws that protect the conscience rights of all stakeholders in health care, protecting religious freedom, and passing legislation that begins to remove current and impending barriers to access and affordability, particularly for those most in need.

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal to repeal the Affordable Care Act instead does the following:

- Creates block grants that replace both Medicaid expansion funding and marketplace subsidies and caps and deeply cuts the rest of the Medicaid program. And, after 2026, the block grant would disappear entirely leaving Louisianans high and dry.
- Ends the Medicaid expansion as we know it - putting at risk the 437,000 Louisiana citizens who are covered under Medicaid expansion (which reduced our uninsured rate by 10%).
- Rolls back protections for Americans with pre-existing conditions.
- Allows states to impose burdensome work requirements as a condition of Medicaid coverage.
- Eliminates tax credits that help 122,000 moderate-income Louisiana residents afford marketplace coverage and subsidies that help low-income residents with out-of-pocket health costs like copays.

Additionally the focus on getting this bill passed before September 30 draws attention away from the bi-partisan Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) which must be re-authorized by September 30 and on which 1 in 10 Louisiana children rely. CHIP cannot be allowed to expire.

Sincerely,

Carol Boudreaux

Sent from my iPhone
Carol

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Lyle Updike <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:42 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Veto the Cassidy Graham Bill

Please veto the Cassidy Graham bill!
This bill is bad for our family and bad for America

This is supposed to be the UNITED states of America. That means it shouldn't matter where in the US we live. Eliminating the block grants is not acceptable.

- 'Flexibility' provided by states does not ensure every citizen will be protected.
- People with pre-existing conditions are protected by the ACA. This bill weakens pre-existing protections.
- This bill proposes significant cuts to Medicaid which people with disabilities depend upon. Medicaid is the primary public source of funding for the long-term supports needed to live and work in the community. Program cuts, along with block granting or per capita cap proposals, would hurt people who have no alternative means of paying for essential services. Preserve Medicare for current and future seniors and people with disabilities. Medicare is a successful program and has strong support from most Americans. Proposals to restructure the program to shift more costs onto beneficiaries would make health care far less affordable and accessible to seniors and people with disabilities. We have an adult developmentally disabled child who depends upon Medicaid to live. It would cause many millions of people to lose coverage, radically restructure and deeply cut Medicaid, eliminate or weaken protections for people with pre-existing conditions, and increase out-of-pocket costs for individual market consumers.
Mental Health Coverage is necessary for millions.
Do not have any cuts to, or restructuring of, Medicaid.
- The individual market would be disrupted in the short term. It would eliminate the individual mandate that would raise the number of uninsured by 15 million relative to current law in 2018 and increase individual market premiums by 20 percent.

Work to strengthen the individual market and marketplaces in a bipartisan effort!

Thank you.

Wendy Kaplan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:42 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Graham-Cassidy must not be allowed to pass.

Something very fishy here, with this "hurry up bill" !!!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Epstein <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:31 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care and cuts to Medicaid

I am extremely lucky to have great health insurance, Medicare and a supplemental plan. But I worked for years as a nurse and a legal aid attorney, with the disabled and elderly in nursing home care, and I know how critical Medicaid is to their lives and health. Block granting Medicaid with waivers is a terrible idea, because we know that many of the poorest red states have little or no interest in providing services to poor children, the disabled, and elderly, many of whom are African American. Please vote against GCH. Thank you.

Susan Epstein, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] AZ 85255

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gunnar Clancey <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Indefensible Graham Cassidy

Hello,

My wife has a serious heart condition at 36 years old because Kaiser royally screwed up when she had our baby 15 months ago. She'll need heart surgery at some point in her life. If graham/Cassidy goes through, there's a good chance she'll have her rates increased immensely and have a lifetime cap applied. This will screw our small family financially and we're in the upper middle class of society. Please stop this insanity.

Gunnar Clancey

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Caitlin Anne Surakitbanharn <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: health care reform - don't do it

Hi

Please do not proceed with the Graham Cassidy health care reform bill. It is inhumane and doesn't help us solve our national health care crisis issue. Making cancer treatment cost upwards of \$100,000 is absurd - making pregnancy cost \$15,000 will DRASTICALLY reduce our birth rate in the US - and would essentially price people out from enjoying a family and would ensure that only the wealthy can have children. and the government shouldn't be involved in our family planning!

My husband and I are excited to start a family in the next few years. and many of our friends are as well - we are 31 and the future is bright for us and our pending families. We are all educated and have great jobs! However, if it cost us \$16,000 JUST to go through pregnancy and to give birth - there's no way we could afford this within the next few years. and none of our friends could either. and by the time we reach the point in our careers that a \$16,000 out of pocket expenditure were viable, we'd likely be incapable of conceiving children. Please don't price us out of having children.

The ACA does need reform - but this isn't it. Please work as a legislative body (on both sides) and work with healthcare experts to make the right choices. Stephanie Bartz, an expert in public health and health administration, would be a great start. She works for a subsidiary of United Health Care, but I know she's keen to lend her expertise to this crisis.

PLEASE - do the right thing and make a system that supports health and wellness....not one that bankrupts society.

Thanks,
Caitlin Anne Surakitbanharn

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dean Littlepage <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy!

I'm writing to register my strong opposition to Graham-Cassidy, and also the entire, wrongheaded approach the GOP is taking toward health care in America.

Although the GOP has timed consideration of this bad bill so the CBO cannot score it in time, we know very well that millions of people will be kicked out of the health insurance market and even more millions will lose access to health care.

#1, just from an efficiency and cost standpoint, how can implementing and managing 50 different health care systems, as apparently envisioned in this bill, possibly be remotely as efficient as one, universal health care system, even with some state-specific provisions?

#2, Downsizing Medicaid is crazy; in my home state of Montana, about 8% (80,000-plus souls) of the population is covered by the Medicaid expansion. What is it about these people that makes the sponsors of this bill, and those who vote for it, dismiss them as human beings equally worthy of consideration as the super wealthy?

#3, What in God's name was wrong with the idea of coming to a solution through regular order, committee markup and consideration, hearing from all stakeholders, due consideration over several months, rewrites, amendments -- you know, like the process that produced the ACA in the first place -- everything that makes up regular order, and which creates law that actually works, rather than this awful pile of junk? The GOP has had seven months to take up a bill in the normal manner, yet for some unfathomable reason, has rejected the normal course of business for bomb-throwing by a small cabal of Senators. What is wrong with these legislators?

As our Governor Bullock has repeatedly written and said, "We need to FIX healthcare, not DESTROY it."

Very sincerely,
Dean Littlepage

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 59715
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Luke B Nelson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment for Public Hearing

I continue to be dismayed by the efforts of Congress to pass legislation that impacts 1/5 of the United States economy without sufficient analysis or common sense. Instead of asking consumers, physicians, nurses, administrators, and constituents for input on meaningful ways to improve the delivery of healthcare, Republican Senators instead rely on their donors who have once simple message-Pass this bill or the money stops. I know parents use similar tactics to motivate less responsible children, but it is nice to know who these Senators actually represent. This entire process has been a sham, and denigrates the entire institution.

The Medicaid cuts alone would be catastrophic to hospitals, especially safety net hospitals, who strive to deliver exceptional care to marginalized patient populations. There is no meaningful protection for those with pre-existing conditions in this legislation, despite Senator (Doctor) Cassidy's insistence. This is a pitiful excuse for legislation, and you should be embarrassed to have your name attached to it. You had 7 years to come up with a real, competing alternative to the Affordable Care Act, and instead you come to us with this lazy, last-minute garbage that essentially pushes the healthcare delivery system off of a cliff. Your incompetence is astounding. Shame on you, you lazy, greedy, fools.

Luke B. Nelson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: jule conover <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GRAHAM CASSIDY

As a public health RN for over 30 years I see way too many citizens struggling because of lousy healthcare options. THIS bill would kill a lot of them.

NO to Graham Cassidy!

YES to single payer!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michele Stayer <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

I am an oncology social worker at a national cancer center. Before the ACA was implemented I had to help people diagnosed with cancer find ways to pay for treatment as they were unable to access care due to their pre-existing condition. People who made too much money to qualify for medicaid had to face going bankrupt in order to pay for care. Even with insurance coverage, many patients I assisted had to pay out of pocket for treatment due to lifetime caps, which can be met very quickly when you have metastatic cancer. Graham Cassidy will allow states to waive essential benefits. It allows insurance companies to impose higher premiums on those with expensive pre-existing conditions, it ends Medicaid expansion which has allowed many of my patients to access affordable care. My patients risk losing their health insurance by being priced out of the market or having to purchase plans that may not cover their chemotherapy, or their hospitalizations. I don't want to return to a time where my patients have to decide whether to go bankrupt or access life saving treatment. We need to fix our healthcare system. This is not the way to do it. Millions of Americans deserve more time and thought put into this. My patients are heroically fighting to save their lives and to live another day with their families.....we need to fight for them. We need to find our compassion.

Michele Ochoa, LCSW, ACHP-SW, OSW-C

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tom Mooney <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment for public record on Graham - Cassidy Bill

I am against/not in favor of the above referenced bill.

I take this position because it is not in my self interest, not in my families self interest, nor in my neighbors self interest nor in the self interest of any American.

Healthcare should not be a "for profit" enterprise. The incentives are completely wrong. Under today's frameworks, the Insurance Companies do best when they take in more money (higher premiums) than is paid out (less coverage and less effective coverage leading to early demise thus reducing long term care costs).

Healthcare in the world's most successful country is an expectation/a right rather than a privilege. Healthcare's profit motive needs to be removed and the only way to do that is to have the government run the program. Different States would cover illnesses and coverage differently, and this lack of transferability further impacts American mobility/future economic growth.

This is simply bad/horrible policy for the sake of getting a "win" in the Legislature. If a win is all you want, then "declare victory, and go home".

Tom Mooney

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eric Tichy <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stop Graham-Cassidy

Good Morning,

I was informed today that I can email this address to have my thoughts included in the public record prior to Monday's hearing. I am writing to implore you all to stop this bill, and work for a bipartisan solution to improve healthcare for ALL Americans.

It is clear that Graham-Cassidy is an ill conceived bill designed to bypass public scrutiny and benefit a handful of citizens at the expense of our most vulnerable. It is fundamentally cruel and cynical at it's core, and is being rammed through at the behest of large corporate donors (ex Mercers, Kochs).

Please, in the name of compassion for your fellow Americans and democracy, do not allow this bill to pass.

Thank you,

~ Eric

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sandra Applebaum <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose

I strongly oppose Graham Cassidy, as do 80% of us, and all medical orgs. 25 years ago, my mother couldn't get insurance because of all her preexisting conditions. My father is and was self employed. When she had a brain aneurysm (on my father's birthday), she was in hospital for 19 days, almost all in ICU until last couple days when it was inevitable she was going to die. She was only 57. My age now. This was not only emotionally devastating to us, but it was financially devastating to my father. He had to sell his home and still had to work out payments to hospital, doctors, et al.

I too am self employed. Prior to ACA, I was paying nearly \$500/month for crappie ins with high deductibles, etc. Premiums went up every year at my birthday. With ACA, I pay less than \$150 with much better coverage. I can't go back to paying what it will be without ACA.

Don't do this just because you campaigned on this and hated Pres. Obama. It's unnecessarily cruel. You have great insurance we pay for you, but you meant to lie about Graham Cassidy and screw us over. That's just hateful and irresponsible.

SANDRA APPLEBAUM

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: John Rodenhiser [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

Do not repeal or replace the ACA, my family needs it. And quite frankly I'm sick and tired of the GOP terrorizing my family every other week not knowing if we'll have insurance or not. There's a reason you and trump won't talk about the details of your bill and what it does and does not cover. You had 8 years and did nothing so don't expect any support for this bill, it's a joke just like our fake rude arrogant and always lying president.

Keep your greedy hands off my family, leave us alone. What a disaster you've made of my America.
John Rodenhiser
A totally disgusted citizen.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Brittany Wattenbarger <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

I am against this bill and expect a full CBO score before any progress is made on it. Stop being shady.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Erin Finney <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Mr. Senator:

Please vote against this bill. It will be horrible for middle class Americans, increase healthcare costs for millions and make medical care out of reach for many. Simply put, it will kill people.

Regards,

Erin Finney

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Harrison [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: This bill hurts all Americans.

This bill hurts all Americans.

I find it hard to believe that I'm having to write this. Why is my health and the health of my family on the chopping block every three months? This bill not only dismantles the ACA, but it takes away protections that we had before the ACA. It's the worst possible bill for all Americans, not just the ones in blue states.

I'm a mother, a wife, and a full time employee. I get health care through my employer. My family relies on my health insurance for their coverage. I also have several pre-existing medical conditions. I have no gall bladder, no appendix, no thyroid, and I have a history of blood clots. I also have multiple sclerosis. To stay healthy and continue to be a productive member of society, I have to take my medications. And I have a lot. What if I lose my job (through no fault of my own - I work at a newspaper) and have to rely on the ACA for my healthcare, and it's not there? I have to take my medication or my disease progresses. Without health insurance, my disease will progress, and I become unable to work.

From a practical standpoint, it makes no sense to deliberately take productive members of society and turn them into a drain on society.

This bill hurts small business owners, freelancers, contractors, and part-time employees who work several jobs. This bill goes against everything that the Republican party used to stand for - the power of the small business owner against large corporations. Just think, two years ago I had dreams of being able to operate my own business, and make leather masks for a living. Now I don't see any way to do that. I'll work full time my entire life until I die at my desk, just so that I and my family can have health care.

Thank you for your time.

- Jennifer Harrison

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kelly M. Adams <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

The Graham Cassidy bill is a reckless, thoughtless danger. What kind of fools would seek to radically remake 1/6 of the US economy with so little diligence about the details - the financial details and the human suffering details? I cannot imagine a time when an entire party in the Senate has taken so little care of their oath to the American people. We all deserve better.

-Kelly Adams

[REDACTED] Vermont

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bri Viafora <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I am very terrified of this bill. I have been diagnosed with depression and anxiety disorder and an eating disorder for about five years. I rely on therapy and medication to help me and because of my health care that is the only way I would be able to afford either of those services. If this bill passes it takes away money from California and I won't be able to pay for my health care with the rising cost of premiums as well as having a pre-existing condition. The one time I tried to wean myself off my medication I went into a horrible depression and couldn't get out of bed for weeks. I'm afraid this will happen again and won't be able to afford my medication which is already quite high. And the fact of the matter is I'm not just worried about myself I'm worried about the millions of Americans out there who could lose access to healthcare people who have cancer who won't be able to afford treatment, your babies being born with heart defects through no fault of their own. there's just so many things out there that could go wrong it's absolutely terrifying and seems so unfair just because Republicans want to get a tax cuts to the rich friends. I have stayed awake at night absolutely terrified that something could happen to me if I don't have access to healthcare and I thought we were home free when the last bill failed and now here we are again and I'm going through the same emotions and sadness anger and being scared and major anxiety more so than anything. Please please please I'm begging you do not support this bill do not pass it it's so scary I'm afraid of what will happen I'm just absolutely terrified.

Briana Viafora
[REDACTED] California
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Diane Macente <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Please do not pass this bill. It is brutal and unfortunate to all in the United States. How do Republicans sleep at night?
Where are your morals?

Diane. Macente

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anna Reid <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: CC Andy Slavitt Senate Finance Committee ACA Repeal story

To Whom it May Concern,

This previous Tuesday I underwent a lifesaving surgery at the University of Chicago for my Chiari Malformation and Syringomyelia that was made possible due to the ACA. I am a pharmacist and will now be able to potentially work full time and have a greatly improved quality of life. Without the ACA my husband and I would be burdened by my preexisting conditions and be strapped with extensive expenses due to my conditions.

As a healthcare worker I have also been able to see how much the ACA has impacted my patients as well. The repeal of this law would be so detrimental to not only myself but to those I serve daily.

Thank you for your time,

Anna Bowling, Pharm D.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Adam Peterson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Constituent comments Re: Graham Cassidy

Senators of the Finance Committee,

I am writing to provide comments to you regarding the Graham Cassidy Amendment to radically restructure healthcare delivery in the United States, let alone here in my home Indiana. As I understand it, the Graham Cassidy Amendment shifts all responsibility for healthcare delivery (as well as health insurance regulation) to the states with a cut to funding of up to \$4 trillion over the next 20 years (estimated to impact Indiana to the tune of up to \$74 billion). Can you provide Hoosier families peace of mind that Governor Holcomb and the Indiana legislature, as well as such successor Indiana governments that may be elected, will enshrine the current existing Essential Health Benefits requirement that all health insurance policies sold in Indiana must provide? Can you provide that assurance along with the assurance that no Hoosier family will lose coverage that provides for Essential Health Benefits and that the cost of that coverage will not exponentially increase? Can you guarantee that lifetime and annual caps will remain a thing of the past? Can you guarantee that someone with a pre-existing medical condition will not be price discriminated against in the insurance market? How can I attract people to come to Indiana to work if there is such a low bar on health insurance requirements that out of pocket costs keep me from hiring the best people away from states like California? Can you please explain to me why you would want to turn the clock backward when your colleagues were working on bi-partisan solutions to stabilize the individual market in the HELP Committee? Is this all because the Koch Brothers are holding up campaign spending on your behalf if you do not get repeal of the Affordable Care Act done? Who do you stand with?

Respectfully submitted,

Adam D. Peterson
[REDACTED] Indiana

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Holly A. Roycraft <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:12 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to Graham-Cassidy

Interesting times we live in when I need to continuously write or call begging politicians not to mess with my disabled daughter's health care. As if caring for a loved one who is disabled isn't difficult enough.

Vote no NO on Graham-Cassidy. People are paying attention.

Thank you!

Holly A. Roycraft
Seeley G. Mudd Library
Lawrence University

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Grace Leatherman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repeal and Replace

Dear Sirs and Madames,

As a fiscal conservative, I support efforts to reduce government spending. As an individual, however, I am frightened of the latest repeal and replace bill. Independent insurance agencies including Blue Cross Blue Shield have stated that the legislation would throw the market into chaos. My family has insurance through my husband's employer, and we have still paid \$6000 on health care this year, beyond our premiums. We don't know what we will do if that number goes up, or how families in the individual market cope. I am at high risk for breast cancer, and do not find the language about pre-existing conditions to be adequate. Please do not approve this legislation.

Sincerely,

Grace Leatherman

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michael Senko <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:52 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Urgent Policy Alert: Oppose the Latest Effort to Repeal and Replace the ACA

To Whom It May Concern,

I am strongly opposed to this current version of the Repeal and Replace effort. I have been providing psychotherapy for the past 16 years, and I continue to work with individuals who are struggling to cope with every day stressors due to instances of childhood traumas. These individuals struggle with being unable to hold a job, remain in stable relationships, cope with addiction, and manage the medical complications that are the result of emotional distress. I strongly oppose any repeal and replace effort that will limit, reduce, or eliminate the treatment and care for those suffering from the lasting effects of childhood trauma. When they were children, they didn't ask for trauma that would impact the course of their lives in this manner. Let's not make them victim to yet another trauma; the loss of the health care that they need.

It is easy for us who have not experienced such abuse to not give those who have suffered the attention that they deserve. Like I tell anyone who asks about what I do for a living, "We are all one step away from needing to speak to a therapist. It only takes one loss in our lives; be it in a relationship, with a family member or friend, or the loss of employment." We need one another to thrive in this world. Competition in financial, medical, political, and/or military arenas is not sustainable for any society. Research consistently shows that violent competition (competition in financial markets is one example) results in a loss for everyone involved. A health care system that doesn't allow for mutual aid and cooperation will degrade the very population that it is supposed to be serving. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Senko, [REDACTED]

Michael Senko [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 21078
Office phone [REDACTED]
Fax [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Notice : This electronic message is intended to be for the use only of the named recipient, and may contain information that is confidential or privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of the contents of this message is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error or are not the named recipient, please notify us immediately by contacting the sender at the electronic mail address noted above, and delete and destroy all copies of this message. Thank you.
Notice : This electronic message is intended to be for the use only of the named recipient, and may contain information that is confidential or privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of the contents of this message is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error or are not the named recipient, please notify us immediately by contacting the

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:50 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Medicaid Vital for My Family-Wisconsin
Attachments: Matt Story.pdf

Thank you for allowing comments about the new health care bill that will make sweeping changes to medicaid and the provisions for insurance across the US. I am concerned about the cuts to medicaid and the ability for states to waiver pre-existing conditions and treatment for mental health disorders. I have attached my son's story about how he has used medicaid since he was a little boy. Please share with the committee.

Thank you,
Sally Flaschberger
[REDACTED] WI
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Matthew Nelson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

Good Morning Senator(s),

Please, **DO NOT**, vote in favor of the Graham,-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

This, in no way, is a viable solution to the ACA. In fact, it is clearly a rushed and desperate attempt from an irresponsible administration to simply just repeal the ACA rather than taking the time to create a suitable solution to Healthcare in America.

Please, I implore you, do not waste your vote on a plan that is not in the best interest of the people who elected you into office.

Use your power responsibly for the people of this country.

Thank you,

- M.N.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Helen Canter <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:46 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Proposed Healthcare Bill

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing today out of fear for myself and my fellow American citizens. The healthcare bill proposed will cause millions to suffer, many to die, and many to file for medical bankruptcy. I ask myself regularly how we got here. I do not understand how so many elected officials appear to be so out of touch with the average American citizen. Here are some ways this bill would negatively impact me and my family and friends:

1. It allows insurers to charge more for people with preexisting conditions--a high percentage of Americans that includes disabled children, babies with birth complications, etc.
2. It allows rates to go up astronomically for older Americans (over 50), even those who are healthy and low-level consumers of healthcare.
3. It severely impacts subsidies for purchasing health insurance--most pointedly in states that accepted Medicaid expansion. This seems both vindictive and incredibly punishing of ordinary citizens who are happy to finally have insurance they can afford.
4. It begins a phase out of Medicaid, changing it to a block grant system by state. Part of why Medicaid works is that costs cannot be assumed. Some states have a higher percentage of disabled elderly people in nursing homes. Speaking from personal experience, there are two in our family and both worked all of their lives, saved enough but went through all of their life savings in 3-5 years because they needed longterm care. They eventually went on Medicaid. Both are still living. What will happen to those people? They both require 24 hour nursing care. The families still work and cannot afford to provide 24 hour care for them.
5. What happens to the entrepreneurs who started businesses after the ACA became our law? They put everything on the line because they could now obtain affordable health insurance. I thought our government supported American innovation and that particular American dream. I suspect that many of them will quickly scramble back to the job they hated if they are lucky enough to even find employment that offers healthcare.
6. What happens to those who early retired because of downsizing or health issues? We currently pay for our own insurance since we are not Medicare age. If our insurance rates were to increase (estimates say it will go up 20-40% under this proposed legislation) we won't be able to afford it.
7. The ACA isn't perfect. We all know that. There needs to be negotiation with drug companies, durable medical equipment, doctors, and insurance companies. We, the American people, are not offered the same opportunities to have excellent healthcare as the members of the Senate. Please at least allow us to live with the dignity of knowing we have affordable insurance that our government is working hard to fix. We are the ONLY country in the developed world without coverage for all of its citizens.
8. Please stop the "socialist" scare. I was shocked to hear the socialist vs. federalist argument. We have successfully had Medicare and Medicaid for decades. In countries with national health insurance, the citizens have way less stress and tend to visit doctors as needed. We ration healthcare (our son hesitates to go to the doctor for a possible elbow injury because he has a \$4,000 deductible and no HSA--he buys insurance through the exchanges). Our daughter also makes choices to forgo healthcare when it isn't covered. She has an HSA through work but they only contribute \$100 a month for a plan with a \$4,000 deductible. This is a broken system.

DO NOT ALLOW THIS BILL TO PASS. IT WILL CAUSE MILLIONS OF AMERICANS TO SUFFER.
These are real people--sons, daughters, mothers, fathers, grandparents. They are hardworking and ethical. They

used to trust their government to do the right thing and act in their best interest. Do not abandon the American people. We deserve better.

Sincerely,
HDC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Deanna Schneider <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:11 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

The Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill would be devastating for millions of Americans. At a moment in history when so many American citizens are currently suffering through the effects of natural disasters, this bill would be a man-made disaster. Please do not pass this bill. Please find a way to make health care affordable for all citizens - those who do and do not have pre-existing conditions, those who do and do not have employer-sponsored coverage. Health care should be a fundamental human right, not a privilege only few can afford.

Thank you.
-Deanna
voter from Wisconsin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tricia Thompson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:55 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill
Attachments: nathan.jpg

My name is Tricia Thompson and I live in Menomonie, Wisconsin. I am writing today to submit testimony in regards to the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

My husband and I adopted my brother in 2003. I have attached a picture to this e-mail. He is currently 23 and lives with my husband and I. He also has been diagnosed with a developmental and mental health disability. He works full-time and drives to and from work on his own. He also relies on our health insurance because he only earns \$12/hour and is unable to afford his employer offered health care.

We have fought everyday of his life to make sure he has the supports and services he needs to be independent. The reality is that he does have a pre-existing condition. I read today, "States could waive out of pre-existing protections under the current law as long as they stipulate how they would maintain affordable coverage for this group," and I am nervous. If the solution is high risk pools, that is not a solution he will be able to afford. If the solution is the insurance available to him that is less expensive, but doesn't cover his medication; that is not a solution his life can afford.

In addition to pre-existing conditions, I am also very worried about the proposed medicaid decrease in funding. I work with youth and families with disabilities who rely on Medicaid to fund the employment supports they need in order to be successful at work. These are the same supports my brother once needed, but no longer does. The support was present when he needed it and thankfully he is able to access natural supports on the job.

I am tired of fighting for what should be a universal right in this country. Tax breaks for the elite wealthy should not be our collective priority. People like my brother, who has overcome tremendous personal adversity, should be the priority. This bill seeks to undermine the success he has attained.

Please oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Please oppose any cuts to Medicaid

Please work in a bipartisan fashion to increase access to affordable, accessible health care and long term services and supports.

Sincerely,
Tricia Thompson

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], WI 54751
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:04 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Bill -- Please vote NO on this horrible legislation

As someone with a chronic autoimmune disorder that could NOT be prevented with good lifestyle choices, this bill SCARES THE HELL OUT OF ME.

I need affordable insurance for this pre-existing condition, which I have no hope of ever being rid of. The immune-suppressant drugs I need to function are currently covered by insurance. The retail price is almost \$1300/month, which is more than the principal and interest on my MORTGAGE. Anyone who thinks the average American can afford \$1300/month for medication is delusional and has no business purporting to represent ordinary citizens.

Even with insurance, the price is steep. I pay \$300/month out of pocket, and that is only because a generic drug finally hit the market about 2 months ago. The name-brand drug is under patent will not expire for another 3 years. My last refill of that cost me approximately \$940 for a 1-month supply. (The generic is available because the manufacturers of LIALDA lost an infringement lawsuit).

I hated ObamaCare until I was diagnosed with this condition. Shame on me! Shame on all of you who want to remove protections for pre-existing conditions.

Insurance is MEANT to cover illnesses that responsible people cannot prevent or save enough to cover healthcare for. This bill aims to jeopardize that protection for those of us who have pre-existing conditions. If people are priced out of the insurance market--or excluded entirely because of annual and lifetime caps--they are going to become ill, and the results will be devastating. I work hard and make a good living, as do many other people with chronic conditions. Hard work is only possible, however, if we are healthy enough to work in the first place. (My symptoms started as what I thought was nasty stomach bug or food poisoning. It was miserable, and there were days I was unable to work. Without treatment, it would have gotten much worse).

Legislation that threatens to financially ruin and disable hard-working and productive citizens simply because they are not physically perfect is NOT good for this country. At best, this bill is misguided. At worst, it reflects an "only the strong shall survive" attitude more appropriate for ancient Sparta and the eugenics movement than a country founded on the American Dream.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kelly Batiancila <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2017 11:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GRAHAM Cassidy bill

To the Senators voting on a bill that will literally affect every single US citizen,

My 9 year old was born unexpectedly 6 weeks early. He spent 10 days in the Nicu as his small body learned to eat, to stay warm, and to moderate his sodium levels. By all accounts his was a very "simple" stay in the Nicu. His bill was well over \$70,000.

In 2010 as I was leaving work I was struck in the crosswalk by a Septa bus leaving me with a traumatic brain injury. I was in the icu for a week. I spent a year in outpatient therapy and vision therapy. At this time my husband was out of work getting his MBA and my \$55k salary was our only income. Although I count myself extremely lucky that my deficits are ones I can manage as I am not able to work, my hospital bills totaled over \$100,000.

In 2016 my same preemie son now age 8 had a headache for 160 straight days. After 15 doctor visits, a CT scan and an MRI he recieved a dual diagnosis of a blocked sinus that required surgery and Amplified musculoskeletal pain syndrome which required 3 months of PT after the surgery. He was lucky to be healed after several months but his bills all told exceeded \$25,000.

In May my 5 year old daughter had an unexpected overnight stay in CHOP. Her bill was several thousand dollars.

These are stories just for my healthy family of 5. We have had good insurance or else based on these 4 events that were out of our control we would be bankrupt. This does not include my 3 c sections and hospital stays that did count against my lifetime cap.

Americans, ALL AMERICANS should not have to live in fear of losing their homes over a hospital stay. They should not have to choose between medication for themselves or their medically fragile children. They should not be forced back to work 2 weeks after giving birth. They should not have Medicare stripped away. They should not have to travel 3 hours to a hospital because the local rural one had to close. They should not have less coverage and be discriminated against because they are women. They should not exceed a lifetime cap before the age of one. And this list could go on and on.

Senators your constituents are once again for the third time in as many months saying WE DON'T WANT THIS BILL... how will you stand up for your constituents with the Graham Cassidy NON-health NON-care bill? We want a bipartisan solution to healthcare.

Kelly Batiancila

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tamara Collier <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2017 9:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please oppose

Hello,

I am an employer of Upper Bay Counseling Services in Cecil County MD. I vehemently oppose appeals to the ACA especially the most recent proposal under the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson appeal. As a mental health provider helping deliver much needed health care to youth and their families, I have seen first-hand how appropriate use of Medicaid and Private Insurance has helped increase the health of our most vulnerable population in that of the youth. I have seen how addressing mental health concerns helps children achieve, succeed and prepare better to be productive members of society. If this repeal is allowed to be made law I cannot fathom the impacts on children's health, and especially well-being which is the future of our own well-being for the whole of The United States.

On a personal note, I would also like to share my appeal as I am a Veteran of the US Navy and suffered a cerebral aneurysm (which is considered a pre-existing condition)- if not for the ACA I would not have access to health care! I and many fellow Veterans do not have access to health care even within the "VA System" without access to Federal, State, or Private insurance. This is completely unacceptable and a travesty that persons who volunteered and served valiantly cannot have appropriate access to health care.

Please take my comments into consideration in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill.
Thank you advance for your consideration,

Tamara Collier

Tamara Collier [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], MD 21921
Office phone [REDACTED] | Cell: [REDACTED]
Fax [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Notice : This electronic message is intended to be for the use only of the named recipient, and may contain information that is confidential or privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of the contents of this message is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error or are not the named recipient, please notify us immediately by contacting the sender at the electronic mail address noted above, and delete and destroy all copies of this message. Thank you.
Notice : This electronic message is intended to be for the use only of the named recipient, and may contain information that is confidential or privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of the contents of this message is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error or are not the named recipient, please notify us immediately by contacting the sender at the electronic mail address noted above, and delete and destroy all copies of this message. Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laurie Moors <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:58 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repeal & Replace

This email is to inform you that I am one of millions who will no longer have health insurance if you repeal the ACA. I am a 60 year old single woman. I care for the elderly to support myself and contribute to the well being of a very vulnerable population. How about you all do the same and stop trying to pass legislation that will destroy the lives of those whom I care for and myself. Fix the problems that exist with the ACA and stop playing politics with our healthcare. Shame on you for even considering taking our healthcare to appease a campaign promise. Your job is to help the lives of American people, not destroy them for political promises!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Lichtenberger <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:57 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to Graham-Cassidy Bill

The Graham-Cassidy bill is a threat to Medicaid and those who rely on it for a life in the community. People like my daughter, B, who has Down syndrome, an intellectual disability. The cuts and caps to the Medicaid program and loss of federal funding is a serious threat to people with disabilities and their families who rely on Medicaid for community based supports. Even though my husband and I both work (me as a public school teacher and he as a IT manager) and we have strong health insurance we still rely on Medicaid to help support our daughter. As she grows older her need will increase for Medicaid to support her living a life as independently as she chooses.

Many of the provisions in this legislation are the same or worse than what we encountered earlier this year, which shows that the architects of this bill are still ignoring the pleas of their constituents with disabilities. The reality is simple – under this proposal less money would be available despite the fact the needs of people who rely on Medicaid have not decreased. My husband and I stand with The Arc and remain staunchly opposed to legislation that includes per capita caps or block granting of Medicaid. We need Members of Congress to find a solution that actually takes into consideration the needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Please help support those in this country with disabilities who rely on Medicaid. Please vote no on the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Thank you,

Sarah Lichtenberger

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ally Rooker <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no on Graham-Cassidy

I do not support the Graham-Cassidy bill. As a public health professional, I am disgusted that it does not include funding for public health emergencies, the opioid crisis, and is a disaster for women's health. Defunding Planned Parenthood and cutting prenatal care protections will result in a generation of poor birth outcomes and devastate our economy.

This bill is cruel. It is not functional and should not be passed. Discriminating against people with pre existing conditions is abhorrent and if this passes the American people will not be kind to the GOP in the upcoming elections. The supporters of this bill do not deserve to serve the American people.

Sincerely
Ally Rooker, [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cheryl Clark <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:55 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Dear US Senators,

Please do not support or vote for this terrible bill that will hurt thousands of American families. We count on you to do what is right for us, and this bill is clearly very harmful.

To be honest, I'm a registered Democrat who would love to see the ACA improved and strengthened. I understand that many Republicans hold views against the ACA. I ask those senators in particular to please work in a bipartisan way to HELP fix it. The American Medical Association and many other associations in the healthcare industry, as well as many insurance companies, oppose Graham Cassidy for excellent reasons. The AMA in fact says it violates the primary rule in their code of ethics: "Do no harm."

Please vote against Graham Cassidy and pursue bipartisan healthcare reform that will actually help the American people. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Cheryl Clark
[REDACTED], CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David Kelsey <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:55 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The American people deserve better than this

People are more important than money in this case. Go back to the drawing board and involve all parties, and genders in improving healthcare.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jenifer Walsh <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:55 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Hello,

I am an advocate and a mother of four. Two of my children have serious mental illness; schizophrenia and bipolar. Both have had multiple hospitalizations and both have been in therapeutic schools. Their medications, which cost over \$1,500 a month, would be unaffordable without Medicaid. We are self employed and I am a primary caregiver. I'm very tired of these efforts to undermine healthcare. I urge a HUGE NO on this disaster of a bill.

Sincerely,
Jenifer Walsh
[REDACTED], Illinois

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jamie Gump <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:54 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Wait for the CBO score!

If this is worthwhile legislation, then wait for the CBO score.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marie Winters <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposed to Graham-Cassidy

Senators,

As a healthcare professional I've seen too many working and middle class families plunged into debt due to unexpected medical diagnoses. Please don not enact a bill that would make this situation worse - that allows states to charge higher premiums for pre-existing conditions, or to deny important medical care, like pediatric visits, maternity and mental health care. Please consider your constituents who will die after they reach new lifetime limits that could result from this bill's passage. Think about your constituents who will be forced to choose between food and a pediatric visit. This bill is unethical.

I urge you all to vote your conscience and vote no.

Thank you,

Marie Winters ND, FABNO

--

Marie Winters ND, FABNO

My ND, LLC

President, Pennsylvania Association of Naturopathic Physicians

(215) 313-4114

my-naturopathic-doctor.com

PRIVACY/CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:

This message and any included attachments contains private and confidential information and is intended for recipients of the My ND, LLC only. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify marie.winters@gmail.com immediately and delete all information without reading or saving anything to any storage device. If you are the intended recipient(s) you will need to secure the contents of such confidential and private materials, as pertaining to the HIPAA Privacy guidelines, and understand that unauthorized sharing or distribution is strictly prohibited. Be aware that Internet communications may not be guaranteed secure or error-free.

DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this email is for the sole purpose of being informative. This information is not and should not be used or relied upon as medical advice.

Always seek the advice of your physician, nurse or other qualified health care provider before you undergo any treatment, take any medication, supplements or other nutritional support, or for answers to any questions you may have regarding a medical condition.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Neva Garcia <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:52 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Appeal

Why should we, the American taxpayer, have no healthcare, yet the men who want to take it away, have superior healthcare for life, paid for by the same American taxpayer?

I have insurance with my employer. If we did away with Obamacare, I would have to pay out-of-pocket for mediations, mammograms and colonoscopies as well as other preventative care. Is the government willing to pay for the treatment of ill people because they refused to pay for preventative care?

Vote no on Graham-Cassidy's sham.

Neva Garcia
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kate McManus <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Save ACA

My four grandparents are with me because of Medicare. It's no exaggeration - they would be dead, in some cases, several times over, without this coverage. Even my grandfather who is a Navy veteran. He's on his second pacemaker.

My parents are retiring in three years. They will need Medicare, both have pre-existing conditions. My dad is a cancer survivor, and will likely inherit the heart conditions that plagued his parents.

My best friend is trying to get pregnant. Gutting maternal and infant care will hurt her and her future baby.

I have a pre-existing condition. I have been on Medicaid under the ACA (thanks to MNSure). Thank goodness for it. I could afford my prescription when I was working two jobs to pay off my student loans, living hand to mouth.

I am grateful every day, every single day, for Senators Klobuchar and Franken, tireless in the fight to protect healthcare for millions and millions of Americans.

Repealing it will kill us.

Kate McManus

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michael McDonald <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment on Graeme Cassidy

I am concerned about the waiver being given to the states to allow pricing changes to those with preexisting conditions. Please explain why stripping protections for my 9 month old daughter with a minor health condition is fair for her. She has her whole life ahead of her, and she will be forced to start on a lower standing.

The democrats offered some concessions, and you shut down a bipartisan effort. You put party before country, and you should be ashamed of yourself. You embarrass me, you embarrass your country, and you embarrass your constituency.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Wendy DeLisi <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:50 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill

My husband at 27 years old was told he had 6 months to live. 32 years later he's doing well n we've had a wonderful life. In 2007 I became disabled with fibromyalgia and my husband is my caregiver.

We've had healthcare insurance our adult lives and Obamacare got us through waiting for my Medicare to be active. With this deplorable bill the cost of insurance will be most of my husband's check. He will have to forgo insurance coverage for the first time ever. He's a cancer survivor what happens if he gets sick? How can you do this to us as we're winding down for retirement.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jerri Business [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My health story

I have a balance disorder, vertigo and tinnitus. I also have had 2 orthopedic injuries which make me have multiple pre existing conditions. I'm also 61 yo female. I will be unable to afford any medical care unless this terrible bill is voted down

Jerri Michael
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Angela Eilers <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA story

Our ACA story:

I'm the mother of 3, one of which was born with a congenital heart defect. Her name is Myka and she is 7 years old. After her birth, she remained in the NICU for 2 weeks and has had 2 open heart surgeries (one at 4 months old and one at eleven months old). Before the age of 1, she had hit ~\$500k in medical costs.

By the time Myka was 4, my husband was laid off from his job. He saw that as an opportunity to launch his own business. The ACA had been passed by then and we knew we would be able to attain health insurance in the form of a private plan as insurance companies would no longer be able to deny my daughter coverage. My husband's business has continued to grow and has been successful and he's more than happy to be working for himself. He now employs 4 people.

Fast forward to election night, as it became apparent that Donald Trump would win, I was devastated. The only thing I could focus on was his promise to repeal the ACA and what that would mean to my family. Would my husband have to go back to corporate America just to have healthcare? Would he have to fold his business? Would my daughter lose her coverage in January?

My daughter will most likely need a 3rd surgery. I know for a fact she'll come very close to hitting her lifetime cap at that point. We are not receiving any subsidies for our healthcare. I just simply want my daughter to be protected.

Angela Eilers
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Vote No on Graham-Cassidy!

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

Sen. Joe Kennedy on Twitter invited We, the People to submit our opinions of this bill, so here is mine. I am pleading with you to please vote "No" against the Graham-Cassidy repeal effort.

I am shocked that this bill is being co-sponsored by a senator (and a former health care provider himself) from my home state of Louisiana, since he must know how our state would be disproportionately hurt by the passage of this bill. Louisiana is struggling with a huge budget deficit and is one of the poorest and least healthy in the country. There is no way that we could afford to cover pre-existing conditions with a block grant and it is unlikely that our Republican-controlled legislature would even vote to do so.

Furthermore, our state has a sad record of corruption. I would much rather see the money come to us as part of Federal programs and be spent on healthcare for the needy, than end up lining the pockets of local politicians and their cronies. Please resist temptation and don't allow yourself to be swayed by any promises made by the Trump administration or the Koch brothers. Please take the time to study the detrimental impact this would have on our nation and the majority of its citizens.

Senator McCain, unbridled by his nearing retirement, and no longer needing to be beholden to his large corporate donors, has come out and said that an issue of this magnitude should be passed with bipartisan input, so that it will not be undone by every political sea change. Like Senator McCain, I hope that you will find the courage to vote against this one - possibly the most harmful "Replace and Repeal" effort to date.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration on this important matter.

Sincerely,

E.M. Williford
New Orleans, LA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Liz Shofner <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I am a 56-year-old head of family. There are many reasons I am opposed to the repeal of Obamacare. But the primary issue for me is that if the pre-existing conditions provisions are eliminated, neither I nor my husband will be able to get insurance that we can afford. That would be a travesty, and it's an impact that will be felt by thousands, and perhaps millions, of Americans. You simply cannot give someone a right to affordable healthcare and then take it away. And if you do, it should apply equally to all Congresspersons. What's good for the goose....

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jane Del Carlo <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: STOP GRAHAM - CASSIDY

I'm writing to you about the "repeal and replace" disaster called the Graham-Cassidy bill. By ANY measure this is an abomination.

How can Congress vote on a bill affecting 1/6 of our economy without even conscientious debates, input from the democrats and the MILLIONS of constituents it will affect and without the extremely important CBO score? If I were to hazard a guess I would say it's because the republicans don't care what they pass as long as they kill the ACA. Not because it's a bad law, but simply because it was signed into law by our first black president. This is disgusting.

The language that *tries* to hide the fact that the pre-existing condition protections afforded under the ACA will absolutely disappear is reprehensible! How can our elected representatives who are *supposed* to represent us be so cruel, mean and deceitful? It is truly mind-boggling!

Then there's Medicaid. What the blazes does cutting Medicaid prove or solve? Yes, I know it will be a lovely tax cut for the wealthy along with the rest of this abomination. The fact that children, the disabled, the poor and vulnerable seniors will no longer be able to get the care they need is of no consequence apparently. Just give the 1% their damned tax cuts and to hell with the rest just let them die without healthcare. Rhetorically speaking, do I have it right?

I could go on, but I'm fairly certain this isn't even being read or if it is it's of no consequence. I could cite 32 MILLION reasons why this bill should not even be voted on, let alone pass, but I'm getting a headache banging my head against the wall.

PLEASE DO NOT TAKE OUR CARE. Keep the ACA and work on BIPARTISAN fixes. It should not be this difficult and We The People should not have to fight every few months to keep our healthcare!

Thank you,

A voter who doesn't want my name in a database.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lark Ryan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: please don't kill my niece

She has a brain tumor. This bill would kill her, since she'd lose health insurance due to her pre-existing condition, and needs life-saving care.

Please have a heart and save her life.

Sincerely,
Lark Ryan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alecia Domer <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Dear Finance committee members,

I am deeply concerned about the reductions in federal spending on Healthcare that will result from the Graham Cassidy Bill. Healthcare is 1/6 of our economy, cutting huge amounts of funding could create an economic crisis. Here are some of my specific concerns. I am not an expert; so, I imagine this is only a small portion of the economic impact.

- Healthcare spending keeps hospitals open. (jobs).
- Medical practices may file for bankruptcy (less medical care availability, increased court costs, less revenue)
- Less spending on healthcare means less spending of medical equipment (jobs).
- Less spending on healthcare means less spending on pharmaceuticals (jobs).
- Preventative care keeps people from missing work (lost revenue)
- Medicaid enables families to hire help when their elders are infirm. Without medicaid, family members may have to drop out of school or quit their jobs.
- Personal bankruptcies will increase (losses for creditors)

I understand that Healthcare is seen as an entitlement, but I think this viewpoint is short-sighted. Healthcare spending boosts the economy. It is similar to basic infrastructure spending.

I also fail to see the point of spending so much money on our National Defense if we are going to let our citizens die of disease. Healthcare is a national defense. People can't work unless they're healthy. Preventative healthcare slows the spread of disease (this is defensive spending!!!!)

On a humanitarian note, healthcare should be available to all. We dedicate an enormous portion of our GDP to national defense, how is healthcare different? The goal of healthcare and national defense are the same...let's keep everyone alive and preserve their quality of life.

Respectfully,
Alecia Domer
[REDACTED], MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Pearson, Beth (Warren); Frederick, Julia (Warren)
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Proposal Comments for the Record
Attachments: 95 Health Care Stories and Reasons to Reject Graham-Cassidy C.pdf

Dear Members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance:

We are submitting to the Senate Finance Committee, and for the record, the attached ninety-five health care stories and reasons why the Senate and House should vote no on the current Graham-Cassidy bill that would repeal the Affordable Care Act and drastically reduce health care protections to more than 30 million Americans. Our health care stories take place in Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina Texas, Vermont, Washington, but all of the stories describe situations that people in every state in the country experience. Although we are submitting our 95 stories together, we would appreciate the Committee reading and considering each story separately as each story describes a distinct aspect of our and others' health care issues and needs.

We, the contributors of these stories, have a variety of experiences and backgrounds: we are lawyers, artists, film makers, social workers, writers, historians, former health care administrators, volunteers, athletes, teachers, college administrators, computer programmers, legislators, dog walkers, researchers, parents, children, grandparents, and grandchildren, among other things. Some of us are well-off, some of us would be considered middle-class or working class, some of us are retired or on modest fixed incomes, and some of us fall below the poverty line. Many of us are currently insured through our employers, several of us and/or our family members have purchased individual health insurance policies, and some of us depend on Medicare and/or Medicaid.

Sincerely,

Nancer Ballard on behalf of all Contributors to *95 Health Care Stories and Reasons to Vote No on the Graham Cassidy Bill*.

Nancer Ballard
Resident Scholar
Women's Studies Research Center Brandeis University
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cynthia Thompson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:41 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's company is going out of business in two months. He and I are in our early sixties, so too young for Medicare. The stress of his losing his job is enough besides the worry now that we may not be able to afford health insurance. This bill will hurt millions of people! Please work on a bipartisan bill that is going to HELP people not hurt them. The current bill being voted on is NOT IT!!

Cynthia Thompson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: pamelafischer <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Villanueva, Josie (Duckworth); McNiece, Jessica (Durbin)
Subject: Graham Cassidy

I oppose the Graham Cassidy healthcare bill being presented in the Senate. A lack of hearings, opposition by almost all healthcare associations, and the ultimate cost of an unhealthy and financially uncertain middle class make this bill a despicable proposition.

Pamela Fischer
[REDACTED], IL 60660

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: johnnyko [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re: Please consider my statement for Monday's committee hearing on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal

[slight edits to the previous email for clarity and grammar]

Chairman Hatch, Senator Wyden, and members of the committee,

I'm writing you with regards to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal. Like millions of Americans, a pre-existing condition made it nearly impossible for me to obtain usable health care coverage before the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Access to affordable coverage didn't just improve my quality of life. It resulted in a significant increase in my personal income and the ability for my wife and I to buy a home.

I was born in Ohio with a birth defect that requires me to wear a prosthetic - a glass eye. Technically, this counts as a pre-existing condition, although the only real hardship my disability causes is that I over-pay for 3D movies that I can't really enjoy. It's recommended I replace the prosthetic every 4-7 years, and a new eye would cost me roughly \$3500 out of pocket. In other words, my pre-existing condition would cost my insurance company roughly \$60/month if they paid market prices, which is never the case.

Because of this pre-existing condition, I was denied health insurance on my employers' plans from 2004-2014. For a brief period of time while living in Ohio, I was eligible for an employer's high-deductible plan, but the associated costs meant that a simple physical cost me as much as I was making in a week.

In 2009, I moved from Ohio to California to pursue work during the recession. In 2014, I had usable health insurance for the first time in a decade. In April of 2015, I saw a doctor for the first time in years. In May of 2015, I was hospitalized.

I've dealt with depression my entire adult life. Unlike my birth defect, this pre-existing condition has a real and tangible effect on my day to day life. Shortly after discussing this with a doctor for the first time since high school, I was admitted for in-patient mental health care on a doctor's recommendation after reacting poorly to the first antidepressant I was prescribed.

The week I spent in the hospital was one of the best things that's ever happened to me. Close observation meant that we were able to find a medication that worked for me. The impact this treatment has had on my life is undeniable. My income now is more than triple what it was in 2014, and my wife and I were recently able to afford our first home. That's the effect that \$20 worth of medication every month had on my life.

When I look back on the ten years I went without health coverage, I'm incredibly saddened. I wonder where I would be in my life if I'd had access to the care I needed when I was 22, and not when I was 32. Right now, there are recent grads from UC San Diego and Ohio State that are in the same position I was. The difference is that they have access to care, and no minor birth defect can take that away. Their potential is so much greater than mine, simply because of their access to care.

Senators, I implore you to reject this bill. Its passage and implementation will cause irreparable hardship to your constituencies. Millions of your constituents will lose their health coverage. Some of them will be unable to afford continued care. Some of them will be forced into bankruptcy. Some of them will die.

Senator Portman and Senator Brown, I mentioned that I'm originally an Ohioan. The passage of the Graham-Cassidy proposal would prevent me from permanently returning. Simply put, if this bill passes, I have more faith in the government of California to protect my access to care and essential services than I do in the government of Ohio. If this bill passes, I will encourage my friends and family to relocate themselves and their businesses to a state that will make their health care a priority.

Thank you, Senators, for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
John M. Kolasinski
S [REDACTED], CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sara Birckhead <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:23 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 impact it will have on 100,000 + people in West Virginia who depend on the ACA and expansion Medicaid to access services.

Please do not support this terrible bill!

Sara Birckhead

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Belinda Gaston <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no

The Graham-Cassidy bill is awful & even more people will lose health insurance. Vote NO!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mark Cartier [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Not sure why 'our' elected representatives still continue to focus on making life more difficult for those most vulnerable instead of focusing on infrastructure, climate change, upgrading our Navy while extracting us from our Middle Eastern fiascos, and any number of other more important issues. Shame on you. Truly, you need to examine your motives. Vote No. Please.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michael Peters <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

To whom it should concern:

I am a self-employed attorney (knowledgeable about insurance generally), taxpayer, and consistent voter, and have been the latter since 1980.

To date, none of the sponsors and apologists for this “bill” have even begun to explain how this bill (or its predecessors promulgated by the GOP legislature) begins to help the American people obtain decent health care at an affordable price. This bill is obviously a sop to the health insurance industry, and the predicate to a gigantic tax cut that will greatly benefit a very small percentage of American families (about 400 families holding an incredible percentage of the national wealth), and significantly benefit other wealthy Americans, among them: me.

I am a professional, above-average in income and potential for growth, and frankly quite content to pay a fair share of my income (25% on gross income for many years) so that all Americans, including myself, can live decent, wholesome lives. Thought and wealth leaders like Warren Buffett, Bill and Melinda Gates, and others, are practically begging Congress to rationalize and justify (impose justice) on the tax code, so that vital and basic social services can be provided, and so that we can perpetuate a decent, civil American society.

The GOP Congress and White House clearly has another agenda. Accordingly, chalk up my votes—both on this “bill” and others going forward—for the resistance:

NO on Graham-Cassidy.

Respectfully,

Michael E. Peters, Esq.

cc: Sen. Bob Casey
Sen. Pat Toomey

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shawn Steen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:59 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, September 25, 2017

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

I write to express my deep opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal. The sponsors of this Proposal vowed that it would replace the ACA with something better and more affordable –yet it fails miserably in all respects. I demand a full and fair hearing on this legislation *after* it has been analyzed by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). 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. The Proposal introduces pre-existing condition exclusions, limits essential health services, and reduces the affordability of health insurance. This is unacceptable.

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal 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; when a person with asthma couldn't afford health insurance due to a pre-existing condition; when a person working a full-time job couldn't afford health insurance. **This is not what Americans want.**

Millions of elderly individuals and people with disabilities rely on traditional Medicaid for their lives, well-being, and independence. 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. 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 children 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 crucial –and cutting it puts children's lives at risk. Children with 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. Taking away their healthcare thus also negatively impacts our economy.

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 despite being told by millions of American citizens that this is not what we want.

Ms. Shawn M. Steen

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 3704

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Peter Schiano <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:58 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please improve ACA and do not replace it -will hurt my family and our economy to trash it.

ACA provisions to guarantee baseline contents of insurance and prohibit pre existing condition discrimination have had real impact on my family including my kids and siblings. It needs a reinsurance model for the highest cost cases to help stabilize the market - but that is a much better choice than trashing the benefits it is providing. The Medicare expansion has provided the only coverage my adult son can afford, without it he would go uninsured and face bankruptcy for major issues and neglect for non catastrophic symptoms.

I have 2 cancer survivors in my family, who could never change jobs if pre existing protections were not firmly in place - that block on worker mobility would hurt the economy. My 22 year old son suffered a random collapsed lung and would have been bankrupted without insurance coverage, crippling his financial future just as he was starting out on his own. The cancer survivors would be bankrupt without insurance in place, and would face great hardship if they lost their job and had to pay cancer survivor rates buying insurance on their own.

Mental health, maternity and prescription coverage needs to be part of any insurance plan - they have all been important parts of my family's care, and no family should be asked to do without them. Would you give them up for your family?

We are too rich a country to have people dying, becoming homeless (as many mentally ill do) or bankrupting due to lack of access to full health care. Please only consider solutions that build up rather than tear town the system. First do no harm...

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Leah Tahiry <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:59 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare Bill/Cassidy Graham

This bill does nothing to improve the current plan. In fact many more will be burdened when they can least afford it; seniors on limited incomes, those with pre-existing conditions, and those on Medicaid. I urge every member of Congress to seek a better plan.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Molly Brown [REDACTED] m>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:58 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill
Attachments: Hospital bill for 20 year old.jpg

Healthy young people need health insurance also. There was a 20 year old who woke up in agony one morning. He had appendicitis and needed surgery. Fortunately he was still on his parents insurance which covered much of the hospital bill. Otherwise he would be heavily in debt or forced to file for bankruptcy.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Madeline Nancy Potter [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:58 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

You must not repeal the ACA! A society is judged by how well it cares for the least fortunate, not how rich the top 20 people in the country are! You should be ashamed of yourselves.

Start representing the people, not the Koch Brothers and their ilk.

DO NOT PASS GRAHAM-CASSIDY AND STOP LYING TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC.

Madeline Potter

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Katie Emery [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Access to healthcare is a human right. It's self-evident and as necessary as your thirst for water, your hunger for food, your desire to live.

Does the Graham-Cassidy proposal give more Americans that right?

I don't know because we barely have discussed it as a nation. Senators don't know and are making blind decisions. Are their motivations driven by the real dilemmas faced by Americans facing life, death, or bankruptcy from medical situations?

Your vote will affect the life and death of far more Americans than those in your state. Your vote will be felt by me in Oregon, my family in Illinois, my friends in Tennessee. No other vote in your service to us Americans will have more life and death consequences. You will touch all of us.

Do let this bill come up for a vote. Do not vote for this bill.

--

Stay Classy,
Katie

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Brieaux Poche
brelulz@me.com
P.O. Box 536
Ponchatoula, Louisiana 70454

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sheila Schat [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please STOP ACA repeal

Dear Senators,

I'm deeply concerned about Republican attempts to repeal the ACA and rip away affordable health insurance from millions of hard working Americans.

I have asked my California senators to use all the tools they can, including "withholding consent" because I deeply believe that nothing else is worth healthcare getting ripped away from millions of Americans.

I think the very least our elected officials can do and should do, is ensure that a long, public debate takes place before radically changing our health care programs. The Graham-Cassidy proposal is an attempt to bypass this public process. Vote NO on this proposal.

Thank you,

--
Sheila Schat
[REDACTED] 95073

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Betty and Doug Lynn <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Sasse, info (Sasse); senator_fischer@fischer.senate.gov; david sobilo; Matthew Cann; mcgee.marion6@gmail.com; Pamela Mann; mwilliams@leg.ne.gov
Subject: Graham - Cassidy bill

My name is Warren Lynn. I live in [REDACTED] I am 70 years old.

My daughter, Emma K. Lynn, lives in a group home here in Lexington where she receives residential services. She is transported to Cozad, NE to a workshop where she receives day program services Monday - Friday. She receives these Medicaid funded services because she has had severe mental and physical disabilities since she contracted tubercular meningitis shortly after being born in 1976 in the Naval Hospital at the Subic Naval Base in the Philippines where I was stationed from 1976 - 1978. So, she has had the pre-existing condition of these disabilities for all of her 41 years.

Emma is able to receive services in the community solely because of Medicaid funding. My understanding of the Graham - Cassidy bill is that Medicaid funding would be significantly reduced, and that states would be allowed to waive protections for persons with pre-existing conditions. Persons like Emma. Which, is why I am concerned about the future of Medicaid; I will not be around forever o advocate for her.

My question is: what will happen to my daughter's Medicaid funding under the Graham - Cassidy bill, now and in the next 10 years?

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:47 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.

Bruce Waltzer

bruce@waltzerlaw.com

232 Lake Marina Ave Apy 4 A

New Orleans, Louisiana 70124

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

To whom it may concern,

As a Doctor of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine, I as well as my patients rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill which will leave elderly, sick, and low-income Americans without access to care. Many of my patients will no longer be able to see their other doctors or afford medication or tests, should this bill go through. The state of Louisiana, which recently expanded Medicaid providing healthcare for many people in need, stands to lose \$7.3 billion with this legislation. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Kate Iberg, DACM, LAc
Doctor of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine
New Orleans, LA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judith Sachs [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to Graham-Cassidy bill
Attachments: PastedGraphic-7.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Dear Senators,

I am an American citizen from Philadelphia who votes in every election. I am asking you to vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill. Again, this is an unacceptable substitute for the current Affordable Healthcare Act. In addition, there is no CBO score, and the AARP and AMA are against it (as are many GOP governors). But what is worst about it are the millions who would lose health insurance, including vets and children. Payment for pre-existing conditions would sky-rocket, and a discriminatory tax would prevent many over the age of 50, like myself, from getting care. I TRUST YOU TO TEAR UP THIS BILL. THIS IS URGENT. Please listen to the American people and allow them to keep their healthcare.

Thank you,

Judith Sachs
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

"sit down and move"

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE AGAINST GRAHAM-CASSIDY

Please do not repeal the ACA or Obamacare as some people call it. My family need affordable health care. Right now it's not perfect, but Graham-Cassidy would take us back to the dark ages. My family members have pre-existing conditions and need affordable care. I would support single payer. I support and would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve ACA, not repeal it. This ridiculous rush to repeal it for purely political reasons and with no consideration for real Americans with real problems is disappointing. I expect and demand better.

Cordially,

Alexandra Mora

Metairie, Louisiana

--

If you are a client or are a work contact and want to ensure my receipt of your reply, please copy my work e-mail at amora@alexmora.com.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sean McMahon <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do Not Pass The Graham Cassidy Bill

Work together and fix whats wrong with our healthcare, don't make it worse.

Do something all the American people can be proud of!

Sean McMahon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michelle DeKlyen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please dont pass this "Healthcare" bill

Both the process and the content of the proposed healthcare bill are so flawed that I feel ashamed that our Senate is considering passage. My young adult daughter and my husband would both be unable to obtain affordable insurance if this bill were to pass, and we consider ourselves well-off. Many of those who would lose coverage are not so fortunate. Please do not be pressured into passing this bill!

Sincerely,

Michelle DeKlyen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:10 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.

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

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

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
426 Riverdale Drive
NEW ORLEANS, Louisiana 70121

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeanna Stone <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: For Your Consideration

Good Morning,

I'm writing to you as a 28 year old woman. I'm writing as a woman who has over \$70,000 in student loans, paying over \$600 a month on them and rising, which makes access to affordable birth control imperative. I would be financially and emotionally unable to effectively raise a child at this time, and every woman should have the choice to wait until they're ready. I'm writing as a woman who has suffered from severe anxiety and depression for close to a decade -- debilitating illnesses that could be considered preexisting conditions under the Graham Cassidy bill. I don't know where I would be if I could not afford antidepressants, and the doctor's visits that come with getting prescriptions for them. I am writing to you as a woman with a family history of bipolar disorder, another preexisting strike against me and any future children, should we ever need treatment. I'm writing as a woman who has suffered multiple rounds of sexual assault in my young life, who was in desperate need of medical attention each time. I am writing to you as a person who never asked for a history of mental illness and trauma, as no person does. I am writing to you as a person who knows full well that others have been through far worse, and will go through worse yet should the Graham Cassidy bill be signed into law.

Please, I implore you, protect access to healthcare for those who need it most. Please vote No on the Graham Cassidy bill. The previous administration provided access to healthcare that has saved millions of lives, and while that system wasn't perfect, this potential new system is devastating. By voting this bill into law, our government would be further setting a cultural precedent for how to treat people. People of color, people with disabilities, LGBTQIA people, women, people who have experienced massive trauma and still push forward in their contributions to this country. Essentially, this bill casts aside the people that make America the great, diverse patchwork quilt that it should be.

I don't tell this story to guilt you. I tell an emotional story because this should be a vote that's approached with immense compassion. I know that certain members of our government are beyond that, but I'm hoping that you are not. Please vote No on the Graham Cassidy bill.

Thank you.

Jeanna Stone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rachel Helton <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear committee members:

I am writing to urge you to reject the Graham Cassidy bill.

I speak as a mother of three boys, one of whom has been diagnosed with autism and requires mental health services and likely will for the rest of his life. This bill is disastrous for children like Charlie. While my husband and I are fortunate enough to have insurance through employment, not all in this country are so lucky. Because they are born to parents who do not receive insurance through their employment, are other children with autism any less entitled to or in need of health care to address the serious issues?

Previous bills to repeal the ACA have been unsuccessful because they do not protect our most vulnerable citizens. This bill is no better; by many estimates, it is much worse.

I have never before written to a Senate committee or a senator. I am begging you now to reject this bill. Look beyond the politics to the actual people whose lives you are impacting. Please use your power for good.

When you became a senator, presumably it is because you sought to better the lives of your constituents. This bill does not do that. For many, it makes their life significantly worse. I urge you to return to the values that made you seek public office. Reject this bill.

Sincerely,

Rachel N. Helton

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to Graham-Cassidy

To the Senate Finance Committee:

I write to express my strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy health care bill and to urge all members to vote against its passage. I needn't restate the details of vocal public opposition to the bill by major health care organizations, medical and patient groups, including the American Medical Association and America's Health Insurance Plans, but I'd like to add my own family's story for your consideration.

My younger brother was diagnosed with a cancerous brain tumor (medulloblastoma) at age 7. My parents were able to afford care thanks to employer insurance: he underwent surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy. Now age 31, he has been cancer-free since his treatment. However, the cancer and the treatments delivered to his brain and the rest of his body have caused ongoing health issues that include learning disabilities, stunted growth, and hearing loss. He requires more medical care than the average person, and the specter of relapse looms constantly..

My brother is lucky enough to hold a job in Wisconsin that pays benefits, but employer-based insurance would become more expensive for him and others with pre-existing conditions if Graham-Cassidy is implemented, especially since the bill removes the individual mandate and premium caps. More worrisome is how easily he could lose his job and suddenly be *without* coverage. I'm terrified that the state waivers included in Graham-Cassidy would allow insurers to charge him exponentially more due to his pre-existing conditions. A recent CNN article shows I have good reason to be frightened: "Pennsylvania, Indiana, Ohio and Wisconsin have some of the highest numbers of individuals per capita with pre-existing conditions and who buy insurance on the individual market. There are no guarantees those individuals would be able to buy insurance under Graham-Cassidy." If his cancer returned, he wouldn't be able to afford treatment, nor could the rest of my family absorb charges running into the hundreds of thousands (or millions) of dollars.

A similar situation applies to my mother, who was diagnosed with breast cancer at age 42 and had a mastectomy and reconstruction. She recently turned 60, and her health, like my brother's, is comparatively fragile. Her job as a public school teacher includes benefits, but insurers could charge her huge amounts if premium caps are waived. Her job also isn't guaranteed for the next 5 years. Though federal funding to Wisconsin would increase through 2026 under G-C, I have no idea whether the state will contribute money toward the benefits she'll need if she's laid off before she's 65.

Please, please stop this cruel and unnecessary bill in its tracks. Along with my family's story, I implore you to listen to the thousands of innocent Americans whose lives (or those of their loved ones) would be immediately jeopardized by its passage.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

[REDACTED]
Baton Rouge, LA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to graham cassidy

To Whom It May Concern,

Please do not let this awful bill go through. So many Americans will suffer and I may be one. I'm currently fighting cancer and I'm giving it all I've got to survive. Please don't take that Hope away from me and my family as I would never be able to afford this and likely die. Please don't do it- I beg you

Regards,
Luanne

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ann Marie Morrow <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stop repeal of ACA

The changes made with the ACA were life altering and life saving for so many. My mother was hospitalized in 2011 after some of the changes were implemented. They really helped take stress out of a horrible life threatening situation. We didn't have to worry at least that she could have her coverage revoked because she was sick in hospital. Which could have been the case before changes were made. The system is not perfect as it is. But the repeal and plans provided by the Republican bill would wipe out any progress made in ensuring affordable healthcare to so many. Health care should be a right and not a privilege to those who have the most money. America can do better.

Sincerely,

Ann Marie Morrow

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sophie Hansen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Pearson, Beth (Warren); Hurt, Nikki (Markey); Gewirtz, Rebekah
Subject: NASW-MA Letter
Attachments: ACA Repeal Opposition.pdf

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for allowing us to submit a letter in regards to the propose Graham-Cassidy bill.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions,

Sophie Hansen, [REDACTED]
Political Director

[REDACTED] er
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Wendy L. McLaughlin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: insurance

I sell health insurance and have for 30 years. I don't like the idea of states being able to offer cheaper plans that don't cover important things like RX, or maternity care. People who are healthy *think* they don't need much insurance until they do, until they get the bad diagnosis or accident. It happens to young and old. We'll all end up paying for their care, or they'll just die, so why not leave all the essential health benefits in. People need them, even if they don't know it.

I do recognize that premiums are very high, unaffordable for many middle class people, but there are ways to design plans to be less expensive without taking away ESSENTIAL HEALTH benefits. Thanks. Wendy

Wendy L. McLaughlin [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], CA 94044

Please call me for information about insurance or investing or go to my website w [REDACTED]
agent, New York Life, Registered Representative offering Securities through [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

If you do not wish to receive email communications from New York Life or NYLIFE Securities LLC,
please reply to this email using the words "opt out" in the subject line. Please copy email
[REDACTED]

[Linkedin/Wendyssite](#)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jessica Donnell [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

I stand in opposition to this disasterous helathcare bill. I personally know so many people who would be devastated by such a bill. Cancer survivors, our young friend born with a heart abnormality, my dear friends who are single moms struggling with healthcare needs for their children. The idea that these out of touch men are crafting bills that harm the most vulnerable makes me understand exactly how they see the world, with a lack of empathy, any sense of justice or compassion or grace or love or generosity of spirit. They can see no further than their wallets, than their own selfish agenda and their ignorant and small view of humanity in which they believe they are the center. This bill will harm millions of Americans and does not represent the values of a strong nation. If this bill passes you have the blood of Americans on your hands. Do the right thing and vote against this bill.

Any politician who doesn't see that universal healthcare, a medicare for all system is the future is out of touch with the wave of progress that will sweep this nation in reaction to our narrowminded, fearful, backwards and blind current administration. Healthcare should be a right not a profit machine.

Jessica Donnell
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mandy Pennington <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:30 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 the bill is just like other TrumpCare bills that have been proposed - and have failed, for good reason.

It destroys Medicaid as we know it by turning Medicaid into a capped system. This hurts children with disabilities, seniors, and even victims of natural disasters like Harvey and Irma. It also takes away funding to help people afford health insurance through the marketplace, and it hurts states that have expanded Medicaid.

It also eliminates protections for people with pre-existing conditions, opening the doors (through state loopholes) to raise anyone's premiums at any time. Too many people suffer from financial ruin caused by healthcare. This needs to change - and this bill is not the answer.

This bill also provides an irresponsible tax break for those who don't need it - those in our country who are well-off. How many more handouts must we give to the rich? The unfairness is beyond sickening.

Not to mention, Graham-Cassidy attacks women's health issues, including coverage for abortion. It's unacceptable.

No one of strong moral character or good conscience can support this bill. Anyone who does should be deeply ashamed.

Mandy Pennington
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elizabeth Gibson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate becauseI take care of children who benefit from health insurance. These children need well visit care, life saving vaccines, and treatment for diseases like asthma, autism, and ear infections. Children do not have a choice....do not cut their coverage.

Elizabeth Gibson

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bruce Coolidge <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Please don't pass this bill. Build on the bi-partisan effort already underway.

Thank you

Bruce Coolidge
Bethesda Maryland

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Fanny Moy <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fw: SAVE the ACA

Hear me:

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

On Fri, Sep 22, 2017 at 1:23 PM, Fanny Moy
<[REDACTED]> wrote:

We ALL need the protections under the ACA. It is the government officials' job to make decisions for the good of the citizens of the U.S.A.

To repeal the ACA and put in this destructive Graham-Cassidy healthcare is ABSOLUTELY HORRIBLE!

Sincerely, fanny moy

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Pauk [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I STRONGLY OPPOSE THE GRAHAM CASSIDY BILL

To Whom It May Concern:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE THE GRAHAM CASSIDY BILL because it would:

- 1) Take care away from 30 million people
- 2) lead to massive state funding cuts
- 3) There is no CBO score or analysis - just unethical
- 4) pre-existing condition hikes in payment and possibly disqualified for care
- 5) More uninsured children

There are so many more reasons - there are enough!

Jennifer Pauk, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ani <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:54 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

If Graham Cassidy is a worthy bill, then you should certainly have hearings on it and an independent CBO report. Otherwise, you're doing the same thing -- no hearings -- that you would deplore in a Democratic-led Senate.

And why is the Finance Committee even involved? So you can push Graham Cassidy through in a hurry? This should go to the Health Care Committee.

Please vote No on Graham Cassidy. Don't even let it go to the floor for a vote.

Thank you,

Adriana Nakamura
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara McAdams <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: 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.

We know you value fairness. We know you got into politics to care for people. Please vote these values.

Thank you.

Barbara Pitts McAdams

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:44 PM
To: gchcomments

I am writing to express my opposition to this newest attack on affordable healthcare for Americans. I rely on the ACA for my insurance coverage. Not only has it enabled me to afford healthcare coverage when I wouldn't be able to otherwise, it gives me peace of mind knowing that, as a young adult who is starting her career and living with very meager savings, I will not be bankrupted by unexpected illness. I've been able to monitor my health and getting tests and vaccines I need due to expanded coverage for women's health.

This new bill makes the very sex that I was born a preexisting condition by revoking EHB such as prenatal and maternity care. I should not be punished or allowed to be taken advantage of because I am woman. I should have the option of being able to start a family when I am ready, rather than never having children because of the prohibitive cost of care without insurance, or as this bill would allow, being forced into prohibitively expensive specialized plan.

I am deeply embarrassed that this blatant attack on poor, working, and middle class families had it's start with a representative from my own home state. As if Louisiana needed more bad press, we will not be able to live down our part in this disastrous bill.

I vehemently oppose this bill and beg my representatives to act with a conscious and protect their constituents. I would love to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Natalie

Lafayette, Louisiana

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jen Gross [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments for Graham Cassidy Health Care Bill for 9/25 hearing

I am a resident of West Sacramento, CA 95691, and urge you to strongly oppose putting the Graham Cassidy health care reform bill on the senate floor. This is nothing more than the GOP trying to cowardly fulfill a Trump campaign promise while not actually fixing the problem. It is foolhardy to think that we can suddenly give the states the opportunities to make up their own systems for health care when we currently have a nationalized system. The ACA does need work - yes. But, upending it is not the solution.

There is nothing in the the Graham Cassidy bill that addresses how we are going to address the COSTS of health care. I have Type 1 diabetes - the very drug that keeps me alive is approximately \$275/bottle. It rises annually. What are the senators solutions for making insulin more affordable for people like me?

This bill also calls on states to make decisions on what minimum coverage levels are for those with pre-existing conditions. If a state doesn't have the resources to cover individuals like me in their plans, what am I supposed to do? My options are to go bankrupt paying for insurance, go without insurance - which defeats the purpose of health insurance programs, or forego treatment and face complications and/or death. (Which - treating those complications, by the way, WAY more expensive than paying for insulin pumps and continuous glucose monitors.)

Health care is complicated. The ACA is in need of repair to make it work. This isn't something that can be compiled, signed and delivered to the President's desk in two weeks under the guise of budget reconciliation. Do your job and represent the people of America and not your donors! People are literally sick and tired of wondering if the rug is going to be pulled out from under them.

Jen Gross

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rachel Magdalene <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill is a Nightmare!

Dear Sirs and Mesdames:

This bill is an abomination against America and all its citizens. It will eventually cause 32M Americans to be uninsured. It will devastate the health care economy that makes up one-sixth of the entire economy. It will withdraw monies from consumer spending adversely impacting our 70% consumer driven economy. It will shift monies from states that expanded its medicaid systems to those that did not out of spite. It will not fix anything that is wrong with our healthcare system. I surely does not meet the Jimmy Kimmel test.

Stop this bill right here and now.

Let's fix the ACA and make it work.

Sincerely,

F. Rachel Magdalene

F. Rachel Magdalene, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

"Liberty has never come from the government. Liberty has always come from the subjects of it. The history of liberty is a history of resistance." Pres. Woodrow Wilson

"The saddest epitaph which can be carved in memory of a vanished liberty is that it was lost because its possessors failed to stretch forth a saving hand while yet there was time." Justice George Sutherland

"Yet, Freedom! Yet thy banner, torn, but flying,
Streams like the thunder-storm against the wind." Lord Byron

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:40 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Response to Graham Cassidy Bill

I am a physician. I graduated from Tulane University in 2012, and am now an assistant professor of medicine at Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans, LA. The Graham Cassidy health plan will be devastating to our most vulnerable citizens, including children, the elderly, and the poor. It is especially cruel to women, which I find particularly offensive. How many physician groups need to come out against this bill before the republican senate will take notice?

Particularly reprehensible is that Louisiana will suffer large losses of funding with this legislation, and Senator Cassidy is a main author of this bill! Our state still has HIV and syphilis epidemics, and a large population of people living in poverty. Senator Cassidy is leading the charge to severely harm the very people that put him in Washington. Many of the residents here may not realize that, but I certainly do.

This country needs a single payer system. How is it that every other developed nation has managed to realize this but us?

I would like to thank all the senators who have opposed this awful piece of legislation. To those that support, I really don't understand how you can live with yourself. You should be ashamed.

Thank you,

=====
Celeste Newby, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Tulane University SOM

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:14 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: IMPROVE ACA, not repeal,

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare, I own a small business and have for the past 15 years. I was unable to afford health care before ACA, I rely on this subsidy for my well being. Because of this, I oppose the Graham Cassidy bill. My stepfather has had a liver transplant that would not have been possible without Medicaid. He is a civil rights lawyer and is a productive member of society protecting our civil liberties. It is important that all people, not just wealthy people, have access to affordable quality care. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Heide Grace
New Orleans, Louisiana

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:41 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. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Tori Bush
New Orleans, LA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

My mother suffered from inoperable lung cancer years after she quit smoking.

Without affordable healthcare and medications, she would not have received comfort and care she needed in her final days. The Graham-Cassidy bill would allow caps on health care coverage which would restrict Americans from receiving the care that they need during such a difficult time. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA or to adopt the Medicare for All plan introduced by Senator Bernie Sanders.

Thank you,
Michael Scott Ferguson
Scott, LA 70583

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Please do not approve this bill. I oppose caps for children with debilitating health conditions. I approve removing coverage for abortions from "health care."

Madelyn Maragos

Lafayette, LA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort working to IMPROVE the ACA, not to repeal it. A bipartisanship bill could provide a lasting law that would surely discourage the constant contention. Most people have had enough of this. An act such as this would likely help to unify the Nation.

Sincerely,

Leah Rush Clayton
DeRidder, LA

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect affordable health care for all Americans!

Dear Committee Members,

I plead with you to please REJECT the Graham-Cassidy health bill. Its passage would be devastating for me and my family and for thousands of other families in my home state of Louisiana (yes, that's Bill Cassidy's state, and I strongly oppose him!).

I am a family caregiver and primary breadwinner for an an Alzheimer's patient AND for a cancer patient. I also have preexisting conditions including osteoporosis and recurring adhesive capsulitis. And, we live in one of the nation's poorest states, which only recently accepted Medicaid expansion funds. We would be devastated to lose them, and the devastation WILL impact my family directly.

I beg you to please protect my family and thousands of other families from this disastrous bill. Please DO NOT SUPPORT Graham-Cassidy!

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:44 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.

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeff Burkhart [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:44 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Senate proposal to strip health care from Americans

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

I write to express my deep opposition to the draconian, cruel and amoral Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal. The sponsors of this Proposal vowed that it would replace the ACA with something better and more affordable. This Proposal fails miserably in all respects.

It has been crafted, introduced, and discussed in a deeply undemocratic manner. I demand a full and fair hearing on this legislation after it has been analyzed by the Congressional Budget Office. The last bill scored by the CBO had an approval rating of 12%, yet this bill is moving forward and is even worse than the last bill scored.

Millions of elderly individuals and people with disabilities rely on traditional Medicaid for their lives, well-being, and independence.

Although the Congressional Budget Office Analysis has not been completed for this Proposal, it is similar or worse to previous bills that would radically restructure Medicaid, kicking millions of Americans off health care. Reducing the number of insured means that thousands of people will die needlessly for a tax cut for the wealthiest Americans.

Medicaid saves the lives of people with disabilities who rely on things like tracheotomy care, nursing care, dialysis, cancer treatments, occupational therapy, speech therapy, life-saving medications, durable medical equipment, and more to work. With health insurance through Medicaid, they live full, independent lives will be at risk. These people are our family members, our neighbors, our coworkers, and our friends. We are the wealthiest country in the world. We can and should provide Medicaid for the elderly and people with disabilities.

This Proposal will impact pregnant women and children, who are insured by Medicaid in high numbers. In Wisconsin, 28% of all kids are covered by Medicaid. Nearly half of all US births are covered by Medicaid. For many children with disabilities and extensive health care needs, Medicaid is again lifesaving, and again, cutting it could literally put children's lives at risk. Children who receive regular health care to treat things like asthma, diabetes, and treatable medical problems fare better in school, miss fewer days of school, are more likely to graduate, and earn higher wages than those without health care.

The changes to the Affordable Care Act are also deeply troubling. The proposal opens the door to imposing pre-existing condition exclusions again, limiting essential health services, and reducing the affordability of health insurance, which will result in millions more losing health insurance they only recently gained. All studies done thus far on health outcomes for individuals newly insured through the ACA show the enormous positive impact of insured status. Many people with disabilities rely on ACA coverage when they could no longer work due to a diagnosis, but had to wait two years after a disability determination before Medicare would begin.

Many people rely on the ACA to receive cancer treatment. They owe their lives to the Affordable Care Act. I also have friends with full time jobs that did not offer health insurance and could only afford health insurance offered through the ACA with subsidies. These individuals obtained services to treat chronic illnesses such as diabetes, illnesses that would worsen without treatment and then require costly but are preventable. The Proposal fails to make insurance more affordable and in fact, will price ordinary Americans out of any insurance market, returning to the days when a cancer patient who couldn't work couldn't access health care, where a person with asthma couldn't afford health insurance due

to a pre-existing condition, where a person working a full-time job couldn't afford health insurance. This is not what Americans want.

I am submitting this testimony to the committee to ensure that it is entered into the official record of these proceedings. I want the record of this committee to show that those who voted for this Proposal were fully aware of its devastating and destructive impact and were told by millions of American citizens that this is not what we want.

Jeff Burkhart

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 53704

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tania Van Pelt <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham-Cassidy Bill

Please stop the Graham Cassidy Bill. The latest attempt at Obamacare repeal seems to be even worse than the previous bills, and its once again getting pushed through before it can be properly vetted. Please don't vote for a bill that will cause unknown numbers of millions to lose coverage, will allow discrimination against people with pre existing conditions, and will cut billions to Medicaid. This is an outrageously horrible bill. This bill is also downright cruel to women. And, it will torpedo our economy. Not only will people die, people will lose their homes, their families, their jobs... and a recession/depression will no doubt follow. And if you think we constituents don't understand the bill. Then I ask you, which part don't we understand? Are we not understanding the part where states would be allowed to let insurance companies price you out of coverage for having pre-existing conditions? Or the part where the 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 your bill? Which part of that are we not understanding?

Thank you,

Tania
[REDACTED]

--

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Victor Abrahamsen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Regarding the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

Dear Chairman Hatch, Ranking Member Wyden and distinguished members of the Committee,

I write to ask you, in the most emphatic terms I am able to express, to reject the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal.

Reasonable men and women of good will can and should debate the role of the Federal government and the several states in establishing the conditions under which healthcare insurers provide accessible, affordable policies to our citizens.

The proposal being considered, however, does not increase access, and does not improve affordability, especially for those of us who may be most in need of coverage.

The Affordable Care Act, aka Obamacare, has provided access to coverage for millions of previously uninsured Americans. Obamacare provides clear benefits to both people who need insurance, as well as the insurance market. The proposal being considered would actively harm these men and women and their families, and bring instability and uncertainty to the market.

Obamacare is not perfect, and this Committee and the Congress in general has a significant role to play in debating ways to improve the law; the proposal being considered, however, does not improve the law so much as destroy it, and in so doing, inflict harm on our families, friends and neighbors.

I urge you to reject the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Victor Abrahamsen
[REDACTED] NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Leeandra Archdeacon <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony
Attachments: image1.JPG; ATT00001.txt

To whom it may concern,

My son was Diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy on June 21, 2010. Duchenne is a progressive muscle wasting disease that steals his ability to write, walk, eat, and breathe. My son is only 10 years old and should be playing Baseball ball like every other kid, but instead he spends his days at Specialty clinics, therapy and many days in bed. He relies on medi-cal to cover items like his powerchair, night time ventilator, medications and therapy. Without this coverage for these items, he won't survive. What would you do if this was your son, grandson, nephew, friend? He is my son and I am begging you from the bottom of my heart, PLEASE do not let the Graham/Cassidy bill pass. My sons life depends on Medicaid.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: George Mills [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

This bill is a crime against the American People. The motives of those who proposed it as well as those who support are highly suspect as this bill would do irreparable harm to millions of Americans. If it passes, I will join, support financially, and participate actively in all efforts to ensure that those who voted in favor of this bill be defeated in their bids for reelection.

George E. Mills

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kellie Matthews <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham-Cassidy!

I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill and I think that any American who believes in good governance and basic human rights and dignity should do so as well. This bill will strip healthcare from millions, and targets the most vulnerable of our population (seniors, women, people with disabilities, the poor) particularly hard. Please oppose this poorly thought out effort to kill affordable healthcare in this country.

--
Kellie Matthews // [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 80301

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elizabeth Alton <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: TBI and Insurance Challenges

Four years ago I fell head first off a jeep and spent five days in an ICU in India of all places. I returned to the US with a serious TBI which resulted in losing my career as an executive. I ended up separated from my husband and on a long road of health challenges. I've come a long way over the past 4.5 years. I can read again and write quite well. I have post traumatic epilepsy now, a result of the damage and scarring to the temporal lobe of my brain. A few months ago I had double fusion surgery of my lower back, not what I had planned at the age of 49 but hey, I can walk my dog and get around okay.

THIS BILL WOULD PENALIZE ME and many others like me who are unemployed, disabled, and have conditions such as epilepsy.

IT WOULD TAX me for having a TBI and EPILEPSY while DISABLED and UNEMPLOYED.

Be human and logical about this. Healthcare should be a right, not a luxury tax.

Sincerely

Elizabeth Keene Alton
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Doug Kellogg <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Pass Medicare For All instead of Graham-Cassidy.

Sent from my iPhone
Doug Kellogg

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stacy Weiske <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy opposition

I am writing to have my opposition to the proposed Graham-Cassidy legislation, which would repeal ACA. As a women over the age of 50, this bill will have a significant negative impact on me personally, making healthcare virtually unaffordable. The lack of coverage for pregnancy and other medical conditions that are unique to women is appalling, and makes it clear that those seeking to pass it do not have any concern for the best interests of the majority of their constituents. That combined with the provisions that allow insurers to eliminate or charge exorbitant fees for pre-existing conditions, and the reduction or elimination of Medicare and Medicaid coverage and programs benefits no one but the big insurance companies. Any representative who votes for this appalling legislation is doing so at the expense of the American people.

Please add my opposition to the official record.

Regard,
Stacy Weiske
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cathy Sullivan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not pass the bill

The majority of long term care is financed through Medicaid - don't cut Medicaid. The aca has been a huge boon to self-employed people. Prior to the aca people were denied coverage at all because they were 20 lbs overweight. Don't block grant and cut funding to the states. There will be unintended consequences for every state having a different system. Sooner or later everyone gets sick. When more than 50% of people make less than 50k a year, help is needed to pay for health ins.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: matt weeks <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Comment

Hello,

As a taxpaying citizen of the United States of America, I believe it is wholly unfair to bring this bill up for a vote without the proper discussion, CBO score, etc...Less than 20% of the American public approve of repealing ACA, and yet the GOP is pushing forward "just to fulfill a promise made". Since when have Republicans been so concerned with delivering on their promises?

The only promise here, is the promise to hurt millions upon millions of my fellow citizens. The fact that Bill Cassidy and Lindsay Graham continue to lie about the factual outcomes of their mess of bill. is the lesser of the two evils here, is astounding in itself.

I strongly appeal to those in the senate that still hold a sense of moral servitude to their constituents, to vote no on this death sentence for millions.

Matt Weeks

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laura Quinn <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable Health Care

The Graham-Cassidy bill must be stopped. This bill will hurt people in the U.S. for the following reasons:

- The bill places responsibility for negotiating health insurance terms on states. This means that each individual state has less bargaining power than the nation would as a whole. **This will cause increased cost for insurance which will result in fewer people having coverage.**
- The bill includes contradictory language that implies that pre-existing conditions will be covered, but then puts the decision on the individual states to determine whether pre-existing conditions will be covered, and to what extent they will be covered. **This will cause increased cost for insurance which will result in fewer people having coverage.**
- The bill reduces the ability of people in the U.S. to accept jobs and move to other states. They will be required to determine if the health insurance in their new state adequately provides for their families. **This will decrease an individual's ability to move to a new job in a new state for the betterment of their family IF the new state does not provide adequate care.**
- The bill places responsibility for all maternity care on women, ignoring that men play a role in the creation of life (without sperm, there is no infant.) **This will cause increased cost for insurance which will result in fewer people having coverage.**
- The bill is indecisive regarding the availability of mental health care, placing the responsibility for this care on each individual state to decide whether mental health care is offered. **This will cause increased hardship on families with members who have mental health disorders. These are medical conditions, not conditions of the will.**
- The bill is indecisive regarding the availability of drug addiction coverage, placing the responsibility for this care on the addict or his/her family. The opioid epidemic in the U.S. is a result of drug companies encouraging doctors to prescribe highly addictive painkillers, regardless of volumes of medical evidence showing that these drugs are highly addictive and should never have been prescribed as freely as they were (and are) being prescribed. **This will cause increased cost for insurance which will result in fewer people having coverage. This policy will also result in more deaths from the opioid epidemic. It will increase crime too, as addicts seek ways to find funds to buy more drugs.**

The Graham-Cassidy bill is irresponsible and cruel, particularly since we have a health care system in place that with a few tweaks, would provide coverage to ALL U.S. CITIZENS, reduce the cost of care, and give the Federal Government bargaining power to negotiate with health insurers and drug companies to bring down the cost of care. **FIX THE ACA! DO YOUR JOB!**

Laura Friess
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cassie laBaume <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA Repeal

I really hope you will all reconsider passing this atrocious bill. All the data says it's going to make the markets more unstable. Almost all insurance and health organizations are against this thing. If you Care anything about those of us who live paycheck to paycheck who barely has the money to pay to keep a roof over our and our children's heads and clothes on their backs and food for them to eat you will not burden us with now what am not going to pay just so my kids can health insurance? I have a son with asthma and a son with mental health issues. If we didn't have the ACA I could not take them to the doctor or pay for my sons medicine so he can remain level headed. He wouldn't be getting the mental health services he needs because I wouldn't be able to pay for them. There are many many others out there like myself. I also work in a rural hospital in Illinois and I've seen so much growth since the ACA. People are getting those tests and treatments they so badly needed. People are living longer because they have access to the healthcare they need. I don't understand why you risk millions of lives so you can "stick it to Obama's". Are you people that pathetic that you could do that to millions of people? How can you look at yourself in the mirror or sleep at night knowing what you are doing to innocent lives? Just for a big donation from your donors. Just for a big tax break for yourselves. Shame on you for what you are about to do to so many innocent people while you stuff your pockets. But my hope is you will do the right thing and kill this bill and work with the democrats to fix the ACA. That's how it should be.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elisabeth Edeen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: health care

Please enter this into the record at the hearing on Monday.

Like many others around the country, my evenings of late have been spent watching an in depth documentary about the war in Vietnam. Something that comes through loud and clear in replaying that part of our history is that American leaders knew very early that we could not win that war. That the war was a mistake. And yet they carried on, sent more troops, spent more money. All of it basically, to save face.

It feels like the GOP leadership is bringing us to another similar point. They know this healthcare bill will not benefit Americans the way they pretend it will. They know thousands will lose insurance. They know they are ripping away all the valuable protections that actually make health insurance mean something. And yet they march on. To save face. To keep a campaign promise. A promise that most of their constituents no longer even agree with.

I'm not sure what drives these Senators, but I feel certain it is not a desire for what is best for the people of this country. The lens of history, certainly, will not look upon them kindly.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lori Barratiere <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Finance Hearing - United States Health Care

I would like to ask for your consideration of the full impact on our country's citizens as you review and plan your actions in regard to the latest proposed Health Care legislation.

No legislation that so personally impacts millions of citizens should ever take a few weeks to put together. It should not be done by a group lacking in diversity and without the input from experts in the field, or amendments by others in the Senate, nor without a CBO score. Health Care should not be a bargaining chip or source of blackmail (as we are seeing in Alaska).

This will likely take months if not years to thoughtfully and carefully put together a well vetted plan that can live in the light of day, and in the end we can say was put together properly. Our country is broken, and to force this through as they are trying to do, per the medical community, will do harm to too many (and violates their "do no harm" oath). I know that no answer will ever make everyone happy, but this is not how to handle something that makes up 1/6th of our economy and will have permanent impact (death, quality of life, thrown out of nursing homes, etc) on so many of those you are there to protect.

Please do not fund \$700 billion to our military as you remove 32 million from having health insurance/health care (do not defund Medicaid). Please do not kill innocents in order to say you kept a promise to your constituents when the actions you are taking are reckless and murderous and will harm so many of them.

For the past eight months the power plays and ugliness that plague our government has hurt our place in the world, nuclear threats are looming, and this bill most of all is disastrous and is too important to be handled in this careless manner. Do what is right. Be a true citizen of this country and as public servants, serve the public. Not donors, not party over country. Be strong and remember why we have you there. Do what is best for the people, not the GOP, not the Dems, and not the Koch brothers. Step up and save our country.

Please. I beg of you.

Lori Barratiere

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

I am a 70% service connected disabled veteran of Gulf War I. I live 80 mile from the closest VA Medical Center. Because of the ACA I am able to see a local doctor instead of waiting months for doctor appts and driving 80 miles one way for regular monthly care with a VA doctor. Please don't take away the ACA.

What will I do without it?

Jennifer McMullin

cc ASlavitt

When you go home,
Tell them of us, and say—
For your tomorrow,
We gave our today.

J. Maxwell Edmonds, epitaph on 2nd Division memorial, Kohima, Burma, 1944

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ricki Sabia <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:25 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy bill
Attachments: medicaid Steve and Eli.jpg

I am writing to uge opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill. Our family relies on Mediciad services under the HCBS waiver which are optional. With cuts to Mediciad my state would have little choice but to cut those services. I also am very concerned that my state would not elect to cover pre-existing conditions, which nearly every one of my family members has.

I am attaching a photo of my son Steve and his roommate Eli when they got the keys to their first apartment together. Both Steve and ELi have Down syndrome and would not have been able to live independently for the past 18 months without some hours of personal supports that are paid for with Mediciad funding.

Living in this apartment has given them better access to public transportation, which opens more employment opportunities. Both of them use Mediciad funding to pay for job development and job coaching. Eli now works 20 hours a week and no longer receives SSI benefits, plus is a taxpayer. Steve doesn't have a consistent job yet but we are working on that with the help of his Mediciad funding. They also both use Mediciad for health services and need protection of healthcare in light of their pre-existing condition-Down syndrome.

In addition my husband and I have numerous health issues and would be greatly harmed by changes to the pre-existing conditions rules.

Ricki Sabia, J.D.
Senior Education Policy Advisor
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:23 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Proposal
Attachments: image1.jpeg; ATT00001.txt; image2.jpeg; ATT00002.txt; image3.jpeg; ATT00003.txt; image4.jpeg; ATT00004.txt; image5.jpeg; ATT00005.txt

Good morning.

I am one of millions. But this proposal has the power to significantly affect my family.

If you look at my family, the needs we have under Medicaid. The protection we need... you will see why we're terrified and why I, a busy-working-single mom of 3 sat down to write an email today.

I have a son with Cerebral Palsy. He didn't do anything to get that. I didn't do anything to cause it, I was young and healthy and the disability isn't genetic so I couldn't have even known.

Waiver programs, allow for gap care to make sure I can keep my job and not be forced to stay home due to lack of availability for childcare for 12 year olds in general, let alone with significant physical disabilities.

Waiver programs make sure he can use a taxi to visit his dad 2 hours away, because we can't afford an accessible vehicle to transport my wheelchair bound child.

Caring for him at home, the costs ARE exorbitant.

Breathing supplies:

-\$1000/month

Food:

-\$1200/month

Meds:

-\$800/month

Hospital Bed:

-\$900

Wheelchair:

-\$6000 (plus custom work later done post spinal fusion)

This doesn't include expensive procedures and hospital stays and more recently rehab care for months.

The list goes on and on. Caps on coverage whether through my personally held insurance or through the coverage government, would cripple us.

This is the face of a child whose life, through no fault of his own, is more complicated than it needs to be.

He's smart, he's funny, he adds value to peoples lives. And even if he did none of that, he is a human being in need of protection. He's a human being that capped out his Father's insurance coverage, in the first month he lived. He needs protection. He deserves a long healthy life and without the proper supports in place, the kinds of things proposed are saying his life is only worth protecting until "x" amount of dollars.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Angela Jarvis-Holland <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:23 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

[REDACTED]

We represent over 300 local families in Or and SW WA. We strongly oppose the proposed changes to ACA .I also have a son with Down syndrome

When someone gets cancer ,has a heart attack , is born with a disability or develops a disability then they need a safety net. Attacking the basic supports that are so vital to many people republican or democrat is immoral .My son exists, he is not a pre- existing condition to be punished.
We cannot afford big hikes or exclusions , think again and put yourself in the shoes of those who will be impacted.

Thank you for your consideration
Angela Jarvis Holland
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bivens, Kim <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:14 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Affordable Care Act

I am joining us in opposing this last ditch effort to destroy rather than fix and strengthen the Affordable Care Act that has helped so many in Maryland and around the nation.



Kim R. Bivens

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

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




ATTENTION: This email (including any attachment) may contain protected health information or other information that is confidential or privileged and is intended for the sole use of the individual recipient. Any unauthorized review, use disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the Intended recipient, please contact the sender by return mail and destroy any copies of the material.

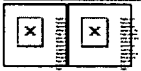
Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ann C. [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:06 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Please vote NO on Graham-Cassidy. this hurts ALL of us.

Ann Capadona 

'Life isn't about how to survive the storm, but how to dance in the rain' 



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Daniel Wallace <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:58 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Ok please do not back graham Cassidy bill for replacement of ACA this is will effect me very much

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joan Gould <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:55 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Gentlemen,

My husband and I are PhD STEM professionals in our 50's.

If the State of Indiana allows health care waivers for age related health coverage increases and pre-existing conditions, Indiana will no longer be an attractive place for our employment.

The state is already losing a majority of Purdue graduates to other states. Increasing costs for established professionals will serve to increase the brain drain that is already causing problems for the Indiana biotech industry.

Sincerely,

Joan Gould

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ann Walls <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:46 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: please don't pass the Graham Cassidy bill

The Graham Cassidy so called Healthcare bill is detrimental to all of America....it limits the amount of money all states will need to cover their working uninsured, it will leave many out of the marketplace --it is plain and simply cruel. It's a threat to all of us because when there's more uninsured, people go untreated or go to ER for care and that drives costs up.

Please instead tweak the ACA. There have been many substantive suggestions. We can do this....but it starts with an understanding that we all benefit when everyone has access to healthcare.

Where aer your hearts???

Thank you
Ann and Jerry Walls

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] NH

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margaret Clark Jackson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:27 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Disastrous proposed healthcare changes

Dear Sirs and Mesdames:

I can only state my **STRONG** support of obstructing in every way the irresponsible attempt to vitiate the *ACA*. Vote **NO** again and again. We need our healthcare protections, and we need to have them enforced and reinforced. I support improving and expanding Obamacare, I support single-payer legislation. I support healthcare for all, always.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Margaret Clark Jackson
[REDACTED] VT 05487

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: ELLEN STAPLETON <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

To vote against health care before a CBO score, knowing it will leave millions of Americans without health care, is unpatriotic and disgusting. I have worked 40 years, educated 4 children and have put some money away for retirement. If I lose my job, I will also lose access to affordable health care. My husband and I both have preexisting medical conditions. The result would be that I would lose everything I worked for 40 years, even though I followed all the rules and did the right thing. The reason to pass Graham Cassidy is so your donors think you did "something". Country before party. COUNTRY FIRST!!

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judy McDonald <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/ Cassidy health care bill

This bill is not health care for the vast majority of people. We will be not be able to afford health insurance. We want coverage for preexisting conditions (this does NOT do that), EHB, and Planned Parenthood funded. The only ones this bill covers is unborn fetus'. Once we are born you don't care about us. This is just another tax cut for the wealthy. Or is this how you are funding the 700 billion you just approved for the military. We want affordable health care. We want a bi-partisan fix to the ACA. The McDonald family

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gail Berg <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

MR Trump, Paul Ryan, Sen McConnell, Sen L Graham

I'm a 63 year old disabled women on Medicare married to a disabled Vietnam Vet for 41 years. We don't depend on ACA but I know Millions of people do!

I worked as a bookkeeper for 30 years and did payroll taking care of medical insurance for employees and withholding taxes and insurance premiums, so I remember what it was like before ACA and I NEVER want our Country to go back in time.

IF YOU PASS THIS BILL OR ANY BILL THAT REPEALS ACA YOUR GOING TO BE MURDERERS MILLIONS OF AMERICANS AND THEIR LIVES WILL BE ON YOUR HEADS!

The MORAL and RIGHT thing to do is work with Democrats to FIX problems with ACA and also the Insurance Co & Pharma Co.

This should NOT be done behind closed doors like some kind of scandalous crime! This Entire Trump Presidency has been Scandalous so far. It's time to STOP and start Working Together for the American People! Please???

Sincerely
Gail Berg
America Citizen

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Wendy Bedrosian <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on GC healthcare bill

I am writing to let you know I fully oppose the GC Bill.

I have so many reasons that it is hard to know where to begin.

First, I don't think your healthcare should be dependent on where you live. I think everyone should have equal access to affordable insurance and care level. I think it's unfair that if you live in Texas, your access to affordable and comprehensive healthcare would be different than it would be in NY, for example. I don't think it's fair that one state will cover preexisting conditions and another may not.

Now, to get to preexisting conditions: My daughter had her first asthma attack at 15 months old. After she was diagnosed, she was given preventative medication and she has not had an asthma attack since she was 2. She takes medication daily, but has never again been hospitalized for it. She is almost 16 now. Do you really think it's fair that her health insurance should cost 50 percent more for a condition that is almost 100 percent controlled with a minimum of money or medical intervention?

I myself have a very mild thyroid condition for which I take a small amount of very inexpensive medicine for. A health insurer can tie almost any health problem I can get to that mild condition and send my premiums through the roof. Why should my family have to suffer so much financially over these two small issues? Not to mention if anyone gets a big health issue.

The way this bill is set up, insurers can tie 3/4 of all illnesses to a pre-existing condition. They will make money hand over fist and then can deny payment for so much. That isn't right or fair or even humane.

I would like to know if you and your families will be subject to this health plan? And are your means average or way above average to absorb extra costs? At some point, if you have minor children and they have a condition, they will have to get their own health insurance. Do you think your 26 year old who had leukemia as a 2 year old will be able to afford insurance when she graduates college and gets her first job? Because it could be \$80,000 a year. I don't know many 26 year olds making that kind of money.

Please think through all the scenarios and the impact they will have. The only winners here will be young healthy people and insurance companies. I doubt you will be subject to the insurance you will pass. And if you are, you likely are in a different financial place than average Americans (not to mention poor ones). I know you want less federal spending, but what costs are you willing to inflict on people's lives to achieve that? I am all for reform, but this won't work. It could be devastating for average and poor Americans and will frankly probably cost the government more in the long run when you need to clean up the mess that it made. So please vote against this bill.

Thank you,
Wendy Bedrosian

Wendy Bedrosian

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: nancy carlson-gotts <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Bill = PLEASE VOTE NO

I am absolutely opposed to the 'revised' health care bill; btw, I cannot find the number of this bill anywhere - only reference to 'proposal'

How can you take away health insurance for millions of citizens of the United States ?
How can you make insurance so expensive and hard to get ?
How can you let the insurance companies determine our health care costs ?
And, charge more for pre-existing conditions, citizens on low and fixed income ?

I am truly baffled by the apparent lack of concern for your constituents ..

This is all I could find on the committee web site:

Monday, Sep. 25, 2017

Finance

- 10:00 AM — SD-215

Hearings to examine the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal.

Nancy Carlson
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Denis O'D <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments for the record on Graham-Cassidy-Heller bill

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller bill is truly worse than any previous version of TrumpCare that has been proposed. Healthcare financing, and that is what this is truly about (not the healthcare itself), is a **national** problem requiring a **national** solution, and should NOT be punted to the states.

Besides throwing millions of people off their current insurance, it could potentially create a climate where no two states would treat its residents the same when it comes to affordable health insurance. Some states would effectively be forced to start from scratch in building an workable insurance system.

Additionally, 32 million people would lose coverage by 2027. Allowing states to make decisions on pre-existing conditions is removing the guarantee of accessible and affordable insurance. Making coverage unaffordable is the same as a denial!

PLEASE NOTE: EVEN THE HEALTH INSURANCE INDUSTRY IS AGAINST THIS BILL. That alone should be grounds for withdrawal.

No bill should even be voted on without a full CBO score.

Thank you.

Denis O'Driscoll

[REDACTED] NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Emily Campbell <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

To Whom It May Concern,

The subject proposed bill is a going to be a financial disaster for millions of Americans. There is no logic to support taking away insurance for 32M people. My son and I relied on medicaid when I was pregnant and couldn't afford insurance because back then pregnancy was a pre-existing condition. I would have gone bankrupt at 27 if it weren't for medicaid paying for my son to be in the NICU for three days. This bill takes away too much and gives nothing back to the people of this country. It is a moral disgrace that it was even proposed and it needs to be shut down.

Thank you
Emily Campbell
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: nancy <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:31 PM
To: gchcomments

Please fix ACA to make it better.. Please do not take healthcare away from people that I care about.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gary Eubank II <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA repeal

Do not pass the GHC. No one is fooled by what the GOP is trying to accomplish. This will harm our citizens and we will remember who supported it for many elections to come.

Gary Eubank II

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Catherine Moe <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

I oppose the Graham Cassidy bill to repeal and replace the ACA. This jeopardizes coverage and increases costs for older adults. I also oppose cuts to Medicaid.

This matter requires an open process and bipartisan input.

Catherine Moe
[REDACTED]

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: dave mussen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My Opinion

How about we do what is right rather than what will make or save the most money. This bill is flawed at best and demented at worst. Stop being [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Emily Nicotera <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Hello,

I'd like to voice my opposition to this bill. It unfairly punishes residents whose states took advantage of Medicaid expansion and removes the protections preventing insurance companies from discriminating against those with preexisting conditions. I find this to be despicable.

I have been very fortunate throughout my life and have always had health insurance through my parents and now through my employer but I have had many advantages in my life that are not everyone has. I don't believe that others deserve to die simply because they weren't as lucky as I was. Denying people health care is beyond cruel and in my mind unamerican. We, as a society, have a duty to take care of one another and you, as elected officials, have a duty to your constituents. Don't leave them the lurch.

Thank you for giving me a chance to put my thoughts on the record.

Emily
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: mari francille <m[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Repeal

Please don't repeal the ACA I've worked hard since I was 14 years old. That's 46 years. I have a pre existing condition and barely can afford my prescription only the the ACA had my family felt some peace. We don't want it to go away. I talk to everyone I can and no one. NO ONE wants and type of repeal and replace. Either keep the ACA or give us single payer. If we can afford billions for war machines we can afford to care for our people. This is what will make American great

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: McMann, Wade <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Repeal is Heartless, Unamerican

To whom it may concern:

I pay taxes because I believe that there should be services and infrastructure in place for a productive and healthy America.

You do not have the right or my blessing to repeal and/or replace coverage under the ACA (Obamacare).

Moreover, this shift of funds goes from helping people who have cancer or lifelong diseases like MS to tax breaks for the wealthy. We do not need to increase advantages for the rich and reduce them for the middle class and the poor. Never should this happen. They are rich, they don't need MORE advantages.

Ideally, we should be discussing reducing military spending and changing to a single payer health system. Stop spending hundreds of billions on drones and bombs and instead put that money into healthcare and education. These two factors are the single most important factors in improving GDP—a healthy, smart population is a productive population. This is a fact.

Try to imagine yourself and your fellow Senators and Representatives with the healthcare you are damning the rest of America to. Would it work for EVERYONE in your family? Your extended family? Who would lose insurance?

32 million Americans will lose coverage or 1 in 10. No, I don't support that. That's far too high to even consider.

Single payer or leave things alone. Those are the only options to consider.

Thanks!
Wade

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Janice Altmayer <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable Care Act

Senators:

I would like to add these comments to the record and hope that you will consider this voter's strong convictions regarding not repealing the ACA.

Before the ACA was passed, my family had to obtain health insurance through the individual market. I would not wish that on my worst enemy! If you pass the Graham-Cassidy bill or any bill that repeals ACA without everyone having access to group policies you will again be putting people at the mercy of the health insurance companies.

You say that pre-existing conditions will be covered, however you do not consider the fact that the for-profit health insurance companies will charge substantial premiums if you have a pre-existing condition. Before ACA, my husband had knee problems and we had a \$32,000 rider on our policy for him to have any procedure regarding any joints in his body!

If you pass this bill or any bill that throws individuals back into the individual market place, you will be signing away the right guaranteed by our Constitution to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Who can pursue those rights if they are sick and unable to obtain health care. We must maintain at a minimum the same benefits provided by ACA. Cancer patients and others with chronic conditions cannot obtain the treatment they need in emergency rooms!

I am happy to pay taxes to help others have health care. It could be me or you tomorrow and I believe that we have that obligation to help those in need. The richest in our country do not need a tax break at the expense of the health of those less fortunate.

Please vote NO on repealing the ACA and replacing it with Graham-Cassidy.

Sincerely,

Janice Altmayer

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: DAVID BANGTSON <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: comments on Graham-Cassidy

Please, please, please do not pass this bill. As a lifetime employee in the insurance industry, I can assure you that this bill would be catastrophic to our entire health care system. The dollar cuts are beyond imagining and would place a burden on the states far too heavy for them to manage. Inevitably, they would respond by eliminating coverages, underfunding any high risk pool, and leading those unfortunate few to be charged premiums far beyond their ability to pay.

This bill completely overlooks the whole purpose of insurance - to share the risks of high health cost among a large group so that no one is overburdened. The ACA needs modifications, but this bill is a pure disaster.

David Bangtson

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] NE

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

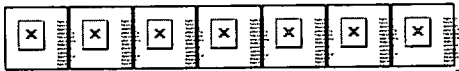
From: Liz Neporent <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: New Health Care Bill

Please do not pass this horrible bill that will greatly burden middle class Americans, especially those of us with children and pre-existing conditions. You may think it fulfills a political promise but in fact it will spell political doom for Republicans everywhere.

--

Liz Neporent
[REDACTED]

Contact me old school: [REDACTED]
Or join me on social media:



This email is run on a gmail app. Therefore, I apologize in advance if there are any typos or misspellings. I do my best to catch them but I admit that spelling is not my strong suit. Seriously. I apologize. The information contained in this e-mail is private and confidential. If the reader of this e-mail is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any review, dissemination or copying of this e-mail is prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender. Consider the environment very carefully before printing up this or any email.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Megan Fray <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: health care bill

To the Senate Finance Committee,

It is appalling that this bill does not prevent insurance companies from charging more for preexisting conditions or from instituting a lifetime cap.

Please consider the opinions of experts like 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 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") and do not allow this bill in its present form to pass the Senate.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sandy Allen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Lindsay Healthcare bill.

I am strongly against this travesty of a so called "healthcare" bill. If this had been law in March of this year I would be dead right now.

In January I went to New Zealand to visit friends who had moved there (they were very generous and paid my way). The week before I left, I experienced a bout of severe chills, nothing else. When I got to NZ, I was exhausted but chalked it up to jet lag and stress. That exhaustion never went away. I was there for about a month. When I got home, I still was very tired, all I wanted to do was sleep. I got home on Feb 24. On March 5, a friend checked in on me and found me in bed. This friend checked again later in the day, I was still in bed. Paramedics were called and they took me to the hospital where they diagnosed me with infection in the mitral and aortic valves of my heart. Doctors did surgery and saved my life. I am in excellent health now but it has been a rough road. I am also diabetic, controlling that with diet and exercise.

My understanding of Graham Lindsay is that insurance companies can charge me anything they want to or even refuse to insure me because of pre-existing conditions. This is so totally wrong. Denying pregnant women insurance coverage is also wrong. Refusing to pay for birth control is wrong.....there is absolutely nothing right about this legislation. Seems as if Repugs want to kill off Seniors as well as anyone with pre-existing conditions.

Sincerely,
Sandra Allen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margi Lebold <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy-Graham-Heller-Johnson Amendment to H.R. 1628

It's time to stop fixating on repealing the ACA and take a next step that provides health care access to even more people. I do not support this latest Cassidy-Graham bill. Millions will lose health care and ultimately everyone pays the price for that with increased costs due to bankruptcies and health care industry write offs. Eliminating the pre-existing condition protections will be disastrous. This is not the way. I urge you to pull this bill and come up with something that is better than the ACA, not this cruel joke of a bill.

Thank you,
Margi Lebold

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anneke Emerson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:01 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no

Graham-Cassidy will destroy employer-sponsored health insurance. Allow me to explain...

The bill in its current form allows health insurance companies to increase a subscriber's premiums, even mid-year, if that subscriber develops certain health issues, such as a cancer.

If you have an employer-sponsored health plan, your employer is required, by law, to cover at least 50% of your premium. Employees' premiums vary currently by age only (or selected plan). Premiums no longer vary by gender (thanks, Obama!). As an example, a 22-year-old's premium on one of my plans is \$314.11/month. That same plan for a 60-year-old is \$852.49 -- more than double. That is because it can be somewhat safely assumed (and there is likely loads of data to back this up) that as you age, you are more likely to develop more health issues and have greater need.

Employers are also required, by law, to pay a percentage of the premium rather than a flat fee. So for example, I cannot pay \$100/month towards each employee's plan. I must use a percentage model instead. This ensures that older employees are not being treated unfairly with benefits compensation.

Employers choose plans on an annual basis. Around October, and we're doing this now, employers are provided with the rates for the same or comparable plans for the coming year. From that data, the company determines how its benefits package may change for the coming year and what insurance it will offer as well as the percentage of premium it may cover. The employer (and the employee/subscriber) are then LOCKED IN to that plan for a year. The only time an employee can change plans is during the Open Enrollment period (usually Nov/Dec in preparation for the coming year) or when that employee's status changes (gets married, has a baby, leaves employment, etc.).

Back to Graham-Cassidy. Let's say that you have an employee who is 60-years-old, so the premium is \$852.49. As an employer, let's say that you pay the minimum 50% of the premium, or \$426.25 -- \$5,114.94/year is the employer's contribution. Now, let's say that person developed skin cancer in January of a new plan year. It's treated, all is fine. Great! However, now that employee has a pre-existing condition -- skin cancer. During that same plan year, let's estimate March, the health insurance company can now increase that subscriber/employee's premium because he/she has an pre-existing condition now. Let's also say this doubles the person's premium to \$1,704.98/month. That also doubles the employer's contribution since the employer must give a percentage -- making the employer's annual costs now become \$10,229.88 -- JUST FOR THE EMPLOYER.

Cancer.gov estimates that 0.5% of people develop cancer every year. If you have a company of 1,000 employees, that's a likelihood of 5 employees developing cancer each year. In the example above, for an older employee, you're looking at up to \$50k/year in added health premium cost. AND THAT'S JUST ONE OF MANY PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS THAT CAN DEVELOP. Additionally, once that premium goes up because a condition becomes pre-existing, it will never drop back down. Therefore, that employer is looking at 5 new employees, every year, with a rising premium due to cancer. That's 5 in 2017. 10 total in 2018. 15 total in 2019. And so on...

This also makes it nearly IMPOSSIBLE for employers to gauge how much to budget for health insurance. Employers will begin to drop health insurance as a benefit because it will become simply cost-prohibitive and will become impossible for them to budget for.

I have employer-sponsored health insurance and this bill will absolutely kill it, leaving me to foot that whole premium myself.

Vote no.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sue Masaracchia-Roberts <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:01 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I heartily OBJECT to the Graham Cassidy abomination!

Keep the ACA and fix what is wrong; don't destroy it and punish the millions who need health care assistance! Also, hands off Medicare and Medicaid!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Enid Zuckerman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:01 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham-Cassidy debacle bill

To Whom I Hope It Concerns:

The secrecy with which this bill was written and the haste with which it's being brought to a vote -- effectively without any debate and outrageously without a full CBO score -- attest to the heinous political motives of the bill's author and supporters. They care most about the welfare of their wealthy donors and nothing at all about their constituents. That Graham, Cassidy, et al., treat 1/6th of the U.S. economy and the health care of Americans in this cynical, highhanded and immoral way is appalling.

Enid Zuckerman

[REDACTED]
New York, NY 10025

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beth Dickstein <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:00 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Save our healthcare

As we see, this regime isn't listening to the needs of the people it's supposed to serve. As a mother I urge you to keep the Affordable Care Act - and not kill the rights of all to healthcare. It's your duty and the principles of a country that people once respected

Beth Dickstein
bde

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
New York, NY 10012

Find us on [Facebook](#)
Follow us on [Twitter](#)
Read our [blog](#)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: William Marotti <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill comment

To the members of the committee:

On behalf of my friends and family members with continuing and serious medical conditions, I was deeply appreciative of the Senate members who took a principled stand against the draconian health care proposals earlier this year. On behalf of those loved ones, I would ask you to stand again against the latest bill. A huge part of our economy, and something that literally means life or death for Americans, and yet we have a rush to a vote. No hearings besides a perfunctory Homeland Security discussion, no CBO score, and, despite weasel language, plenty of scope for states to remove the preexisting condition mandatory coverage that keeps my friends and family alive. Proper legislation requires hearings, experts, examination, and a good-faith effort to do the right thing. This is the opposite, and a regeneration of the traditions of the Senate. Block grants for Medicare will throw millions off of healthcare. All to sneak a law in before the expiration of the 50-vote threshold. It's the worst measure yet, and I urge you to stand against it yet again.

Thank you,
William Marotti
[REDACTED] CA

Sent from my cellphone--kindly excuse terseness and typos!

Sent from my cellphone--kindly excuse terseness and typos!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Greg Austin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham Cassidy

Dear Senators,

The math for Graham Cassidy looks really bad. You can't cover pre-existing conditions without a mandate that keeps healthy people in the insurance market. Saying pre-existing conditions are covered is a lie. You are just making the states cancel them for you. No CBO score, no debates, no support from healthcare experts. This bill is very bad for America. I urge you to do what is right for America. Put principles over party.

Thank you,
Greg Austin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:58 PM
To: gchcomments

Vote no to Cassidy Graham. Keep the ACA

KAREN PARSONS

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Say NO to Graham/Cassidy!!

Senate Finance Committee-

My husband, children and I are currently on COBRA from his last job and will be purchasing individual/family health insurance when that runs out as he is a solo practicing attorney. If the Graham/Cassidy bill passes I will not qualify for insurance because I had a melanoma when I was 25 (I'm turning 46 this year) and therefore have a pre-existing cancer diagnosis even though it was stage 1 and I never received cancer treatment. I don't know what our premiums would end up being and insurance, if we could get it, would be prohibitively expensive. This bill only benefits the very rich who will never get sick. It penalizes solo practitioners and their families, people with pre-existing conditions, women, elderly, low income, people with mental illness and substance abuse disorders and many others. It is cruel and inhumane.

You must not support this bill!!!!

Robin Donnenfeld
Roslyn, NY

Sent from iphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: abdulla albinali <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: meals on wheels

I have been volunteering for years to deliver meals to the elderly and disabled through meals on wheels program. It is partially funded by Medicaid. It will be a disaster if these vulnerable people lose this service y the proposed bill in the senate.

Abdulla Albinali

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Love That Max <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: This beautiful boy with a pre-existing condition deserves affordable coverage



This is my oldest son, Max. He likes to be known as "Fireman Max," because he wishes to be a firefighter when he grows up. Max has cerebral palsy. Under the Graham-Kennedy plan, cerebral palsy is defined as a pre-existing condition. This means that insurance companies would be allowed to charge more for his care and institute a lifetime cap. This would be a catastrophe for my son's continued well-being, along with our family's financial health. Please, do not take affordable health insurance away from my son.

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 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") and do not allow this bill in its present form to pass the Senate."

Ellen Seidman

--

[Love That Max](#) is one of [Babble's](#) Top 100 Mom Blogs

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: ToolPackinMama <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Don't kill Americans

Please don't kill USA citizens.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christine Gitomer <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH

To the members of this committee, I hope that you will take the time to truly understand that Americans do not want you to repeal the ACA. My daughter and grandchildren are dependent on this program; they each have pre-existing conditions and are currently blessed with good health because of the ability they have to get the medical care they need. This was not possible before the passage of ACA.

So many people are in the same situation as my family. As to the argument that ACA is failing, that is only because of the intentional undermining of the program. Shame on all of you for allowing this sabotaging of the program to happen, for your own shameful political reasons.

Please put the people of America before your partisanship, before your ridiculous adherence to the call of the monied 1%. BE PATRIOTS!!!

Thank you,
Christine Gitomer
Los Angeles

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sascha Cohen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Barbosa, Grant (Harris); Thompson, Megan (Feinstein)
Subject: NO on Graham Cassidy from 32 year old cancer patient

Hello,

I am writing to oppose this bill.

I am a 32 year old woman with stage 3 breast cancer caused by a genetic mutation.

The latest estimates shows that my insurance costs under Graham Cassidy would be more than \$28k per year as a young person with this disease. This is far over my annual income. Even financial support from friends and family would not be enough to keep me covered for more than a few months. Without insurance, I would not have access to the monthly and daily medications I need to take, which keep my cancer from growing. Without these treatments, I have an over 85 percent chance of my condition becoming terminal - spreading to my lungs, bones, liver, or brain, and taking my life within 6 months.

I want to stay alive for my family. I know the reality of this bill - that it would strip protections for sick Americans like me. I am scared, and I will remember how each member of Congress votes on this bill.

Sincerely,
Sascha Cohen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barb Home <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not pass the Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill

As a manager for a healthcare group, I have seen many patients over the years who had to choose between healthcare and paying their basic bills. Several hundred if not thousands of patients chose not to seek recommended care because they could not afford it. Our clinics provide sight saving services that allow our patients to read, drive, work, and in some cases can be the difference between being dependent or independent.

The Affordable Care Act, aka Obamacare, changed that situation for so many of these patients. They were able to get good coverage, at affordable rates, and the care they needed so desperately.

Lest you think these patients were drug addicts, unemployed or illegal residents, they are people who are hard working in jobs such as truck drivers, teachers, salespeople, factory workers, retail clerks, etc. Although employed the companies these patients worked for offered either no insurance, insurance with premiums that were too high, or deductibles that were so large, as to render "full coverage" policies into catastrophic only coverage. The average wage earner, with or without dependents, is hard pressed to pay \$10,000 per year in out of pocket expenses until coverage kicked in.

The ACA coverage fills the gap when employers choose not to offer insurance coverage, can't afford to offer insurance or adequate coverage, or choose higher profits over employee welfare. State Medicaid programs have been the catch all fail safe for patients caught in these situations, that is if the State Medicaid's even offered coverage for these employees.

Walmart's insurance coverage for its employees over the past decade had forced many of its employees to obtain Medicaid coverage in order to have adequate insurance for their families. With the ACA, many of these employees were able to enroll in available coverage and decrease dependency on Medicaid. Other patients who had been unable to obtain affordable coverage due to pre-existing conditions now have that coverage with the ACA.

The coverages afforded to families and individuals under the ACA has lifted the burden of caring for many of these patients from Hospital Emergency Departments, and allowed healthcare providers and systems to see and treat patients with enough reimbursement to cover most of the cost of services rendered. This has increased hospital income and I believe has put more of them on stable ground.

The ACA is not perfect, no one ever claimed it was. However, it does the basics of what it set out to do: provide coverage to a wider group of individuals who had been without insurance or without adequate coverage; to mandate coverage of basic services such as preventative care, birth control, etc.; and to keep premiums affordable.

Graham Cassidy's coverage is abysmal without guarantees of basic preventative services, denial of pregnancy coverage, with premiums costing many thousands of dollars, and exorbitant deductibles that will force people with coverage under the ACA to forgo coverage under this proposed healthcare bill.

Graham Cassidy seems to have as a primary purpose less coverage and higher deductibles that will save employers money as they reap the benefits of less employees choosing insurance coverage. Surely it is not good for our economy to have more individuals filing for disability because untreated medical conditions have progressed until beyond reversing with appropriate medical care, with loss of jobs equaling loss of spending for goods and services, and/or higher volumes of bankruptcies that decrease company profits as accounts receivables are written off via court order?

I plead with you to reject Graham Cassidy and instead keep what is already in place, thriving in almost all markets, and work instead to tweak the ACA and keep affordable coverage in place for the 28+ million that are already using it and for the millions more who have yet to sign up because of the GOP merry-go-round with trying to destroy the ACA, the lives of millions of people in America, in a short-sighted attempt to increase profits of large companies and the top 1-2% holders of the wealth in this country.

Sincerely,

Barbara J Ullsperger

[REDACTED]

Brown Deer, WI

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marcia <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Please don't take away my healthcare!

Marcia Rothwell

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jon Pennington [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose the Graham-Cassidy-Heller Bill

We will have long memories about this & we will vote you at every election if you destroy the health car market for the sake of this horrible, horrible bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Theresa Goetz <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Bill

Do not vote this outrageous bill! Too many people, if not everyone, will be harmed!

Theresa Goetz

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Firstly, pushing this healthcare bill through without a review by the Congressional budget office is irresponsible.

Secondly, making states responsible for creating and providing health insurance for the poor will be ineffective. Most states prefer to spend time and money elsewhere...look at Illinois. I don't believe most states would manage this well opting for insuring as little as possible, not really caring about this segment of the population.

A standard by the federal government needs to be set for all Americans. Basic maternity, WellCare, basic pediatric care, drug costs, hospitalization etc. should be covered. But more education with regards to diet (diabetes drugs will be less needed if we were healthier) and lifestyle needs to be encouraged. Plus, there is a lot of pressure by pharmaceutical companies to buy their products. Sometimes drugs are prescribed but may not be needed. This is an important part of the healthcare discussion which should be addressed as well.

At this rate, with the income gap widening, and more people becoming poorer, the healthcare problem is going to get bigger, not better. Other issues such as job creation, which means more education, needs to be addressed in tandem with healthcare.

Pushing this bill through is incredibly irresponsible. I expect more from my senators. It's not about 'winning'. It's about creating what works.

Sincerely,
Judith L Shaver

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: graham/cassidy

please i beg of u to pass this into law we need obamacare to end millions are being hurt by high premiums and very high deductibles to the point they cannot even use the insurance also obamacare is hurting thousands of seniors in nursing homes they are being refused care and treatment help us to pass graham and cassidys healthcare bill

thank u

mary ann almeida i was democrat and left to join trump

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jamie Tallman [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy

My daughter is autistic. By cutting care for kids like her we are not only doing a disservice to our children, we are putting off vital developmental aid that will end up costing much more when these kids reach adulthood. I urge you to vote no on this immoral bill.

Jamie Tallman
[REDACTED] NE

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gmail <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Please stop this nonsense. Continue to work on a bipartisan healthcare plan. Think about your constituents and not just money for your reelection coffers. The medical and insurance companies are against this bill. Please do not put this bill forward.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Grzywa <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

Thank you for your attention to members of the public via this hearing.

The Graham Cassidy bill has barely been debated, nor is a CBO score available. It is unseemly to attempt to reorganize a sixth of the United States economy without proper debate or public input. It is apparent that the sponsors of this bill prefer not to have it be closely examined, because they know it is bad policy.

I won't add my personal stories to my request that you not pass this bill. Like most Americans, the threat to my friends and family members who have pre-existing conditions directly affects my life. For all the reasons so eloquently expressed by every reputable medical organization and even some insurance companies, this bill is a disaster for the American public.

You may want to consider that we will remember your votes. Eventually, justice will happen.

However, more importantly, I also ask you to consider this: If this bill passes and healthcare becomes less accessible, the American people will be weaker as a nation. Either we will be dealing with chronic illness or we will be dealing with the chronic illness of someone we love. The cost to our nation will not just be monetary. A nation's strength is the strength of its citizens. You are weakening our people and our national security in this bill.

Sincerely,

Mary Grzywa

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], Illinois 61341

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Forer, Elizabeth B. <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal from Elizabeth Forer, CEO, Venice Family Clinic

Dear Senate Finance Committee members:

I urge you to put an end to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal which will repeal the Affordable Care Act. But let me be clear that this proposal does not offer health care coverage or increased access to health care for Americans, instead it returns us to a time when very few people could afford health insurance unless their employer offered it. It is interesting that the primary focus of this bill is on allowing states to do whatever they want, while not providing adequate funding for state's that expanded Medicaid to continue their programs in the same way that they currently exist. Block granting Medicaid will be a disaster for poor people, disabled people, old people and children. I would like to share with you video links of how it will impact some of the patients that we serve at Venice Family Clinic. Venice Family Clinic provides quality primary health care to 26,000 people in need in Los Angeles County. Each of these videos is less than one minute long. Please listen to their voices and understand how each of them has gained a new future because of Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act. All of them would be negatively impacted by the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal.

Elana Frey

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/venicefamilyclinic/videos/10155439544849906/>

Twitter:
<https://twitter.com/VeniceFamClinic/status/884494502697680897>

Andy Herman

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/venicefamilyclinic/videos/10155446412399906/>

Twitter:
<https://twitter.com/VeniceFamClinic/status/885215882649116672>

Lee Cox

Facebook: _
<https://www.facebook.com/venicefamilyclinic/videos/10155455817644906/>

Twitter:
<https://twitter.com/VeniceFamClinic/status/887023810024583169>

Ira Johnson

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/venicefamilyclinic/videos/10155473432309906/>

Twitter:
<https://twitter.com/VeniceFamClinic/status/887839979841372160>

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: DR Johnson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: STOP THE GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL!!!!

Please have some *COMPASSION* for people who will be kicked out of insurance programs because of this bill. Please have some *COMPASSION FOR CHILDREN, ELDERLY, DISABLED, AND DISADVANTAGED!* My husband was diagnosed with a terminal brain cancer 10 years ago. I am *GRATEFUL* that we had medical insurance. Without it, I would have been bankrupt. I was fortunate. Have some *COMPASSION* for those less fortunate!!!! **DO NOT PASS THE GRAHAM-CASSIDY Bill.** It is a travesty and a lie!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Katy Sheridan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I respectfully request that this bill be rejected by this Congress. It is harmful in the extreme! It is worse than all the others that have been voted down.

KRS

Katy Sheridan
861 Silver Avenue SW
Albuquerque, NM 87102-3020

katysheridan@me.com

505 242-0803 land

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anetra Etheredge <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Jee, Lauren (Cardin); Ababiya, Ziky (Van Hollen)
Subject: Graham Cassidy Comments

This bill is quite simply a death sentence. To deny access to care for our children, the mothers who carry them and our elderly is quite frankly the depths of depravity. There is no word that would fit individuals who engage in this behavior other than MONSTERS. Any senator who votes for this bill is signing their own warrant. The polls will not reflect on these acts kindly. If you ever hope to suggest you have anything resembling a soul vote NO on Graham Cassidy. The world is watching you...and we will remember.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Home Email [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I have a preexisting condition. Passage of this bill could make me uninsurable at worst and unable to afford my premium at best. Please do not do this.

Sincerely,
Robin A Borrows

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maria Hayes <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare Bill

Dear GOP,

You cannot be serious. Your lies about robbing the American people of their healthcare are beyond the pale. You can toady to the Koch's all you want but you leave the American people out of it. If you are hell bent on passing this monstrosity, then you can kiss your free ride in the Senate goodbye. How dare you? Nobody wants this except your lords. You are despicable. Every time we turn around, you are destroying our great nation. We have a Putin puppet in the White House, bleeding us dry, and this is your solution? Why can't you do your job and work for us for a change? The American people will not rest until you are put out to pasture never to return.

I Hope You Rot In Hell,

Maria Hayes
A Voter

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Walker <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Hearing 9/25/17

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

Many well-respected and knowledgeable healthcare groups and associations are against Graham-Cassidy including the American Medical Association, a bipartisan group of Medicaid Directors from all 50 states, and Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

Because the impact of the proposal are profound and for many families devastating, it deserves to have "regular order" to quote Senator McCain. Please honor Senator McCain's wishes.

Sincerely,
Susan M. Walker
citizen and voter
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], IL 60202

cc: Senator Richard Durbin
Senator Tammy Duckworth

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: johnson m [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GrahamCassidy - I am opposed

This new bill is a disgrace and shows that the GOP has no interest in their constituents or even in the future of so many Americans. Just repeal ACA regardless of what will happen to millions of people seems to be the GOP mantra. And to move the responsibility to the States is crazy. Here in Illinois, Rauner, a republican, has done his best to ruin and bankrupt the state.

Margaret Johnson
[REDACTED], Illinois

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Crowe <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Cassidy-Graham bill. Having clear coverage at a transparent price allows people to be reassured that their family will be cared for. Good results are starting to emerge now that ACA has been in place for a few years. The chaos that will ensue from this bill will hurt people outright. The ten essential benefits ARE essential. Block grants will only politicize healthcare.

Barbara Crowe

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robin Walsh <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care replacement bill

This latest attempt at repealing the ACA is truly shameful. Just say NO. It's time to work on a bipartisan bill that improves Heath insurance for all.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Bolster <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: heAlthcare

Your plan is a disgrace. You are showing that you could care less about the elderly by taking away medicare that we worked our whole life to pay for, the infants by denying maternity care to women, basically taking away medical coverage from people with preexisting conditions as they probably will not be able to afford.

Your political party, the Republicans, keep claiming to being great Christians yet everything you do goes against what Jesus taught us and what he did to heal the sick and feed the hungry and taught all to care for each other. Not just their political party or their wealthy donors but for all people.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: staceysemail2013@gmail.com
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Please eliminate the Graham-Cassidy bill.

The American people deserve better than this.

This bill would quite literally cost hundreds of thousands - if not millions - of Americans to, ultimately, lose their lives.

You owe us more than this.

We don't want this bill to go through.

We deserve better.

Stacey Ellison

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: S. Damron <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

I say NO to this unconscious Graham/ Cassidy Act. Instead of improving the ACA, they clearly have no vision after all the attempts to repeal and or replace. No CBO score and rush through, the Republicans will have blood on their hands. I say NO NO NO.

Thank you,
Sherri Damron

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Hutchings <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:04 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Mary Hutchings
Subject: pre existing conditions

To Those Entrusted With Promoting The Nation's General Welfare as expressed in the form of the Affordable Care Act: My daughter suffers from a movement disorder known as Ataxia of the Cerebellum. It is a condition she inherited from her father who died from this disease as a 100% service connected disabled Viet Nam Veteran. It is presumed his genetics were damaged as a result of exposure to caustic agents freely used in Viet Nam during the time he served his country there. My daughter is unable to live independently and is cared for by many who love her, including her husband whose health insurance currently covers her. Her husband suffers from Krohn's disease, also a chronic and disabling condition requiring regular treatment. When the ACA became law, we were grateful that their conditions would not prohibit them from affording health insurance in the future should circumstances of employment change. The current so called 'health care' bill being considered offers no such protections. Please defeat this inhumane piece of legislation. Let us move forward as all civilized nations must do. Protect and improve the ACA. Sincerely, a worried mother, Mary Hutchings

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David McGill <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:04 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stop Graham-Cassidy

Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I have been an above-knee amputee since 1996, when I was hit by a car after volunteering to push a stranger's stranded vehicle off a busy highway. As a result, I wear a prosthesis and, thanks to that device, work full time, pay taxes, and travel around the world in my role as a Vice President at a publicly-traded company. I am writing because the Graham-Cassidy Health Care Plan will hurt me and all individuals living with limb loss/difference in the United States. Let me state the importance of this issue clearly: *I will not vote in the midterm and next presidential election for any Representative or Senator who supports this bill.*

I have carefully studied this bill since it became public a few weeks ago. The impact it would have on amputees like me would be catastrophic.

- 1. Graham-Cassidy will allow insurers to assert annual and lifetime caps on prostheses.** Currently, all 50 states consider prosthetics an essential health benefit, but that would change under Graham-Cassidy. In states where prosthetics lose essential health benefit status, amputees will be subjected to annual and/or lifetime caps that render the insurance we pay premiums for useless. This will put the devices that we depend on to take every step and to open every door financially out of reach for many amputees. Alternatively, insurers can simply choose to offer policies that provide no coverage for prosthetics at all. This amounts to tacit federal sanctioning of discrimination against amputees. It is unacceptable.
- 2. Graham-Cassidy will permit insurers to discriminate against individuals with pre-existing conditions.** While Senators Graham and Cassidy insist that the prohibition against pre-existing condition exclusions will remain in effect under their proposal, they ignore the fact that the bill simultaneously gives insurers the right to charge higher premiums to people with pre-existing conditions. I urge you to look beyond the political spin and examine the actual *effect* of this bill. People like me will suddenly see their premiums explode because we all have a pre-existing condition. For many Americans with limb loss, this will be a financial burden they simply cannot bear. They will fall into the ranks of the uninsured, unable to receive *any* prosthetic care and treatment. To argue that the bill provides protections that it takes away as a practical matter in the fine print is disingenuous, unconscionable, and should disqualify it from even being brought to the Senate floor for a vote.
- 3. Graham-Cassidy will result in an explosion of uninsured Americans.** While current indications are that the Senate majority is willing to put this bill up for a vote without a CBO score, The Commonwealth Fund has published a preliminary analysis of the effects of Graham-Cassidy. It concludes that over the next 10 years, more than 30 *million* Americans will lose access to health insurance as a result of this ill-conceived proposal. I am at a loss to understand how any elected

official, no matter what their party affiliation, could consider this acceptable. People's lives are literally at stake.

I cannot say it strongly or plainly enough: Graham-Cassidy is bad policy, bad politics, and will do incalculable damage to Americans with disabilities generally and amputees like me specifically. I urge Congress to follow a more rational path. Look at the bipartisan efforts of some in the Senate and of numerous state governors: work together to fix the issues that everyone – Democrat, Republican, and Independent – freely acknowledge exist with the health care system.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my point of view on this critically important issue. And rest assured, there will be no vote that the members of this committee and your peers in the Senate cast that will matter more to me, the amputee community, and everyone living with a disability in the U.S. over the next 3+ years. We will be watching. And we will hold our elected officials accountable for their vote.

Very truly yours,

David McGill

 NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dave DeMaio <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:03 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

Get rid of ACA and go back to pre Obama. Health care is not a frigging right.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Leslie Burton <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:03 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

- Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017
- From: Leslie Burton
- [REDACTED] 93001

I am strongly opposed to this bill and ask that you do NOT pass it. It will cause so much damage to so many individuals.

I am a 60 year old woman, recently retired, and a cancer survivor. I need to be able to count on my health insurance being there and being affordable. And I know there are so many many others in my same position or in even harder/more precarious circumstances.

PLEASE DO NOT PASS THIS MAJORLY FLAWED BILL.

WE CAN AND WE MUST DO BETTER FOR OUR COUNTRY'S PEOPLE!

Thank you,
Leslie B.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please be loyal to the sacrifice our veterans made and not remove health care from millions

Dear Senate Finance Committee

My father fought in the Merrill's Marauders in WW2 in Burma for 2 years in the jungle. He did this because he believed we are a fair and just country.

No one chooses to get cancer. Children are our future - how can we take care of them if their mothers don't get care during pregnancy.

How can this country remain together as a fair and decent place in the eyes of God and man if we rip basic decency and health care from almost a third of the nation and then create insecurity amongst 80% of the rest? Please do not let this country devolve into a level of unfairness that flirts with civil unrest and delivers death to those who are denied care.

There is a middle way - pls find it.

Sincerely
Linda Lewi

[REDACTED]
Dorchester MA 02124
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senators,

I work for a small behavioral health practice in Illinois. I have had the pleasure of seeing parents of young children who struggle with mental illness take advantage of services for the very first time using plans purchased through the ACA and Medicaid expansion. Studies show that mental illness goes undiagnosed and untreated in low-income households, largely due to the prohibitive cost and poor coverage. Medicaid expansion has been a good thing for Illinois, a good thing for the families we see at my practice, and a good thing for America. This "healthcare" bill puts a burden on already-struggling states like Illinois to absorb the cost of Medicaid subsidies at the cost of other essential services. Remember, states cannot operate at a running deficit. Illinois struggles to balance its books already and I am concerned that our governor will not hesitate to cut essential services that Illinoisans take advantage of, including mental health services.

I know exactly which families will stop treatment due to cost. These are children with sometimes severe mental illness, parents with addiction issues, families that are coping with loss, women who are desperately trying to leave abusive relationships, teens who are considering suicide. Please, I implore you, do the right thing and find a bipartisan solution to the issues that exist with the ACA and Medicaid expansion programs. Do not pull the rug out from under these families. They need these services or many of them will literally die.

I cannot emphasize enough how important the ACA and Medicaid expansion is to my clients. They need this care desperately and, without it, many will go into a downward spiral that will have far-reaching effects that I do not believe the co-authors of this bill have adequately considered.

Do the right thing. Do not move forward with this bill.

Colleen Benson
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Heller would be disastrous for my family

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in strong opposition to Graham-Cassidy-Heller on multiple grounds, the first of which is that it would be disastrous for my family and any American family that faces daunting healthcare challenges (translation: every American family outside of the top 1%). My sister suffers from a mental illness and, because of the nature of her disease, can not reliably hold on to a job that will cover health insurance benefits, and is often unable to seek the help she needs to stay healthy. When her disease takes over and she cannot stay medicated, she often requires hospitalization to get back on track. Without hospitalization, expensive medications and therapy, she would likely die from suicide or some other cause related to the risky behaviors and depression brought on by her disease.

My sister is fortunate to come from a middle-class family that loves and supports her. But without reliable government assistance for healthcare, my family would go bankrupt trying to keep her healthy and alive. No family should face that risk. And under GCH, that would be a risk that pretty much any family would potentially face.

My other objections to this bill:

- It would jack up prices for just about everyone, but especially the most vulnerable of Americans: the sick, the poor, the elderly, women and children.
- The majority of Americans don't want this.
- It has no support from doctors, nurses, or even health insurers. No major medical association endorses it. I trust their judgement on what is best for healthcare, not a bunch of politicians.
- It is being rushed through an undemocratic, shameful process with no hearings, amendments, or even a full CBO score. Most of its proponents openly admit or imply that they have no idea what it does or what its impact would be. That terrifies me.
- It is being rushed through this process on an artificial timeline. There is no rule saying you have to do this by Sept. 30. Slow down. Go through the normal process. Let the American people have their say.
- It is completely one-sided. Healthcare needs a bipartisan fix, not a one-sided, rushed, slipshod attempt at repeal just to appease the 30% (at best) of Americans who want that.

As a mother, wife, daughter, sister and concerned citizen, I implore Senate Republicans not to bring this up for a vote. Work with Democrats to fix what's not working with the Affordable Care Act, but keep its framework in place. That's what the majority of Americans -- and experts in the medical and health insurance field -- want. Turn off Fox News and listen to the American people.

Do what's right for the country, not for the very small percentage of Republican voters (and rich donors) who want Obamacare repeal at all cost. It's your job to do what is in the country's best interests. So do your job. Kill this bill.

Thank you,
Irene Lin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy

I have worked hard all my life, obeyed the law, didn't litter - i.e. I'm a good citizen. As I get older, it is harder and harder to make ends meet. With aging have come health problems. Even with insurance, my out of pocket costs are high. If my insurance cost goes up, I will at best have to choose between healthcare and food and at worst I will die. If pre-existing conditions are not covered, that will be a death sentence for me. And I am one of millions in the same boat.

G-C would kill Americans and it would wreak havoc on the economy. To justify voting for it to keep a campaign promise that the majority of Americans don't want kept is a joke. To vote for it to keep a promise to the rich power brokers who think they own Congress and the country is an insult to everything the United States of America stands for.

Defeat Graham-Cassidy. Vote not for party, not for the Kochs, not for your pocketbook, not out of spite. Vote for the well being of Americans. Respect us. Respect yourselves. Don't sell out.

Sherry Sybesma

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Legislation

Dear Senators

According to validated research, approximately 45,000 non -elderly Americans die every year because they lack health insurance. The proposed Graham Cassidy bill will either perpetuate or worsen this statistic.

You have the power, in your hands, to stop this and start saving American lives. Please do it. Ensure this draconian, partisan, inhuman legislation does not pass.

Please help the people who might lose their lives if you fail to take action. Just read the research. This is vetted by leading epidemiologists and economists.

You have the power to save lives by preventing this legislation from being enacted. Please do it.

Joy Hertzog

"There is no 'us' and 'them'. There is only us."

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repeal Bill

Hello,
Please vote no on the healthcare repeal bill. A new plan for healthcare needs to be considered carefully and by all sides. This will affect too many lives to be hastily thrown together without understanding the full implications of this bill. The American people want the democrats and republicans to work together to make our healthcare inclusive and fair for the people. This new repeal will take millions off of healthcare and cost many lives. Please vote no.

Thank you,



Jennifer Walasek, CRC
Community Resource Coordinator | Inclusa, Inc.
[REDACTED] Platteville, WI 53818

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail, including attachments, is intended solely for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential, privileged and/or proprietary information. Any review, dissemination, distribution, copying, printing, or other use of this e-mail by persons or entities other than the addressee or his/her authorized agent is prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please contact the sender immediately and delete the material from your computer.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy will be a disaster for families like mine

In 1967, my father joined the United States Marine Corps to serve his country. Unbeknownst to him, the base housing at Camp Lejeune had contaminated wells. Shortly after he was discharged, my mother became pregnant with me, and it was apparent, from earliest childhood, that I had serious health issues. I had terrible digestive problems, my skin was so dry it cracked and bled, and I was legally blind in one eye. Later, I began to have problems with my joints.

This came to a head when I turned 17, and wound up with a horribly damaged liver. Despite the reputation of college students, I never drank, nor took any drugs, nor abused any prescription medications. Doctors were stumped. I would later be diagnosed with autoimmune hepatitis--my body saw my liver as a foreign invader.

I managed to survive this, and eventually went on to graduate college, although I remained terribly ill. I eventually started doing better, married, and took a job with the now-defunct Sun Microsystems company, as did my husband. We were lucky enough to have good insurance, and, after consulting with my doctors, they felt (as I had not yet received the diagnosis of autoimmune hepatitis) that I probably could not pass my health history on to my child, and I became pregnant.

As we did not yet know, as we had not been notified, of the contamination at Camp Lejeune, we did not know that I would have a high risk of giving birth to a premature baby, which I did.

And, like me, from the moment of her birth, she would have a preexisting condition--in her case, Cerebral Palsy. She would receive the diagnosis, along with a diagnosis of mild to moderate autism, at age 3. We worked with her, terribly hard long hours, while both of us kept up demanding corporate jobs, until I was laid off from Sun. At that point, our child's needs were too great, so I tried to retrain as a substitute teacher, only to become terribly injured, so that I am now in a mobility device for most excursions.

When Sun began to fade, my husband received an offer from Microsoft, which we gratefully accepted. The strain of the move, coupled with the new climate, caused flare-ups of many of my old illnesses, and I was finally able to get diagnoses for most of them. I have thyroid cancer, suspected lung cancer (I have never smoked), autoimmune hepatitis, Sjogren's syndrome, gastroparesis (stomach paralysis), as well as many other minor issues.

While I was in my second round of radioactive iodine treatment for my thyroid cancer, my husband was diagnosed with a rare, congenital disorder regarding cholesterol production. He needed surgery two weeks after I was released from the hospital's isolation ward. He recovered, and returned to work.

My daughter, with the tireless efforts of my extended family, did learn to walk, talk, and was able, through yoga and other exercises, to keep her tendons from shrinking too much. With a lot of extra help and tutoring, she began to do very well in school and, in fact, graduated from high school tied for fourth in her class. It was an amazing achievement, but it was not to last. While she was able to complete two years of college, she had a mental breakdown after the second year. She began to lose multiple skills we had patiently taught her.

She lost much of her emotional control and began to have terrible, frightening tantrums. We were lucky in that

we live in a state with good mental health services, so we got her into treatment right away. She had begun to do better, when she had a seizure, and we had to re-do her medication. We thought we had her relatively stable when she went back to college in January, but her first semester required massive changes in medication which set her back so far, she had to withdraw. Last semester, she did better, but still failed her classes. This semester? We hope. That's about all we can do.

She is covered under my husband's plan for four and a half more years, under the ACA. Once that's gone, with no caps for pre-existing conditions, there is no way she will have medical insurance, and she will likely become a ward of the state if she can't afford her medication.

My husband, if he ever loses his job and it takes longer than the COBRA period to get a new one, is also effectively uninsurable under Graham-Cassidy. Under the ACA, he could purchase insurance, and, while we'd take a major financial hit, it would not be completely devastating.

This bill would take our already precarious lives, and give us yet one more way we could die. It's morally reprehensible. Please, if Christian you be in heart, do not do this to us.

Thank you,

Stacey Dunn

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Commentary

In 2013, I suffered from congestive heart failure and had to be airlifted to another hospital 200 miles away in order to save my life. Being self employed, I was unable to work or maintain health insurance. If not for the ACA, I would not have lived through this. Medicaid expansion in my state of MI allowed me to get the ongoing treatment needed to keep me alive. I was able to obtain insurance through my wife's employer last year after our marriage.

If this bill passes in it's present form, from what I understand, I will no longer be insurable. If I cannot move to a country with universal health care, I will most certainly die.

IN THE NAME OF ALL THAT IS GOOD AND DECENT, PLEASE DON'T ALLOW ME TO DIE, PLEASE!

Howard Richards

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I am writing to express my strong vote of NO on this bill. I want Congress to improve Obamacare, period. Do not devastate the healthcare system - organizations that delivers care in this country and millions of American healthcare consumers say NO to this bill. I do NOT want healthcare to be turned over to the states and I do NOT want Obamacare repealed/replaced.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Epidemiologist opposed to Graham-Cassidy bill

I have spent my academic career studying how to improve people's health. Years of reading and research have demonstrated the complexity and importance of health care policy. The Graham-Cassidy bill, and the process used to bring it to a vote, is evidence that its authors and supporters have no interest in careful deliberation before enacting massive changes to 1/6 of the national economy. An estimated 30 million or more Americans would lose their health care coverage under this plan. Medicaid as we know it would be ended. In the interest of so-called parity, resources sent to states that accepted the Medicaid expansion would be routed to those that did not, rather than imposing parity via mandated Medicaid expansion for all states.

This is a cruel, ill-conceived bill. It will be financially ruinous for many Americans. With less than 2 minutes of scheduled debate time allocated for its discussion, it is taking a deeply undemocratic path to becoming law. There is no aspect of this bill worthy of becoming American law.

Lindsay Townes, MPH

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:56 PM
To: gchcomments

This bill will kill millions of people...my mother....my father....my nephew with Downs syndrome....please vote no on this and don't let it go through.....we're all just sitting back and watching one man destroy our world...one damn man.... Please vote NO

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

To Whom it May Concern. You may not do additional damage to Americans by eliminating their access to health care. To do so would cost lives that deserve their right to basic healthcare that is affordable. Do not go forward with anything represented in Graham Cassidy. To do so would be completely cruel and lead to an escalation of suffering and death in the richest country in the world. Be better than this.

Sincerely,
Mike Billish

Sent from mobile

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:55 PM
To: gchcomments; United States Senate; senator@toomey.senate.gov
Subject: We oppose the GCH
Attachments: Chop Buddy Walk Poster.JPG

I'd like to introduce you to my son, Porter. Porter is five and has Down syndrome. He just started typical kindergarten. He likes to ride horses and play baseball. He has an older sister and a younger brother who, like me, value his life. He also has asthma and sees a number of specialists at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Porter is a real person. We expect him to be fully educated in the typical educational system and we expect he will positively contribute to society throughout his life. We hope that he will live independently as an adult and that he will find employment in a field of his choice.

The proposed GCH will decimate the Medicaid programs that are so valuable to Porter's continued growth. Medicaid pays for many of the therapies he receives during the school day and provides supplemental health insurance for some things our primary plan does not cover. The proposed per capita caps will cause states to drastically cut their programs and limit the services they are able to provide. Home and community based services will also be threatened under the proposed bill. These services allow adults with intellectual disabilities to live and work in the community. The Down syndrome community has worked tirelessly over the past fifty years to ensure that our friends with Down syndrome are able to live fulfilling lives within the community. The incentives in the current package that would attempt to bring those with intellectual disability back into the institutional setting are terrifying. Additionally, the pre-existing condition provisions of the bill will surely allow insurance companies to charge us premiums that are unaffordable.

Danielle Thompson
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy comments

As a parent and grandparent with children and grandchildren all across the country, it is unacceptable to me for the state one family lives in to have the power to determine if a family member is eligible for healthcare, or to buy affordable insurance, for a condition, or to have the amount of care they can receive be limited based on where they live and what other priorities that state may set for children, the elderly, education, public safety, or our environment.

We are a mobil population, which is good for the country and our economy, but having people trapped in specific locations and jobs just to receive health care is immoral, and that is what Grahm-Cassidy proposes. We should not have to choose between the wisdom of our elders and the promise for our children and future in order to insure lower taxes and greater luxury for the wealthy who are not faced with the choice.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:54 PM
To: gchcomments

I'm a 62 year old individual with pre-existing conditions that's unable to work full time due to these conditions. I have Arthritis of the hip and the doctor is stating that within a year I'll need surgery. I also need other test completed(found lump on breast). I know that the insurance companies will be able to pick and choose what they cover along with caps. 62 years old, where am I going to get HC that's needed when I can't even walk half the time? The rates will skyrocket.

Senators have great insurance that the taxpayers pay for, what's the difference for us? I don't begrudge you affordable insurance, why do you begrudge us? You haven't even addressed the high cost of insurance or prescriptions. The insurance companies can and WILL make insurance so high for the sick because they're not going to lose money. We are the only developed Country who doesn't care that their people have access to affordable healthcare.

Vote no, my life and millions others depend on it.

Mary Snavlin

Sent from XFINITY Connect Mobile App

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fwd: Save, My Mom

Name: Emily Ball

Address: [REDACTED]
Broken Arrow, Oklahoma 74011

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

This accompanies attached email.

Sincerely,
Emily Ball

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: September 21, 2017 at 11:45:20 AM CDT
To: GCHcomments@finance.senate.gov
Subject: Save, My Mom

Dear leaders of our free world,

My name is Emily. I am 53 years old, I work part time while looking for FULL TIME work. I am not one of your inner circle friends, I am One of your constituents. I'm an American worried about our seniors, my Mother! Your Mother, my neighbors. All of our elders!

Her health has declined since all of this nonsense has begun. "Who knew healthcare could be so complicated" -Trump. We knew, we know! We live, life or death, daily.

I deliver for Meals on Wheels. I've knocked on doors, the news on, at volume level 50, seniors wanting and waiting for reassurance. They've given us everything, sacrificed immensely for us all. Now, we have them scared beyond belief. I leave in tears. They're living in fear.. This isn't the compassion I was raised on. This is cruel. This uncertainty, millions without health insurance. The disabled, really? Hurt em all, GOP?

I'm dyslexic. I'm bullied. I'm broke. But who I am, I will help, whoever I can! That's what Americans do.

I need you to understand middle America. Food? Doctor? Prescriptions? Housing? What should come first? What can wait? What can wait, weeks?? These are real life questions being asked in households across our nation.

Medical bills are outrageous! Let's focus on bringing down costs and fixing what we have!

I thank you from the bottom of my grieving heart. Please don't kill my Mom.

Blessed to have, freedom of speech!

Emily

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I have a son with a pre-existing condition (epilepsy). If Graham-Cassidy passes, he may never be able to get health insurance again. This is a terrible bill. Please stop it now.

Bill McInerney
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no on Graham-Cassidy

Please vote no on the Graham-Cassidy legislation.

The health insurance that I have through the ACA is literally saving my life right now. I am an Adjunct professor and I do not make a lot of money but I recently got diagnosed with cervical cancer. I would not have had healthcare coverage without the ACA.

I am against the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

I'm a registered nurse and I would like to see an analysis that includes the impact of hospitals closing (mostly rural critical access) and the impact of hospital layoffs due to this bill.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy repeal Bill

I urge all senators to vote NO, this bill will drop millions of Americans from healthcare, killing tens of thousands of them, many children.

This is all being done so Congress can keep a promise to donors (not voters) to provide a tax cut for the rich. Our children are worth more.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment from a directly affected party

I have been a freelancer for 16 years, which means I have been in the individual insurance market for years, both pre- and post-ACA. Before the ACA, I was rejected for group coverage through my alumni association because of a single bout of sciatica several years earlier, even though it had resolved and never recurred. I spent hours and hours filling out insurance applications with 10 or more pages, knowing that if I left off just a single doctor's visit or sprained ankle, the insurer could later claim I did so intentionally and rescind coverage. When I finally found an insurer that would cover me (did I mention I'm a runner with no chronic conditions and no ongoing prescriptions?), I was stuck with whatever outrageous premium it charged me each year—because I couldn't find another company to cover me, and, if I let it lapse, I would become uninsurable altogether. My premiums routinely went up 20 percent or more, without the coverage to match.

The ACA has been a lifesaver for me and many others. I do NOT receive subsidies, nor do I desire them. But, without the ACA, I would never have been able to obtain the comprehensive coverage I now have. The possibility of this horribly cruel bill passing for purely political reasons, with no regard for the pain and suffering it will cause millions (including many, many GOP voters), is terrifying. The anxiety it is causing is so unnecessary and so antithetical to everything this country is supposed to stand for. On a personal note, I turned 50 this year (hello, age tax!) and am scheduled to have the recommended colonoscopy next month. Now I'm left trying to decide whether to get it while the cost is covered by my insurance or whether to skip it because, if it finds something, I will have another preexisting condition for which I might not be able to afford coverage going forward. It is simply mind-boggling that GOP senators could not care less about this type of repercussion, not to mention the multitudes of stories told by people—old, sick, disabled, children, poor—much less fortunate than I.

This is not a political exercise. It's truly shocking that you can be so removed and so heartless as you play with people's lives. I beg the GOP senators to think beyond their donors and their reelections and to make the moral, pro-life choice.

Barb Neff
Clarity Communication Services

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care proposal

This proposed bill is not what the voters have requested. This will be extremely detrimental to the developmentally disabled population, both children and adults. Do not rush this purely to make a point. Your responsibility to this population, as well as many others with preexisting conditions, should allow more time and collaboration of effort to make it effective for those that are facing long term issues. There is not a quick fix for the issue of health care. Please consider those at the base of this issue before pushing this through with so much at stake.

Kris Fell
Director

D.D.I.S.
[REDACTED]
Mount Pleasant, WI 53406
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The documents accompanying this facsimile transmission contain information that may be confidential and/or legally privileged. It is intended for use only by the person to whom it is directed. If you are not the person to whom this transmission is directed, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution, and/or the taking of any action based upon its contents is strictly prohibited. If you have received this transmission in error, please notify us immediately by telephone at [REDACTED] 7 to arrange for the return of the documents to us.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to Graham Cassidy Bill

Passing this bill would be a giant leap backwards in American health care policy. Please do not cram this bill through just because it would pass a deadline.

Thank you,
Elizabeth Yusupova

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal
Attachments: 20294459_10101821617775245_3249282847792590425_n.jpg; 21191970_10101864136786805_510094264400761773_n.jpg

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

Jennifer Borgh
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Roseville, MN 55113

Hello:

Thank you for the opportunity to send Medicaid stories to you. I saw this e-mail address listed on the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities' Facebook post.

I wanted to share my brother's story with you.

My brother Josh was born on July 17, 1978. He has bright red hair and has a smile and laugh that are contagious. When he was around 6 months old, my mom and doctors noticed some delays with Josh's development. They determined that he had cerebral palsy, microcephaly and epilepsy. The doctors at the time recommended to my mom that Josh be placed in an institution to "live out his remaining years." The doctor's predicted Josh would only live until 2 years old. This past July we celebrated Josh turning 39. 39 years old. Sometimes I wish I could meet that doctor so Josh and I could show him how wrong he was.

How has Josh lived this long? He is our miracle. Our entire family has embraced him, our friends have embraced him and always ask how Josh is doing. Josh leaves an impression wherever he goes. He cannot walk or talk and needs assistance doing everything. Josh lived at home with us until he was 18 years old. We made the decision as a family to move Josh into a residential facility for people with disabilities as he was continuing to grow and we didn't know how much longer we could keep him at home. A few years after Josh moved into the facility, the facility was closing down. Josh has since lived in a smaller group home with other adults with disabilities.

During Josh's 39 years he's endured countless surgeries and recoveries. He continues to amaze us. After one of his most recent procedures the only pain medication he took was motrin. This doesn't surprise me as he continues to show us all how strong he is. Josh is a recipient of Wisconsin Medicaid. Josh is able to live in the group home he lives in because of funding received through Wisconsin's home and community based waivers. Josh's durable medical equipment supplies are all paid for by Wisconsin Medicaid. Josh's medications are paid for by Medicaid. Josh's nutritional supplement that he takes via a feeding tube is covered by Medicaid. Josh's hospital stays, surgeries, doctor visits are all paid for by Medicaid. The staff at Josh's home are paid via money that is paid through Wisconsin Medicaid.

In Wisconsin, Medicaid for people with disabilities similar to Josh has been free of waiting lists for services for a few years now. If Medicaid turns to a block grant system I worry what that will mean for the services that Josh receives. Will that mean that he has less staff? Currently the staff levels are low--usually one to two during certain times of the day for 6 residents in the group home. The staff level is already concerning too as Josh does not have 1 to 1 care. Will block grants (and a reduction in Medicaid funding to Wisconsin) mean that Josh will have to take less medication? Will his medications no longer be covered? What will this mean for the food that Josh receives through his feeding tube...will that be limited now with a block grant system? What about if he needs a new wheelchair, how about his diapers and associated supplies? Turning Medicaid into a block grant system essentially means limiting the funding that is provided to states and states will have to determine whether to lessen the services that are provided, limit who is eligible for the services or both which could mean a waiting list again for home and community based services in Wisconsin. Wisconsin could also decide to allocate more funding for the state's share of funding, but with their current legislative body and governor I do not anticipate that happening.

I ask that the Senate strongly consider these concerns as they determine whether they will pass the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

Please note that my family is willing to provide more information and would welcome the opportunity to speak with any of the Senators willing to speak with us. My phone number is: (202) 459-1178 or I can be reached at this e-mail address. In addition, I am enclosing two pictures of my brother as I think it's nice to have a face with his story.

Thank you again for your time.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Borgh

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy is a harmful bill

It is appalling this bill does not prevent insurance companies from charging more for preexisting conditions or from instituting a lifetime cap.

Please consider the opinions of experts like 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 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”) and do not allow this bill in its present form to pass the Senate.

Thank you,
Cindy Hamilton

[REDACTED]
Highwood, IL 60040
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Need full hearings on health care bill and nonpartisan analysis of impact before vote

I endorse the call by Senator McCain for restoring the normal process of full hearings and the nonpartisan analysis of its likely impact before voting on a bill as monumental as the Graham-Cassidy bill opposed by health care experts and a group of Republican Governors among other Americans concerned about the millions whose health care insurance will be adversely affected. Don't let politics trump good government.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: HEARING BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE US SENATE ON GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL TO REPEAL THE ACA

I am writing to urge you not to endorse the Graham-Cassidy bill to repeal the ACA. Instead you should consider the bipartisan alternative bill that is currently being worked out by a coalition of Republicans and Democrats to improve the ACA. Many respected medical organizations and the entire insurance industry oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. It will leave many people without health care – exactly what the ACA was intended to prevent.

Leaving the “choice” of health care programs up to the states leaves people in many states with no choice at all. Many states have demonstrated that they do not support providing even basic health care for their citizens. They have refused to accept expansion of Medicaid; they have forced the closure of many Planned Parenthood clinics, putting ideology over health care for millions of women.

Block grants to states without rules on how to spend that money is irresponsible. No private business would ever give away money without spending controls. As unabashed supporters of private business, the Republicans should be the first to decry this program.

The supporters of this bill have demonstrated their callousness: They prefer to have a “win” on passing legislation, no matter what harm that legislation imposes on the nation. It is a complete failure of good governance. Do not endorse this travesty.

Rosie Rees

[REDACTED]
Evanston, Illinois 60202
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to Graham-Cassidy

My name is Jessica Johnson, I am a voter in Indiana's 5th district and the rush to pass the Graham-Cassidy bill truly frightens me. This bill has not had the time to be properly vetted and many Americans aren't aware that Congress is planning on passing this massive change to our healthcare system in such a short span of time. Obamacare was passed more responsibly.

I have members of my family who have grappled with cancer and they would be adversely affected if they had lifetime coverage caps. I have friends and clients who are recipients of our state's Medicaid expansion. As a woman I would be subject to increased premiums and no guarantee that a future plan I have would adequately cover maternity costs. In short, this legislation will negatively affect almost everyone in my life.

Please be responsible. Bipartisan fixes are possible. Better healthcare legislation is possible. You are truly in the unique position to improve lives, please use your power to do so.

Thank you,

Jessica Johnson
Indiana 5th District Voter

Jessica Christine Johnson

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Concerns

Cancer patient who has worked and paid taxes and insurance premiums for over 40 years. Passing GC with its waivers to allow states to exempt companies from premium increases and lifetime limits places my life at risk. I still work, have insurance, and pay taxes but suddenly "it's not sustainable" to guarantee that my lifetime of paying into the system is enough to keep my alive.. Even for those who haven't paid in like I have, placing their health and life in jeopardy is unconscionable. GC is much worse than working to fix ACA and if it passes the voters will know who allowed this to happen.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: no to Graham-Cassidy bill
Attachments: untitled.png

Good morning/afternoon/evening!

I am one of many in this country who has a disability, has a child with a disability, or has a parent or sibling with a disability. I am unique in that I am all four. I am also a well-educated, full time working, single mom, a mom who adopted a child with special needs 16 years ago (her photo is attached). My child suffered a spinal cord injury during delivery, developed cerebral palsy a few months later after a cardiac arrest, and developed bipolar disorder as she approached puberty. Meishy was a million dollar health care recipient well before her first birthday, and continue Medicaid coverage was ensure by her interstate compact adoption agreement. As she approaches the age of 21, I don't even try to guess how much has been spent on her healthcare. I take as much of the burden as I can: transporting her to her appointments, doing IVs and treatments that would require an admission to the hospital without a mom with my nursing qualifications and experience.

I am extremely concerned about all of the negatives this bill supports: lifetime caps, pre-existing condition clauses, Medicaid block grants, and anything repealed for no other reason than it is attached to the ACA.

My daughter currently receives 60 hours of skilled nursing per week to allow me to work. Their duties include total care of my daughter, administering her feedings, clearing her airway, ensuring she gets her medications, and administering the respiratory treatments and monitoring the ventilator she needs to breathe. She has to have someone near her at all times. In the past 5 years, she has had 8 cardio-pulmonary arrests—all which have happened due to a need for suction, a tube coming apart, or mucous blocking her airway. When the nurses are not there, I am responsible for all of these things. There are nights I get very little sleep, but that does not matter to me. Keeping my daughter alive does. Removal of any of the supports and she is likely to die. Although, I have been called wonder woman, I can assure you I am not, and I need help to allow me to make a living for us, have a vehicle in which to take her appointments, and the provisions to keep a roof over our heads.

Eliminating funds for Medicaid and instituting block grants will greatly impact the ability for families like mine to have nursing services to augment the care that the families themselves provide. If I have no nursing care, I am not able to work, buy groceries, take her to doctor appointments (4 arrests have been in the van coming or going somewhere, so travel by myself is not safe). Caregivers have to be medically trained due to the fragility of Meishy's care. My child was not supposed to live this long, but she has because of excellent care, and I don't want to see any of that go by the wayside. I know that I have to give her back someday, but I am not ready to do that yet. I want to keep her happy and healthy for whatever time God gives us.

None of you can imagine what it is like to be beholden to others for everything. If there is no nurse, I cannot leave. That means no runs to the grocery for forgotten or needed items, no running to the pharmacy for that forgotten medication, and no other trips that other parents take for granted. Meishy is total care, so every act that every other parent takes in stride is an astronomical event for us. I am not complaining about our lives. I am happy being a mother to this wonderful child, but I fear what happens when even the most minimal things are likely to be taken away from us disguised as a bill that will benefit those in the world of insurance and who can afford to pay.

Think about what it would be like for you if you had to exist below the poverty line and had to practically beg for any service you need. Finding a good doctor is nearly impossible already. Please don't do anything that will make life worse for us.

16 years ago yesterday, I brought my then 4-year-old daughter home. I promised her a wonderful life. I have done a pretty good job up until now. Please don't make me a liar by denying us the services needed to continue on as we are.


Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely,

Cheryl

**Cheryl Crisp PhD, RN, PCNS-BC, CHPPN, CRRN Assistant Professor
Indiana University School of Nursing at IUPUC
President, Alpha Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau International**

[REDACTED]
Columbus, IN 47203-1769
[REDACTED]

 <http://www.iupuc.edu/Nursing/>


IUPUC

SCHOOL OF NURSING
INDIANA UNIVERSITY-PURDUE UNIVERSITY
Columbus

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill / ACA Repeal

To whom it may concern:

Please do not pass the Graham-Cassidy Bill and repeal ACA. I'm a new business owner because of the pre-existing conditions protections included in ACA.

If you were to pass this bill and repeal ACA it would hurt my business and my family. My husband and I purchase our insurance outside the ACA exchanges but we have pre-existing conditions and therefore will be unable to purchase competitively priced insurance plans.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Regards,
Jane Mas

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: We need health care

This bill is unconscionable, and it is not who we are as a people.

This used to be a country that cared for its people, but this bill proves otherwise. A bill that will gut patient protections if they have pre-existing conditions, adding insurmountable surcharges when patients need care the most. A bill that will drastically reduce Medicaid funding that people with disabilities, like my son Samuel, rely on. A bill that rewards states that did not care enough for their people to side on to Medicaid Expansion under ACA, while punishing states that DID care enough to expand Medicaid for its people.

This bill will end lives. It will bankrupt US citizens. It will disrupt the lives of disabled people by causing them to become more dependent, forcing them into group homes and nursing homes from their own homes by eliminating their on-home supports.

This bill is harmful to individual lives and the US economy. It can't be passed.

-Alyssa Guirguis
Woodbridge, CT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham Cassidy from a Sepsis Survivor

My husband and I are both small business owners in PA. We have two young children and rely on the Affordable Care Act. I have several pre-existing conditions that used to make it hard to get insurance for my family. I almost died of Sepsis in 2016 - spent days in ICU - bills would have been over \$100,000 without my plan. I agree that rising costs are a HUGE problem but repealing ACA and replacing it with this atrocity is not the way to fix it. There ARE bipartisan solutions - even a layperson can see that - please stop this bill and work TOGETHER for fair and affordable healthcare for all!


Paige Wolf Bederka

Paige Wolf , Paige Wolf Media & Public Relations

Mobile: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Website: [REDACTED]
Website: [REDACTED]
Address: [REDACTED]
Author of: Spit That Out: The Overly Informed Parent's Guide to Raising Healthy Kids in the Age of Environmental Guilt



The latest on Spit That Out: [How to Fight the School District for Overdue Health Safeguards – Part One](#)

Get your own  email signature

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Save, My Mom

Dear leaders of our free world,

My name is Emily. I am 53 years old, I work part time while looking for FULL TIME work. I am not one of your inner circle friends, I am One of your constituents. I'm an American worried about our seniors, my Mother! Your Mother, my neighbors. All of our elders!

Her health has declined since all of this nonsense has begun. "Who knew healthcare could be so complicated" -Trump. We knew, we know! We live, life or death, daily.

I deliver for Meals on Wheels. I've knocked on doors, the news on, at volume level 50, seniors wanting and waiting for reassurance. They've given us everything, sacrificed immensely for us all. Now, we have them scared beyond belief. I leave in tears. They're living in fear. This isn't the compassion I was raised on. This is cruel. This uncertainty, millions without health insurance. The disabled, really? Hurt em all, GOP?

I'm dyslexic. I'm bullied. I'm broke. But who I am, I will help, whoever I can! That's what Americans do.

I need you to understand middle America. Food? Doctor? Prescriptions? Housing? What should come first? What can wait? What can wait, weeks?? These are real life questions being asked in households across our nation.

Medical bills are outrageous! Let's focus on bringing down costs and fixing what we have!

I thank you from the bottom of my grieving heart. Please don't kill my Mom.

Blessed to have, freedom of speech!
Emily

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Pre existing conditions

As I sit with my sister while she is getting a stem cell transplant at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester MN I am saddened to read the latest comments on the Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill. It is impossible to know how many preexisting conditions would be priced out of coverage under Cassidy Graham Bill because we do not know what individual states will offer.

The Affordable Care Act provides protection for individuals that have preexisting conditions: availability of coverage, affordability of coverage and extent of coverage. This new health care bill cuts federal funding in many states leading to the question, how can states ensure "affordability".

I have had the chance to stay at The Gift of Life Transplant House in Rochester. Over 100 individuals from around the United States are there waiting some type of transplant. If each state is allowed to set up their own plan, how can we assure that those 100 individuals all have an equal chance for affordable health care for preexisting conditions. Everyone deserves the same and equal chance for the gift of life.

I am humble to hear their stories. Each individual has a unique and powerful story. It is hard to feel sorry for yourself when you hear the stories - a young mother with a young son waiting a liver transplant, a parent with leukemia waiting for allogeneic stem cell transplant,

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony on Graham - Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators,

I'm emailing and Facebooking my testimony since I'm afraid your requirement that testimony be sent via US Mail will mean mine won't reach you in time for your Monday hearing on the Graham-Cassidy proposal. That in itself is an issue, don't you think?

My daughter is 22 years old. She has epilepsy and a developmental disability and depends on Medicaid to live. What a drain she is to the system yes?

Hell no. She works 35 hours a week at 2 jobs. She rents an apartment and lives mostly independently. She employs people to help her with the things she cannot do on her own. She volunteers. She spends money shopping at the mall near her apartment and eats out....a lot. Why does this matter?

Because if you go through with this bill, she loses that. And we lose...all of us.

She is able to keep her job because of her job coach, who helps train her, and helps her stay on track at work, and work through any issues and concerns. Medicaid pays for her job coach.

No job coach, no job.

No job, no rent money and no apartment.

No job, no money to spend in our community.

No job, no employing staff to assist her.

No job, no life.

And the irony here is that she becomes MORE dependent on government assistance. She qualifies for Social Security Insurance but hardly ever receives this money because she is employed and makes enough money on her own. However, she will need to take the full amount if she cannot keep her job, thus relying more on taxpayer dollars.

She relies on Medicaid for her job coach, for her supports in her apartment and for her prescription drugs. If you take that away, you are taking away her life.

I know you all hate ObamaCare but for God's sake, would you please slow down and listen. Give your bill time to be examined, researched and testified on! This affects WAY too many people to ram it through.

You owe that to the people who elected you, including my 22-year-old daughter, Lily, who by the way, also votes.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: PLEASE VOTE NO UNTIL EVERY SENATOR HAS HAD TIME TO ACTUALLY READ THE W
HOLE THING

Dear Finance Committee Chair:

It is unfair to the American people to rush the Graham-Cassidy bill through your committee until EVERY senator has time to read and understand the ramifications.

Thank you,
Molly K Robertson
[REDACTED]
Muncie IN 47303
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Senators

I have been living with Stage 4 Breast Cancer for 10 years. Have healthcare through work but that ends next year. My current treatment cost \$17,000 per month. I will go on Medicare next year but will I be able to afford the supplemental insurance? Not with this horrible, cruel bill. I have worked very hard all my life, as has my husband. Yet I am not at the mercy of cancer ending life early but of you taking my hard earned money for tax cuts for rich people. But enough about me. What about people less fortunate? What if one of my kids gets sick? This bill is designed as a "win" for the GOP & a bad administration & has nothing for the people who elected you to preserve & protect. For anyone who vote yes for this bill, may you have the hottest place in hell for how you are treating this great country and its people. Never forget- you serve us.

Joyce Mallonee
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: PLEASE VOTE NO to ObamaCare Repeal

My name is Kandace Kohr. Without the help of ObamaCare, my 87-year-old grandmother wouldn't be able to remember my name or my face. She's struggling with dementia, on top of having a moderate stroke last year, but thanks to the capabilities of Medicaid and Medicare, she is able to get the care she needs.

Today she still has trouble remembering things, but I thank God EVERY DAY that she is still with us physically. This disastrous Republican healthcare replacement would be detrimental to more than 30 million Americans, including myself, who suffers from a handful of the pre-existing conditions aforementioned in the repeal.

Please vote AGAINST this replacement. Please vote AGAINST greed, selfishness and gluttony. Please vote FOR the American citizens who rely on you to be their voice, their platform for change.

--

Kandace Kohr

P: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]
W: [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on the bill

No hearings have been held, no debate, no CBO score. Republican senators have publicly been unable to describe the bill's provisions or impacts, including one of its co-sponsors, who has described being involved in briefings as "having to listen to this shit."

Senator Grassley has publicly said it's a bad bill, but it has to be passed because of campaign promises, demonstrating utter disregard for the harmful effects on his constituents.

The AMA and other health care organizations, and even insurers (Blue Cross) have come out against this bill.

I could go on.

The craven and political motives for this bill are clear, and, shockingly open for anyone to see. This bill has nothing to do with improving the lives of Americans, but on the contrary, will increase illness and premature death. And cause enormous suffering.

Shame on Senators Cassidy and Graham. Shame on Senate Leader McConnell. Shame on the Republican Party.

See you in 2018.

Lisa Keller
Kenmore, WA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: comments on Graham-Cassidy

My name is Michael Whitlow. I am 38 years old and have a pre-existing condition. I graduated from DePaul University's College of Law in 2009 cum laude, and from 2009 to 2012 I could not find a job that was willing to pay me more than \$20k a year. In 2012, 3 years after graduation, I finally achieved full time employment with the Illinois Legislature. Within 6 months I had a stroke. I lost my job in 2014, and did not find full-time employment again until 2016. During that time I relied on ACA exchanges to provide me with access to a physician that monitored my health and the medications that help prevent me from having another stroke. When I found a new job, my employer utilized the exchanges to provide employees with healthcare by subsidizing our choice rather than use a one-size fits all plan. Without the ACA's exchanges and protection for pre-existing conditions, I might not be here today. The federal government invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in my legal education in the form of student loans, and without the protections of the ACA I may never live to pay them back. This bill scraps those protections.

I can not believe we are here again. Senator McCain: you voted against the last attempt at ACA repeal because regular order had been obviated. This bill has not been through regular order. There is no CBO score, there have been no hearings, there has been no good faith effort to work with Democrats that have offered plans to shore up the exchanges and correct problems in the market. Why, sir, is this bill any different? Substantively and procedurally this bill is no better than the bill on which you last voted no. Please vote no again and end this farce.

Senator Murkowski: you have told stories about constituents coming to hug you in airports after you voted no on the last attempt at repeal. This bill is no better on substance and would cost your state money. Please do not betray the people that so recently were praising your bravery and compassion.

Senator Collins: like Senators McCain and Murkowski you were praised for your staunch and determined protection of our most vulnerable. Please vote no again or state in no uncertain and unequivocal terms what specific provisions of this bill are superior to bill on which you voted no and why.

My life literally hangs in the balance on this bill. I implore this body to do the right thing and save my life and the lives of other Americans. End this farce and return our government to one of regular order.

Sincerely,
Michael Whitlow

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Monstrosity

This bill is an insult to Americans! Ignore the Koch brothers threats to cut the purse strings, put PEOPLE over party, be heroes and give Americans a universal health care system. The health care insurance industry is an evil we can do without. Let us join with 32 other industrial, intelligent countries and have a health care system that serves everyone from cradle to grave: mental, medical, dental and vision with better outcomes and less costs.

--

Kathryn Hurn

My debut novel:

HELL HEAVEN & IN-BETWEEN: *One Woman's Journey to Finding Love*

Available on [Amazon](#)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill will negatively impact individuals with brain injury and all types of disabilities

Importance: High

Dear Finance committee of Senate:

I am requesting that you do not pass the most recent bill that will slash the Medicaid funding for the trauma survivors we serve. Many start out having private insurance, but with caps put on coverage, eventually spend all their resources and their only option is Medicaid. Now we are putting caps on Medicaid? The Expansion of Medicaid in Ohio has allowed persons with acquired disabilities to work to the level they can and still keep health coverage so maintain their health which they've worked hard to re-gain. To pass something just to say it's changed is not a good strategy, but seems the direction we are heading. Please vote NO on this and future bills that continue to slash Medicaid. Can't the insurance companies be mandated to do something to contribute to all of this? Why are they allowed to have caps on coverage they provide? They are certainly richer than most of the non-profit facilities and staff trying to help people get and stay well. Thank you for your time and consideration

Cheryl L. Crahen, CRC, PC
[REDACTED]

MetroHealth's Mission: Leading the way to a healthier you and a healthier community through service, teaching, discovery, and teamwork. This email and all attachments that may have been included are intended only for the use of the party to whom/which the email is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential, or exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the addressee or the employee or agent of the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you are strictly prohibited from printing, storing, disseminating, distributing, or copying this communication. If you have received this notification in error, please contact the Interim Privacy Officer at 216-778-7751. For a copy of our Notice of Privacy Practices, please visit <http://www.metrohealth.org/financial-services/privacy-policy>

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Input

Dear Distinguished Members:

This latest attempt at ACA repeal is repugnant and beyond un-American.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Comments

Hello,

Our family is a typical family of four living in beautiful Colorado. I'm a stay-at-home mom who has the luxury of volunteering almost full-time in our children's school. We aren't covered by a group plan, because "the bread winner" in our home is an independent contractor in the aerospace community working day and night to build his own company. So it's the individual market for us. We purchase our insurance through Kaiser directly. We aren't on the exchange. We don't get subsidies to help cover the cost of our plan. We pay our own way and always have. Graham-Cassidy would be a huge blow to our family. See, I have rheumatoid arthritis. R.A. is not the result of a lifestyle choice - unless you count giving birth to our daughter. Side note: we paid every single penny out of pocket for my prenatal care and her birth - it was before the ACA and despite having "full-coverage" maternity care wasn't mandated in Colorado so no one covered it.

Back to the discussion at hand. I developed R.A. as a result of my pregnancy. Once Aetna learned of my diagnosis they dropped our family immediately. Seriously, it was like six weeks later. We applied to every insurance company in Colorado and no one would enroll us - at any price. Because of the ACA our family has insurance. Graham-Cassidy says an insurance company can't drop someone based on their pre-existing conditions, but it also doesn't cap what we can be charged to cover any pre-existing conditions. It also allows life-time caps to come back into play. This could bankrupt our family. All to fulfill a campaign promise? This is what I'm hearing from Republican Senators - we said we would repeal and this is our only chance; if we don't take it we will lose seats and the gavel in 2018. From an actual person, not a high-rolling donor? We may not remember who gave us access to healthcare, but we'll certainly remember who took it away. We aren't looking for a handout or a free-ride. We simply want access to health insurance.

Sincerely,
Michelle Scott

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Being sick is bad enough

Why is the Senate even considering a bill that slashes funding for the poor to get necessary health care? This is a cruel, heartless bill. I can only hope that it dies a quick death. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Laura Spinale

[REDACTED]
NY NY 10034
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH SFC Hearing

To Whom It May Concern:

My husband and I are small business owners in our 50's. If Graham-Cassidy's version of Trumpcare passes we will have to go without health insurance as it will be prohibitively expensive for us. We will not have access to affordable choices and so this bill could be potentially deadly to our family. We would only be able to hope to make it to our Medicare eligibility but under current GOP plans that may also go up in smoke. Devastatingly heartless and cruel!

Thank you,
Patricia McNeil

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public comment GC Bill

To Sens. Graham, Cassidy, and all would-be 'Yes' votes on GC Bill:

Pushing a so-called "healthcare" bill that is actually a "removal of healthcare" bill so the GOP/RNC can get \$400M from the Koch Bros and remain in majority/power forever is not only unconscionable and morally repugnant but the most blatant form of theft I've ever seen.

Remember:

- 1) People with illnesses and disabilities still contribute greatly to society, through jobs and taxes, advocacy, family support, etc...
- 2) Statistically, you will be ill or disabled soon (since you're mostly old, white men), and while you have great insurance and wouldn't understand the threat of going without it, your CONSTITUENTS, WHO VOTE, understand this scenario all too well.

Exist for 5 years in the public insurance markets and then write a healthcare bill. The Republican attitude of "I've Got Mine" must end.

You should be ashamed of yourselves.

Kathryn Bundy
Disabled American

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: against Graham-Cassidy bill

Without getting too personal, I have a son with an acquired brain injury which has affected his life since early on in his childhood. He is 36 years old now and receives supports through the government and gets by on very little (approximately \$700.00 per month). I am his legal guardian and the idea of more cuts to Medicaid and him losing even more supports is frightening to me and I'm sure I'm not alone. Until you have experienced firsthand what it's like to care for someone with a disability, you don't realize the personal impact it has on them and the ones caring for them. Please consider another solution besides the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Sincerely,
Julianne Krekeler

Note: The information contained in this message may be privileged and confidential and protected from disclosure. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or an employee or agent responsible for delivering this message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by replying to the message and deleting it from your computer. Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GrahamCassidy Bill

Dear Senators,

During the last 20 some years I have been fighting a horrible kidney disease. I've under gone 31 Lithotryst surgeries w when a person's kidney can only withstand 15 max in a lifetime. One of my kidneys has been cut open twice during this period and is now only a third of it's regular size. I have had 28 stents during this time frame in one or both kidneys so they can function.

Besides the kidney disease I have had a malignant melanoma and lymph nodes removed. I am waiting to see if I make it through the 5 year mark without any cancer reappearing.

During all of this time I have lost my career and filed bankruptcy. My spirit has been broken many times during my health battles yet I'm surviving and a very strong supporter of the "Obamacare" or ACA. If the Graham-Cassidy Bill by the GOP politician gets passed then I worry about so many Americans losing an possibility of decent healthcare when they need it the most. Please take a look at senator John McCain, without his healthcare the Congress would ve lost without this American Hero. Please listen to the American voters/people and say No on the Graham Cassidy nightmare.

America needs your help!

My Regards
DMHerrig

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA Repeal

Senators

This repeal is totally unacceptable looking at it dispassionately it appears to be a partial tax giveaway to the rich

It obliterates Medicaid

It wipes out treatments for babies children the elderly and disabled and over 30M people will be knocked off of coverage not to mention employer sanctioned healthcare programs

It has NOT received analysis from the CBO or open meetings of your body nor the endorsement of AMA Kaiser Permanente ADA American Cancer Society +

As legislators you must do better than this

The current bill is not acceptable vote it down don't hang onto your phlegmatic promises which will impact so many of your constituents

Brenda Tyus Faust

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I Do Not Support Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

I would like the following story entered into the record:

My friend Jake was diagnosed with a very rare, aggressive form of stomach cancer (linitis plastica) in Sept. 2016. He worked at a company (that I also work at) that offered multiple health insurance options. Being a healthy, fit 36 year old, he chose the cheapest. That insurer gave him very limited options for treating his cancer, basically tantamount to a quick death sentence, even there were alternate treatment options available. Luckily, our company's open insurance enrollment was coming up. Thanks to ACA's ban on limiting enrollment based on pre-existing conditions, Jake was able to switch to a much better insurance option, one that would offer him a full range of treatments at any top-rate facility in the United States. The simple knowledge that he would be able to have these options in a month or two changed Jake's whole outlook on his illness and he held on until January 1, when the insurance switched over. By that date, he had chosen a facility, an oncologist, and was ready to go with a new set of treatments.

This switch added 4-5 months to Jake's life, time he had with his sons, his family, and his friends. He was able to eat (recall, this was stomach cancer) and even work out for a good period of time.

Eventually, all treatments stopped working, and Jake passed away on August 11, 2017. But surviving 11 months with this type of cancer is quite miraculous and it would have never been possible with his original form of "bare bones" insurance.

So, you see, even someone who is insured may never realize how much the ACA can help him. Jake regularly credited the ACA with extending his life. He could not fathom why anyone would want to change a law that would prevent anyone from being able to do what he could.

Graham-Cassidy could potentially do exactly that, depending on what state one lives in. This variability by state and the knowledge that substantial cuts are certainly coming is why I am firmly opposed to this bill.

I feel compelled to speak out in the memory of my friend Jake.

I thank you for listening.

Jennifer Bevan, Ph.D.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Intelligent Health Care Reform

Please, Graham-Cassidy is a nightmare. Do not do this to the American citizenry. Please, be human. Care about the effects of your political gamesmanship. Put this bill in the trash.

Sincerely,
Jeff mock

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy repeal statement for SFC hearing

Hello all!

I wanted to write today to enter a statement for consideration for the SFC hearing on the possible repeal this coming Monday. I don't know who is or isn't reading this, but I think it's worth a shot.

It's incredibly troubling that it is September 2017 and millions of Americans are writing and calling their Senators and Senators from other states, begging to keep their health insurance. That it's September 2017, and 32 million people are at risk of losing the coverage that has improved their lives immeasurably. That it's September 2017 and our Republican party is simultaneously bemoaning the loss of jobs and the middle class worker while attempting to wrest health coverage away from the same group of people.

I think many of you must realize that you're not hurting yourselves. You're not hurting your families and your friends with this repeal. Your health insurance will be fine. I have to assume that many of you have never grown up knowing that you can't go to the doctor when you're sick (because your parents can't afford to take you). I have to assume that many of you have not laid awake at night, terrified about the next time your own kid gets strep throat, because you know it'll mean more health bills. I also have to assume that many of you have not experience true health scare yourselves; I have to assume that you haven't been faced with two choices: get a chronic pain checked and risk bills of thousands of dollars, or let the pain go unchecked for a decade and then find out it's cancer.

I make these assumptions because I can't bend my head around the other possible reality -- that many of you have experienced these things, and are still voting to repeal the ACA out of nothing more than spite, with maybe a dash of fear of political retribution thrown in. I won't pretend to understand what it's like to be in your shoes, to have to support a policy that will kill people because your President says so, but... I'm not very impressed by you.

I hope, truly, that the Graham-Cassidy repeal doesn't happen. I hope that this committee does what it can to ensure that it does not.

On that note, I'll end with this quote. It's from Jimmy Kimmel, and I'm sure you've read or heard it, but it's the core of what this is all about:

"If your baby is going to die and it doesn't have to, it shouldn't matter how much money you make. No parent should ever have to decide if they can afford to save their child's life. It just shouldn't happen. Not here."

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Please do not pass this bill. While I agree that the ACA isn't perfect, this bill guts its strengths, rather than remedying its weaknesses. Please work together across the isle to make something that will help the majority of Americans; in the long run, this will save both money and lives.

Sincerely,

Bridget Landry

Bridget Landry
Rocket scientist, dancer, Master costumer "Whatever your box is, I *DON'T* fit into it!"
<http://round-peg-recipes.blogspot.com/>

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Senator Tom Cotton (Cotton); senator@boozman.senate.gov
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill concerns
Attachments: image1.JPG; ATT00001.txt; Video.MOV; ATT00002.txt

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

This is Sydney. She was born with Down syndrome and is one of the many individuals with disabilities from Arkansas who rely on Medicaid.

The proposed cuts to Medicaid would be devastating to individuals with disabilities. Our private insurance and Medicaid have helped us through Sydney's open heart surgery, numerous hospitalizations, IG infusions, g tube surgery, and therapies. For that, we are forever grateful.

Early intervention and continuing therapies, along with her public education, are helping her gain the skills she needs to become a contributing member of society. If you ask her what she wants to be when she grows up, her answer is that she wants to be a chef. Her Occupational Therapist has used that interest to work on some life skills. She helps her with her business she has named "Muffin Mama." She learns how to make the muffins, teaching her kitchen skills, then sells them for therapy dollars, in turn teaching her money skills, and uses them to buy different therapy experiences, working on budgeting skills. If you ask me, she is well on her way to fulfilling that dream. However, without Medicaid's help, that dream may not become a reality. Medicaid has been a big part of that and will be for her future with the waiver program.

Please think of Sydney and her friends with disabilities as the Graham-Cassidy bill goes to a vote. Please oppose this bill as it will have the same devastating effects for individuals with disabilities that the previous bills that were defeated included. I am begging you to vote no to this bill and work on a bipartisan plan that works for all.

Sincerely,

Kim Warren

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham - Cassidy Proposal

My husband is a proud man with 2 debilitating pre-existing conditions, including cancer and Parkinson's. This bill would cause our health insurance premiums to skyrocket and our insurance would become completely unaffordable and we would spend all of our hard earned money on our medical costs and be destitute in retirement. With his peer sining conditions, the premium surcharge alone for one year would wipe out our retirement savings. We have worked hard our entire lives, paid into the government with all of our taxes, saved for retirement, and been good citizens. This bill is mean spirited and would cause us and other citizens great harm. In every analysis that has been released so far, this is the case. Our Healthcare needs to be fixed, not decimated. This bill is surely not the fix we need. Please do not allow this to go forward.

Sincerely,

Julie K Eastland

[REDACTED]
Buffalo, NY 14223

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Autism care coverage under Graham Casidy Repeal

I am concerned that autism may be considered a pre-condition and could lose current coverage. I have an underage family member with this condition and is currently supported in the state of Massachusetts. With all the funding cut to states that expanded care that this proposed law does, many people may end up getting much worse coverage.

Thanks!

Juan Pablo Chavez

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

My sister has Stage 4 metastatic breast cancer, my grandson is autistic, and my granddaughter has life threatening allergies. They will each lose health care coverage under this horrendous Graham-Cassidy health care bill. As will millions (millions!) of Americans. Please listen to real Americans as well as to the myriad healthcare professional groups who are against this heartless bill.

Christine Burbank
Pittsfield MA 01201

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill
Attachments: 252191_10100247028494940_7274967_n.jpg; 316052_10100303264193150_310632580_n.jpg; 10929911_10102582169887870_9095905993795728845_n.jpg

Rachael Stanford

[REDACTED]
Mackinaw Il 61755

To Whom It May Concern.

On September 30, 2011, I anxiously awaited what the next day would bring: radiation. It was odd to think how quickly your life can change. Five months earlier, I was planning to move across the country to start a new life. One bad car accident and a suspicious x-ray later, a bit of cancer the size of a pea had rearranged my plans. It is not something you expect at 25.

But I was lucky: a very curable, slow growing cancer. "The cancer to get if you have to get one," or so my doctor told me. "You'll most likely have a long and healthy life ahead of you..." However, I will for that life bear the scars a serious illness causes you. I will remember the fear of a phone call, the pain of being cut open and what it is like to be radioactive. Would you like to know? Your hold body hurts as if you think you will explode from the inside out. It hurts in a way that you wish for death. But you don't because all you want is to desperately life.

These scars are things I can live with. Six years later, a daughter later, it all seems like a bad dream.

It was not.

If the Graham-Cassidy bill is passed, I will have on my body for the rest of my life the scarlet letter that I dared to cost insurance too much. I will be a second-class citizen for having the audacity to survive. This I cannot live with.

This bill will cause an estimated 32 million people to lose insurance (many because they are priced out.) Premiums will spike. Moreover, people like myself will be left to the whims of our state, who will be facing massive funding cuts.

On September 20, 2017, I will anxiously wait to find out if I will still be insurable. Please vote no and work together to fix the ACA. Thank you for your time.

Yours,

Rachael Stanford

P.S. I have attached three photos as I realize anyone can claim a story. The first was taken the day of the surgery. The second on my way home from taking a radioactive pill (The armband prohibits pregnant women from working on me) and the last of my daughter who is now 3.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote NO!!
Attachments: image1.JPG; ATT00001.txt

To whom it may concern;

My son's life is dependent on a VP shunt that has been surgically implanted in his brain. That device has a near universal failure rate. When it fails, the only fix is brain surgery. There are no treatment alternatives for him. He is a loving, mischevious little boy who wants to grow up. Republicans stood with us to protect his right to life as a hydrocephalic fetus. Please do not abandon him now. I ask you to stand with us now to protect his right to life as a living, breathing child. As a mother who is terrified for his future--and with all anguish of my heart--I beg of you: do not do this. Do not pass this bill. Please. He wants to grow up. He needs you to protect him. He cannot win the battles he has to face without the medical help that we will lose if you pass this bill.

Thank you for your NO vote on the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Sincerely,

Deanna Carter

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Insurance

This is a travesty of a bill and I will fund the opponent of any politician who votes for this.

It is a naked wealth transfer from poor and sick people to the wealthiest in the country. I will personally hound anyone who signs their name to this legislation.

I have a lot of disposable income, I vote, and I organize.

Jean-Paul Bondy
Los Angeles, California

--

Jean-Paul Bondy
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I am James Cooper from Wilmington, Ohio 45177. I am a lifelong independent who registered Republican in 2016 just so I could vote for the Great John Kasich.

I have greatly benefited from ACA myself with the increased protections my family has received with numerous healthcare issues.

That said, I understand there are those who have suffered. The answer to that is to fix the problems, not try to ram through a horrible bill that no one knows that could potentially make the problems worse.

If, after thorough analysis, it is deemed the bill is actually better, great, I will support it when it has gone through normal order.

Senator McCain became a national hero to many when he called for normal order. That call has gone completely ignored and the GOP is trying to divide our country even more than it is. We are at a breaking point, the answer is not to push the envelope of further division. The answer is NORMAL ORDER AND COMPROMISE!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No on HR 1628

Mike Mayer
[REDACTED]
Missoula, MT 59801

September 21, 2017

Dear Senate Finance Committee - GCH Comments,

The Graham-Cassidy Amendment (H.R. 1628) is a disaster for disabled Americans. It imposes cuts to Medicaid in the form of block grants, which will force States to cut home and community based services which support the lives and liberty of disabled people, as well as the elimination of the Community First Choice program that provides in-home personal assistance services for individuals with disabilities.

Here in Montana we are already facing severely debilitating budget cuts at the state level and we cannot afford to undergo further budget reductions! The American people have already spoken loudly against the cuts that Graham-Cassidy imposes.

Right now in Medicaid, home and community based services are "optional" which means States are not required to provide them. Prescription drugs are "optional." Durable Medical Equipment such as wheelchairs are "optional." As Graham-Cassidy cuts Medicaid funding over time, States will pare down these "optional" services, which are very much necessary for disabled people to enjoy the liberty which the Constitution promises to all Americans and that allow states and the federal government to serve individuals with disabilities in lower-cost care settings in the community rather than in costly nursing homes or other institutional settings.

Republicans did not win office by promising to cut Medicaid and destroy the lives of disabled people. Indeed, President Trump promised the opposite, that Medicare and Medicaid would not be cut under his administration. The Graham-Cassidy bill goes out of its way to cut Medicaid services that disabled people and seniors rely on to live our lives.

Turning Medicaid into a block grant program with per capita caps will do nothing but harm people with disabilities and senior citizens who have no recourse other than Medicaid for basic in-home and community services that allow them to remain independent in their home and continue to be active, contributing members of their communities. Community services on average are far less expensive than nursing home and other institutional based services which rob people of their independence, liberty and right to pursue a meaningful life. We as a country can do, and must do better than this!

Please vote against the Graham-Cassidy bill (H.R. 1628) and any legislation that cuts Medicaid home and community based services, which millions of people with disabilities have no choice but to rely on in order to survive let alone participate in their communities or even be employed, tax paying citizens.

Sincerely,
Mike Mayer

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy and climate change

Dear legislators,

Please do not pass the Graham-Cassidy bill. People will die...people will not receive adequate care. Please hear the public's voice on this issue. At time where we are having unprecedented catastrophes (earthquakes, hurricanes--like we've never seen before), please do not further upend/destabilize our country.

As a Georgia resident, I watched several of my friends go without power for a week. I could not get my badly needed allergy shots because my allergist had no power. Please, please hear your citizen's voices and understand their pain and fear.

Fix Obamacare.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Barkin, PhD
epidemiologist

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Please vote no on Graham-Cassidy! One issue I have trouble with is pre-existing conditions. We have a Republican Governor who has already cut programs for mental health services and senior services. I have no doubt that he would allow higher premiums for pre-existing conditions. Again, please vote NO

Sincerely,
Angie Wood 65203
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO, Absolutely NO!

The fact that almost every healthcare group has come out against this Bill ~ does this not raise numerous questions? Put the Bill through Regular Order which will allow time for COB evaluation and testimony from interested parties. If it has merit (which I do not think it does), it will survive. If it has no merit (which it does not), it will go down in flames (as it should).

Margaret Lois Jansen

"Finding the Sacred in the Ordinary"
Original Photography & Design

Margaret Lois Jansen, LLC
[green lime arts \(aka smallsmallacts.com\)](http://greenlimearts.com)

[REDACTED]
Indianapolis, IN 46224-5514

[REDACTED]
www.greenlimearts.com

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy
Attachments: 3264.jpeg

Please do deny HEALTH CARE for millions! My daughter developed a rare disease at the age of 9. It damaged her kidneys. She will need a kidney transplant some day in the near future. She's 33 now, beautiful, ambitious, fully employed, and in love. Will she be able to get health care? Afford being in a high risk pool? Or will the decisions YOU make be a death sentence for her? Her name is Katy.

Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy!

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE NO TrumpCare - GramCass

I am vehemently against the latest iteration of the GOPs healthcare bill. It is blatantly bad for Americans, making the ability afford and access healthcare more difficult more millions of people. Yet again, GOP is putting the rich ahead of the majority of Americans, putting party ahead of nation, and blatantly lying to the American people.

GOPs claim to be pro-life in support of every life, yet pregnancy is a pre-existing condition? I am pro-choice, yet the hypocrisy is clear.

Vote NO.

Scott

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony submitted for consideration to the Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal which is to take place on September 25, 2017

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

I am writing to express my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal (the Proposal). The Proposal includes cruel provisions, stripping health care from tens of millions of vulnerable Americans while purporting to fix health care and make it available and affordable to all Americans. It was also developed in a deeply shameful, undemocratic process that flies against the desires of 88% of Americans.

The Proposal's cuts to traditional Medicaid are draconian. Millions of elderly individuals and people with disabilities rely on traditional Medicaid for their lives, their well-being, and their independence. Although the Congressional Budget Office Analysis has not been completed for this Proposal, it is similar or worse to previous bills that would radically restructure Medicaid, kicking millions of Americans off health care. Thousands of people will die as a result. Previous and less draconian versions of this bill estimate that federal support will drop by 750-800 billion dollars by 2026, with deeper cuts to follow. I work with people with disabilities every day and know firsthand how important and lifesaving Medicaid health care can be. People with disabilities rely on critical Medicaid services like tracheotomy care, nursing care, dialysis, cancer treatments, occupational therapy, speech therapy, life-saving medications, durable medical equipment, and more to work and live lives with dignity and independence. These people are our family members, our neighbors, our coworkers, and our friends. We are the wealthiest country in the world. We can and should provide Medicaid for the elderly and people with disabilities.

This Proposal will also impact pregnant women and children, who are insured by Medicaid in high numbers. In Wisconsin, 28% of all kids are covered by Medicaid. Nearly half of all US births are covered by Medicaid. For many children with disabilities and extensive health care needs, Medicaid is lifesaving and cutting it could literally put children's lives at risk. Children who receive regular health care to treat things like asthma, diabetes, and treatable medical problems fare better in school, miss fewer days of school, are more likely to graduate, and earn higher wages than those without health care. We as a country have always thought that the children are our future. This Proposal takes us backwards. The potential impacts of this Proposal for children and pregnant women are frankly deeply disturbing.

The changes to the Affordable Care Act are also deeply troubling. The proposal opens up the door to imposing pre-existing condition exclusions again, limiting essential health services, and reducing the affordability of health insurance, which will result in millions more losing health insurance they only recently gained. All of the studies done thus far on health outcomes for individuals newly insured through the ACA show the enormous positive impact of insured status.

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.

Many of the very sponsors of this Proposal vowed that they would replace the ACA with something better and more affordable. This Proposal fails miserably in all respects. It has also been crafted, introduced, and discussed in a deeply undemocratic manner. The fact that many Senators are unwilling to even wait to discuss the Proposal and provide for full and fair hearings on it after it has been analyzed by the Congressional Budget Office exposes this process as a deeply shameful charade, one that ignores the desires of the vast majority of the American people. The last bill scored by the CBO had an approval rating of 12%, yet this bill is moving forward and is even worse than the last bill scored.

I am submitting this testimony to the committee to ensure that it is entered into the official record of these proceedings. If this bill passes and goes into effect in 2020, 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.

Pam Malin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment in OPPOSITION to GCH Repeal

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller Repeal bill will destabilize health insurance in the US - not just for ACA marketplaces, but for ALL insurance plans. This will directly affect approximately 32 Million citizens on the ACA marketplace plans ALONE over the next 10 years - at which time all Medicaid Expansion funds will drop to \$0, further impacting citizens. Over those 10 years, the pre-existing conditions and Essential Health Benefit requirements can be waived, which will result in many more deaths from preventable causes.

This bill will kill Americans, and those who vote for it will have the blood of those citizens upon their hands. I implore all Senators, regardless of party affiliation, to oppose this bill in the best interest of our fellow Americans.

Rob Nelson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Our incredible story - TIMING OF OBAMACARE

My son Kenny was born Nov 20, 2013 with a complex congenital heart defect. At the time of his birth he was on my husband's insurance that had a \$1 million dollar life time cap.

In JANUARY 2014 at six weeks old he required his first open heart surgery. THANK GOD for us this was also when lifetime caps became prohibited by Obamacare!

Unfortunately, Kenny had a very rough recovery and plunged into very critical status on life support and required another heart surgery in February. He continued to struggle with many complication and had a 4 month stay in the Pediatric ICU. By April 2014- he had racked up \$1million dollars.. JUST MONTHS earlier this would have been his LIFETIME CAP!!!

Did he not deserve health insurance beyond that point???? Is \$1 million the amount we have determined someone's life is worth?

Thank God he continued to have health care coverage. Kenny came home from hospital on oxygen, a heart monitor, 10 medications and needed a third surgery in January 2015.

He is now a HAPPY, SMART, LOVING, SWEET, BEAUTIFUL 3 year old!!! Thank you Obamacare.

Kenny will likely need another surgery and most certainly needs healthcare his whole life. Should he hit a maximum?? Should he be denied insurance or priced out of reality? IT WOULD BE CATASTROPHIC for our family.

PLEASE VOTE no to any bill that includes the opportunity for states to set lifetime maximums and treat pre-existing conditions differently. VOTE no to Graham Cassidy Bill!!!

Suzanne Murray
[REDACTED]
Tinley Park, IL 60487
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do Your Job

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I'd like to take a moment to talk to the Republicans in the room. I'm an aspiring physician and a student of public health and a Republican voter. I'm 22 years old and have voted Republican since I've been able to vote.

The issue that brought me into the Republican Party was the issue of Obamacare. Since my sophomore year of high school, Republican politicians have promised me that once my friends and I helped elect them, Obamacare would be completely repealed and consigned to the dust bin of history. It's immoral mandates to purchase private products and centralization of healthcare decision making would come to an end.

I've been waiting nearly 10 months now and I have yet to see the GOP deliver on these promises. Graham-Cassidy delivers in spades. It forever removes healthcare from the federal discourse and sends it back to the states where it belongs. It allows California to come up with a solution that its citizens want and Texas to come up with a solution that its citizens want. It enables American innovation to finally be unleashed on the healthcare marketplace. It truly is our last and best chance to repeal and replace Obamacare and respects the differences in values and perspectives that different states have on the issue of healthcare. It also puts federal spending on a far more sustainable track.

I humbly ask you to follow through on your promises and do your job. Please repeal and replace Obamacare. Please pass Graham-Cassidy. Please make healthcare accountable again. Please make healthcare affordable again. Please make healthcare great again.

Sincerely,
Ahmer Israr

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement re: Graham-Cassidy Health Care Legislation
Attachments: Ben_ICU.jpg; Ben_home.JPG

My name is Rachael Brown. I am a resident of the District of Columbia, so I don't have voting representation in the Senate. But I am an American citizen whose family will be hurt by this legislation, and am asking the Senate to consider my family along with other American families in their decision on this bill.

This legislation has the potential to harm or destroy millions of lives, lives of ordinary people who work hard, love their families, and believe in the capacity of this nation to support them.

My one year old son has serious medical conditions and his future will be at risk under Graham-Cassidy. I am especially concerned about the cuts to children's Medicaid, the possibility for lifetime coverage caps, and more expensive or non-existent coverage for pre-existing conditions under this bill.

Benjamin was born with a life-threatening vascular malformation in his brain, which was undetected during my pregnancy. In his first seven months of life, Ben had eight brain surgeries and spent four months in the hospital and ICU. He would not be alive today without provisions of the ACA, including the ban on coverage caps.

Ben is thriving today, but still requires ongoing medical care, medication, and multiple therapies to support his development. I lie awake at night sick with worry about his future, both as a child and as an adult, should this bill pass.

My husband and I are both employed and have insurance through my job. Even with my insurance, the personal costs to us have been staggering and consumed much of our savings. We are in the process of applying for Medicaid through a waiver so that Ben can continue to receive the support he needs.

You can see Ben in the two pictures attached--the first following a major operation eight days after his birth, and the second once he was home and stable. He has worked so hard to grow and heal. Please let him continue.

As a mother, I'm begging the Senator to oppose this cruel and hasty bill, and instead support bipartisan health care legislation that proceeds through regular order.

Thank you for your consideration.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Please Oppose this bill.

My patients with brain injury will be significantly and negatively impacted by this bill, as their complex medical condition involves speech therapy services intermittently, across the life span.

Without services, those patients are at risk for self medication, isolation, depression, homelessness, and suicide due poor awareness of deficit and decreased coping skills. They often require skilled s therapy, professional support and training for the patient and their family.

Health care MUST provide services for people with these severe pre-existing conditions with no funding caps.

Sincerely,

Robin Hintz

Speech-Language Pahologist

Sent from Robin's iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham Cassidy

My name is Jason Fowler. I am not a doctor, insurance company CEO, or a politician. I am an average American who can only voice my opinion to my representatives. In the end, I have to hope that those representatives are smart and honest, and will undertake their jobs with my best interests in mind.

With that said, this congress has given me very little hope that this will happen. Republicans have been telling us they would repeal and replace the ACA for years. I fully expected that a government controlled by a republican majority at every level would do exactly that. I did not expect that the representatives tasked with doing this would be incapable of doing this in an intelligent and compassionate manner. This latest healthcare bill is a perfect encapsulation of everything that is wrong with our government. Republicans spent their time focused on selling a slogan to win power, instead of focusing on what they should do with that power. This bill does not deliver what ANYONE wants. It destroys the social safety net that we have taken for granted. It doesn't enact any healthcare policies that produce better healthcare for all Americans in a fiscally conservative way. This bill is the legislative result of the Republican Party playing musical chairs, scrambling madly for seats without any regard for the end result.

There was a bipartisan plan that was scuttled for this stupid bill. There was another bipartisan plan to fund the children's health insurance program. It has been delayed. This is not what America wants.

We want a bipartisan approach that stops the endless ping ponging between the parties. This uncertainty that is created for purely political gain causes the very instability in the insurance market that you all claim you must address.

Go back to the drawing board. Hold hearings. Learn from the experts. Instead of relying on two senators who clearly relied on someone else to write a bad bill, come together and do the hard work of compromise.

I don't have an ideological horse in this fight. The only thing I want is better, cheaper healthcare for all Americans. If doing the work proves you can accomplish that with single payer, fine. If doing the work proves a competitive state based system of grants produces those results, fine.

Stop being lazy. Stop being ideological. Do the work and focus on the results you are delivering.

I promise you, if you pass good legislation that produces good outcomes, you won't have to spend all your time raising money to fight for your seat. The work of legislating will speak for itself.

Thank you,

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Please don't pass this. Poverty, disability and pre-existing conditions should not disqualify anyone for health care especially in a country as prosperous as ours.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Brown, Senator (Brown); Knox, Jason (Portman)
Subject: say no to GrahamCassidy Bill

My oldest daughter, now age 27, struggles with mental health issues. Her medicine is Abilify, 2 mg. Any idea on the cost of this medicine with no insurance?

2mg 30 tablets \$717.30

10mg 30 tablets \$717.30

20mg 30 tablets \$1,011.76

So how can a young woman, who is currently on the ACA afford this? On this medication, she is able to work and pay \$97/month for health insurance. In addition to the medicine, regular blood work is needed to monitor thyroid and once every 6 week counseling is a must. Her income is within the 138% of poverty level and under the new bill, she may not be covered per the block grant program. And you may say that is unlikely, however Lt Gov Mary Taylor in Ohio said she is against continuing coverage for those on the Medicaid expansion. This is a reality of completely ruining someone's life. My daughter has her own apartment, works 5-6 days a week, has a car payment and is a productive member of society. Without health coverage and her expensive medication, her alternative is to quit her job and go on medicaid and move home with us. How is this improving Ohio? I am sure that my daughter is not the only person in this position as diabetic medicines are expensive as well as other life sustaining drugs. I beg the Senate to vote no on this GrahamCassidy Bill and continue to work on a bi partisan plan to fix ACA. Health care is a human right. No compassionate person could think any thing different. Sincerely, Cathy Zakowski

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I'm 65, paid into system my working life - worked as RN - providing care for all - rich, poor, children, elderly - VA, SFGH, Shriner's, HIV - been there, done that - became disabled in 2009 - survived MVA from a street modified Monster Truck driven by a coked up drunk driver in 2002 - Heart Attack in 2008 - My income is under 1700\$ a month and after Medicare/Supplemental Plan less than 1500\$ - live in CA - do the math - I'm living check to check and this bill will put premiums through roof - along with meds - so basically the thought of this reckless piece of legislation is big fuck you to the elderly, disabled, Vets, poor, children and those with pre-existing conditions and basically every American - FOR WHAT? So the GOP can get even? Answer to the Koch's? You are pushing this reprehensible pos through before the ASSHAT in the WH that you are enabling is removed for being a racist, treasonous grifter!

How do you sleep at night? Because I can't!

Kathleen A. Steele

America will NOT forget!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: healthcare

hello,
please do medicare for all instead.
thank's,
alan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Please do not pass the Graham-Cassidy bill!!
It will devastate critical health services in Massachusetts!!

Thomas Hall, MA, CBIST
Assistant Vice President for Clinical Services
Developmental and Cognitive Services Division
Riverside Community Care
[REDACTED]

Dedham, MA 02026
[REDACTED]



Compassionate, integrated behavioral healthcare & human services.

CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT: This message contains information from Riverside Community Care that is confidential and/or privileged and is intended for the use of the addressee only. If you are not the addressee, any disclosure, photocopying, distribution or use of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited. If you have received this transmission in error, please notify the sender immediately and destroy this transmission.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bil

I am writing to OPPOSE this new healthcare bill the senate is looking to vote on. This is an irresponsible piece of legislation and affects millions of people. To have a vote when it has not been properly vetted or reviewed borders on neglect. So many organizations are against this, including the big insurers. As senators your duty is to do what is best for our country. Right now all you want to do is vote against something your party did not create but was a positive!

Peggy Sloyan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I write you to enter my comments on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal to overhaul the Affordable Care Act. I am one of the over hundred million American women who have given birth, and among the forty million Americans who lives with a mental illness. Access to maternal and mental health services has saved my life and the lives of my two children. Your proposal threatens "essential health benefits" with cuts that would have devastating effects on the lives of mothers, father, sons, and daughters. Please withdraw this proposal and seek changes to the Affordable Care Act that seek solutions rooted in compassion, not callousness. Thank you.

Shannon Drury
Minneapolis, MN 55417



Virus-free. www.avg.com

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: DO NOT VOTE FOR GRAHAM CASSIDY BILL

My husband and I would absolutely be without healthcare if we hadn't had obama. We are a solid middle-class couple who are both self-employed and responsible for our own health care costs. Previous to Obama care our premiums were over \$1200/month. We we going to have to forego health insurance rather than lose our house. It was one of the other. With Obama care we were eligible for a subsidy and our cost went down to an affordable \$340/month. My husband had pre-existing conditions which would in this plan raise our premiums to an again unaffordable cost. You literally will have blood on your hands and have to take responsibility for the millions of people whose literal lives will be at stake. This is an inhumane bill. Do the right thing and vote for the health of a nation!

Joani Geltman MSW
[REDACTED]

<http://joanigeltman.com>
joanigeltman.blogspot.com

Read my book:

http://www.amazon.com/Survival-Guide-Parenting-Teens-Drinking/dp/0814433669/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1393167330&sr=8-1&keywords=a+survival+guide+to+parenting+teens

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ND resident. Lifetime Cap

I received a letter from my insurance company informing me I had reached my \$1 million lifetime monetary cap on health insurance benefits. I received this letter while interning in the US Senate. I am a young person. I will need health care for the rest of my life like every other American. The ACA was passed 2 months after receiving that letter keeping me on my plan with affordable and quality health care I require. It changed my life. I'm currently a health policy graduate student inspired to act based upon my own personal experience and the luck to have health care. Please don't leave the many young people who have faced major illnesses and reached lifetime caps out to dry. The government has put a price tag on my life. It's sad I'm not worth one penny more of healthcare because I asked to be born with a major illness. Please listen to the American people.

Regards

Tina Lingen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Before you vote on healthcare, you need to know about two people

Dear Senators,

Before you vote on healthcare, you need to know about two people.

First I want you to know about my mother, Marsha. In 2008, before the ACA and four months after she retired from a 35-year career of public elementary school teaching, my picture-of-health, did-everything-right mother was diagnosed with stage IV cancer. I rushed home to her right away, and I will never forget how, within 48-hours of her diagnosis, she expressed worry and regret to me that she had gone through treatment for an underactive thyroid earlier that year. That treatment, you see, meant she was facing cancer with a chunk of her lifetime insurance cap already used. Her immediate focus was not on getting better, but calculating **how quickly she would need to recover or die before reaching that cap**. She died 8 months later. Bringing back the lifetime limits will mean other mothers and fathers, wives and husbands feel that they need to die faster so their families will not have to face the bills of their treatment.

Second I want to tell you about my nephew, born in 2015 under the protections of the ACA. After years of struggling, my sister- and brother-in-law were thrilled to finally have a baby two years ago. That joy turned to terror four months later when he experienced his first severe seizure. We would come to learn that he suffers from a severe, life-threatening seizure disorder called Dravet Syndrome. He spent a third of his first year in hospitals and more since. He requires an array of daily medications, therapy, regular scans, and round-the-clock observation, not to mention additional non-insured costs like his medically trained childcare and the travel expenses to bring him to the few out-of-state specialists that treat his syndrome. **If insurers are allowed to limit his lifetime benefits, his lifetime will be very short indeed**, because I have no doubt that whatever the limit may be, he has already surpassed it. And if this heartless limit on healthcare is allowed to return, I know after his parents (and probably grandparents, too) bankrupt themselves to fund his care, eventually they will no longer be able to afford his treatment, and when that day comes they will watch him die, this child they prayed so hard for.

As parents, as people, do not allow this to happen. Vote No on Graham-Cassidy.

Sincerely,
Katherine McCabe
Wilton, CT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA repeal

It is unconscionable that the people elected by the people to represent and implement the will of the people would pass this abomination of a bill solely for the purpose of pleasing wealthy donors so they can get re-elected. This is a shameful day.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

I am disabled. I am Autistic, I have Cerebral Palsy and am severely epileptic.

I use a wheelchair sometimes and when I am not using it, I need someone to help me moving around because I am unbalanced and can fall easily. My seizures are also uncontrolled, despite all the medication I take, and despite all the trials and interventions. So I can die due to seizures if I am not closely supervised.

When I was a child, I spent 6 months in ICUs. I almost died several times, I actually died once. I was brought back by my doctor. I was lucky.

I was also institutionalized and abused. I was told by doctors and specialists that I would not live long, or be anything other than a burden, little more than a vegetable.

Today, I live with a friend who is my personal assistant and I make the decisions about my life. Even if I need a lot of help with most everything, I have self-determination and I have a full life. I have been to the Capitol and I am an activist and a writer.

This is possible because of Medicaid. Only Medicaid provides services for disabled people like me. But this program, the Home and Community Based Services, or Med-Waiver, is optional. The state would first send me to a nursing home, even though it is much more expensive (4 times more in my case, we did the study) because there is an institutional bias in the law. If Graham Cassidy passes, the states will have less Medicaid money because Block Grants are always a cut, and Florida already has one of the lowest per-capita rates in the country. This means the state would try to make the Block Grant work by eliminating services like the Med-waiver. Then my only option would be a nursing home (I cannot live with my father because he works and travels. My mother died. I don't have siblings).

In a nursing home, there are no one-on-one staff. I would be put on a chair or bed, left there. If I have a seizure in bed, I can suffocate on a pillow and nobody would see until I was dead. Or I can have the type of seizure that makes me disoriented and I could fall and hit my head, and die. Those are things that happened to me several times, but because I have a personal assistant, she was there to make sure I was safe.

A vote for Graham Cassidy is a vote to make me less safe.

Even if I survive the seizures, I would still be sent to a nursing home and lose my freedom. Nursing homes don't allow choices. Simple things like what to eat, or what to listen to, when to get up or when to go to the bathroom (if you need assistance, you have to wait to be assisted) are choices made for us, not by us. I am not a criminal. I was born disabled and don't deserve to be locked up.

My state, Florida, has a very long list of people waiting for Med waiver. Block grants will make sure they never get any services. Because we have hurricanes over here and the bill does not provide funding for emergencies like hurricanes, the state would take money away from the already cut Medicaid and use for emergencies. Anyone who knows very basic math can see that it is not possible to help people and save lives under Graham Cassidy.

As I said, as a child I spent 6 months in ICU's. If Graham Cassidy is the law, a child like me would reach the lifetime cap and then what? That's certain death.

Living in the community is my human right. It is also cheaper. Ending Medicaid like the GOP wants, is also ending lives. My life. My people's lives.

There is no reason to vote for Graham Cassidy in such a hurry. It is clear the sponsors are trying to hide the reality from us, or they would wait for the CBO score. It is clear that the sponsors know what is at stake - human lives.

Human lives should be more important than political points or revenge against "Obamacare".

Sincerely,

Amy Sequenzia


Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to GrahamCassidy

My husband and I are pretty typical middle class Americans. We live in a suburb, are fast approaching retirement, and as we've aged have developed medical issues. All of our lives we've diligently saved our money, choosing to live within our means and prepare for retirement as best we could.

GrahamCassidy would destroy us. That's not hyperbole or drama. Should either of us develop cancer (which runs in my family), health insurance alone would cost about \$147, 000 per year for that unlucky spouse. One year of premium would decimate our savings. The second year would force the sale of our house.

Even without such a catastrophe, with the exorbitant premiums associated with one or more pre-existing conditions our savings (including home ownership) would be exhausted by this one expense in a matter of several years at best.

This is **not** what Americans deserve or expect. We entered and lived by the social contract in which being responsible our entire lives was supposed to ensure a comfortable end to those lives. GrahamCassidy is a betrayal of all Americans except the 1% for whom it is designed. It says that now in America unless you are rich, you have no value.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy is a bad bill

To whom it may concern:

I strongly oppose the Graham Cassidy bill. This is an irresponsible tax cut for the wealthy that will cause harm to Americans.

1. **This is a fiscally irresponsible bill** - Voting for this bill without a CBO score, without public hearings, and without proper studies of impact is wildly fiscally irresponsible. Protecting tax payer money is important. A vote for this bill shows that you do not care about how tax payer funds are spent if you are willing to willy nilly reshape one fifth of our economy for a political "win."

2. **This bill is anti-family** - This healthcare bill removes protections for pre-existing conditions, particularly for women and pregnant women. This would vastly increase costs for having a family. This bill will make it harder for my husband and I, and millions of others, to start healthy, safe, and happy families. If you vote for this bill you do not support families

3. **This is tax cut for the most wealthy** - This bill is an obvious and unnecessary tax cut. Do you want more folks to vote for Bernie Sanders or candidates like him? Supporting legislation like this, which has not benefit to the overall public, which serves no public good besides giving tax cuts to the most wealthy serves the Sanders narrative that politicians are not looking out for the everyday American's best interests. If you vote for this bill, you are strengthening that argument.

This is a poorly written bill and serves no policy interest besides offering tax cuts for the most wealthy. Republicans should work together with Democrats to fix the problems with our existing system.

Best,
Morgan

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Queen Creek, AZ

--
Morgan E. Stewart
Email: [REDACTED]
Tel: [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Obamacare repeal

On the record. Do not repeal Obamacare improve it. Administratively it will be chaos on families, medical institutions, insurance, finance and our country.

Do not repeal enhance. New Zealand, France, Scandinavia, even Mexico provide health care. Why not the US.

Guadalupe Petrone
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment on Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

My name is Michael Gargiulo, and I am a hardworking husband and father of two young children, who, thankfully, were born healthy and without complications. The love that I have for my sons makes it extremely difficult for me to even fathom how another parent of a child born with a medical condition is able to just get through each day while their family's healthcare continues to be under assault by a party clearly devoid of empathy and compassion. The focus on policy over people is what sets Graham-Cassidy apart from other attempts at reforming healthcare, and what will most likely allow history to view it as perhaps the most evil, anti-American piece of legislation we have seen in almost a century.

I, like many, many, many other proud Americans, am sick and tired of being lied to, and treated like an idiot by this disgraceful, greedy, hateful governing party. The citizens of this country deserve and demand access to affordable healthcare that covers essential benefits and conditions that we would not wish on our worst enemies. Graham-Cassidy strips those protections and essential health benefits away - doing so under the guise of "lowering premiums and increasing access to affordable healthcare" when there's no evidence costs will ever go down - all so that a bunch of rich, corrupt idiots can claim a "win" for their side, and appease the Kochs and Mercers.

We the people are sick of this, and this must stop now! Take our healthcare away, and see what happens. You will be out of jobs and on the run in 2018. Start doing right by the people, because you truly underestimate the power of the people to send your asses to the unemployment line.

Thank you.

--Michael Gargiulo

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy Bill currently being pushed through the Senate because
I have a 22 year old son with autism.

When my son Nate was less than 2 years old and diagnosed with autism, the first thing I thought was "Jeez, now I really have to deal with insurance." We had private insurance at the time, but that didn't cover anything that was called "autism." We had to high-tail it to the Medicaid office and get him signed up. There was a wonderful program called Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment, or EPSDT, through Medicaid that provided many of the therapies and interventions we pursued. He had speech therapy that taught him to talk at 26 months, occupational therapy that taught him to play ball and take turns. These services allowed him to participate in a typical preschool.

When Nate was school-aged, Medicaid paid for much of the therapies and behavioral support that he got in the mainstream public school where he was included. In fact, a huge proportion of the cost of services in the schools is funded by Medicaid. Without that, our school districts would be even more swamped by the cost of special education than they are now.

Through Medicaid, he also got wraparound services that helped him generalize his skills across school, home and community.

There is absolutely no shame in the fact that we can't do this on our own. We all need to support one another. Those who work with Nate have rewarding jobs and we're so grateful for them.

Nate is 22 now. He is quite intelligent, but is not—and never will be—what so many people call "typical." He may always need support. Though he no longer receives wraparound services, he recently became eligible for a Medicaid "waiver" which will provide the behavioral support he needs to continue to go to college and live at home. Eventually it will help him live as independently as possible.

While he's still in the process of learning independence, my husband and I take care of him. But what will happen when we are too old to do so? Without adequate and consistent funding from Medicaid, he will end up in an institution, which will cost the state much more.

If Pennsylvania's Medicaid budget goes down, it could force PA to ration care, which would pit Pennsylvanians against one another: special needs programs against nursing homes, drug abuse treatment against cancer treatment, children against senior citizens. Trained staff may no longer be available to work. Our local taxes could go way up and people would suffer without the care they need.

And my son, a bright young man with a lot to offer, will live a wasted life. We need to protect people's access to the services they need to fulfill their potential and live their best lives.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy Bill currently being pushed through the Senate because
It does not provide affordable health care for all and I am especially worried about its lack of provisions for preexisting conditions.

Karen Keller-Eyer

17543
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Dear Senators, How dare you take away benefits from people who cannot help themselves?

Dear Senators,

How dare you take away benefits from people who cannot help themselves?

You have a good salary. People who cannot help themselves do not. Shame on you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I'm a US citizen and I oppose Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

I am writing to express my strongest opposition possible to the Graham-Cassidy "health" bill. It is an atrocity that is being rammed through Congress at a nauseating pace. My family and I pay for our own health insurance and though we're lucky to live in California where Kaiser makes this more possible (financially) than in other places, we are at the whim of the market. We can't leave here even if we wanted to because we could not afford health insurance in a non-Kaiser state. And with this new bill, we may not be able to afford it here.

I pray that those who are voting on this bill wake up and realize that a yes vote is a vote against every citizen in this country and do the right, moral and common sense thing: vote no.

Thank you,

Laura Baedeker

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:17 PM
To: gchcomments

As a physician, I am horrified that Graham-Cassidy would even be considered, let alone voted upon, without a full CBO analysis. Multiple independent non-partisan organizations have evaluated the legislation, with terrifying results. How can anybody vote for a policy which would cause 33 million Americans to lose coverage, devastate protections for pre-existing conditions, cause premiums to skyrocket and decimate Medicaid?! Public polls, medical societies, hospital organizations, AARP, insurance companies and advocacy groups have ALL condemned this terrible legislation. Have our politics become so degraded and corrupt that only political donations and rigid ideology determine your votes? This is not how democracy should work! Bipartisan ideas and solutions can be found. Do your duty to the American people. Throw this bill in the garbage, where it belongs. Have you no shame?!

Dr. Scott Lipson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

I do not support Graham-Cassidy bill as it drop my fellow citizens off health insurance. We need full benefits for ALL citizens!!

Cynthia Jahn
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Dear members of the Senate Committee on Finance,

I am writing to express my opposition to the Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill. I stand with many respected medical institutions, multiple legislators and millions of Americans who believe this legislation would have a negative impact on the healthcare so many of your constituents desperately need. It is literally a matter of life and death for so many people. I implore you to reject this dangerous bill.

There is no question of the Affordable Care Act being flawed, but as stated in a statement submitted by the American Medical Association and 16 other medical organizations, "this bill would limit funding for the Medicaid program, roll back important essential health benefit protections, and potentially open the door to annual and lifetime caps on coverage, endangering access to critical care for millions of Americans."

I am not as eloquent as a PR strategist or DC lobbyist, and plainly speaking, this bill is wrong. Health issues do not discriminate. Americans from all walks of life, racial backgrounds, and economic footing can be impacted by illness, sometimes when they least expect it and sometimes without the financial means to take the right course of action to remedy the problem.

If you do not take the right course of action and stop this bill terrible scenarios could play out for the most vulnerable among us. Fix the Affordable Care Act, but please do not pass this bill. Give all Americans the opportunity to be healthy and stay healthy and prove the United States is not about premiums on pre-existing conditions, but putting a premium on all of its citizens.

Thank you for reading my letter.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle McClellan

a blessedly healthy woman, mother of a beautiful baby boy, and wife to a man who is a shining example of living with and thriving in spite of follicular lymphoma

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthy but no job

My name is Rebecca Blair. I am a technology executive who recently left my job. I want to change the world with technology by working for an educational startup. But I can't because I wouldn't have insurance to cover my family, my kids. With an exchange in place, I could purchase insurance on the open market and focus my talents on changing the landscape of education. Instead, tomorrow I go back to corporate America for no other reason than so my children have healthcare!

Thanks, Becky

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

No to Graham Cassidy.

I am an RN.
I had childhood cancer.
I have MS.

NO!

BethAnne Algie, RN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments for the record regarding GCH

For the record, I would like to state that Graham Cassidy does not actually benefit anyone in the short, medium or long term. States that legally took the Medicaid expansion under the ACA are now penalized, while states who chose not to take the available funds are rewarded, after their patients have been adversely affected due to the choices of their respective governors. Condemnation of this bill has been universal, from medical associations to advocacy groups to the actual people that will be impacted. The only people currently supporting GCH are those who drafted it and a few other Republican senators, many of whom appear to not actually know what is in the bill, but feel they need to pass anything, even something as destructive as GCH, just so they can say they passed something. This is not how government was intended to work. The process, and the bill itself, are a disgrace.

Thank you,
James Moyer

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

This bill is an atrocity. There is no doubt that the ACA can be improved upon, but it is an excellent foundation from which to work. Return to regular order and develop a bipartisan approach to additional health care reform.

You owe this to the American people.

Please do not repeal our progress.

Sincerely,
Barbara E. Rodin, PH.D,

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for Record re: Graham-Cassidy SFC Hearing

When I graduated college I had the world before me - I was ready to get a job, start my adult life, take on the world. I was a healthy 22 year old, what could go wrong? But just weeks after graduating, completely out of the blue, I came down with a rare, and what I later learned was chronic, dizziness syndrome. I was sidelined for months, and test after test was negative. MRI of my brain, tests on my inner ears. This was in 2008. This was before the ACA. I was lucky and my parents had insisted I apply for insurance prior to losing my student status. But from that moment on I lived in fear knowing that I would never be able to get insurance again because of my pre-existing condition. I watched year after year as my originally affordable healthcare plan's premiums skyrocketed - knowing that I could do nothing as I was at the mercy of the insurance companies who would want nothing more than to drop me and never offer me insurance again due to my now pre-existing condition. I did not have the option of shopping around plans - it was this or nothing. I didn't think this would happen. I was a young healthy 20 something and if not for my parents insistence, I would have been absolutely screwed for the rest of my life, never being accepted by a health insurance company, never being able to afford care after 22 years old. I cannot explain the relief I felt when the Affordable Care Act passed - knowing that my country would make sure that I always had the health insurance I needed. I remember the first time I applied for a new health insurance plan under the ACA on Covered California - it took just minutes to fill out the form - I was astonished! And I was offered a wide range of plans. If the Graham-Cassidy health care bill to repeal to ACA passes, I don't even know what I will do. States will be allowed to deny people like me access to health care or access to any type of affordable health care (and they will). And it's not just me. 30+ million more Americans will not have care. What kind of society do we live in when 30 million MORE Americans than now cannot afford to see a doctor or where we let insurance companies decide who lives and who dies because they decide who can regularly afford to see a doctor or not? The ACA needs some fixing, but this does not fix it - it makes our lives much, much worse. This will bankrupt Americans just trying to keep their kids from dying. This bill is bad for all Americans' health and finances and it is simply being pushed through because people like to attach President Obama's name to the ACA and they don't like him - this is shameful. As Senator Cassidy himself said, any health care bill should pass the Jimmy Kimmel test - no family should be denied medical care, emergency or otherwise, because they can't afford it. This current bill fails that test miserably.

Kate Herring

Los Angeles, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Heller bill testimony

I am the mom to a sweet, beautiful 10-year-old daughter. She suffers from a severe form of epilepsy that causes her to have dozens of seizures a day. She is significantly disabled.

My husband and I are well-educated, responsible citizens. We hold jobs, pay taxes, carry private health insurance for our family, and provide for our family to the best of our ability. But our daughter's needs are far, far greater than anything we could ever meet on our own, even if we were far wealthier than we are now. We rely on Medicaid to fill that gap. In our case, Medicaid serves as a secondary coverage, so it picks up expenses after our private insurance has paid what they will cover. Today I went to pick up one my daughter's prescription refills from the pharmacy (one of the 6 daily medications she takes). The copay for this one medication, after our private insurance had paid their portion, was \$220. That is our out-of-pocket monthly expense for just one medication of six. Adding onto the medication costs alone, we have appointment copays and coinsurance, medical equipment, diapers, and occupational, physical, and speech therapy, just to name a few of the extra expenses that come with having a disabled child.

Without Medicaid, our family would be financially devastated.

We are not poor. So much of the conversation surrounding Medicaid has been about cutting money from the program so people of lesser means will need to buy their own insurance. Disabled people, particularly children, have been overlooked in this discussion, and they are a very important and significant group of people who heavily rely on Medicaid. Cutting massive amounts of money from Medicaid will certainly harm my child. There is no way to make cuts to Medicaid of this magnitude and not have it negatively affect the most vulnerable members of our society - the disabled.

Please do not make cuts to Medicaid. Please leave Medicaid (and my daughter's life) out of the equation.

Kayla Wilke
[REDACTED]

Middleton, WI 53562

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Senators,

I am writing to ask that this Bill be voted down. I am a retired RN. I am also a 2-1/2 year Cancer survivor. The pre-existing condition clause in this bill would permit premiums to be raised to the point of being not affordable for Americans. I have researched this and estimates state recurring Cancer premiums of over \$100,000. This would mean no coverage for people who are not yet on Medicare. The AMA, Hospital Administrators, Blue Cross, AARP, most State Governors, and millions of Americans oppose this Bill. Thirty two million estimated to lose insurance due to inability to afford this disastrous Bill. Also, for maternity/neonatal and mental health to no longer be required coverage, is cruel and worse than third world ideology. Remember that you were elected to serve your constituents, not a political agenda or special interests. This Senate's legacy will be determined by how Health Care is changed in America. History would condemn this Bill, and all who would vote in favor of repealing health care from millions. I ask as an American citizen for the Senate to hear the will of the people and respond accordingly. Vote NO!

Sincerely,
Judith Ensell

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: DumpsterCare 4.0
Attachments: 20246309_1823368674643016_8766428343478636080_n.jpg

Hello,

Thank you for taking comments. I am a combat veteran. I served in the Balkans and Middle East. I have been tasked organizing MEDCAPS for free medical aid to civilians ravaged by war. As an American, I stood for the humanization of non Americans, because it is what it means to be an American. To fight for the underdog. To stand with the downtrodden.

We have a system of government now where corporate money corrupts and chokes the very humanity out of the system created to protect the people. We have fiscal conservatives that only believe in frugality for the poor and lavish riches for the super rich.

This healthcare bill (Graham-Cassidy) is nothing more than the boot of austerity. We are quickly becoming 1910 Germany. If that doesn't scare the everliving crap out of you, maybe chew on that and consider why.

As a war veteran, please stand for our people the way I stood for others. Even now, attached is a picture of me, standing in 103 degree heat, an hour after I gave blood, to stand for those who cannot stand themselves. The true American way; supporting the downtrodden.

-Joshua Cameron
Utah State Delegate

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Campbell, Katie (Donnelly); Light, Jaymi (Young)
Subject: Graham Cassidy

I am writing to express my concern with the Graham Cassidy bill. I am an Executive Director for an agency that serves 400 people with disabilities in South Central Indiana. We work with people who have specialized healthcare needs and rely on Medicaid for that support. Most of those we serve are on a Medicaid Waiver receiving Home and Community Based Services. This is considered an optional service under federal guidelines. The bill, as proposed, would jeopardize those individuals supports and could lead many to unnecessary institutionalization which costs more in the long term. I am sure many are aware that people with disabilities make up a small portion of those Medicaid eligible but have the higher cost outlay. The cuts proposed under this bill would devastate individuals with disabilities by putting states in the position of making very difficult choices. The Arc, Ancor, AARP, ADAPT, Autism Speaks, AUCD, CCD, and countless other disability policy groups are opposed to this bill. Please listen and learn why they are so adamant about that opposition. Thank you for the chance to comment.

Susan Rinne
Chief Executive Officer
LIFE*Designs*, Inc.

[REDACTED]
www.lifedesignsinc.org; A United Way Agency

Partnering with people of all ages and abilities to lead meaningful and active lives.

I Dream My Paintings, I Paint My Dreams. -van Gogh

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail transmission and any documents accompanying this transmission may contain personal information subject to such privacy regulations as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). This information is intended only for the use of the authorized individual named above. Such authorized recipient of this information is prohibited from disclosing this information to any other party unless required to do so by law or regulation and is required to destroy the information after its stated need has been fulfilled.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GRAHAM-CASSIDY Healthcare Bill

Here are just a few of the reasons why we can't let it pass:

1. This bill ends Medicaid expansion, which experts have called the #1 tool at our disposal for combating the opioid crisis.
2. The proposed caps and cuts to Medicaid jeopardize community-based care programs for seniors and people who experience disabilities. These massive Medicaid cuts would also lead to funding cuts for school districts and students with disabilities.
3. This bill would cut hundreds of millions of dollars in federal Medicaid funding for New Hampshire in the next decade. This would impact some of our most vulnerable citizens such as children, pregnant women, seniors, and people who experience disabilities.
4. The Graham-Cassidy bill also undermines protections for people with preexisting conditions.
5. It would lead to higher out-of-pocket costs and take away premium assistance from millions of hard-working people.
6. It also allows insurers to hike premiums the moment someone gets sick — even if they've been healthy and paying for their insurance for years.
7. It guts the requirement that insurers must cover care for essential health benefits such as substance use disorder, mental health and maternity care.
8. Just like with prior versions of Tumpcare, the Graham-Cassidy bill targets women's health and defunds Planned Parenthood.
9. This bill was introduced in the midst of bipartisan efforts to strengthen the individual insurance market and improve the Affordable Care Act. This bill risks completely undermining that work.

Bottom-line: The Graham-Cassidy bill is just as dangerous as the prior attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act, and we must do everything we can to stop it in its tracks.

🌸 Robin Tucker
The Flower Lady

Charleston WV

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare Reform

Dear Finance Committee Members,

As an advocate for individuals with disabilities I ask that you please consider the following as you prepare to present and vote on the current Health Care Reform bill. The wellbeing of many vulnerable individuals is dependent upon your careful consideration of all of the possible ramifications that are presented below. Thank you.

- Cuts to Medicaid would force states to reduce services, cut optional services, restrict eligibility, and increase waiting lists.
- People with disabilities will be disproportionately harmed by Medicaid cuts. Care for people with disabilities makes up a significant part of state Medicaid budgets due to their long term care needs.
- The home and community based services (HCBS) on which people with disabilities rely to live and participate in their communities are especially at risk because they are optional and could be completely eliminated.
- The bill would also remove protections for people with pre-existing conditions. States can roll back the 10 essential health benefits (including hospitalization, prescription drugs, habilitative and rehabilitative services etc.) currently required to be a part of all insurance plans, and to permit insurers to charge higher premiums to people with pre-existing conditions.

The Graham-Cassidy-Johnson-Heller bill would cut Wisconsin's Medicaid programs

- Medicaid pays for the Forward HealthCard and almost 20 Wisconsin programs—including Family Care, IRIS, Children's Long Term Support, BadgerCare, intensive autism services, etc.—that help older adults, people with disabilities, families with children, and low income working adults.
- Imposing Medicaid per capita caps and block grants to Medicaid 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 ([more information on impacts for people with disabilities](#))
- The Medicaid per capita cap reduces federal funding for Wisconsin's 20 traditional Medicaid programs and Forward Health card by \$562M (2020-2026)
- By 2027 Wisconsin stands to lose \$3 billion in federal Medicaid funds
- Per capita caps continue to deepen cuts over time (Avalere predicts \$29B reduction to traditional Medicaid by 2036)

Sincerely,
Mary Beth Popchock

Mary Beth Popchock, M.A.
LCS Executive Director

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Good afternoon,

I understand personal stories are important regarding health care. My wife is a Type 1 diabetic. Her doctor holds her up to her other patients as the goal, as she manages it well, but her status as being a diabetic makes her uninsurable.

Let me emphasize that this is a medical condition. She was diagnosed in her early teens. Her illness is not due to moral failure, not working hard, or anything of that sort. Medical conditions happen to people for reasons we don't always understand, which is something any competent physician should be able to explain to you.

I work in the field of computer security, which means about half the time in my career, I'm a contract worker. For the last several years, I've had the ACA to fall back on if I need to buy insurance for my family.

I am a healthy 40 year old male who rarely visits the doctor. Arguably I don't need insurance for myself. But I have always participated in the system, since I started working full time at the age of 22, to be a good citizen and help spread out the risk. I pay more into the system so people like my wife can take something out. That's how insurance works. I carry homeowner's insurance and auto insurance as well, even though I have never used any of them.

Carrying insurance is something that responsible people do, to avoid becoming a drag on society. For its flaws, one thing the ACA addressed was people gaming the system. Nobody complains about having to pay for homeowner's insurance or auto insurance.

But part of the deal is that the insurance is halfway affordable. I haven't seen projections on what this latest Trumpcare/Republicancare proposal will do, but there is no reason to assume it will be any better than previous proposals. Under those proposals, buying health insurance for her becomes more expensive than housing. At that point, I have to make my career choices solely based on health care, rather than on the normal things people consider when making decisions based on a job. If another job comes along that would be a promotion, I may not be able to take it.

The other thing I don't understand is that the CBO scores for previous Republicancare/Trumpcare proposals clearly demonstrate how these proposals take benefits away, yet increase costs for the government. Why make a change if it increases the deficit and hurts millions of people? The principle of do no harm, which Cassidy should understand, should apply here.

Thank you for listening. I am counting on you to do the right thing, both fiscally and for the sake of preserving health care access for millions of people.

David L. Farquhar, CISSP

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Hello,

I am writing to express my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy plan to repeal the ACA. I believe that we should be working on ways to better and improve the ACA instead of repealing and leaving people without options.

The ACA has allowed my father to get coverage and treatment multiple times over the past few years, which he was not able to afford before. I believe he is still alive today only because of these treatments.

When I was younger I was unable to afford insurance and scared of the costs that would incur if I went to see a regular doctor. I was married but my husband and I were not ready (nor could we afford) to have children. I do not know what I would have done without Planned Parenthood to offer me affordable screenings and birth control. Thanks to their accessibility I did not even have to ever consider whether or not to have an abortion because I was able to receive birth control and information upfront. I can't imagine how different my life would be if I had not had access to the care Planned Parenthood gave me. Please do not take this potential care away from thousands of women who desperately need this option.

I alone have multiple stories of friends and family members whose lives were saved due to the ACA. Please do not subject those who find themselves in ill health to a death sentence in the future by repealing the ACA.

Thank you,

Sarah Bode-Clark
11238

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal, Monday, Sept 25, 2017

Regarding hearing to consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017:

I am one of the many in the majority that oppose this! I vote! I am becoming more proactive every day as the campaign to destroy the ACA!

Is anyone in Congress still responding to the voice of the people?

Noreen Szeluga
[REDACTED]
Lombard Il 60148

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I am deeply concerned about the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare proposal.

1. The concept of block grants sounds, in theory, like a way to give states control over funding. However, we've seen in the case of block grants with TANF, that this leads to misuse - At TANF's onset, 70 percent of combined federal TANF and state MOE funds went for basic assistance for poor families. By 2014, that figure had plummeted to 26 percent. There is significant variation across states; ten states spent less than 10 percent of their TANF/MOE funds on basic assistance in 2014.



2. Graham & Cassidy claim that it protects folks with pre-existing conditions. That is false. The bill would allow states to opt to waive Obamacare rules requiring basic health benefits, essentially cutting protections for sick people in an effort to keep premiums from rising. The waivers allow states to charge more for health insurance offered to people with pre-existing conditions—including cancer, heart disease, Alzheimer's (or dementia), cerebral palsy and even pregnancy. In a nation that supposedly is pro-family, making pregnancy a pre-existing condition flies in the face of the very values these senators espouse.

Please work across the aisle to identify legislation that works for average Americans. Not your own political careers, not insurance companies that fund your campaigns, not the wealthiest Americans...average Americans.

Kathryn Henderson
Somerville, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill.

To the Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. There are so many reasons to oppose it, but first I'd like to note the Republicans' stated reasons given for supporting it that reflect a perversion of the Senate's understanding of its job.

It is not a reason to support the bill that campaign promises were made, as Sen. Grassley says, especially without CBO scoring or full understanding of the bill. We know millions will lose health care - did you include that in your campaign promise?

It is not a reason to support it that, as Sen. Graham seems to believe, if it does not pass, socialism or Sen. Sander's vision will suddenly become the law of the land. That is just patently absurd. The current system does not rely on a government insurance agency. Healthcare providers can compete in the markets. The current system, if not artificially damaged by the efforts of elected representatives on the right, as well as litigation, would have done better, but even hobbled it is a great success for many for whom insurance was unavailable before.

And it is certainly not a reason to support this bill that the Kochs won't give Republicans campaign money until health care for the middle class, poor, seniors, children and the disabled is destroyed.

The reasons to vote against this bill are obvious, and it is ridiculous that senators have chosen to lie, pivot and mislead in order to dupe their constituents. Block grants to states with exceptions will potentially price those with pre-existing conditions out of the market, so claims they will still have healthcare, intended to deceive so you can get your Koch money, are not just wrong, but morally indefensible.

Reduction of funding to states will certainly lead to lower quality and availability of care. Increased funding to those states with senators needed for the vote is one of your most cynical, offensive acts in the last several years, and this includes McConnell's stated intent to obstruct Obama and his refusal to allow a vote on Garland.

Every reputable health care organization has come out against this bill. We have been told by true experts, not just senators desperate for their Koch money, that this plan will damage or wipe out Medicaid and Medicare as we know it - insurance relied upon by the elderly, the poor, children and the disabled.

Women's health care will be detrimentally affected. Over time premiums will go up. Subsidies that make insurance affordable will be eliminated.

There is only one way I would support this bill, and I believe this is a means that could be used to garner support from many of us. Each legislator must commit to using the Graham-Cassidy plan for their own insurance, and eliminating the Senate and House insurance coverage as it currently exists. If it is good enough for you, I'm willing to see how it goes. Any takers?

Very truly yours,
Jill Paperno

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy Bill currently being pushed through the Senate because
Millions of people will lose coverage and die. Medicare for all.
GOP idiots and morons.

william neilson

18073
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy Bill currently being pushed through the Senate because

I lost my full time career in high tech when it and thousands of others went overseas. I returned to college at age 49, completed teaching certification. I could not find full time employment, suspect age issues, so I substitute taught as was available. As a sub I had no benefits, and they limited our hours so they did not have to pay them. I am now 60, work as a church musician, low salary, no benefits. I rely on my subsidy to be able to afford health insurance at my age and salary.

Consider the civil unrest and strife when you intentionally take health care away from 32 million people. Demonstrations much much much worse than what we've seen in the last 9 months will turn violent when people lose family members lacking healthcare. Perhaps tdumpf WANTS civil unrest so he can declare martial law. This seem outlandish, but look at where we WERE and look at where we are now. Who could have predicted the nightmares, the racism, the hatreds and things will get worse if you intentionally take away people's healthcare. We will have worldwide tensions from Iran and N. Korean threats, stresses to our economy from natural disasters, this is no time to take away health care from 32 million people so that you can provide a tax cut to the ultrawealthy. Doing this cruel action would make the ideal of an America a thing of the past. other nations respect and see the value in lifting up everyone by providing a means for affordable healthcare. Our country, the "City on a hill" like reagan used to wax, should not move in a harsh, cold, inhumane direction. Consider the strife if you do this....it will be your legacy, and you cannot say it was unexpected or uncertain. YOU HAVE BEEN TOLD of what I pray will not come to pass. Do what you can to support those called AMERICANS

Richard Rupnik

18080
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy Bill currently being pushed through the Senate because
It is worse than the original repeal and replace.

Have you no compassion for your constituents or is it just get rid of the ACA because it was signed by a President who was not a Republican.

Finally, I ask each and every one of you to look into your conscience and justify this bill as if EVERY member of your family depended on it.

Susan Long

19335
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senators,

Please consider that if this this proposed bill is passed it will have a negative impact on so many citizens. I am a senior citizen and I am concerned how it will limit my access to any necessary health care as I age. The bill would also impact women negatively, and people with pre existing conditions.

Please do not pass this bill that would hurt the people you were elected to represent and protect.

Thank you.

Nora Goldstein
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare legislation

Good afternoon,

Please repeal Obamacare. I have to pay for my health insurance and cannot afford the high premiums nor high deductibles. What is the point of having a healthcare plan my family and I cannot afford to tap into to? I refuse to pay high premiums and high deductibles and then still be stuck with high medical bills. It's not worth it to me. You cannot have a system whereby certain parties to it are the only beneficiaries. That is unethical and unjust. Please pass something soon, as I am well past my last mammogram (over 2 years) and have a family history of breast cancer, and need an affordable option before I take on more medical costs, and need it soon.

Also, I have a daughter with a disability and am getting threatening letters from disability advocacy organizations concerned about Medicaid cuts in this new legislation. Please also address the needs of some of the most vulnerable individuals in our society, and work out an equitable solution for all. This is not rocket science. Reach out across the aisle, if needed. It is unacceptable Americans are being held hostage because of this stalemate. Both sides need to put their egos aside, and their megalomania, and pass a healthcare plan that helps as many segments of society as possible.

Lastly, please remember we're all in this together as Americans, and it's all for one, and one for all!

Thank you,

Linda Sevilla
60056

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The ACA should remain the law of the land. NO on Graham-Cassidy.

I am a cancer survivor who is able to access health insurance at a reasonable cost because of the ACA. I am already being forced to change providers in 2018 because the GOP's efforts to destabilize the market have caused Anthem to cut most of its California coverage. If Graham-Cassidy passes, my access to health insurance will likely disappear altogether.

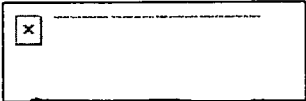
Chuck Grassley went on record yesterday saying that the only reason this bill even exists is to satisfy a political promise. It is apparent from the structure of the bill -- which punishes states that took Medicaid expansion, removes minimum coverage requirements, and destroys protections for preexisting conditions -- was not created to protect the health of fellow citizens. It was created to protect political donors and to respond to the lure of dark money. As such, the GOP Senate members who wrote this bill are derelict in their responsibilities to the people they represent.

I am fairly sure that, if this bill passes, it will signal the demise of the GOP. As much as I'd like to see that happen, I am capable of setting aside politics for my welfare and the welfare of my fellow Americans. **DO NOT PASS THIS BILL.**

Angela Wilson Gyetvan

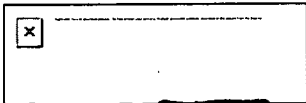
--

Angela Wilson Gyetvan
Founder and President



--

Angela Wilson Gyetvan
Founder and President



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:06 PM
To: gchcomments; lcdemocrats@yahoo.com
Subject: Indivisible Action
Attachments: Indivisible-Illinois-Amplify-Flyer.pdf

It has been suggested to me that we use "Amplify" app., which is an Indivisible organization site. This site will keep people informed of actions that are taking place locally. The more information available to keep all of us informed, especially with the immediate danger of the Cassidy/Graham, the better!

Thank you,
Rebecca Drake, Chair
Logan County Democrats (LCDems)
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no on Graham-Cassidy

My name is Mikael Stansfield. I live in Ogden UT. My daughter, Ellie, is 15 Years old. She loves listening to music and having people talk to her.

Ellie was born with a Dandy Walker Cyst in her brain (a fluid filled sack by her brain stem) and other brain malformations. She uses a wheelchair, bathchair, stander, and orthopedic braces. She gets 15 medications twice a day. She relies on others for all of her self-care needs. She wears diapers and always will. She uses a vibrating vest and nebulizer treatments twice a day to keep her lungs healthy. We are approved to have a nurse come in for 8 hours at night so that Mom and Dad can sleep. She sees 15 different specialized medical Dr.'s at our local children's hospital. All of this adds up.

I have been married for 18 years. My husband has had his current job for 10 years and the job before that for 10 years. We have owned a small 1900 square foot home for 17.5 years. We have 5 kids total. The other 4 do not have disabilities. We have private insurance for everyone in the family...INCLUDING ELLIE! We make \$68,000 a year.

Ellie has private insurance through my husband's work and then she has medicaid as secondary. She is the only one in the family who has medicaid.

Medicaid pays for things that private insurance will not. Here are the things medicaid pays for that our insurance NEVER covers... Diapers, Bath chair, A safe bed for her to sleep in (that she won't get hurt in case of seizures), a nurse to come in 8 hours a day for Mom and Dad to sleep.

In addition to covering items that are never paid for, medicaid helps pay the copays for her Dr. visits and medications. We would hit our OOP Max every year in January. If you made \$68,000 a year, how much could you afford to spend on medical every year?

We also still have many additional expenses that are covered by neither medicaid or private insurance. For example multivitamins, calcium supplements, diaper wipes and enemas. We spend over \$300 per year on enemas alone. How much did you spend on enemas last year? These are just a few examples. Don't you think if someone literally cannot poop without medication that insurance should cover that medication?

Ellie has a pre-existing condition. She was born this way. It was nothing that I as her mother did or didn't do. Sometimes things just happen. If you don't protect pre-existing conditions then basically you should switch sides and start supporting abortions. I am not trying to be dramatic. But realistically, if you can't help those born with disabilities then you are basically saying the mother should have had an abortion because we don't want to help them.

If you cut federal medicaid payments to states over time then states will be forced to make fewer people eligible, eliminate or cut back on waivers (we are on a waiver), reduce or eliminate benefits and lower reimbursement to Dr.'s (making it harder to find a Dr. to take medicaid).

The Graham-Cassidy act would allow states to charge people more with pre-existing conditions so insurance would not be affordable. It could allow insurance companies to offer plans without mental health, substance abuse, maternity, pediatric vision and dental services.

If insurance becomes unaffordable for my family we will cancel Ellie from our plan and have her only be on Medicaid. Therefore it would cost medicaid A LOT MORE because instead of being her secondary insurance they would now be her only insurance.

These proposed changes are life-altering for families like mine.

My husband and I do our best to be self-reliant. We do not use food stamps, we do not fake a disability to get help, we work and we pay for private insurance. After all we can do, we need help. Our family could not survive if pre-existing conditions are not protected or you allow insurance companies to charge us more or medicaid is cut.

I do have a proposal for you...There is currently medicaid and medicare. Medicare is for old people. Medicaid is primarily for low income and people with disabilities. Make a 3rd option call it something like medi-able. It would be for people with permanent

disabilities like my daughter. Then put low income people on medicaid and make them work for their medicaid. But the new medi-able would be specifically for people with lifelong disabilities. No work requirements but yes protect pre-existing conditions.

PLEASE REJECT THE GRAHAM CASSIDY BILL.

Sincerely,

Mikael Stansfield

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Ogden UT 84403
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments for the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

I write to express my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal (the Proposal). The Proposal includes draconian, cruel and amoral substantive provisions, stripping health care from tens of millions of vulnerable Americans while purporting to fix health care and make it available and affordable to all Americans. It was also developed in a deeply shameful, undemocratic process that flies against the desires of 88% of Americans.

The Proposal's cuts to traditional Medicaid are draconian. Millions of elderly individuals and people with disabilities rely on traditional Medicaid for their lives, their well-being, and their independence. Although the Congressional Budget Office Analysis has not been completed for this Proposal, it is similar or worse to previous bills that would radically restructure Medicaid, kicking millions of Americans off health care. Thousands of people will die as a result. Previous and less draconian versions of this bill estimate that federal support will drop by 750-800 billion dollars by 2026, with deeper cuts to follow. My sister in law works with people with disabilities every day and knows firsthand how important and lifesaving Medicaid health care can be. People with disabilities rely on critical Medicaid services like tracheotomy care, nursing care, dialysis, cancer treatments, occupational therapy, speech therapy, life-saving medications, durable medical equipment, and more to work and live lives with dignity and independence. These people are our family members, our neighbors, our coworkers, and our friends. We are the wealthiest country in the world. We can and should provide Medicaid for the elderly and people with disabilities. Quite frankly, we should provide basic medical coverage for all throughout the country, which the ACA attempted at doing. Why is everything about repealing the ACA instead of improving it and making it better to ensure that it covers all Americans?

This Proposal will also impact pregnant women and children, who are insured by Medicaid in high numbers. Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) provide health and long-term care coverage to nearly 1.4 million low-income children, pregnant women, adults, seniors, and people with disabilities in Colorado. Nearly half of all US births are covered by Medicaid. For many children with disabilities and extensive health care needs, Medicaid is lifesaving and cutting it could literally put children's lives at risk. Children who receive regular health care to treat things like asthma, diabetes, and treatable medical problems fare better in school, miss fewer days of school, are more likely to graduate, and earn higher wages than those without health care. We as a country have always thought that the children are our future. This Proposal takes us backwards. The potential impacts of this Proposal for children and pregnant women are frankly deeply disturbing.

The changes to the Affordable Care Act are also deeply troubling. The proposal opens up the door to imposing pre-existing condition exclusions again, limiting essential health services, and reducing the affordability of health insurance, which will result in millions more losing health insurance they only recently gained. All of the studies done thus far on health outcomes for individuals newly insured through the ACA show the enormous positive impact of insured status. My husband and I personally know many individuals with disabilities who relied on ACA coverage when they could no longer work due to a diagnosis, but had to wait two years after a disability determination before Medicare would begin and who were not eligible for Medicaid. We also know multiple friends who relied on the ACA to receive treatment for cancer. These individuals could not work, but they also did not qualify for Social Security. These friends owe their lives to the Affordable Care Act. We also have friends with full time jobs that did not offer health insurance and could only afford health insurance offered through the ACA with subsidies. These individuals were able to obtain services to treat chronic illnesses such as diabetes, illnesses that would worsen without treatment and then require costly but are preventable. The Proposal fails to make insurance more affordable and in fact, will price ordinary Americans out of any insurance market, returning to the days when a cancer patient who couldn't work couldn't access health care, where a person with asthma couldn't afford health insurance due to a pre-existing condition, where a person working a full-time job couldn't afford health insurance. This is not what Americans want.

Many of the very sponsors of this Proposal vowed that they would replace the ACA with something better and more affordable. This Proposal fails miserably in all respects. It has also been crafted, introduced, and discussed in

a deeply undemocratic manner. The fact that many Senators are unwilling to even wait to discuss the Proposal and provide for full and fair hearings on it after it has been analyzed by the Congressional Budget Office exposes this process as a deeply shameful charade, one that ignores the desires of the vast majority of the American people. The last bill scored by the CBO had an approval rating of 12%, yet this bill is moving forward and is even worse than the last bill scored.

Many of the sponsors of this Proposal rely on campaign funding from big insurance and pharmaceutical companies to get re-elected and never have we seen this group challenge the way the insurance industry is working. Why are companies in this country allowed to make big profits on the back of the health of Americans? Why is lobbying by those very companies still allowed? Why is no one in Congress willing to challenge the status quo and take on big insurance companies and regulate campaign financing?

I newly became a US citizen and must admit that I struggle understanding why I spend about 20 times more on health care here than in my home country (a European developed country) despite being healthy and having a healthy family.

I am submitting this testimony to the committee to ensure that it is entered into the official record of these proceedings. If this bill passes and goes into effect in 2020, 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.

Isabelle Leveugle Shiffrin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: senator@feinstein.senate.gov
Subject: Zombie gop health care bill

Greetings, I was injured by another person many years ago by no fault of my own. The injury left me with an ongoing need for medical care. It also left me with a pre-existing condition in the eyes of insurance companies. However, it doesn't take something severe like an injury or cancer or diabetes to be considered to have a pre-existing condition by insurance companies. Pretty much every adult would be considered by an insurance company to have a pre-existing condition of one kind or another.

Because of this pre-existing condition, I was not able to purchase health insurance for 15 years. It wasn't until the patient protection and affordable care act, that I could once again purchase health insurance. Thank goodness there were no major medical problems for me during that time that I was uninsured, because if there had been, I could have lost everything I had worked for during my life time of hard work.

In this wealthy nation, we shouldn't have our hard-working citizens at risk of losing everything because of an injury or illness. It is far past time for us to join the rest of the civilized world and provide healthcare to our citizens. I think it is time for Medicare for all, or universal health care.

In closing, there is already a bipartisan effort to fix the ACA. Bipartisan, as it should be. Let that process continue, and quit trying to ram these GOP repeal/bad bills down our throats. The people have spoken, over and over and over. You are not listening. You work for us. That means that you need to go. Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO ON THE TERRIBLE GRAHAM CASSIDY BILL

This is a repugnant bill that will hurt millions of people. It is abhorrent. Enough already. You clearly don't care about actual humans, just money. Stop messing with people's health.

Barbara Arrowsmith
VOTER

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill's Harmful Effects

Our 21-year-old-son with Down Syndrome (& survivor of 3 open-heart surgeries to date and other chronic co-occurring conditions) desperately needs the Medicaid supports in order to maintain his job in the community or to gain another job and maintain it throughout his lifetime. He pays taxes on the money he earns and his SSI is reduced proportionately to the money he earns on his job. He also needs the supports, as we do, for respite care and Medicaid personal care and decent healthcare. If we, as a family, are going to continue to be able to care for him in our own home, rather than having him live in a very expensive institution with inferior care to our own, then the Federal Government needs to realize that it cannot ignore the needs of people with disabilities and their families who care for them. There needs to be federal involvement. Having each state implement inferior programs, forming a 50-state patchwork quilt, is a nightmare of a recipe. There need to be federal standards and oversight and care. The system, contrary to ignorant assertions by people who have no idea what they are talking about, as compared to we end-users of the system, has been working just fine and, in fact, should only be tweaked for improvements, not drastic foolish cuts that will backfire and/or KILL PEOPLE. Trumpcare, as this new bill will be called, is NOT healthcare and, in fact, there is no "care" involved at all!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy repeal bill

NO! to Graham-Cassidy.

In my family the issue of preexisting conditions became very personal and real. Two, young, healthy parents living a healthy life style and having babies with conditions that will most certainly be considered preexisting. One will be life long in that her diagnosis at 1 day old is Cystic Fibrosis. Her parents have a small family business and are Republicans for now. They are well known and respected in their community. They will not be able to afford the premiums for a child with a preexisting condition.

The Graham-Cassidy bill does not protect people with preexisting conditions. It does not protect the poor and middle class families from extreme premiums that will make health insurance affordable. It kicks too many children, elders and people with disabilities off medicaid. It will have devastating results. As an elder, it will not protect me.

DO NOT support this bill just because you are a Republican. A bad bill is a bad bill. Don't support a bad bill because you are Republican. Oppose Graham-Cassidy because you are a good American and because you care about the well being of all Americans, young and old, able and disabled.

Your opposition to Graham-Cassidy puts you in good company. The AMA, American Assoc of Pediatric Physicians, AARP, to name just a few national organizations who are actively opposing this bill. The bi partisan research of Consumer Reports has said Graham-Cassidy will be devastating for Americans.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham-Cassidy

Vote no.

This bill is a cruel, petty, reprehensible attempt to be a reverse Robin Hood.

To take one major issue: the bill would remove any guarantee of coverage for individuals with pre-existing conditions. ACA guarantees coverage for 10 “essential health benefits” (EHBs), but Graham-Cassidy allows states to opt out of EHBs. With no EHB requirements and no subsidies, there is no guarantee of adequate and affordable coverage for pre-existing conditions.

The bill allows insurers to cap for expensive diseases, shifts subsidies from blue to red states, etc., etc, etc.

It was obviously written by lobbyists for the insurance industry, especially since it came to light in a Twitter row with NPR this week that Sen. Cassidy actually doesn't understand the bill he's sponsoring.

I am an American citizen and grew up in the US healthcare system. I am fortunate to currently reside in Japan, a country that has universal, affordable healthcare. Despite the enormous costs incurred to insure this country's giant elderly population, I pay less for healthcare for my entire family than I did for myself in the US sometimes. And the convenience and quality of care is outstanding, at least as good as what I experienced in the US for almost everything.

There is no reason that the US can't have the best healthcare in the world. Well, that's not true. There are three:

1. rich GOP donors who want money funneled away from the social safety net and into tax cuts
2. the insurance industry, which wants to maximize shareholder benefits and executive compensation
3. bootlicking lackeys like Sens. Graham and Cassidy, who are willing to kill fellow Americans if that's what it takes to please their masters

Graham-Cassidy is another example of everything that is wrong with healthcare and politics in America.

A vote for this bill is a vote to literally kill thousands of Americans in order to line the pockets of the ultra-wealthy. Every lawmaker who votes for G-C should be held personally accountable for the deaths that occur. And I mean criminally liable, since it will be a non-war choice to kill American citizens.

--

-----Nathan HOPSON-----

ネイスン・ホブソン
名古屋大学人文学研究科准教授
Associate Professor
Graduate School of Humanities
Nagoya University
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: New ACA Repeal and Replace Bill Still Disastrous for People Living with HIV and Hepatitis
Attachments: nastad-fact-sheet-aca-12may2017.pdf

New ACA Repeal and Replace Bill Still Disastrous for People Living with HIV and Hepatitis
NASTAD leadership weighs in on its impact

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Senators Graham, Cassidy, Heller, and Johnson introduced yet another bill that would repeal and replace major portions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and drastically cut Medicaid funding. The proposal eliminates ACA provisions like premium tax credits and cost-sharing reductions, and in turn, provides states block grants to operate their own systems for providing coverage. States would have the ability to roll back protections for vulnerable populations – especially those living with HIV and hepatitis. It will also weaken existing benefits requirements. In addition to eliminating Medicaid expansion funding, the bill retains the same per capita cap funding structure included in the Senate’s previous Better Care Reconciliation Act, a provision estimated to result in billions of dollars in federal cuts to the program.

“The cruel lie at the heart of this proposal is that states will be able to continue with systems developed under the ACA if they want to. With the type of cuts in this bill, including billions of dollars from the Medicaid program, it is mathematically impossible for states to continue the progress the ACA made to insure millions of individuals,” noted NASTAD Executive Director Murray Penner. “Congress should abandon its attempt to ram through an unworkable plan, and focus instead on bipartisan healthcare legislation that improves, instead of destabilizes, our healthcare system. The only choice states will have under cuts of the magnitude proposed in this bill is to cut coverage and roll back protections for people living with pre-existing conditions, including HIV and hepatitis.”

“The Senate must reject any healthcare bill that rolls back coverage, undercuts federal support for Medicaid, or eliminates critical protections for people living with pre-existing conditions,” Penner concluded. NASTAD, along with national HIV and hepatitis partners, will continue to educate Senate offices on the importance of preserving coverage, affordability, and lifesaving services for people living with and at risk for HIV and hepatitis.

About NASTAD

Founded in 1992, NASTAD is a leading non-partisan non-profit association that represents public health officials who administer HIV and hepatitis programs in the U.S. and around the world. Our singular mission is to end the intersecting epidemics of HIV, viral hepatitis, and related conditions. We do this work by strengthening domestic and global governmental public health through advocacy, capacity building, and social justice. Learn more at www.NASTAD.org.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Hello,

I feel the need to reach out and explain to anyone that will listen how the Graham Cassidy Bill will hurt kids like my daughter, Olive. Olive is 3 and has Cerebral Palsy stemming from brain damage she received after contracting Viral Encephalitis when she was 12 days old. My daughter contracted a virus, HSV1, from me. I contracted it in the 3rd trimester and it went undetected as the American Medical Association does not recommend testing pregnant women for HSV1 as it's not "cost effective."

My child has health insurance through my private policy that I pay for 100% out of pocket. After she got sick she was helicoptered to Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock. After she was inpatient for 3 days we received a phone call saying that our insurance only covered \$5,000 of that helicopter ride and we owed \$7,000. That was our first insight into the fact that our health insurance would not cover what our child needed.

3 years and thousands & thousands of dollars later we are so thankful for Medicaid. My child maxes out what her private insurance will pay for therapy-wise in February each year. Then Medicaid takes over and covers it. She receives 180 minutes of Physical, 180 minutes of Occupational & 180 minutes of Speech therapy each week. Therapy is the only hope we have. Without Medicaid covering these therapies there is no way we could afford to do it out of pocket.

To reiterate my point: The AMA doesn't recommend testing pregnant women for a virus that could be prevented from passing to a fetus because it's not cost effective. My child contracted that virus and it wreaked havoc on her brain. Her private insurance won't pay for what she needs. Now this bill by Senators Graham & Cassidy wants to take away her Medicaid too as well as put in place lifetime benefit caps and take away protection from Pre-Existing Conditions. My child's entire life has been dictated by government. She fought to live when the odds were stacked against her the most. As her parents we have to continue to do the same.

Please take this to heart when considering how this bill would affect millions of Americans, like my daughter, who didn't ask for any of this and are just doing the absolute best we can do.

Thank you,
Julie Kauffman
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please REJECT Graham-Cassidy

Importance: High

I am an over 50 year old woman. According to the proposed bill and the greed of insurance carriers, my entire existence is essentially a pre-existing condition.

I have no siblings, no spouse, no parents. It's just me.

Last year, I was hospitalized for 8 days with Legionnaires' Pneumonia. I had a private room, 3 specialists, and scores of tests while they tried to determine how contagious I was and what I had. Without my employer's health insurance, I would have died. I would have been unable to pay for the treatment that saved my life.

Please. Please REJECT Graham-Cassidy and work together on a bipartisan effort to shore up the ACA so that ALL Americans have health care. Please put human beings ahead of greed and vindictiveness. Please.

Connie Vasquez
New York, New York 10034

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Dear Senators,

Lack of affordable healthcare kills.
Please don't doom the average citizen to a life of debt and/or sickness.

We want what you have: reliable health insurance.

Sincerely,
Anita Suhanin

w w w .
s i n g
a n d
b e
h a p p y .
c o m

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not take away the ACA

I am imploring you to save the ACA and improve it. With two kids that have pre-existing conditions (one has an autoimmune disease and the other has PCOS and ADHD), I am very worried that they will not be able to get insurance under the proposed GCH bill. PLEASE care about the people, not the donors.

Sincerely,
Beth Falk

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Health bill

This bill is another giveaway to the insurance industry in exchange for campaign contributions to Republican politicians. It is shameful and wrong! It is so obviously a desperate effort to score a "win" for the impossible promises Trump made and is part of his goal to eliminate all achievements made by President Obama. Every Republican is on notice that if you support this evil bill which will effectively kill and sicken thousands if not millions of tax paying citizens, we are watching and you can be sure your political careers will be over. We the people support the concept of the "general welfare" of the American people as enshrined in our constitution. Yes, even the stupid ones that are undermining others, like Republican Trump supporters. I have no patience and am fed up with conservative lies. This bill Does Not help People!!!! My young adult son may never be able to afford health insurance and I'm terrified for him. Shame on any politician that supports this garbage.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: STOP TRUMPCARE!

Please do NOT let the desperate-for-a-win GOP pass this cruel, stupid healthcare bill that will kill many Americans!

It's time for good, honest, caring people to stand up and obstruct this evil legislation wrapped in lies!

From a concerned citizen and human being ...

Doug Stevenson

[REDACTED]
Palatine, IL 60074

[REDACTED]
@MadCreative

Note other email addresses:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (phasing out)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Medicaid matters !

To whom it may concern ,

My name is Kelly Allred, and I'm 28 years of age , and reside in Hildale Utah .

I am writing to you in concern about the Graham -Cassidy proposal and the deep cuts to Medicaid that it has .

I am the mother of two wonderful children . My oldest is almost four , and my youngest is almost five months .

When I unexpectedly became pregnant last August , I was able to get on Medicaid , and I had no other insurance . The Medicaid program helped pay for my visits to an obgyn provider to make sure that my pregnancy was going smoothly . Around 20 weeks , I was diagnosed with Gestational Diabetes, which if left untreated during pregnancy can pose a risk to both mother and baby . Because of Medicaid , I was able to see a nutritional counselor and obtain a glucose meter . I checked my sugar faithfully four times a day , and stuck to my diet . By the time my son was born in April of 2017, I was able to have a healthy and successful delivery without complications .

I also had other unexpected health concerns during my pregnancy come up , and once again I wasn't afraid . I knew that because of having access to quality healthcare my baby and I would be okay .

In June of 2017, a Pap test was completed by my obgyn and it was discovered that I had abnormal cells . Due to this finding , I had to have a colposcopy , which without Medicaid I wouldn't have been able to afford . I know have to go back once a year to have this procedure done to make sure the cells don't turn cancerous .

I could go on and on about how Medicaid has been a lifesaver for my children and I . From doctors visits , to unexpected emergency room visit, Medicaid has been there to help us through this hard time .

My partner is a Registered Nurse , and works hard but we still need the help of Medicaid .

The Graham -Cassidy bill like every other Republican healthcare proposal would hurt families across this country including mine .

It is with this that I want both sides of the aisle to work together . The top 1% shouldn't get a tax break at the expense of lives across this country .

This bill also hurts individuals with pre -existing conditions , and is far from being "pro-life ."

I would also like to add that so many medical groups have come out against the dangers of this bill to patients as well .

Please save the Medicaid program for the so many individuals on the program who rely on it for lifesaving care .

Sincerely ,

Kelly Allred.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: SFC - 9/25/2017

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

=====

Honorable Chairman Hatch,
Ranking Member Wyden,
Distinguished Committee Members:

I write today in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill under consideration by your committee.

According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP), the bill "would cut federal funding for non-expansion Medicaid populations (seniors, people with disabilities, families with children, and pregnant women) by an estimated \$175 billion over ten years and more than \$1 trillion over 20 years, while also making federal Medicaid funding far less responsive to need."

As a disabled person, my brother received health care through Medicaid. He was badly hurt some years ago in a construction accident which crushed his spine. It was only through surgeries and the care of dedicated doctors, nurses, physical therapists, technicians and other healthcare personnel -- all paid for through Medicaid -- that he was able to live and enjoy a productive life without bankrupting our family.

The AARP Policy Institute projects that the Cassidy-Graham cap would cut about \$1.1 trillion from federal Medicaid spending through 2036 and would further *lower* the annual adjustment of the per capita cap amounts starting in 2025 and institute even more severe Medicaid funding cuts over the long run. I would hate to think what would have happened to my brother had those caps been in effect when he needed help the most.

The CBPP projects that to compensate for these deep cuts to Medicaid, states would have to raise taxes, cut other budget priorities like education, or make increasingly severe cuts to eligibility, benefits, and provider payments.

This makes no sense and is simply not acceptable!

I urge you to vote NO on the Cassidy-Graham bill and to work with your colleagues across the aisle towards a health care policy which ensures the American people, including the most vulnerable among us, a basic level of care without worry of bankruptcy should they fall ill or sustain an accident like my brother. Please do what's right for the people, not the insurance industry.

Sincerely,
Faith Fusillo
Nyack, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: One Indiana University Graduate Student and Teacher's story with the ACA Medicaid Expansion

Over the past two years, I have been asked to speak up for healthcare, and tell my story. Sometimes, I have. Other times, I have been too afraid. Today, I am telling what my healthcare situation looks like today. I am telling what I am brave enough to tell. It is far from perfect, but today I will tell it:

My name is Jennifer Hart, and I am a US citizen and constituent currently residing in Indianapolis, zip code 46260. I am currently 31 years old and unmarried, only mentioned as reference that I do not qualify to be included on a parent's health care plan as someone 26 years old or younger, or on a spousal healthcare plan.

I am a certified teacher, and a graduate student in the Indiana University School of Education pursuing a masters degree.

I have been working part time and going to school full time since August 2015, and as such, qualified for and have made use of the Affordable Care Act Medicaid expansion, Healthy Indiana Plan 2.0.

I'm now and have been a part time student since January 2017 as I finish my master's thesis, which has bearing on my eligibility for HIP 2.0, as eligibility requirements for HIP 2.0 are full time student status OR working a minimum of 20 hours a week.

In late May, as I was working part time as a substitute teacher, trying to work 4 days a week to meet my HIP eligibility minimum hours worked requirement as per Indiana policy, an undertaking that was taking my energy and attention away from finishing my degree, a special needs high school student hit me, exacerbating my existing back injury. I was bedridden with back spasms for 9 days. Throughout the summer, workers compensation allowed me to obtain significant physical therapy, but my back is still not completely healed. I have still not finished my thesis, partly because I have been in pain. A fact I have been ashamed and embarrassed about.

Over the summer I chose not to continue my search for a full time teaching job for this school year for many reasons, and instead focus on my own healing, and finishing my degree, so that I could go back into the classroom and give my students the attention they deserve, and so that I could wrap up the chapter of my life in grad school and in serious back pain. I have moved back in with family to manage this.

Due to paperwork misfiling out of my control, I am now facing the possibility of losing my Medicaid HIP coverage on October 1, which I've still been relying on to manage several chronic health conditions besides the back injury subject to workers comp care. I've worked hard to resubmit documentation, but I'm still waiting on pins and needles to see what will happen and if I will have a lapse in my healthcare, or lose it altogether.

This has been incredibly disheartening, and coupled with my physical pain, I've questioned my calling and vocation of educator all together more than I ever have. I've felt that my worth as a human being is only tied to my economic output, and that the process for obtaining care as a low income individual is punitive, judgmental and too difficult.

Despite the difficulty of the bureaucracy of the ACA expansion HIP program, over the past two years I was able to get a colonoscopy and manage my GI health so that I could keep working and going to school. I was able to get help and medication to deal with what were previously monthly migraines. I no longer miss a day of school or work every month due to migraine or cluster headaches. This care, and my ability to go to school and work, to work towards returning to full time classroom teaching, is in jeopardy with the possibility of ending ACA Medicaid expansion funding.

Yes, I am fortunate to be receiving some help from my family. But not everyone has that resource, and it is not unlimited. It is a moral failing of this country to deny and take away healthcare this way.

I have honestly felt serious regret at my decision to pursue graduate study in my home state in the format that I have, given the precarious healthcare situation I have been in.

It is too hard to be a graduate student, chronically ill, and dealing with Medicaid.

For brevity, privacy, and clarity, I have condensed and shortened my story. Specifically, I have not highlighted the difficulty of obtaining my mental health care as related to HIP 2.0 for privacy and fear of stigmatization. I have left

out interpersonal family dynamics and personal relationships for privacy. And I have avoided listing every phone call, every piece of paperwork filed, and every hurdle to jump through for brevity and clarity. And I include these short notes here, knowing that there will be criticism no matter how I tell my story. That these questions would be asked of me were I to give this as testimony to any legislative body contemplating the future of millions of Americans; the narrative of 'personal responsibility' will ring loud and clear regardless of how much of my story and my soul I choose to bare in this telling.

I have also excluded many significant setbacks in my healthcare saga over the past two years to highlight the good it has brought, and that it enabled me to get through as much as it has and continue my graduate study.

If we take away the Medicaid expansion option, we're going to lose students from higher education. We're going to lose so much research and knowledge they could have contributed. And we're going to negatively affect people's lives. What good is a so-called balanced budget, on the backs of broken Americans?

Thank you for your time.

I tried to call Senator Todd Young's Indianapolis office to share this story, but the line is busy. I have spent the morning composing this. Thank you. []

--

Jennifer Hart


Visual Arts Teacher

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My Story

Dear Members,

My medical restrictions prevents me from working a job that can provide a good salary and medical package. Before ACA my medical premiums, out of pocket expenses and yearly increases nearly wiped me out. I have still not completely recovered from this devastation. The ACA provided me with great relief and helped stabilize my health and finance. I can't believe that I am once again at risk of going down the road of the old deadly ways again. If the Graham-Cassidy bill passes I will be forced to drop medical coverage for me and my son.

Cancer runs heavily in my family line. At 59 I've been lucky so far, but should I be stricken, the repeal of the ACA protections will become the end of hope for me and the end of my life. My son has asthma, I won't be able to cover him anymore either. As a student in College, my son won't be able to cover himself as he already works to help pay for his college expenses. This may force him to drop out of school. Such a grim prospect that will be for an honors engineering student with a promising future.

My wife is disabled and she depends on my staying well to help her. If I become ill without insurance, what will become of her?

President Trump said he will repeal and replace the ACA with a 'SUPERIOR PLAN'. The Graham-Cassidy bill only repeals. It is very surreal that I need to beg United States Senators not to enact a bill that will be colder, more devastating and deadly to Americans than the 911 attack. But here I am. The result of this cruel repeal would mean death for me and millions. We all know this bill is deadly. It can't pass. Too much is at risk.

Thanks for your time,

Greg Z

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose this bill

I am a person dealing with chronic kidney disease. I am currently on a transplant list. I am a person with a pre-existing condition and I oppose this bill. A bill this important needs to be developed and discuss in a thoughtful manner across party lines. Numbers related to cost and the number of people loosing health coverage need to be determined and studied. We deserve better than this rushed plan by only one party. VOTE NO!

Katie DeSotell

[REDACTED]
AURORA, IL 60506

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on GCH!

This bill will hurt my family, especially my 20 year old daughter who has ctd, likely lupus. Here are some reasons not to proceed with bringing it to the floor: 1) Most Americans don't want it; 2) it would hurt the most vulnerable among us- sick, poor, elderly, kids, women; 3) it has no support of any experts in the medical community; 4) has no support among health insurers either; 5) process is undemocratic, no bill should come thru without debate, hearings, amendments and full CBO score; 6) even its proponents don't endorse the bill on the merits, they just want to repeal ACA; 7) no bipartisan input, it's completely one-sided; 8) the Sept 30 deadline is artificial, there is no reason to rush.

Please do not to bring it to a vote and to work on bipartisan fixes to ACA instead. My families life depends on this democratic/republican war ending without it sacrificing Americans lives!

Shoanne Courtade
American Voter

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Disaster

What the experts are saying about the bill:

It “violates the precept of ‘first do no harm’” and “would result in millions of Americans losing their health insurance coverage.” – American Medical Association, which represents doctors.

It is “the worst healthcare bill yet.” – American Nurses Association.

It “would erode key protections for patients and consumers.” – American Hospital Association.

The “process [in the Senate] is just as bad as the substance. ... Most Americans wouldn’t buy a used car with this little info.” – AARP.

The bill will “weaken access to the care Americans need and deserve.” – American Heart Association, jointly with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, the American Diabetes and Lung associations, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the March of Dimes and others.

“This bill harms our most vulnerable patients.” – American Psychiatric Association.

It would hurt “consumers and patients by further destabilizing the individual market; cutting Medicaid; pulling back on protections for pre-existing conditions.” – America’s Health Insurance Plans.

It “would lead to a loss of health insurance for at least 32 million people after 2026. ... By repealing the ACA’s coverage expansions and cutting deeply into the Medicaid program, the Graham-Cassidy bill threatens the health care of as many as 100 million people, from newborns to the elderly.” – Sara Collins, The Commonwealth Fund.

I would trust Jimmy Kimmel to formulate healthcare legislation, before I would trust ANY of the GOP.

Sincerely,
Elaine Shute

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Mary Anne DeVarti

Senators ,

My first question is, "Why do you think your live is more valuable than mine or my children's?" Why don't you live on the the health care program you are forcing others to live on? This is a serious question and I would like it answered. Cutting Medicare will make my medicines impossible to buy. I have epilepsy and am on disability. Seizures Actually HURT. Why do you want that for me?

I'm waiting for YOUR answer.

Mary Anne DeVarti

Sent from my iPhone. Remember two wrongs don't make a right, but three rights make a left!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

To whom it may concern,
Health care is an important right. It's important to guarantee that pre-existing conditions will not make health insurance or care too expensive for people to afford. Issues like mental health, maternity and other health care issues that many will experience should be covered as well.

Please vote no on Graham-Cassidy.

Sincerely,
Dr. Sandra Conaway

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I am writing to protest the Graham Cassidy Bill. This partisan bill undermines the bipartisan marketplace stabilization efforts that were taking place within the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee led by Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA).

I am the Executive Director of the Staten Island Center for Independent Living and former chair of the Staten Island Developmental Council. I am also the parent of a 40 year old man with autism.

This bill, if passed will be harmful to people with disabilities and their families. This bill would decimate Medicaid and leave millions of Americans without health coverage. We are talking about individuals who rely on Medicaid not only for their quality of life but also for their ability to live a healthy life. Healthcare is a right, not a privilege.

This bill targets our most vulnerable members of society – people with disabilities. I am urging you to please vote NO.

Lorraine De Santis, Executive Director
Staten Island Center for Independent Living
[REDACTED]
Staten Island, New York 10301

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

This bill is not going to help anyone but wealthy people who can pay all their expenses whether they have health insurance or not! Shame on you!

Lianne Friedman, M.A., CRC, LLC
[REDACTED]
Montgomery Village, Maryland 20886
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: BAD BILL

Bad bill.
Bad deal.
Bad premise.
Bad motive.
Bad faith.
BAD BILL!! ☐

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Concerns about the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Senators,

I am worried about the potential impact of the Graham-Cassidy bill on my family, if it should be passed. I have a disabled aunt on Medicaid. If her coverage is cut - which it probably will be, under this bill - she may not be able to afford the medicines that allow her to function and enjoy a decent quality of life. She is likely to end up being institutionalized repeatedly, which will not only be bad for her and our family but ultimately cost more than her Medicaid coverage!

As for myself, I'm worried about how this bill will impact my employer-provided insurance. I'm expecting a baby next spring. What happens if the baby is premature? If there are complications? Will my insurance cover the cost? Will it even cover the cost of maternity care in my last trimester (since that's one of the essential benefits being cut)?

I know there are hundreds of thousands of Americans in situations similar to mine. Please keep us in mind when you are debating and voting on this bill.

Thank you,
Hannah Wald
[REDACTED]
Rockville, MD 20850

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I am writing to express my vehement opposition to this proposed change to the ACA. Financial analyses have shown that it would be a disaster for our country. More importantly, it would be a death sentence for thousands of Americans, many of them children, with pre-existing conditions. It is unconscionable that members of Congress with access to superior health care for themselves and their families would try to remove basic health care from other Americans.

Kerry Greene
[REDACTED]
Manchester, NH 03104

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am a voter! Do you hear my voice at all? Is your job to respond to voters? Are you allowed to bully us, to go forth and do just whatever you want? That is not my understanding of democracy!

I do not want this bill, it will be very damaging to me and many others! I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because, first, there is no time to assess in any meaningful way the impact this bill would have on our lives. Though the CBO will issue an initial score in a few days, its final assessment will not be available for several weeks. This means that senators will be voting blind on a bill that, according to major health organizations and insurers, promises to remove healthcare from millions and severely disrupt the markets. Second, the bill's proposal to administer health care in the form of block grants to states -- a proposal favored by only 26% of all voters -- will balkanize our system, allowing individual states to determine how these funds will be administered without assurances that the most vulnerable of our populations (seniors, people with pre-existing conditions, those with disabilities or suffering from drug addiction) will be protected. Healthcare in America must be considered a right, not a commodity, and it is the responsibility of government to work not for partisan glorification but for the greater good. Graham-Cassidy is a bad idea.

rose and Dan Reeder

17745
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Grahan Cassidy (GC) Healthcare Bill Debate

Good Morning,
I am a constituent from MD, and I have a few questions.

1) Copy of GC Bill

When is a copy going to be placed on Congress.gov for the American people to see what is in the bill? If numerous medical organizations including doctors and insurers say it is bad, don't the people need to know what is in the bill and read it for ourselves?

2) CBO Score

Why don't we know how many people will be effected? We need to know because people then have to make plans on getting other health care plans, because it appears this one is no good, if 32M people are going to lose coverage.

3) State control

The idea of giving states control of health care funding is not great. This could lead to financial discrimination within the states, as minority communities (including women) where people have diabetes, cancer, and other ailments will lose out on funding for richer communities where health is not an issue.

4) Hearings

Why are there no public hearings on this bill. When the ACA was being drafted there were several meetings and public hearings in order to get this passed. All the GC bill is doing is allowing the Koch brothers to get rid of people on health care at the rate of about \$12.50 per person, if they are putting forth \$400M of their own money to get this jammed in the Senate.

These are the issues I would like to see addressed in the debate this Monday night. I have also called my Senators and expressed to them my feelings, and I have used social media to speak to other Senators about this GC bill.

If there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to respond to this e-mail.

Thank you very much for your consideration and time.

Sincerely,
Robert Hicks

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Don't pass

I am a mom. I am a wife. I am a friend. I am a public health professional. I am a person who had her thyroid removed because of thyroid cancer. I have high blood pressure. I had childhood asthma. I believe people should be able to access affordable quality health care. The Graham Cassidy bill would make this impossible. Don't pass it! Don't vote for it. Millions of Americans would not be able to get the care they need or be able to continue to have health insurance.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE NO TO GRAHAM CASSIDY BILL

Importance: High

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please reject forcefully and soundly the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill. The Graham-Cassidy bill will hurt a lot of innocent people and seeks to punish the parts of the country that have vibrant economies and attendant higher costs of living.

- What purpose is served by punishing the people of NJ, NY, CA, and MA for having historically strong economies and associated higher costs of living?
- What purpose is served by throwing 32 million people off of insurance?
- What is the purpose of hurting people with preexisting conditions?
- What is the purpose of hurting millions of sick children or punishing their families due to their condition?
- Why do you want to create more instability by having no funding after 2027?
- What problems does this bill solve?

I have no idea what the purpose of this bill is, but it just seems like it's going to hurt tens of millions of innocent people and punish the most economically vibrant sections of this country. Why do you want attack our strongest economic centers and take away tens of millions of people's healthcare?

Please vote NO.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Taylor

Elizabeth Taylor
Department of Mammalogy
Division of Vertebrate Zoology
American Museum of Natural History
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:58 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because
....
I have had melanoma, and I have family members with other serious, pre-existing conditions. My husband is older than I am, and we rely on his salary and insurance benefits. Thank you. Please look into your heart and consider what this atrocious and amoral plan could do to the citizens of our Commonwealth.
Thank you.

Karen Marshall

19382
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:46 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: save the ACA

i am pleading with you not to repeal the ACA and to reject graham-cassidy bill I cannot emphasize how devastating this will be for florida we take care of so many seniors and this threatens our jobs as well as our public safety healthcare cares for all of america and this protects all of america make it stronger fight drug prices be strong for the american people thank you

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:46 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

It is beyond scary and frustrating that people who have no idea what it's like to not be able to afford good healthcare are making these decisions without proper vetting or consideration. If this Republican effort to reform healthcare in such a haphazard manner just to repeal Obamacare works the American people better wake up and vote them all out.

I am certain that our president can't be bothered to read what he signs and just wants to be able to say he repealed. It is so frightening to have no faith in the so called leaders who have our fates in their hands.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because
....
It will leave millions with pre-existing conditions vulnerable, it will decimate Medicare...it is an abhorrent bill. Time to stop this and work with both Dems and Repub to hash out changes to the current ACA in a thoughtful way..not try to ram something throughout

Kitty Wilcox

19382
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: You MUST REJECT Graham/Cassidy!

Vote "No"!!!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:46 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE NO TO GRAHAM CASSIDY BILL

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please reject forcefully and soundly the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill. The Graham-Cassidy bill will hurt a lot of innocent people and seeks to punish the parts of the country that have vibrant economies and attendant higher costs of living.

- What purpose is served by punishing the people of NJ, NY, CA, and MA for having historically strong economies and associated higher costs of living?
- What purpose is served by throwing 32 million people off of insurance?
- What is the purpose of hurting people with preexisting conditions?
- What is the purpose of hurting millions of sick children or punishing their families due to their condition?
- Why do you want to create more instability by having no funding after 2027?
- What problems does this bill solve?

I have no idea what the purpose of this bill is, but it just seems like it's going to hurt tens of millions of innocent people and punish the most economically vibrant sections of this country. Why do you want attack our strongest economic centers and take away tens of millions of people's healthcare?

Please vote NO.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Taylor

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:46 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stop Graham Cassidy

Attempting to pass a bill of this magnitude and with such sweeping and disastrous changes without a full Congressional Budget Office analysis and full debate is undemocratic and reflects right-wing partisanship at its worst.

This bill, if enacted, will devastate American families, people with pre-existing conditions, and mothers and children dependent on Medicaid. Mitch McConnell and the Senate Republican leadership are trying to hide the true measure of harm from the American people. And, I suspect, because Republican refuse to govern, this bill is not proceeding through regular order.

Please stop trying to destroy our healthcare system. To radically restructure one-sixth of the economy and repeal an essentially Republican healthcare system is inconsistent with supposed Republican commitment to fiscal responsibility.

Graham-Cassidy should not be passed into law without a thorough CBO analysis and full debate.

Thank you,
Carla Thomas

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:46 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not pass Graham/Cassidy bill!

This will affect so many Americans. It is cruel to leave so many of us at the mercy of our states, especially when our states do not have the funds to support what we need.

How can you want to roll back progress. Fix Obamacare. Stop funding the rich and giving them tax cuts and let's get caught up with the rest of the civilized world.

Sincerely,
Alicia Carver

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:43 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: why my life is worth saving

Hello,

Here is my story about the human cost to taking away health coverage and protections for people with pre-existing conditions. I am a 39 year old breast cancer survivor and my son has autism.

My little boy just turned 7. This time of year sparks a charge for me, because as I hold him and look into those gigantic brown eyes, I remember how terrified I was three years ago at this time.

As much as I wanted to crumble and hide from the world, I found myself planning Julian's 4th birthday. We were keeping it small and low key because I didn't have the bandwidth to plan a big party and was not feeling very festive. Just a few grandparents, some paper plates, a small cake. Nothing fancy. One week following this birthday, I was scheduled to undergo a double mastectomy. Then as soon as I could be up and walking I had fertility preserving IVF treatments to begin. As soon as those precious eggs were harvested, I would move on to begin 5 months of chemotherapy. I had my marching orders. I numbly moved forward one inch at a time, so afraid, and so blind to any possibilities that might exist in the future. I dared not dream or hope for too much.

Nothing was guaranteed to me then, and I still think that had it not been for Julian and my husband Joey, I might not have found the inner strength to go through with any of it. For a moment I imagine not having had these three years and I remember that every minute of this has been a gift. I look into Julian's handsome face, those baby dimples still tucked away at the corners of his smile, that broad forehead and eyebrows like his dad's, his mouth and chin just like mine, and I'm near losing it -in the middle of a Sponge Bob episode.

I swallow back my tears because emotions are confusing for Julian to grasp. He studies my face when I wince from a backache and asks me if I'm sick. If I languish in bed too long he will ask if I am dying. Still. While autism has impaired his ability to read emotions, it has also given him an iron trap memory, and a keen intuitive sense. I reassure him as much as I can, but I can't undo that hellish year.

I think of how hard or perhaps impossible it would have been -to have arrived in this same place without adequate health insurance. I lost my employer based coverage just 2 months before that breast cancer diagnosis, and if there was any good fortune, it was to have been diagnosed during the Obama era and the age of the Affordable Care Act. As I write this, secret plans are being hatched behind closed Senate doors. I wonder what kind of protections will be afforded to people like me -people with hereditary or congenital conditions, as well as people with chronic conditions that require lifelong support.

I didn't have to fight for every single immune boosting shot that enabled my chemotherapy to continue. I didn't have to beg for anti-nausea medication. I didn't have to squabble with the insurance company to cover my anesthesia during any one of those 4 surgeries.

I want to hope that we can reach across our differences and create a cohesive safety net for the most vulnerable among us. It is truly heart breaking to hear about real human suffering, and consider the cold calloused manor that health care is viewed when looking through a political and financial lens. We are treading in dangerous territory

when we cut the heart feelings from this conversation, when we look at human life solely through the filter of a budget and start to assess which lives are worth saving.

I'd like to invite any Congressman or Senator who has voted (or will vote in the future) to do away with the ACA in favor of the American Health Care Act (or the Graham-Cassidy proposal) to come to my home. Come meet my little boy. Tell me that my life wasn't worth saving. Tell me that I will still receive adequate follow up care and that I will still be able to afford treatment if cancer ever returns.

Please vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy proposal next week!

Sincerely,
Melissa Eppard

--
Melissa Eppard

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Please vote NO on Graham-Cassidy bill and instead focus on making "Medicare for all" available.....thank you!

Sincerely,
Anne Utter
Harrisburg, IL

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:58 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
....

1. As a 58 yr old woman, my premiums will spike when age protections are removed.
2. I have a pre-existing condition
3. A family member is mentally ill and will lose his coverage and therapy.
4. I worked with the elderly in a nursing home, huge cuts to Medicaid will mean they can't get nursing home care at all, and reduced funding means staff and pay cuts.
5. PA will lose funding desperately needed for healthcare during an opioid epidemic.

PLEASE PUT PEOPLE AHEAD OF PARTY!!!

Tina Fitzpatrick

19067
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:44 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Savage, Susannah (Warren); Pearson, Beth (Warren)
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Statement from MA Constituent
Attachments: JConwayGrahamCassidyStatement.doc; ATT00001.htm

September 22, 2017

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing you today to encourage you to take another look at the Graham-Cassidy Bill that is being considered to repeal and replace the ACA. As a person living with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) in Massachusetts, I believe this would be harmful to many people in the United States.

I am very concerned that if the Graham-Cassidy Bill passes, I would likely lose key protections in the current law that guarantee me access to comprehensive and affordable insurance coverage with my pre-existing health condition.

The out of pocket costs for my private health insurance already cost over ten thousand dollars every year, and I try to stay well by taking the medication that helps prevent MS flare-ups and stay out of the system as much as I can. However, my disease has not always been stable, and the skyrocketing costs of healthcare now look to be much worse for people with pre-existing conditions if the Graham-Cassidy Bill is passed.

I've been living with MS for about 20 years, and for the first 17 years my disease progressed, even when I was on one of the available MS treatment drugs. Almost three years ago - on the 6th treatment that I tried, I finally found the drug that works for me. Since going on it, my disease has been stable, I have not been hospitalized, and only see my neurologist once a year. I feel much better, and am able to get back to actually living life. I AM LUCKY RIGHT NOW. But, one of the biggest headaches I have now is navigating the healthcare system and affording the coverage that I need - I fear with Graham-Cassidy it would only get worse.

Americans like me who rely heavily on the health care system must be assured of adequate and affordable insurance that covers their health care needs. We need tests like MRIs to check the progression of the disease, medication to keep the disease from progressing and a host of other healthcare services for rehabilitation. The high cost of care and inadequate insurance has led many to skip or delay care - this can mean progression of multiple sclerosis, with potential for racking up huge medical bills and even hospitalization. With the Graham-Cassidy legislation, the number of people skipping or delaying care will only grow.

Patient protections that have been in place since 2014 prohibit pre-existing condition exclusions, guarantee issue, restrict premium ratings, ban annual and lifetime benefit limits and prohibit coverage rescissions. These protections work in concert. It seems that if passed the Graham-Cassidy plan would protect an individual like me with MS from pre-existing condition exclusions, but it would also allow plans to impose caps or rescind coverage for us as well. We've been there before, it didn't work

and we should not return to an insurance market that often excluded people like me, that need affordable coverage the most.

Health Insurance must be accessible, affordable, and understandable. Affordable plans ensure patients can access needed care in a timely manner from a provider that is experienced. Costs should not provide financial burden - premiums should be reasonable and out-of-pocket expenses should be limited. Persons with pre-existing conditions should not be punished with increased premium costs based on their health status.

On behalf of the thousands of Americans with multiple sclerosis, I beg you to push the Graham-Cassidy bill aside and work to develop policies that will ensure individuals with pre-existing conditions and high-cost care needs have access to a robust health insurance market that provides affordable and comprehensive coverage options.

I have attached my letter as well. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Conway

[REDACTED]
West Newbury, MA 01985
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:44 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My Comments of the Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

Good Morning:

I am writing about the Graham-Cassidy bill that proposes changes to the ACA and includes the defunding of Medicaid.

There is overwhelming consensus on the fatal flaws of this bill. Among some of the most compelling opposition to the bill include, but are not limited to:

- The bipartisan group of Medicaid Directors from all 50 states have unanimously condemned the bill;
- The Children's Hospital Association, who represents at least 220 children's hospitals, has condemned the bill;
- The American Medical Association declares it violates the "First Do No Harm" rule;
- ALS, AARP, American Cancer Society, Academy of Pediatricians, American Heart, American Lung, Nurses, Psychiatric, Osteopathic Associations, Cystic Fibrosis, JDRF, Women's Heart Association, and over 20 more organizations in opposition to the bill.

The Commonwealth Fund estimates the following:

- 32 million people will lose coverage after 2026;
- 15-18 million people could lose coverage in the first year the plan is implemented (2019);
- 50% of Americans live in states that are predicted to enact waivers eliminating consumer protections or reducing benefits;
- Per capita spending limits will result in losses to states in excess of \$172 billion.

The bill repeals the ACA marketplace and Medicaid expansion which currently covers about 30 million people. This includes eliminating healthcare for approximately 11 million low-income adults.

But, more personally, two of those people are my children, who were born with an incurable, life altering rare disease. They have Ichthyosis, which is a genetic skin disease. Parents of disabled children, such as myself are forced to become defacto healthcare experts, especially those in the rare disease community that struggle to find doctors, diagnosis, treatments, and community. I spend hours a day caring for my children, both physically and while they are at school, calling doctors, looking for best practices, developing a care routine, working with schools to meet their needs, working with insurance companies to cover care and products not otherwise covered. We use days off to see doctors. I have given up my career as an attorney to be their full time care giver and advocate. Trust me, mothers of disabled children have enough to do that adding working hours a day to ask our federal government not to abandon us and to not actively harm our most vulnerable citizens is cruel and unAmerican.

And the irony? My children are highly functional and can go years in a row without a hospitalization. We aren't even as "disabled" as so many others fighting to save Medicaid, but we are here, fighting for everyone. And we're asking you to listen to the needs of those most at risk, listen to their doctors, their medical

associations, patient rights advocates, disability rights advocates, hospitals, experts. They know more than this defacto expert in her children's disease. They are telling you this is an abomination and should never be brought to a vote.

Who do you serve if not the citizens? What legacy will you carve out for yourselves? Are you capable of even a scintilla of the courage and dignity that my children show everyday? You owe them enough to reject this bill.

I leave you with what I tell my children when they face a new illness, discrimination, cruelty...Be Brave.

Truly,

Laurie Ann Fiore

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:45 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE NO TO GRAHAM CASSIDY BILL

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please reject forcefully and soundly the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill. The Graham-Cassidy bill will hurt a lot of innocent people and seeks to punish the parts of the country that have vibrant economies and attendant higher costs of living.

- What purpose is served by punishing the people of NJ, NY, CA, and MA for having historically strong economies and associated higher costs of living?
- What purpose is served by throwing 32 million people off of insurance?
- What is the purpose of hurting people with preexisting conditions?
- What is the purpose of hurting millions of sick children or punishing their families due to their condition?
- Why do you want to create more instability by having no funding after 2027?
- What problems does this bill solve?

I have no idea what the purpose of this bill is, but it just seems like it's going to hurt tens of millions of innocent people and punish the most economically vibrant sections of this country. Why do you want attack our strongest economic centers and take away tens of millions of people's healthcare?

Please vote NO.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Taylor

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:45 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to Graham-Cassidy

PLEASE DO NOT REPEAL THE ACA.

It is time to hear the people, we are all imploring you to stop the unneccerary need to repleal and replace.

Thank you,
Christine Fish

[REDACTED]
South Kingstown, RI 02879

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:45 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Trumpcare

My family has benefited from the ACA. 2 of our daughters had cancer the same year and would have been excluded from new insurance because of pre-existing conditions. They also would have topped the million dollar lifetime max all policies used to have prior to Obamacare.

We also appreciate the way the exchange caused a slowing of premium increases through our company insurance. And our daughter was covered under this plan until age 26, even though she was married.

I strongly oppose the newest republican attempt to destroy people's lives in order to increase wealth for America's already-wealthy. We see through the deception of calling this healthcare.

Nancy Kneip
Hampshire, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:44 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it has not been evaluated by the CBO. Because it is the same failed and deeply unpopular bill dressed up in a new name. Because I am a registered nurse working on the front lines of Pennsylvania's opioid epidemic and this bill would cut funding to Pennsylvania and place at risk those who have received treatment through Medicaid expansion. Because my family used the ACA to cover a gap in care when I switched jobs and it gave me the flexibility to advance in my career. Because this would again call into question protections for those with pre-existing conditions. This bill is a mistake and I urge you to vote against it.

Katherine Gleason-Bachman

19125
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:44 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: OK comments : Erin Taylor

Multiple times I have spoken with Sens. Inhofe, Lankford or their staffers about my child as a Medicaid user. Almost every time, they've said not to worry because they don't mean to cut off "kids like yours."

But this bill will do exactly that. By awarding states block grants vs a national standard for compassionate care (like we afford veterans and Medicare users), we eliminate safeguards for my son. And in our state of OK, there is a 7500+ waiting list for Medicaid waivers PRECISELY because our state legislature has chosen not to spend their \$ appropriately. Henry has waited seven years for his waiver and there is no end in sight.

Medicaid is the financial ballast that allows us to support our five children and appropriate post-transplant care for Henry. We aren't exploiting the system -- we paid taxes exactly for these sort of protections.

Thank you,

Erin Taylor, Mom to Henry Weathers

[REDACTED]
OKC, OK 73159
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:44 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: bad bill

Graham/Cassidy is an irresponsible bill that has not been fully vetted by the Senate using committee research and hearings. Nor has it been scored by the CBO. It is opposed by the MMA, the AHA, numerous medical societies and groups and most of the health insurance industry. It is unseemly to conduct the governance of this country in such a haphazard and political fashion. Senator Grassley said that politics over policy is sometimes necessary. I could not disagree more. This is a one-sixth of our economy and the lives of literally millions of our citizens that will be impacted. Go back to Senator Alexander's committee and start the real bipartisan work of fixing the problems with our current health care system. Call it whatever you want. The American people want a functioning and accessible health insurance system which will not be the result of this calamitous GC legislation. Do not commit governmental malpractice.

Thank you,
Sharon S. Maslow
[REDACTED]
Minnetonka MN 55305

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:44 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care bill

Sirs

This healthcare bill makes the GOP the death panels they accused the ACA of being. You will be called baby killers in 18 and beyond. When did it happen that conservatives lost their souls. I have never written anything like this in my life. I have never seen a party so bent on the destruction of its core values.

Dan jacoby

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:43 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy

The Graham-Cassidy bill is cruel and unnecessary. Why, instead, doesn't the Congress work across the aisles to FIX the ACA?

You will be harshly judged by history for this starkly partisan measure.

Donna Hackemack Bryant
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:43 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO Graham-Cassidy

As a disabled woman, I implore you to vote no on the repealing of ObamaCare with the TrumpCare's newest version, aka Graham-Cassidy. Please just improve upon the existing healthcare aka ObamaCare ACA - please pay the exchanges, stabilize the market and then improve upon it. It seems the most reasonable solution in an otherwise unreasonable governmental time.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:43 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: HC

I fall into the pre existing catagory before ACA could not get insured. With GC bill I will be completely priced out. This bill is cruel

Sent from my iPod

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:42 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy

Please vote NO for this bill. The American people know this about politics and politics only. It has nothing to do with healthcare and everything to do with big donor pressure on you.

Millions of hard working Americans will suffer gravely just so you guys can have a victory party in the Rose Garden.

We know you are striping away funds in DC and the already broke states are left holding the empty bag, meaning millions of people will either be dropped by insurance companies or priced completely out of the market.

You are purposely misleading people about the merits of this bill. And the public knows it.

Thank You For Listening,
Randolph Anding

[REDACTED]
Union City, TN 38261
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:42 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

To Members of the Senate Finance Committee

I really don't know where to start concerning this bill;but since your the finance committee I'll make it simple. This new bill will do monetary damage to the Middle Class that will throw us into a deep recession. This administration does not care about the Citizens of the Untied States perhaps your main goal at least for us baby boomers affected is that you'll save money on our Social Security by shortening our life span. We need to get Medical costs,Drug prices under control and have reasonable Insurance Premiums. I have never been so disgusted with our Government! By the way I did not vote for Obama.

Sincerely

Deborah Johnson
Sent from AOL Mobile Mail

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:42 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it is not the best our elected representatives can do. Who's healthcare it is improving? It enables insurers not to cover: pregnancy, newborn care, mental health services, prescription drugs, rehab and birth control -- or some of the major ways people benefit from paying for healthcare plans. The AMA says it violates the precept of the Hippocratic Oath. The Governor of my state of OH has said it eliminates the guardrails that protect some of the most vulnerable among us. This is not the solution to improve healthcare.

Kirstan Ryan

44118
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:41 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

I'm writing to express my opposition to the Graham Cassidy bill being forced through without bipartisan input or even a CBO score. Surely you must know that this is not the way to make legislation that affects the entire country. I urge you instead to work with all parties representing all states to fix the issues with Obamacare rather than burning it to the ground out of spite. This grudge will kick millions off insurance (last estimate was over 30 million!), bankrupt families with preexisting conditions, skyrocket rates for even the healthy among us, and obliterate protection for the most vulnerable of us. This does not set an example for how to care for our country - our entire country, not just rich white men. People will die. This is not a game, this is our lives. We are the United States of America, we used to care for the tired and poor, the huddled masses. It's time to step up and live that compassion for human decency that we preached for so many years. It's time to take care of our own. ALL of our own.

Sincerely,
Mary O'Brien

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:42 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

I am writing to ask you to stop this ridiculousness of "repeal and replace" and start working as a bipartisan group to improve the ACA. Health care groups are coming out against this, the health care industry is coming out against this, and as of this morning all 50 state Medicaid directors came out against this. At this point, it appears that all of this is simply to spite President Obama and hurt millions of Americans, some of them being the most vulnerable, in the process. You should be ashamed of yourselves. So many other countries have figured out how to provide quality affordable health care to its citizens. How is it that we can't get it done? You are supposed to be adults, who work for the people of this country. All of this childish fighting has gotten out of hand. If you truly wanted to improve this for the people, you had 8 years to work on it and simply chose not to and now you want to ram through awful legislation. Do this the right way through bipartisan effort. Consult experts, hold hearings, do what is best for the people in this country. This affects me personally and I'm angry. And I'm not the only one. No one should be as scared as so many of us have been this entire year so far. You are playing political games with the lives of millions of people and it is wrong. Please do the right thing for the people of this country.

Thank you,
Brandi Diehl

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:41 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

I'm against it!
Thanks.
Chuck Stonecipher
[REDACTED]
Monona, WI 53716

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:41 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Medicaid

Good Morning,

I am a single mother of 4, 3 with disabilities. If we did not have the services medicaid provides, my children would be living without medical care. The level of care that each of them require would certainly end them in institutional care. I could NOT do this by myself without PCA etc.

I am already unable to work because of their numerous appointments, I cannot imagine how I would service.

Kelly

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:41 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: info@pahealthaccess.org
Subject: Graham Cassidy healthcare bill-NO WAY!

It is clear to me as a retired dentist who practiced in Philadelphia and the U.S. Navy that the Graham Cassidy healthcare bill is being forced down innocent constituents mouths, no pun intended here!! Access to healthcare, whether it be medical, dental or CAM for MORE Americans is what I see is needed!! Think about what you would want for your own family and take a very HARD look at this destructive alternative to ACA before you VOTE!!

Dr. Harvey Hellerstein, D.D.S. (retired)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:59 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: senatorvanhoole@vanhollen.senate.gov; senatorcardin@cardin.senate.gov
Subject: Do Not Pass This Terrible Bill

As a concerned citizen, I feel the need to comment on this outrageously terrible bill. Not only will 32 million people lose their health insurance with the Medicaid cuts but pre-existing conditions will once again become an issue for everyone. Based on the list of pre-existing conditions, I do not know anyone that would not have a pre-existing condition. This is just beyond outrageous. The Republicans claim to be pro-life yet this bill will give states the power to remove more expensive health services like maternity care from the list of essential benefits. Women could go back to being charged more for health insurance than men simply for their gender. Also, seniors and sicker patients will have increased health care premiums as the bill takes away the requirement that everyone pays the same price for coverage. Underwriting could come back and there will be no requirement for essential benefit coverage. The Congressional Budget Office has not even had time to score the impact of this bill. Bills should not be even allowed up for a vote until the impact is known.

I completely understand that Obamacare has major flaws including rising premium costs but instead of throwing the baby out with the bathwater, the parties should be working with each other to fix the plan that IS WORKING. The Graham-Cassidy bill is not about what is best for the citizens of the country. Honestly it's not clear what it's about, other than being able to say the GOP repealed Obamacare. It's disgusting and a disgrace. I used to identify as a Republican, but not anymore. The party has lost its way and it's a shame. Have some moral values and a backbone and do what's right for EVERYONE in this great country.

Sincerely,
Eileen Witherspoon, MPH
Silver Spring, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:09 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it would take money away from states that opted in to medicaid expansion, leave decisions about lifetime limits to states, and put the entire healthcare system into a state of chaos. People's lives are at risk. This bill is reckless.

Rebecca Davis

19081
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:08 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, first, there is no time to assess in any meaningful way the impact this bill would have on our lives. Though the CBO will issue an initial score in a few days, its final assessment will not be available for several weeks. This means that senators will be voting blind on a bill that, according to major health organizations and insurers, promises to remove healthcare from millions and severely disrupt the markets. Second, the bill's proposal to administer health care in the form of block grants to states -- a proposal favored by only 26% of all voters -- will balkanize our system, allowing individual states to determine how these funds will be administered without assurances that the most vulnerable of our populations (seniors, people with pre-existing conditions, those with disabilities or suffering from drug addiction) will be protected. Not only do I have a few pre-existing conditions, but I am also in long-term recovery from drug addiction. Public funding of my medical allowed me to move forward with my life. I am now actively involved in the community, have a job, and am working on earning my Master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. I see many others who are contributing to society these days instead of taking from it - all because they had access to health care. Health care in America must be considered a right, not a commodity, and it is the responsibility of government to work not for partisan glorification but for the greater good. Graham-Cassidy is a bad idea.

Jennifer Lange

17745
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:08 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it will harm millions of Americans. I personally know family and friends who have benefited from the ACA. The senators who are sponsoring this bill are demonstrating that they aren't true patriotic or care about the American people. They won't to destroy the ACA because of politics and to destroy the legacy of President Obama. I say shame on the Republican Party and their constant lies to the American people...

Lorri Young-West

19119
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:56 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 its cruel provisions will undermine the health and hopes for prosperity of all Americans.

The true American way is to fully air debate. To receive an assessment from the CBO. To hear from the people. And, to put country over party.

We all rise by lifting others. This cruel measure will increase burdens on the most vulnerable of us. Doing so will create desperation and hopelessness in all our communities.

Republicans say 'But we promised to repeal and replace.' That excuse rings hollow as you and the current president also promised to maintain coverage of preexisting conditions and other fundamental health protections that are nowhere in this cruel bill.

Save the country. Save the people. Vote 'No' on the cruel Graham-Cassidy bill.

Lin Floyd

19063
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:59 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 forced through the Senate because it threatens the healthcare of millions of Americans in order to score political points. It has woefully inadequate protections for preexisting conditions, and makes it possible for states to allow healthcare that discriminates against people who need care the most. This proposal is unethical, immoral, and un-American. If this committee truly cares about solving this country's healthcare issues, then it will work in a bipartisan manner to address them rather than forcing this ill-conceived bill on the American people.

Best,
Cody

Cody Mejeur

49009
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:57 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fw: Please don't pass graham cassidy

Please don't pass graham cassidy. There should not be caps on insurance. States should not be allowed to charge more for pre-existing conditions. Most importantly, people shouldn't die because the Koch brothers are holding back money that Republicans need to buy elections. Life matters more than money.

If this sounds angry, it is because I am angry. Angry, sad, disappointed. And so are a lot of Americans. Here's to hoping that this will come back to haunt those who support it. I will fight, and I know many others will too, to ensure that happens.

Bridget Blank

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:58 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy-Graham input

Senators: Vote no on Cassidy-Graham. As a practicing physician and a parent of a child with special needs, I am worried that this legislation will be dangerous to my patients and my family. It would convert Medicaid to block grants (per capita funds), which would lead to rationing of care. It breaks a promise the federal government made to provide health care to our most vulnerable citizens, including the elderly, children, the poor, and the disabled.

It has a provision that would allow states to opt out of covering essential health benefits. You know, things like inpatient care, outpatient care, labs, meds, maternity, and mental health care. It would allow insurers to sell bare bones plans that don't cover anything useful, which is shortsighted in that will not improve individual and population health, and will put vulnerable American families at risk of financial ruin due to health care expenses.

It is irresponsible to make sweeping changes to Medicaid without hearings and without stakeholder input. It is irresponsible to vote on this bill without a CBO score.

Listen to stakeholder input. Opposed to this legislation: AARP, AMA, AHA, ACS, AAP, ACOG, the ARC, BCBS, Catholic Health, JDRF, Kaiser, March of Dimes. With something as massively sweeping as Medicaid reform, demand stakeholder input, including patients, providers, hospitals, employers, and Democrats. Do not shut out the Democratic party. We need to find common ground, and pursue common goals for the common good.

All stakeholders (patients, providers, payors, and employers) demand increased value in health care, with value = quality/cost. Better health outcomes, at lower cost. When people complain about how expensive their care is, they are complaining they don't feel that they're getting good value for the money. Whether they know it or not, everyone wants more value in health care. There is lots of room for improvement in value in health care. To increase value in the health care system, we need to INCREASE utilization of high value services, and decrease utilization of low value services. Adequate access and coverage for all Americans to be able to access high value outpatient services is prerequisite. Note the overlap between essential health benefits and high value services. Some examples; childhood immunizations, smoking cessation, weight management, diabetes management, chronic disease management, screening colonoscopy, advance care planning. I urge you to vigorously defend comprehensive coverage of essential health benefits.

Sincerely,
Eiko Browning, MD

Confidentiality Notice: This e-mail message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure, or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Graham-Cassidy

The Graham-Cassidy bill is a horrible bill that doesn't deserve to come to a vote.

Republicans have had 7 years to come up with a plan that serves Americans better than the Affordable Care Act. They campaigned on the promise, despite having any concrete plans. They have sabotaged the ACA and maligned it without investing any time into improving the problems they feel the plan has, and misrepresented the replacement bills to the point of outright lying to the American people.

These same politicians have pushed bills that have been drafted in secret and are predicated on a rigged vote that relies on sheer numbers rather than the merit of the bill. When the goal is to hurry a bill through with the least number of votes, you have to wonder at the goal or reward for the politicians. Is it to score a win for a president who needs good press with his dwindling voting base? Is it to undo a prior administration's accomplishments? Is it to secure big money from donors who profit from the bill, at the expense of hard-working Americans?

Graham-Cassidy does not help Americans. It does not work in the way the Republican spokespersons claim; in fact, it outright lies and deceives at every turn.

Rather than trying to score a "W" for donors, it's time to look at scoring a "W" for the American people. Work on the problems that predicated a desire to address the ACA -- stop throwing the baby out with the bathwater.. Stop sabotaging healthcare, and start helping Americans. Live up to the promises made to help people -- not billionaire donors trying to protect their personal wealth -- while serving in Washington, D.C., and the votes will follow.

Draft a bill that can stand the light of day, debate, hearings, and a true democratic process.

Thank you,

Juliana LeRoy
Windsor, CA

success is a journey



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:57 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on healthcare

Please consider a bipartisan fix to our healthcare coverage instead of the abysmal bill currently under consideration. The millions of people who will lose coverage, especially children and the elderly would be a travesty and a disgrace. The plan is to deny healthcare coverage to the American people that you in government enjoy. How is that fair or equitable?

Do Not pass this evil bill!

Yours truly,

Isabel Clowe, an American, and I Vote!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:57 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill--Please Stop This!

Please stop the Graham Cassidy healthcare bill. Every major group is against it, no CBO score, all indications that 32 million people will be thrown off healthcare. This bill appears to be worse than the last and only 14% of Americans approved of that one. ONLY 14%!!! Plus, you can't un-ring a bell. The country has moved on and now values ACA. They no longer want this protection taken away.

This bill is about big donors threatening future Republican money, tax breaks for rich. That's it. Everyone knows this. Hiding it, and ramming it through without regular order, debate, expert testimony, bi-partisanship...will not change that fact. Either you have integrity or you knowingly destroy America and the systems of government that were designed to serve the people.

Please stop this bill.

Lynn Fagerlie
Schaumburg, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:09 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repeal of Obamacare

Dear Sirs and Madams,

I am a beneficiary of health insurance through the ACA program. Prior to that, I was without health insurance for 20 years because of a pre-existing condition. A condition I have had since birth. During those 20 years I was working full-time in a semi-professional position but my employers did not offer any type of health insurance plan for their employees. Their reason, it was too expensive. I looked for my own coverage, but was either denied, or the premiums were too expensive.

I do not want to go back to that time. I want to keep my health insurance and I want what I have improved. I want to see us do this together, as a whole country. The Cassidy Graham bill does not protect any of the citizens of this country. The Cassidy Graham bill only protects the GOP, for now, because if you pass this, the GOP will be gutted. So, if you don't want to protect your fellow Americans, then think of the GOP and keep this bill from being passed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Gail M. Phillips

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:09 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Less is less

No matter what agency, federal or state, public or even private, rations & distributes healthcare funds, Less is not more!
Less is simply less. It can't be stretched.

Governors, state legislators, providers, & VOTERS will not thank you for bowing to a handful of big donors, to the detriment of many millions of families.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:02 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

I've asked numerous times to have this bill posted online so the American people can read it. No response.

So.....I don't support anything blindly. DO NOT SUPPORT THIS BILL.

Cyndi Saxton Jorae
Phoenix, AZ



FREE Animations for your email [Click Here!](#)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:08 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote NO on the Graham Cassidy bill

Dear Senators,

Please vote NO on the Graham Cassidy bill. The ACA provides decent Healthcare to ordinary Americans and like most people I believe that there is always room for improvement. Please work in a bi-partisan manner to find affordable quality solutions so that ordinary Americans who most need it, have health coverage.

In my family, we work hard, pay taxes, live within our means, give to charity, and we are upstanding citizens. We have been responsible in that we have saved for our retirement and will not be a burden to anyone, however as we age our only fear is that we will face financial hardships should a member in our family suffer a catastrophic health issue.

Please VOTE NO on the Graham Cassidy bill.

Thank you,
Raiza

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:08 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

I have written my Senators to vote no. I am not sure what more to say about Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill. It's horrendous. Anytime you have to bribe states to take it, it is crap.

I don't care if the Koch brothers, et al won't give you donations for 2018. I don't care about the damn rich people at all. I care about Americans. And this stupid idea of allowing states to spend the money the way they want... AZ state govt is horrendous... always has been. I don't think people should have to state hop to get good healthcare.

This is the worst healthcare bill I have heard... and I thought that last three were bad. Any of you want to be re-elected in 2018, I would suggest voting against it.

Also, it's time you listen to Senator McCain and return to regular procedure. This rushing of bills to please rich donors... is crap. And you know it is crap.

Thank you,
Margaret Christman
Bullhead City , AZ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:08 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: RE: Graham Cassidy Bill

Good Morning,

There have been lots of reports about how many people will be affected by passage of the Graham Cassidy bill. 32 million is such a large number that it can be hard to remember that that large number is made up of individuals. Individuals like me. I am a US citizen living in Indiana. I use the individual market because while I am employed full time, my company doesn't provide health insurance. I don't qualify for the subsidies. I pay \$380/month with a \$5700 deductible. It is barely affordable, but, it's better than not being covered. It's better than the private market was before the ACA came around.

Before the ACA I paid this exact same amount but wasn't covered for pregnancy, birth control pills or pre-existing conditions. The truth is, that if given the chance, insurance companies won't cover individuals if they don't have to. They make it really difficult and not worth the time and expense. So people don't buy insurance, and they don't go to the doctor and tiny health problems build up until they are big health problems.

I'm not just guessing here or talking in generalities. This is my story. When I didn't have insurance I didn't go in for annual exams even though breast cancer runs in my family because I couldn't afford the scans and accompanying doctor visits. I didn't monitor my blood pressure or blood sugar. I had no idea how bad my health was until I was covered under the ACA and could go see a doctor. Now I have pre-existing conditions and I could and probably will lose that coverage.

This is a bad bill being forced upon the country because "I made a promise". Well, fulfilling a promise with a bad bill is bad for the country. I'd rather have you break the promise than pass this bill.

Sincerely,
Maggie McDonald
Valparaiso, IN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:08 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose health care bill

Dear Committee,

My four year old son has a neurological condition called cortical dysplasia that causes epilepsy and significant developmental delays. This new bill would be devastating for families like us and children like him. Not just because his condition is "preexisting" and terribly expensive, but because cuts to Medicaid would devastate care for disabled people in every way. PLEASE DO NOT LET THIS BILL PASS IN ITS CURRENT FORM. Thank you for your consideration.

Liz Phang

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:08 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy

I am 53 years old. I was paralyzed after a neck surgery last year. On disability can barely get by now and can not lose my Medicaid. As a pre existing condition person for other reasons. Any up crease on healthcare will bankrupt my husband (also on disability due to cancer). My daughter has a genetic disorder and without a clause that protects those of us with keeping insurance companies within the constraints of they can not charge us more.

The very fact they reward states who has keep people from getting relief of cost by not expanding Medicaid while those that did their citizens will now suffer the most.

Pass this bill and the GOP will be done. Not one person will keep them in power. 2018 it all changes.
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:56 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not pass the Graham/Cassidy Bill

Please do not gut the Affordable Care Act. Do not allow states to loosen restrictions on pre-existing conditions. Do not penalize the elderly and disabled for their age and their challenges. Do not make people choose between eating and getting healthcare. Please. Think hard before voting on the proposed Graham/Cassidy bill.

I am lucky enough to be part of "The 1%." We work hard and are rewarded for it. But there are people who work just as hard or harder who are not rewarded likewise. They work two jobs. Sometimes three. Remember ALL the citizens of this country when you vote. Don't sacrifice them for GOP tax cuts. Work together to find a better solution. Do not pass the Graham/Cassidy bill.

Thank you,
Maureen Sheehan
Norwell, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:56 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Correspondence (Duckworth); Reply, Correspondence (Durbin)
Subject: NO on Graham Cassidy "Healthcare"

I am so tired today. I'm tired because I got a cold. Only, because I also have a primary immune disorder, it's not "just" a cold. It's the beginning of what will be a multi-week fight to keep this cold from cascading into a series of complications that, in the past, have included drug-resistant bronchitis and pneumonia, often culminating in the lining around my ribs and lungs ripping from the force of my coughing. It's going to be yet another fight to keep myself out of the hospital and get back to what passes for normal for me. And yet, instead of being able to rest and focus on my medical care, I find myself once again forced to devote my time to calling and writing to you, because the Republicans in the U.S. Senate are, once again, trying to take my healthcare away from me. I am a woman. I have a pre-existing condition. That condition is expensive to deal with. To the majority of Republicans in Congress, all of these factors, individually and together, seem to add up to a belief that I do not deserve healthcare. They think I do not deserve the right to LIVE, unless, of course, I can pay, out of my own pocket, whatever outrageous, non-negotiable fee an insurance company can pluck out of a hat so that their executives can all get a bonus yacht this year.

I'm so tired of having to call and write Congress all the time to literally beg for my life. To literally beg to be seen as a person, with a life that is worth preserving, and not as just an expense on a balance sheet, or as acceptable collateral damage in the hateful fight to negate everything our first Black president touched. Again and again, the Republicans in Congress have tried to erase the ACA and replace it with absolutely nothing of any worth to the American people, all so they can give another unnecessary tax cut to the richest among us. Again and again, we have exposed our medical issues and personal struggles in an effort to make you understand that our lives are at stake. It is disheartening to see how little our lives and our pain seem to matter. It is disheartening to see how little the will of the vast majority of Americans, repeatedly expressed through calls, letters, petitions, and demonstrations, seems to matter. Not when compared to tax cuts for a few big donors plus unending spite against Barack Obama, at least.

Every professional medical organization opposes this bill. Insurers oppose this bill. The nonpartisan CBO demonstrates that this bill will be financially disastrous and strip healthcare from millions. The vast majority of Americans oppose this bill, myself very much included. DO NOT PASS THIS BILL. Do not even bring it up for a vote. It is disastrous by any objective measure, and it is unworthy of us as a nation.

Sincerely,

Lorena Neal

[REDACTED]
Evanston IL 60201

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:56 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

As a non-profit that provides support to families of children, youth and young adults with mental health and substance use disorders (including many with opioid addictions) we urge you to **VOTE NO** on the Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill. While it is being promoted as offering more flexibility, their bill will make it harder for our children, youth and young adults to get psychiatric medications, case management, and mental health and substance use treatment.

The Graham-Cassidy bill:

- **Allows states to drop the requirement to cover mental health care.** Today, Exchange plans are required to cover essential health benefits, which include treatment for mental health and substance use conditions. Under this bill, each state will have the freedom to drop or change these requirements, putting mental health benefits at risk.
- **Shifts Medicaid funding to a “per capita cap” system.** Shifting to per capita cap funding (a fixed amount of funding per person) may sound reasonable, but would not keep up with growth in costs and needs. This would result in states being forced to cut Medicaid services and eligibility, which would harm children and adults with mental illness.
- **Effectively ends Medicaid expansion.** One in three people covered by Medicaid expansion plans lives with a mental health or substance use condition. Under this bill, Medicaid expansion would be converted to a smaller, temporary block grant that states could use for health coverage or any other health purpose, with no guarantee of mental health coverage.
- **Reduces help to purchase health insurance.** Block grants would provide a fixed amount of temporary federal funding to replace insurance subsidies, severely cutting federal help for people to buy insurance. This will leave many people unable to afford the coverage they need for mental health treatment.

Please oppose the Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill!

Ann Geddes, Director of Public Policy

The Maryland Coalition of Families

[REDACTED]
Columbia, MD 21044

[REDACTED]
443-741-8668

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:57 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Hi,

I am writing to implore ANY member of the Senate to vote NO against this horrible bill. Americans just a few years ago had little understanding of the fiscal impact healthcare has both individually and for their local and state economies. Since passage of the ACA it is quite apparent that states who expanded their coverage are doing extremely well under their new systems. Those who did not still see record uninsured and smaller healthcare economies. I'm a nurse and a medical administrator and we meet weekly to discuss how detrimental this bill will be for our medical system and the state of Texas. Do not let this atrocious bill pass and destroy our already fragile healthcare market. Not only will individual lives be ruined but entire state healthcare economies will begin to crumble day one of its passing. I have reached out to both Senator Cornyn and Senator Cruz but they refuse to even have discussions with their constituents in the current political environment which has really disgusted the vast majority of Americans on both sides of the political spectrum. Bring back order to the Senate and to American democracy. We are frightened by the rising Authoritarian nature of this current regime.

Allen Kirby

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:57 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am writing about the proposed Graham-Cassidy Bill, an attempt to take away healthcare from millions of Americans for no reason other than to stick it to the former administration.

First, how can you vote on a change of this magnitude without waiting for the CBO score? How can you understand the full impact of this otherwise? Isn't something that amounts to 1/6 of the American economy worthy of a thorough review before taking action?

Second, I am deeply concerned about the ability for states to reduce/eliminate protections for healthcare for those with pre-existing conditions. Pre-existing conditions are not a moral offence--it's often just bad luck, bad genes, and something no one should be punished for. The whole point of insurance is to help you when you are ill. Those who will be ill the rest of their lives need that assistance the most. Some of those pre-existing conditions make absolutely no sense. Just because a woman has given birth doesn't mean she should carry a mark upon her for the rest of her life. Last time I checked, all of us came from the womb. You wouldn't be here without that.

Preventive care for children is also a concern. For those who purport to be pro-life, that should include actually caring for those lives. Maternity and healthcare for children should be of the utmost importance--this is the future we're caring for! I can think of little crueller than abandoning women and children like this.

My understanding is that this bill offers no benefits to typical Americans. It only serves as a means to offer tax cuts to those who need cuts the least.

Please do not pass Graham-Cassidy. Instead, please find a way to work together to improve what we already have in place. Any shortcomings of the ACA can be addressed--repeal and replace is not the answer.

Thank you.

Carrie Vibert
[REDACTED]
Torrington CT 06790

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Wendy Levin-Shaw <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: my 34 year old son is a free lance creative director

He works very hard, has work and supports himself but health insurance is on his own so the ACA is very important to him. I don't know what would happen to his insurance if the ACA were messed with any more.

STOP keeping people without much means on pins and needles. DO YOU know what it is like to live without the certainty of decent healthcare?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION and understanding.

Wendy Levin-Shaw
Pittsburgh, PA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Petra Farmer [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

[Your name]
[City, State]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Erin Shanley [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please listen to the people and do not repeal the ACA

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Because I have low Thyroid and suffer from migraines, my pre-existing conditions would make me ineligible for health coverage if the ACA is repealed. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Erin Shanley

Greenwood Village, CO

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Caren Ginsberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no on Graham Cassidy bill

The Graham Cassidy bill is a nightmare. It will offer no protections for patients and will price gouge anyone who has been or will get sick. This is not a health care plan. It's a death sentence for those who need care. I beg you to exercise your power to see that this bill is not passed.

Sincerely,
Caren Ginsberg

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christine Newlon [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

September 25, 2017

To all on the Finance Committee:

My family will be greatly impacted by the proposed Graham-Cassidy Bill in very negative ways. I am a mom to a 14 year old daughter, Rebecca, who has Down syndrome and hearing loss. Since she was born, Rebecca has used many services that have been supported by Medicaid payments, such as school based physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy. Our excellent private health insurance did not cover speech therapy in her early years, as they would only cover speech if she had speech abilities at one point and lost them due to illness or injury. The services she's received in schools have helped her immensely in all areas, as evidenced by her ability to remain in a general education classroom instead of being isolated in a special education class. As an 8th grader, she is participating fully in her classes-from calculating ratios and fraction equivalents to dissecting frogs in her science class! She is in the chorus, shoots archery and is in multiple school clubs. She fully expects to graduate from high school on time and go on to college, just as her 4 older siblings have done.

Rebecca will always need some type of external supports in order to become and maintain her independence, from transportation to job coaching. These are the types of services provided by the Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) and the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) that are at risk with block grants. But with these supports, she will succeed! She will be able to live in an apartment, most likely with a roommate or perhaps, her spouse. She will earn a paycheck which not only provides her with a living wage, but with dignity and pride! She cannot do it alone, nor can we as her family.

At this point, her heart defect remains minimal, but she will always be under the care of a cardiologist. Rebecca has some foot deformities due to the low muscle tone but with proper medical care, she should remain ambulatory and pain free. Her hearing aids need to be replaced every 3-4 years and no insurance companies cover those, to the cost of \$5000-\$6000/pair. I cannot begin to imagine how damaged her life would be without Medicaid supports.

Rebecca works harder to participate in daily life than any person I've ever known. She wakes up every day excited to go to school. She is compassionate, loving and brings joy to all who know her. No, she probably won't make a million dollars or discover the cure for cancer, but she still deserves a dignified life. If this atrocity of a bill is passed, she and millions of others with pre-existing illnesses, disabilities and elderly will be left to literally die. The majority of people will not be able to afford the premiums of the "accessible" insurance policies offered. By voting for this bill, you will be condemning millions to have a very poor quality of life and often, death. How does that coincide with your other party platform of "Right to Life"?

Please vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy Bill, for Rebecca and her friends Ava, Andrew, Grace, Jacob, Cristian, GiGi, Sam, Jean, Jessica, Sean, Hope, Rylee, and millions of others. Their lives depend on it.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jacqueline Wooters [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not pass this bill

I am a Registered Nurse my patients will not be able to get the care they need with this bill. If you pass this bill I will work with all my might to make sure our congress becomes Democratic again

Jacqueline M Wooters, MSN,RN,NE-BC
[REDACTED]

"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others." Marianne Williamson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bruce Hinze [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson: OPPOSE

Dear Chairman Hatch, Ranking Member Wyden, Members of the Senate Finance Committee, and members of the Senate:

I urge the members of the Finance Committee, and the Senate as a whole, to reject the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill regarding changes to the Affordable Care Act and the Medicaid program. This bill would devastate the health safety-net that Americans have relied upon for 50 years, placing billions of dollars in costs on states and imperiling health coverage for all Americans. This bill fundamentally, and catastrophically, restructures Medicaid by going far beyond any attempt to "repeal" the Affordable Care Act. This bill eliminates the ACA's premium subsidies by 2020, which will cause the individual insurance market to collapse. It will end Medicaid expansion funding by 2020, and leaves in its wake only a capped block grant for the remaining Medicaid coverage, sharply reducing reduce the funds available for adults by 37%, for children by 31%, for disabled Americans by 15%, and for the elderly by 2% by 2036, for a total loss of more than four trillion dollars from this essential program. My state alone would lose 800 billion dollars, a 41% drop from current funding levels, by 2036.

This bill is not the path to resolving problems with the Affordable Care Act. Instead, it is a path to contracting care, leading to increased illness, despair, and destitution. Under the guise of "flexibility," by reducing the available funds it will force states to deny care to children, especially disabled children, as well as the elderly, and those in the grip of poverty. This bill will also result in increased premiums in the individual market, and deprive Americans of federal protections regarding access and affordability of health coverage. It is a bad bill, born of a bad process.

While Senators represent their state, it is the nature of the Senate that Senators also consider the good of the country as a whole. This bill will devastate health coverage, and the health safety-net, across America. Along with virtually every major provider, hospital, and patient advocacy organization, I ask that you please vote "no" on Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson. Thank you.

Bruce Hinze
San Francisco, California

"Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Bill Would Reduce Federal Funding to States by \$215 billion", Elizabeth Carpenter & Chris Sloan, Avalere, Sept 20, 2017. <http://avalere.com/expertise/life-sciences/insights/graham-cassidy-heller-johnson-bill-would-reduce-federal-funding-to-sta>

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Andrea Pappalardo [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: What I want to improve the ACA not dismantle it

I am a 57 year old women with many diagnoses but rheumatoid arthritis is the one costing me the most. I've had 2 joint replacements along with several other joint surgeries to repair the damage cause by the disease. I take over a dozen medications which include pills, self injectables and infusions. I always hit my out of pocket max within 6-9 months and currently it's \$6000.

I am lucky that I have insurance through my husband's employer now however before the ACA became law I had annual and lifetime max on that insurance. If we lose that protection we could be financially devastated. I know I have at least 2 more joint replacements in the near future.

Please don't destroy the ACA. I know it's not perfect but it can be improved. We shouldn't be going backwards in the country. I've called both of my senators to ask them to reconsider voting for the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

Thank you for your time

Andrea Pappalardo
Huntersville NC

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sue [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Get your act together

NO on Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Plan. Enough already! Work together to get a plan that works for ALL Americans.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Hearing

To the Members of the Committee -

Please see message below.

Thank you.

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail

From: donnellemyr <[REDACTED]>
Date: Sunday, September 24, 2017
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Hearing
To: ghcomments <ghcomments@finance.senate.gov>

I am disappointed that you would consider pushing forward with a deeply flawed healthcare bill that is opposed by every major medical professionals group, every major healthcare provider group, disease advocacy groups, Republican and Democratic governors and a majority of the American people.

One must ask whom does this healthcare bill serve if it is not supported by anyone who provides or needs healthcare?

Your plan to devolve health funding, particularly in the form of Medicaid block grants, to the states is disastrous on its face.

I can tell you from personal experience that "high risk" state insurance pools (supposing the funds were even used for this purpose) are a comfortable lie. They did not and will not do what the provisions of the ACA mandate for the protection and inclusion of people with pre-existing conditions. For seven years, although I was healthy and could pay for insurance coverage, I was on a waitlist for the Oregon high risk pool, behind 150,000 similarly "waitlisted" fellow state residents and, during that entire time, I was never able to obtain individual health insurance coverage. I was finally able to obtain health insurance coverage when I left the state and moved to California.

But you know all this. I am saddened by your cynical and heartless desire to walk progress back and wreak untold damage on 1/6 of our country's economy and cause real harm to millions and millions of our country's citizens. For reasons known only to yourself and your God, you have bought into a Big Lie. But the truth is people will needlessly suffer and die. Under this law people will go broke trying to save their life or the life of a loved one who needs medical care. And their suffering and impoverishment and deaths will be on you and those of the faceless, nameless masters you serve.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Thomas Sinclair [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote 'No' on Graham-Cassidy

Before the ACA, my pre-existing condition (though easily and cheaply managed) would not let me buy individual health insurance at ANY price,.

Last year an emergency room visit turned into three weeks of hospitalization and a surgical operation that saved my life. The out-of-pocket caps in the ACA meant that we wouldn't have to declare bankruptcy due to my medical bills. The emergency room visit would not have occurred if I had not been able to see a doctor due to lack of insurance.

The ACA saved my life and my family's home.

Tom Sinclair
Littleton CO

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Scarlet Tay [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: please don't kill Obama Care

Hello, I am a mental health worker in a poor community in Washington state. I have seen first hand many times what having "Obama care" has done for the clients I work with. These are all low income and vulnerable people who struggle on a daily basis with trauma and mental illness. The Affordable care act has saved many of them from death by suicide because they are able, with Obamacare, to get the counseling, support and medications they need on a daily basis in order to avoid being placed in hospitals.

The fact that they are able to stay on their medications and get the help they need, keeps them from decompensating to the point that hospitalization is necessary. . . That saves both money and human suffering. People who are hospitalized under the EMTALA law have their care paid for by government funds. . . So please stop trying to save money on the backs of the poor and disabled people. Let the wealthy step up and do their share.

Thank you
Scarlet Standley Tay

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kymberlyn Reed [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing Monday September 25th

If not for the ACA, I would be unable to care for my elderly grandmother. Before the ACA, my hypertension made me a pre-existing condition, even to the health provider who diagnosed it. With the ACA, I'm able to afford basic prevention and my medication. That takes a lot off my mind, as it does for many Americans. And the fact that you want to defund Planned Parenthood? Millions of people - women and men - depend on the medical care they provide - myself included. I want to see both parties come together and strengthen the ACA, which may take time but will help more Americans in the future.

Sincerely,
Kymberlyn A. Reed

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cassie Paoli [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham-Cassidy Healthcare 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 is a bill dangerous to the health of many individuals in our nation, and it has not been given a chance to be CBO scored yet because Republicans want to score cheap political points at the expense of their constituents' lives. Please choose conscience and morality over party and vote NO on this damaging bill.

I am coming at this from a very personal place. I have multiple pre-existing conditions, including severe Generalized Anxiety Disorder, OCD, depression, fibromyalgia, chronic Lymes disease, and another mystery autoimmune disorder. when I was laid off from a job in summer 2016, I needed health insurance to cover the many medications and therapies and treatments I undergo. Luckily, the ACA was there to cover me due to my surprising new circumstances. I literally would not be alive without having access to insurance through the ACA; I would not be able to email you right now. I know there are claims that this bill won't discriminate against people with pre-existing conditions, but it really just puts it back on the states and insurers, which easily allows for elimination or weakening of protections for people with pre-existing conditions. Pennsylvania is already \$3 billion plus in debt and I doubt this will be a huge priority for them.

More importantly than just my personal story, we are all human. I have family members and close friends with even more serious pre-existing conditions such as HIV, Tourette's, CP, and developmental disabilities. Some of my friends have disabled children. This bill attacks the most vulnerable among us - those in poverty, us who are already sick, and seniors. We are people, too, who don't deserve to DIE due to rolling back insurance coverage. Have a heart!

Up to 32 million Americans would lose health insurance, as this bill is essentially block granting (pushing things back to the states is never a good idea), rolling back Marketplace tax credits and the Medicaid expansion and targeting the poor and sick by cutting Medicaid even further. By 2027, at least 1,066,000 Pennsylvanians would lose coverage, not to mention the decimation of the rest of the country. 733 thousand Pennsylvanians, and many more from other states, are at risk because they were enrolled under the Medicaid expansion.

These include close friends of mine, such as a close friend who has CP and is due to give birth any day, and another friend's medically vulnerable children who have serious food allergies, one of whom is literally being kept alive due to experimental treatment available due to Medicaid expansion. This bill would cut Medicaid and

hurt seniors disproportionately, as well. Veterans, who you profess to care about, also benefited from the Medicaid expansion and could lose coverage. Do you really want to kill disabled children, sick people, the elderly, and the poor? I sure hope not, but it seems like that is what would happen under this repeal but not really replace bill (block grants to the states are not a lasting option). Shame on you.

Many of us would also die due to the reinstatement of lifetime caps. As Cassidy is a "doctor", I'm sure he realizes that some children literally reach their cap the day they are born due to surgeries needed to save their lives, or that a lot of people who have chronic conditions or acute diseases such as cancer can also reach that cap quickly. Chronically sick people and seemingly healthy people who are suddenly struck by a disease could be on the chopping block with this bill. But for the grace of God go all of us - any of us could be sick tomorrow and in debt! Please seriously think about that.

More than a million Pennsylvania children would be hurt because cutting funding also cuts CHIP. Do you really want your legacy to be hurting children to score political points?

Premiums would be raised, and women would lose access to maternity coverage if insurance won't cover it without a rider (and so many claim to be "pro-life" but would not allow a mother prenatal coverage under this bill if she can't afford to pay extra!).

Also, this partisan "50 votes" technique really exposes that this is not a bipartisan bill in any way and would damage bipartisanship in the House & Senate. If you truly want bipartisanship and not just a bill to pass before the end of the month, consider looking deeper into a truly bipartisan bill, the Murray-Alexander plan.

Most importantly, again, please vote conscience over party, listen to your HEART, and please vote against the Graham-Cassidy bill and against signing a death sentence for the most vulnerable among us.

Sincerely,

Cassie Paoli

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Val Cohen [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony for Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

September 24, 2017

The United States Senate Committee on Finance

Senator Chuck Grassley, Chairman

219 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510-6200

submitted via: gchcomments@finance.senate.gov

Re: Testimony for Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, September 25, 2017

From:

Yuval Cohen

[REDACTED]
[Long Beach, CA 90803](#)

PLEASE REJECT UNSTUDIED GRAHAM-CASSIDY-HELLER-JOHNSON MEDICAID BLOCK GRANT PROPOSAL

I am writing to you today as a member of one of millions of American families relying on Medicaid for care of a loved one. My wife's stepfather is a dialysis patient with a severe spinal cord injury who is currently confined to a nursing home in Senator Cassidy's home state of Louisiana. My 78-year-old mother-in-law is his caregiver. She has health challenges of her own. It would be impossible for her to care for her partner without his Medicaid-subsidized nursing home. It would be impossible for him to live without 24-hour care. He cannot move from bed without assistance. He needs help eating, bathing and dressing. I ask you to realize, his life still has value — to him and to us and even to his community, where his kindness and perseverance is an inspiration. Medicaid is our life-line.

Additionally, this proposal means my own retirement plans would be destroyed. I am 52 and my wife is 57 and has asthma, She will spend years as an "uninsurable" with G-C-H-J's insurance available to us as long as I pay the surcharges this proposal allows for living longer than 50 and for being the victim of industrial pollution. I will have to stay in my present job for years longer than I had once hoped and we will not be able to start the "second act" business we were planning, because G-C-H-J would make insurance for

us as senior entrepreneurs as expensive as a Maserati. It would be technically "available" to me, but not at all affordable. G-C-H-J would destroy our dream of starting our retirement business.

We dread the reinstatement of penalties for pre-existing conditions and lifetime caps. Perhaps the life's savings of two hard working people just won't be enough. We now view our future with anxiety.

I also ask you to consider that this short hearing is simply not enough exploration of an unstudied proposal that tears up one-fifth of the American economy. Please be diligent stewards of America's health and economy and hold many more hearings across the full congress, get a full analysis by the Congressional Budget Office, solicit in-depth testimony from doctors, nurses, patient's rights organizations and patients themselves, veteran's organizations, insurance companies, the disabled community, state governors, hospital corporations, state health officers, specialists on rural and urban medical access, experts on international health and other government specialists.

Bi-partisan solutions to American healthcare reform can be found. For my family, myself and the American people: Please reject this hastily made and cruel proposal.

Sincerely,

Yuval Cohen



Long Beach, CA 90803

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Connie Donvito <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

As a citizen of the United States, I have always felt that our elected representatives in the Senate and House of Representatives, with few exceptions, have kept their oath to protect the general welfare of its people-until now. The Graham-Cassidy Bill is more egregious in terms of its devastating impact on the health care of millions of Americans, including those you represent and who placed their trust in you, than the previous failed health care bills. This bill has not gone through regular order and has not been scored by the CBO. To pass this bill would be a travesty and harmful to the well-being of those you represent, and I strongly urge each of you to show moral leadership and vote against this bill. Do your duty for the sake of your constituents!

Dr. Connie Donvito

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Deb Mensinger <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Frederick, Julia (Warren); Pearson, Beth (Warren); Laurie Marks; Anna
Subject: Re: Our Family's Healthcare Plea
Attachments: OUR FAMILY'S HEALTHCARE PLEA, September 25th Edition.pdf

Dear Senators,

I realize that a pdf format may be easier to open. I apologize for not thinking of this to begin with.

Again, I thank you on behalf of my family,
Deborah L Mensinger

On Sat, Sep 23, 2017 at 1:42 PM, Deb Mensinger <[REDACTED]> wrote:
To the Senators of the Finance Committee:

Attached is our plea, written by each member of our family, for consideration of the Graham-Cassidy repeal of the Affordable Care Act. We would like to see that the ACA is strengthened in a bipartisan manner, rather than a single party repeal and replace effort that will cause hardship and even death to so many Americans. We are pleading with you all to vote nay on this healthcare bill. Senator McCain's statement provides insight and wisdom for his colleagues to follow.

Our economy is improved by having healthy people in the workforce. It is also improved when the medical industry is healthy. The future of this country is improved when children grow up healthy. The country and our economy is also improved when we can prevent the proverbial forest fires rather than stand in the blaze with a shovel and a hose.

I realize that you are very busy, but we would appreciate it if you took the time to read the attached comments written by our family. My family has been through so much since I became ill, and each of us has our own medical issues, but I will not survive if Graham-Cassidy becomes the law of the land.

Thank you for your consideration. And thank you for adding our comments to the permanent record. What we have written is so very important, and we are all willing to give up our privacy because this issue is so critical to our family as well as so many others.

I wish you wisdom and an open mind,

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: jim barry [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

As the field of robotics and automation is progressing at break neck speed, many people will be unemployed and as such will not be able to afford health care. Not to mention what the Graham-Cassidy will do to eliminate health coverage for millions of others.

We need a Single payer system for all CITIZENS to provide coverage as we move into the automation age and also to reign in spiraling health care costs and outrageous drug prices.

Sincerely,

Jim Barry

jim barry

19454
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: TERRY ANDERSON [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

My husband and I both had cancer; breast and prostate so our lifestyle likely did not contribute. We had very high deductible insurance which was very costly as we were self-employed. Because of our pre-existing conditions we could not buy a different policy. When ACA went into effect our policy on the marketplace became very reasonable. I am not saying it was free or cheap but reasonable. Cancer is a death sentence without insurance. Please do not take Healthcare away from millions of Americans. Sue Anderson

Sent from XFINITY Connect Mobile App

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cheryl Bartholomew [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

I am imploring you to not repeal the ACA. It will result in the heartless loss of health care for millions of Americans. Instead, please keep the ACA and make sensible revisions.
This is a moral decision..... not Republicans vs Democrats. COMPROMISE for the better good!

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Koni Mclean [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:50 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Please do the right thing. Vote no on the Graham Cassidy Bill for the sake of America and for the sake of humanity.

Sincerely,
Koni McLean

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Repeal & Replace

No
Stop
Don't You are smart you can find another way.
Please do the right thing for the American people.
I don't understand what is happening and why.
You are smart you can find another way.

Please don't take make healthcare for millions away.

PLEASE!!!

Paula Frantz

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lynette Perez <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Sen.CharlesSchummer@Senate.gov
Subject: Medicae Cuts

I'm a physically challenged individual who is on Medicare/Medicare. I need these programs in order to get adequate health care. If this bill is passed I would lose everything, my home health care as well as my regular health care. I can't afford private insurance because I'm on a fixed income. This health care bill would take away everything that help me stay independent.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: A.J. O'Brien [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please withdraw or vote NO on the murderous Graham-Cassidy trumpcare bill

Please withdraw or vote NO on the murderous Graham-Cassidy trumpcare bill.

This is a disastrous bill that will harm and kill millions of innocent, hardworking Americans. It will strip insurance--and therefore health care access--from 32 million Americans. It will kill over 40,000 Americans annually.

Everyone I know will be harmed by this god-awful bill. Here are just a few examples of people closest to me:

1. My dad paid into the system his whole life. He is now 85--a disabled vet with Parkinson's. He EARNED the Medicare and Social Security benefits he needs now and the Medicaid benefits he will someday need--when I can no longer care for him due to progression of his condition. The Koch brothers did NOT pay into the system; they did NOT earn these benefits that they want to steal from my dad; and they do NOT need the money to survive--to live and stay well. My dad does. Murdering this beautiful, kind soul just so the already-rich can buy more yachts and mansions is both insane and unconscionable.

2. My brother in law has metastatic cancer. It would take my sister's family's entire income just to pay for his medical expenses if this murderous bill were to pass--they would have to sell the house and live in a cardboard box, and forget college for the two daughters, one of whom is already enrolled. And once he's gone, who's going to walk his daughters down the aisle when they get married? And who's going to pay for their health care when they want to have children? That family is already spread thin--they don't have \$20,000 per healthy baby just laying around in the couch cushions. And god forbid there should be complications! If you take out my brother in law, that's four staunch GOP votes you lose--his and his family's.

3. My sister herself would lose her employer-based insurance, as would I. We are both in our 50s--we are walking sets of pre-existing conditions that no insurance company would touch without the ACA mandate. Our health issues do not stop us from working productively and contributing to society as long as we have health insurance and health care; without it, you lose one career DOJ attorney-investigator and one career DoD Ph.D. engineer. Your taxes paid my graduate school tuition. Is killing me mid-career really a good return on your investment? I thought Republicans loved DoD!

4. My best friend is a self-employed entrepreneur. She too is in her 50s and is also a walking set of pre-existing conditions. She is alive and well today because of Obamacare. Without it, she could not afford insurance--assuming she could even get a company to insure her. I thought Republicans loved the self-employed, the small businesses, the entrepreneurs. Why kill perfectly good, productive members of society? Whom exactly are you trying to weed out here? I thought Republicans were supposed to be PRO-life.

Republicans would do well to learn that trying to kill us all for the sake of a buck is not good policy. Maybe you'd lose the Koch brothers as donors, but you'd gain millions upon millions of Democrats. Individually, we might only be able to give \$5, 10, \$25 dollars, but we are very enthusiastic--especially toward representatives who seek to help us and keep us alive rather than kill us for a dollar. Or should I say for \$12.50 per innocent human life that the Republicans and the Kochs want to snuff out (i.e., the \$400,000,000 in donations the Kochs have promised Republicans divided by the 32,000,000 Americans from whom Graham-Cassidy would rip away

health care). Even the tobacco industry valued our lives at \$10,000 a piece (i.e., the pennies in profit per cigarette divided by the number of Americans killed by smoking).

If you don't think that millions of small donations add up, just ask Howard Dean or Bernie Sanders.

Please stand by the American people so that we can stand by you--withdraw or vote NO on the murderous Graham-Cassidy trumpcare bill. You'll sleep better and leave a much pleasanter legacy.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

I support quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I suffer from scleroderma and I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Karen Herrmann-Fishelson

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Donna Kreiss [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Health Bill

Honorable members of Congress.

Why are you even entertaining this health bill as it is a disgrace, and a very clear message to all Americans that you (our government, deemed to serve and protect) don't mind putting millions of citizens in peril of loosing everything in order to sustain their health, and, more than likely, lose their lives due to inadequate care.

VOTE NO and lets get this country moving forward; let's get this country the level of coverage that is prevalent in other countries, and stop us (the government) from looking so pathetically out of touch, and out of rank.

NO to the Graham/Cassidy Bill.

--
Donna

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sheila Ellis <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Amendment

This bill will cause irreparable harm to millions and actual death to thousands. This wealthy country owes it to its people to provide healthcare to all without limitations on pre-existing conditions or caps on payments. Instead of harming our people how about reigning in big pharma and out of control medical costs? Other industrialized nations have done it with great success. Look to their models to see how its done. You owe it not only to your constituents you claim to represent but to all of us.

Sheila Ellis

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lauri Tamberrino <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Foy, Arlyne (Warner)
Subject: Ava Tamberrino Story- Feedback on Graham/Cassidy Bill
Attachments: 20170301_181351.jpg

Ava was diagnosed with Tetralogy of Fallot with Pulmonary Atresia shortly after birth. Ava has had two heart surgeries, two diagnostic cardiac catheterizations and countless cardiology appointments. In her first year alone, Ava had over \$1 million in insurance claims. She will need more surgeries as she grows. Thankfully, we do not have to worry about maximum lifetime benefits due to the protections in place from the Affordable Care Act. It is crucial for Ava, and all the other heart kids in the U.S., that the current protections including no maximum lifetime benefits and coverage for pre-existing conditions stay in place at the federal level. Ava has a bright future ahead of her as long as she continues to have access to healthcare.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Katie Richards [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:23 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy is bad for my family

For all they say they want to support small businesses and their owners, the Republican Party certainly has a bad way of showing it. Graham Cassidy will put my family in a very difficult financial place passes. My husband and I have been self-employed for most of the last decade. We have two children and are very happy with the life that we lead because we are self-employed. I happened to be expecting our third child at a bit of a tight time in our business. As it stands now, we can plan ahead for what hour out-of-pocket max on charges will be for labor and delivery. Any major change in the insurance industry will certainly affect that in a negative way. If out-of-pocket costs for people who can barely afford to pay for their own insurance in the first place (we pay more than the cost of two mortgages on our insurance premium every month and still have extremely high deductible) skyrocket, this precious child I am carrying will nearly bankrupt our family. And we are fortunate to be able to afford this life. Many intelligent innovators cannot see past the mountain of providing health insurance for their families and never start businesses that would be a huge benefit to the American people.

Katherine Richards

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Your Healthcare Bill

How can you stand there and say that this bill isn't hurtful to the American People and you Mr Cassidy are basing this on Trumps feelings on it we all know he hasn't even read the bill even if he did he wouldn't understand it. Please don't push this bill to satisfy your big donors think about your constituents PLEASE

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Melissa Vader [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO

I have immediate family members who rely on Obamacare for health insurance. My brother recently lost his job. Without Obamacare, he would not have health insurance since he has pre-existing conditions including a heart murmur and depression/anxiety. IT IS NOT OKAY to take healthcare away from people because you have an issue with a former president's way of doing things. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you,

Melissa Vader

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Simon Glickman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham-Cassidy

This bill will cause untold suffering. No budget savings are worth this. Please vote no.

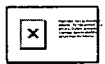
Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jana Martinez [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: "Do NOT repeal the ACA"

Please please please, for the LOVE OF YOUR COUNTRY...DO NOT REPEAL THE ACA!!!

Thank you,

Jana Martinez



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judith Beers [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:32 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: health care bill

Hi,

I am writing to say that I am opposed to the Cassidy Graham bill.

I recently had an emergency appendectomy and would have been financially devastated had I not had insurance via the ACA. I am extremely grateful and am very concerned that many people will be denied health care with the passage of this bill.

Please work in a bipartisan effort to improve the ACA for all of us, not repeal it.

Thank you,
Judith Beers
28806

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: S Zimmerman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare reform

My husband and I were staunch supporters of the ACA. Despite the fact that it has actually cost our family significantly more, we support reforming not removing it as recognize this as a part of the process of getting more universal coverage and moving away from a profit-motivated healthcare system. We believe that until profit is no longer a part of the system it will remain fundamentally flawed. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. This latest iteration has been ill conceived, not thought out, not exposed to either expert of public scrutiny and is a blatant attempt to seem to be doing something for political gain rather than for the betterment of anyone except members of Congress who - conveniently - have a healthcare program that is far better than most people can ever hope for.

It is time for radical reform - this is not is.

Sincerely

Stephanie Zimmerman

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jose Viera [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:31 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Esteem Senators of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am one of those examples of an inner city kid that did not gang bang, did not end up in jail, but rather despite all the obstacles placed in my way, and there were many, I am here today with not 1 but 2 college degrees. I am grateful for my service to this great nation via the military and I currently have an amazing career in IT. In all the debates I hear about ending the ACA, does anyone really actually listen to anyone of us here on Main street? You know, those folks you swore to represent? Well, we are those folks and I, from personal experience can tell you that repealing the ACA is the biggest mistake you could possibly make and I'll explain.

Last year I had to have several procedures. I endured a partial prostatectomy, a month after that I got severely ill and had an emergency appendectomy and the exams leading up to that revealed I had Kidney Cancer and not a month after that second surgery I had a Radical Nephrectomy. How did the ACA help?

- 1) I am a Contractor and do not have a Full time position with the protection of Health Care Insurance usually provided for said type of employment. The ACA changed that and the Agency I service now provides one. Not the greatest plan, but because of the ACA's minimum it is substantially better than the alternative.
- 2) Working for said employer affords me a good annual income. It is by no means guaranteed, but these days no employment is really guaranteed. However, I get a handsome 6 figure salary for my service and I pay my share of health care premiums much like everyone else. I also pay a 5 figure annual combined tax. I am able to continue to do so beyond the surgeries and recovery because I am highly skilled and I wasn't bankrupted as a result of the cost of those procedures and care.

Those two reasons alone should give you pause as to what it is you are trying to do. I have done my part, by doing exactly as I have been led to believe would be the key to self-sufficiency. However, we all depend on each other to some extent, for everything that touches upon the common good. Isn't the overall Health of the American people a common good? Can someone explain to me, how getting rid of the protections the ACA affords, allowing me to continue being productive and contribute to the common good, will be of benefit to me, my family and society in general, if the next procedure, post the ACA bankrupts me? How many of you understand that working in Financials, which I do, and a bad Credit Report, is not a good mix? Now what? So, you vote to strip someone like me, of my health care coverage protections, causing me to be in direct danger of losing everything, including my ability to pay taxes, because I may need another expensive procedure. How does that square with you? How can you legislate away protections that would basically ruin my life and that of millions of Americans and for what purpose? You darn well know what the consequences are for all of us and to decide to vote yes anyway would certainly reveal your true humanity and lack of financial understanding. The negative implications of a Yes vote is far more reaching than you can imagine. Vote no.

Regards,
Jose L Viera
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elana Feinberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:27 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill: please vote NO

Dear Members of the Finance Committee:

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare, as an independent contractor. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have a family history of cancer, and a pre-existing condition relating to my back. If this bill passes, I will most certainly lose my insurance or it will be prohibitively expensive. I definitely do not qualify for Medicaid. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you!

Elana Feinberg

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pat Buck [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:32 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham-Cassidy

I am one of three retirement-age sisters living in Tennessee. Each of us has a grown child with a pre-existing condition and not a lot of money. (My other child also has a pre-existing condition but has employer-provided health insurance but would be in similar trouble if she lost it.) Two of our kids literally had their lives saved by the ACA, which allowed them to be diagnosed and treated. Graham-Cassidy would make their insurance and medications unaffordable. I don't understand how anyone elected to serve the American people could contemplate such a cruel change to our system. It's as if they want to punish anyone who is not wealthy. Apparently, the only Americans they want to take care of are their wealthy donors.

--

Pat B.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Armen Varteressian [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Trump - please defeat this bill

In their eagerness to obliterate any vestige of the last President's accomplishments, the Trump administration has made it a priority to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. And yet each successive replacement they propose is worse for the American people than the last. Although the CBO has not yet issued an objective assessment, it is estimated that over 30 million people will LOSE health insurance under Graham-Cassidy.

Why is it so difficult for the administration to work in a bipartisan fashion to improve the ACA? Why must they do everything in their power to cripple the ACA and then criticize it for not working?

The American people want fair, affordable, and available health insurance. Somehow every 1st world nation has this figured out except the United States. What is wrong with us? We should be bright enough and innovative enough to lead the world in health care, yet the best we can come up with is "non-legislation" like Graham-Cassidy.

I ask each and every member of Congress to oppose this farce of an attempt at "legislation." And I will work as hard as humanly possible to unseat every politician who votes in favor. The attention span of the American public is not as short as Congress seems to think it is. And 2018 will be here before you know it.

Armen Varteressian
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Helen Ha [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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.

Helen Hays
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Oregon City, Oregon 97045

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathryn Yearsley [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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.

Kathryn Yearsley
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Portland, Oregon 97211

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Robertson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: comment on Graham-Cassidy bill

I'm writing to urge you NOT to stop your attempts to reduce/alter/decimate the Affordable Healthcare Act in any way.

The Graham-Cassidy bill would create chaos in our medical systems, ultimately throwing millions of people off of health care. People need Medicaid and Medicare to be strengthened, not damaged by transferring monies into state block grants that will translate in less coverage overall.

I have close family members who depend on Medicaid. One has just had a baby that is currently in NICU and would certainly not have coverage without Medicaid. Medicare coverage needs to be improved, if anything - it is threadbare as it is, given that vision and dental coverage is negligible without having to fork over for a supplement plan.

This bill's biggest accomplishment would be a huge transfer of money that would benefit health insurance companies, not people who need health care.

Constituents and organizations like the AMA and AARP have spoken. Please stop trying to destroy a law that is working better than anything the Senate (or House) has come up with!

Barbara Robertson
Portland, Oregon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

To the United States Senate:

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill, and I hope that all of you will too. It is reckless to vote on a bill that will impact the lives of so many and the economy of the United States before the bill has been fully vetted. Although Republicans may hold the majority in Congress, the majority of the American people do not want to see this bill pass. Nor do ANY of the health care or insurance organizations. Those who vote for the bill are putting party above the welfare of United States citizens. Please follow the example of courageous John McCain and vote what your consciences are surely telling yo is right. Vote NO.

Susan Songer
Portland, Oregon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marilyn Sewell [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: 'George Crandall'
Subject: No to Graham Cassidy Bill

Friends:

I think it would be fiscally and morally unconscionable to pass the Graham Cassidy Bill, which has no CBO score—and offers little opportunity to debate—

(Rev. Dr.) Marilyn Sewell,
Minister Emerit [REDACTED], OR

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Portland, OR 97239

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sally B [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy

Hello -

I am writing as a concerned citizen about the Graham/Cassidy bill. As someone who has had their taxes increased due to the ACA, I want you to know that I STILL support healthcare access for ALL Americans. I am willing to pay my part to make sure that people don't die because of lack of access or overwhelming financial burdens. We cannot call ourselves the greatest nation while people are sick and dying because they can't afford healthcare. This is where the people should always come before profit.

Furthermore, I find it reckless and irresponsible to force a vote on this bill before a complete CBO analysis has been completed and shared with the American people. Decisions that affect millions and one sixth of our economy should not be politically motivated. We are talking about people's lives and livelihoods. When every major medical group comes out in opposition to a bill, shouldn't we listen? We need public hearings, town halls and information campaigns, not back ally deal making.

Now is not the time for convenience. It's time to do the right thing. This is how you make America great again.

Thank you,
Sally Blatner
Portland, Oregon 97212

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: emily_park32@hotmail.com [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy ACA repeal effort

To whom it may concern:

As you know millions of Americans rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I believe that healthcare is a right, not a privilege afforded to those who already have financial security. This bill does absolutely nothing to help the majority of Americans. If the bill is passed people will suffer and die because of it. The wealthy elite do not deserve a tax break at the cost of human suffering. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Emily Park
Portland, Oregon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Brooke Cedros [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham/Cassidy Bill

As a taxpaying citizen, I find it grossly irresponsible to push through a bill that affects a vast amount of the population without adequate review, a CBO rating and input from all sides.

It's also very obvious that this bill is politically motivated and not at all concerned with making average American lives better.

This bill looks to be only a vanity project that will bring only tax breaks to the people that do not need tax breaks and will decimate Americans' ability to have affordable healthcare.

Please allow for the necessary debate that such an important bill needs and the American people deserve.

Sincerely,
Brooke Cedros
Portland, Oregon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Cook [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony re: Graham-Cassidy hearing

To Whom It May Concern:

My partner and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare, without which not only would our quality of life suffer dramatically, but our ability to work hard and contribute to the wellbeing of our local communities and in the capacity of our service and care-focused jobs. These things trickle outward at outstanding rates. For the sake of my small family as much as my community and the larger nation surrounding me, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, *not* repeal it. These issues connect all of us, and it is our responsibility, and the greater responsibility of those in power, to ensure universal access to good health. There are so many things that we don't have control over in this life; let's not needlessly and catastrophically add to that pile.

Sincerely,

Sarah Cunningham
The Dalles, OR 97058

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Andra Bobbitt [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fix the ACA do not repeal it-NO Graham-Cassidy

To Whom It May Concern,

My family, as well as most Americans, rely upon affordable and quality healthcare. That is why I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My brother was injured in a the workplace in his early twenties and could not obtain health insurance with his pre-existing back & nerve injuries. The ACA at least provided affordable insurance until he reaches Medicaid in another 8 years (yes, he's now 54).

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

Sincerely,
Andra Bobbitt
Seal Rock, Oregon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Kislingbury Anderson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing

My family members, friends and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with affordable healthcare

i
s being able to launch my career in journalism because I was allowed to stay on my parents' health insurance until age 26. I was also able to take responsibility for my own reproductive health by having no-cost birth control options. Additionally, affordable healthcare has helped my father, who had to have open heart surgery to replace his mitral valve last year and friends who have had to battle diseases such as leukemia and depression as young people.

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

Sincerely,

Lisa K. Anderson

Portland, OR

--

Lisa Kislingbury Anderson

Website [REDACTED]

Blog [REDACTED]

Cell [REDACTED]



"Wherever you go, no matter what the weather, always bring your own sunshine." – Anthony J. D'Angelo

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chris & Dede Helmsworth [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy "health care" bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare, which we purchase individually. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband and I made plans to retire after the ACA was passed because we were assured of being able to purchase quality, affordable healthcare without concern for pre-existing conditions. We won't be eligible for Medicare for another 6 years. One of our adult children has a mental illness and we also purchase insurance for him. When he was undiagnosed and untreated, he suffered a psychotic episode and went to jail. He was fortunate to have a family to advocate for him and support him emotionally and financially. We're worried we won't be able to afford coverage and medications for him if the Graham- Cassidy bill passes. With treatment and medication he's able to be a healthy, productive, taxpaying member of society rather than on disability and/or Medicaid. Please don't take away his dignity along with his health care. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Debora Helmsworth

Portland, Oregon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sashka Warner [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to GC 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,
Sashka Warner
Eugene, OR

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Merri Baehr Whipps [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Testimony for Graham-Cassidy Hearing

Dear Legislators,

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband is fortunate to have federally-funded health care through the VA, and we have friends who could not get affordable health care coverage until the ACA was in place. I can personally see how positive it would be for more, ALL, people in our community to have similar health care. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to **improve the ACA, not repeal it.**

Sincerely,

Merri Whipps

Portland, Oregon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pat Kight [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham-Cassidy bill: PLEASE REJECT THIS BILL

Health care should not be a partisan issue, and stripping millions of Americans of the care they need should not be a goal of this Congress.

Lives depend on Congress rejecting this bill as you have its predecessors. People in some states are already being notified that should the bill pass, their premiums will rise to the point where many will have to choose between their health and the health of their families, and food or shelter.

This is shameful. I join millions of other Americans in urging you to kill the bill and get on with *improving* American health care, not destroying it.

(I should, perhaps, note that I am one of the relatively few Americans fortunate enough to have a pension and post-retirement health plan through my former employer. I'll be OK. Far too many of my neighbors will not.)

-- Patricia Kight

[REDACTED]
Albany, Oregon.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jaeger Monster [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Stephanie Edwards
Portland, OR

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robert [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose Graham Cassidy

If this bill became law it would decimate health care for millions. It would destroy financial support for good health care. The only GOOD I see coming out of this bill is it will destroy the Republican Party.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Larson
Eugene, Oregon

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robin Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill and the future of American healthcare

Dear Committee members,

I recently heard that John McCain has said that he will vote no on the Graham-Cassidy bill. This is a huge relief to me and I'm sure to many other Americans who suffer with a chronic and difficult and expensive to treat disease (in my case Multiple Sclerosis).

I hope that you will continue to shut down this really bad and dangerous bill. I also hope that you will then turn to fixing the ACA so it can insure more Americans better, rather than trying to dismantle this truly remarkable piece of legislation.

Thank you for your time,
Robin Johnson
Portland, OR

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Andrew Stone <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy comments
Attachments: Graham-Cassidy comments.pdf

Attached as PDF:

Title Of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017

Full Name: Andrew M Stone

Address: 5817 SE Lafayette, OR 97206

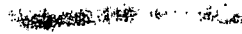
The Affordable Care Act is a step in the right direction. I support shared taxes, fees, subsidies to provide health care for all as a right. I support the mandates in the Act. I have numerous friends who have had cancer, inherited diseases, or other so called pre-existing conditions that are part of being human.

Graham-Cassidy is a step in the wrong direction. It would re-segregate health care by class. Without CBO data we have no idea how bad it would be. But it's clear who would suffer.

We currently still have health care rationing by economic class. Basic food, water, and health care are not a cudgel to be held over poor people and their children for some perceived failing. That is immoral and archaic. It does not work. Science (brain science, nutrition and health, studies of achievement) show access to basic needs is the largest determinant of adult productivity.

Health care is an investment in our whole country's future that should be made by all. Public education is the same. If the system is not producing the desired outcomes throwing out the

system and putting in an every family for themselves does NOT mean poor and sick people will work harder. Because they will not be able to do so. Plain and simple. They will die.



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.

The party of right to life should do better.

Andrew Stone


Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lily [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. I live in a community that has members who depend 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.

The Graham-Cassidy bill:

- "...violates the precept of 'first do no harm' and 'would result in millions of Americans losing their health insurance coverage." American Medical Association
- Is "the worst healthcare bill yet." – American Nurses Association.
- "...would erode key protections for patients and consumers." – American Hospital Association.
- Has not been subjected to even minimal review. The "process [in the Senate] is just as bad as the substance. ... Most Americans wouldn't buy a used car with this little info." – AARP.
- Will "weaken access to the care Americans need and deserve." – American Heart Association, jointly with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, the American Diabetes and Lung associations, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the March of Dimes and others.

You cannot vote for this bill and claim to represent the people.

Sincerely,

Lillian Copenagle

Portland, OR 97217

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Doris Ennis [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:55 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.

Doris Ennis

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Portland, Oregon 97216

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tom Grauman [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Tom Grauman
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Talent, 97540

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Thomas Holley <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:01 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.

Thomas Holley
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Portland, Oregon 97230-1802

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laurie Swenson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:04 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.

Laurie Swenson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Bend , Oregon 97702

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stephen Oder [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:04 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.

Stephen Oder

[REDACTED]
Corvallis, Oregon 97330

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Donnelly <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:46 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 providing healthcare to 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 only is an outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

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

Linda Donnelly

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
SALEM, Oregon 97301

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Thomas Holley [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I, and my wife rely on quality health care. Because of this we both oppose the Graham Cassidy bill. We are both over 65 and I am disabled. This bill would be devastating for us as we could no longer be able to afford health coverage. I would like to see improvements made to the ACA, not a repeal of it.

Sincerely,
Thomas Holley
Portland, OR

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christina Lehrich [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

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

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.

James R. Lehrich, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Hancharik [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:23 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 is heartless, appalling, and I would never vote for anyone who supported this bill !

Carol Hancharik

15135
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anthony P Lopez [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: HEALTHCARE BILL

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

As a physician who cares deeply about the ability of America's patients to access the care they need, I write in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill to replace the ACA. This bill is 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.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Morse [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No Graham Cassidy!

Bipartisan bill only.

Barbara Morse

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michael Broussard [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Please do not Allow a vote on this horrendous bill that will affect 1/6th of the US economy. It is a mean-spirited bill that is politically motivated that is not bi-partisan.

I beg you because I have pre-existing conditions and wilt survive if this bill is passed.

Sincerely,

Michael Broussard

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Meryl Salzinger [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment on Graham Cassidy bill

This new Graham Cassidy healthcare bill is an abomination. It will kick millions of people off healthcare while putting the rest who manage to get a plan at the mercy of shrinking state budgets. It also will disallow those w pre-existing conditions. And it will shrink Medicaid at the expense of our most vulnerable populations. Plus it is beyond outrageous that they are asking for a vote before the confessional budget office makes their report. This MUST not pass!

Meryl Salzinger

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sandra Rogers [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am a 49-year-old woman. I have numerous chronic conditions including two that are considered to be among the most painful and debilitating--Migraine and Rheumatoid Arthritis.

I have previously been denied health insurance due to my diagnosis of Migraine (even before I developed RA). It is only thanks to the ACA that I was able to get insurance coverage, first private insurance at my expense, then later MediCal when our finances took a turn for the worse.

I spent more than two decades working as a caregiver for adults with disabilities. Now the RA makes that impossible, and severely limits my ability to do many other forms of work as well. I am not fully incapacitated, making me ineligible for disability, yet I am limited enough that finding employment is a significant challenge. I am currently self-employed but making poverty-level income. Thanks to the ACA I can get MediCal though I have no children.

Without MediCal I could not afford visit my doctors or pay for any of my prescription medications and treatments. Without them, I experience an average of 17 days/month of migraines which cannot be remedied with OTC medications. These severe migraines can leave me bed-ridden, sometimes for days or even a week at a stretch. With the preventive prescription medications I experience an average of 8 migraine days per month, with the migraines being less severe, and the abortive prescription medications typically stop those. My prescription medications for RA help slow the progression of the damage to my joints and reduce the pain so i can function and engage in day-to-day activities (including work). Without these vital medications I would be incapacitated most days.

Please vote against the Graham-Cassidy Bill. It would be devastating to me and others like me.

Sandra L. Drescher

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Danielle Dowers [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham Cassidy

Dear Senators,

As a citizen, a voter, and a taxpayer, I urge you to please vote NO on the Graham Cassidy bill. This bill will 1) Take healthcare away from 30 million Americans. 2) Make healthcare inaccessible to people with "preexisting conditions, resulting in suffering and deaths.

Doctors are against it. Patients are against it. All 50 Medicaid directors are against it. The only people to benefit are the very few very wealthy greedy GOP donors who don't need any more tax cuts. They have good healthcare because they can buy it. You have good healthcare because we the taxpayers buy it for you.

The blood will be on your hands. Do the right thing and vote NO.

Thank you.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anthony P Lopez <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL

PLEASE DO NOT PASS THIS BILL!

AS A PHYSICIAN, I BELIEVE YOU WILL BE CAUSING A HUGE DISRUPTION AND LOSS OF COVERAGE FOR MILLIONS OF PEOPLE IN THE US.

ANTHONY LOPEZ, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jason Weinlein [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on 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. It is your responsibility to NOT do this to the American People!

Regards
Jason Weinlein

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Heather Cherry [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Graham-Cassidy, YES on universal comprehensive coverage. Improve the ACA. Medicare for All option!

Every other industrialized nation in the world has universal comprehensive health coverage. We must do the same. Insurance must cost the same for everyone, and we should ALL, and I mean ALL be covered, with full coverage - at minimum the 10 areas covered under the ACA, with no lifetime caps, and prescription drug coverage.

Health coverage is one of the things, like policing and National Security, that the federal government should do. It is why we pay taxes. I support Medicare for ALL - the rich can always choose to buy additional fancier care, but we all should have coverage equal to the ACA, and ideally, better.

and COVER ABORTION and DENTAL.

If at least 60 votes are required to improve the ACA, then maybe we can actually improve medical insurance. Graham-Cassidy is a travesty. Shame, shame on anyone who supports it!

On a personal note, I have Type 1 diabetes, and without protection for people who have medical conditions, I will never be able to buy insurance, and will have to try to get insulin at the emergency room. Insulin is \$300 to \$400 per vial! I have employment-based insurance right now - I am insured for the first time in my entire life - but as I saw when my co-worker became sick with cancer, once one is too sick to work, coverage terminates. I would just - die. I could not pay COBRA and rent.

Medicare for all! NO on Graham-Cassidy. Both men should be shunned for suggesting such a thing.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Ridley [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no!

Please do not support this latest attempt to set back the insurance coverage for millions of Americans.

You can't pass this measure without the full CBO report - unconscionable

Barbara Ridley
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ellen Stang [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:19 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 the bill would jeopardize coverage and consumer protections, and would arguably be more disruptive to the health care delivery system than previous bills. Specifically:

- * The funding decreases will put downward pressure on Medicaid rates;
- * Provider assessment programs will be jeopardized, due to the reduction in maximum provider tax rates;
- * PA will likely find it difficult to support Medicaid expansion to the same extent that it does today, and potentially have difficulty in maintain the Medicaid program as it is currently structured (leading to more uncompensated care);
- * The proposal will destabilize the individual market and lead to an increase in the uninsured, and subsequently increase uncompensated care (due to the elimination of the individual and employer mandates, and elimination of cost-sharing reductions); and
- * There is no funding to support coverage after 2026.

This is BAD for PA children and bad for this country. This bill is unacceptable and I hope you will veto it.
Ellen Stang MD, pediatrician

Ellen Stang

19462
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Avi Rose [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senators,

I'm writing to express my strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy proposal, which your committee is apparently considering on Monday. I urge you to vote against the proposal for many reasons, but especially since you're the finance committee, it seems odd and highly irresponsible to approve a proposal without knowing its financial implications.

Thank you for your consideration,

Andrew Rose

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alethea Lai [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

JUST NO...No bill until Congress can grow up and work *together* towards a bipartisan bill that represents the will of the American people and not just their own self serving egos.

Thank you,
Alethea Lai

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: starwulf [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: stop the BS

We don't need more BS from our government. We need Universal health care like sane enlightened countries have who care about their people. If you keep up the BS then what some have said, the people will come for the plutocrats and bring real and lasting change.

Universal Health Care today!

Richard Boettner

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Erin Miller [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Medicaid comment--U.S. Senate Finance hearing 9/25/17
Attachments: Medicaid-testimony.doc

Please vote no on the Graham-Cassidy bill, and vote no on any bill that cuts, caps, or block grants Medicaid.

My name is Erin Miller. I'm thirty-two years old and I'm on the autism spectrum. I was five years old when Americans with Disabilities act came out. So I've never known a time when it was legal to exclude me from school, work, and the community at large. As one of the first people with disabilities out and about, I scraped through school. Afraid that asking questions in my education was an inconvenience to my community.

As a little girl, I never saw anyone who used Alternative Augmentative Communication(AAC) to speak for them. Or anyone who had significant medical needs in same room as those without disabilities. The inclusion movement in schools that brought us out of the backroom, and into the mainstream would not come until I was much older. And I am still waiting for inclusion in my community as an adult. For indeed, much of the world still thinks of people with my disability in terms of toddler-age children for who we now have baseline (Medicaid funded) supports 30 years later. And only in the last 10 years have my community begin to think of us growing into adults. But the progress we did make in the last 27 years was because *the law* gave a baseline for morality.

The healthcare bill you are voting on today is as much as sign post for who we are as a nation as ADA was then. Do not dare to claim that this bill is about Barack Obama. Whoever sits in the Whitehouse, people with disabilities want to work and play in our communities. And for many of us, Medicaid helps us do so in cost-effective manner. Know that with your vote, you also are voting on whether you see us as citizens who want to contribute, or whether you see us as takers, liars,and/or children who don't know any better. So vote no on segregation. Vote no on keeping people dependent and out of the workplace. Vote no on spending more money and getting less life. Vote no on any bill that cuts, caps, or block grants Medicaid.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Edie De Soto [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Senate Finance Committee:

I believe that the passing of the Graham Cassidy proposal regarding Health Care is an abomination and that hundreds of thousands of tax-paying Americans would suffer if this proposal was passed. It appears that the welfare and health of those that are middle-class or less fortunate than those who are behind this proposal means nothing to the Republican party. It is unfortunate that the GOP, which was the party of my parents and grandparents, has so eroded that there is nothing left of the Grand Old Party of our ancestors. I am a retired American on a fixed income, but one who faithfully paid taxes and into the Social Security system for 52 years, is now being threatened with no or sub-standard health care, the cost of which would sink me into the poverty level. My heart is broken by the actions of some who are undermining all the freedoms and benefits that our parents and grandparents and great grandparents fought so hard to attain is in jeopardy of being taken away from all of us.

No matter your political affiliation, the Senate Finance Committee must do the right thing by the American people who elected them.

Sincerely,
Edith De Soto

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sandy [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Personal testimony

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, irresponsibly politicized by being nicknamed Obamacare, is the result of an effort in the making for well over 50 years, by both Republican and Democratic presidents. No one in their right mind claims it's perfect. Nonetheless, in my family alone, it has made it possible for three young people in their 20s and 30s, who are very productive members of society, to survive cancers by getting the treatments they desperately need, but cannot independently afford, partially covered by insurance. In addition, my husband and I are currently able to afford our Medicare premiums. This would be much more difficult under many of the plans proposed by the current Congress. By giving block grants to the states, Graham-Cassidy approach opens the door for 50 different variations of poor management of desperately needed healthcare funds. Kansas is an example of how Republican executive and legislative leadership can disregard the needs of constituents and make ruthlessly inappropriate and insensitive decisions about healthcare funding. Often disguised in the verbiage of "fiscal responsibility," in Kansas no such benefit to the general constituency was gained by decreasing healthcare support to tens of thousands of Kansans. Why would we think block grants to states, many of which are in Republican control similar to that Kansas has been trying to endure, would be used in ways that benefit most constituents, rather than manipulated for narrowly-focused gains sought by groups such as ALEC or Americans for Prosperity.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: erik tarloff [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senators ---

I am writing to urge you in the strongest conceivable terms to vote against the Graham-Cassidy Health Care (of more appropriately, "Health Care") bill. It is an appallingly bad bill, malevolent in intent, hastily and inexpertly drafted, inadequately scored and vetted, whose primary effect --- and quite possibly primary purpose --- is to deprive literally millions of Americans of effective, long-term health insurance. Its only justification is to save Majority Leader McConnell's face.

I have heard the lies offered in its defense and they are not convincing. Elastic definitions of EHBs, potential life-time caps, no-limit on premiums and deductibles, the sunseting of Medicaid...these are wholly unacceptable. They are also massively unpopular. Americans have caught on to what the bill actually does and they quite justifiably have come to hate it.

Please do us a favor and vote against. You will also be doing yourselves a favor, because this bill is electoral poison. No cash from the Mercers and the Kochs will compensate for having a yes vote recorded against your names.

Yours,
Erik Tarloff

--
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Douglas E. Miles [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Hearing Record

I would like to submit the following list of organization that are opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill for the record:

AARP
ALS Association
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network American College of Physicians American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists American Diabetes Association American Heart Association American Hospital Association American Lung Association American Medical Association American Nurses Association American Osteopathic Association American Psychiatric Association America's Essential Hospitals America's Health Insurance Plans Arthritis Foundation Association of Community Affiliated Plans Blue Cross Blue Shield Association Catholic Health Association Children's Hospital Association Coalition to Stop Opioid Overdose Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Consumers Union Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Family Voices Federation of American Hospitals Greater New York Hospital Association JDRF Jimmy Kimmel Kaiser Permanente Kansas Hospital Association Lutheran Services in America March of Dimes Medicaid Directors from all 50 states National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship National Health Council National Multiple Sclerosis Society National Organization for Rare Diseases The Arc The School Superintendents Association and 70+ Groups Volunteers of America WomenHeart

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: donna wallerstein [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

As a healthcare provider, I adamantly oppose this bill. Expansion of Medicaid has allowed me to serve more patients and provide cutting edge genetic testing to more people than ever before. It is unconscionable that insurance companies earn billions and send representatives to talk to healthcare providers about "stewardship". Stewardship is not preventing people from getting healthcare while funneling massive profits to shareholders. My patients deserve far better than this attempt to strip away their ability to access the same healthcare that you and I take for granted. Do the right thing - not the politically or financially right thing.

Donna Wallerstein
Licensed and Certified Genetic Counselor

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beryl Solla [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill Hearing

Hello,

I am writing to encourage you to vote NO on the Graham Cassidy Bill. It is self interest for sure but I would also like my fellow Americans to be able survive a serious illness and not take their families into financial ruin or leave the taxpayers with a huge unpaid debt.

I was diagnosed with Myelodysplastic Syndrome around the time Obamacare came into law. Before the law I assumed my insurance company would drop me when they saw the treatment plan. (Bone marrow transplant). Because of Obamacare, they didn't. I had the transplant and recovered. I returned to work and have been a full-time teacher since then. I recently relapsed and am on chemo. I'm hoping to avoid another transplant but that may be in the cards. Unless you push through this heartless bill. In that case I will decline until I die. I have worked since I was 16 and have been a good, tax paying American. I am not fabulously wealthy and can not afford chemo treatments without the benefit of good health insurance. I have a little money saved, probably enough to pay out of pocket for a month or two and then I would have to decide between leaving my husband and family destitute or just letting the disease kill me. This is a horrendous decision that I should never have to make. Me and 32 million other people and millions of Americans who have a fatal disease that they don't know about yet. I don't understand the cruelty that would motivate a so called public servant to allow it's citizens to unnecessarily face a lingering, painful death when there are drugs and protocols that would save them. What world is worth insuring corporate medical profits over the lives of own people.

Please don't condemn me and tens of millions to death. I want to see my Grandson grow up and help pay for his college. I want to continue teaching and helping our young people grow into their future.

Do not support this unGodly bill.

Beryl Solla

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Brian Greene [redacted] <[redacted]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Bipartisan Healthcare Legislation

Please make Bipartisan Healthcare Legislation happen due to its critical importance for all Americans.

Thanks,

-Brian Greene

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Herrick, Cynthia <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

I am appalled that the Graham-Cassidy bill is currently under consideration in the Senate. It does not address some of the critical concerns in our health care system today (improving efficiency and quality) and will bankrupt states who do not have the infrastructure to develop systems to provide quality, affordable healthcare to all. Moreover, it will severely damage the Medicaid program which has provided care to our most vulnerable population for over 50 years. All 50 state Medicaid directors and most major physician organizations and patient advocacy groups oppose this legislation - I implore you to listen to them.

As an endocrinologist, I see how Medicaid benefits my patients, particularly those with diabetes. Contrary to current political rhetoric, diabetes is not a choice, but it is manageable with the right support. Through Medicaid, a young man living in rural Missouri with autism and diabetes gets transportation to doctors' appointments, special education services that allowed him to graduate, and medications that will help him avoid amputations and kidney failure in his forties. A woman with Type 1 diabetes, a condition that is fatal without access to insulin, can control her disease in pregnancy and have a healthy baby. Without insulin, she would be hospitalized with life threatening complications and her baby would likely require an intensive care stay as well. Investing in keeping people healthy makes more sense for the patient, healthcare system, and society. Missouri already limits Medicaid to the very sickest and lowest income patients. There isn't any more room to cut.

The Senate wants to pass cuts without public hearings, but the damage will not stay hidden. Our most vulnerable neighbors - children, pregnant women, people with disabilities, and older adults - will lose health care. Families will suffer financial devastation, more people will die of treatable conditions, and healthcare will cost more if Congress doesn't support programs that meet healthcare needs to prevent hospital stays and devastating complications.

Please oppose the Graham-Cassidy legislation and support bipartisan efforts to improve the Affordable Care Act.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Herrick, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism and Lipid Research

[REDACTED]
Clinical Office [REDACTED]
Administrative Office [REDACTED]

The materials in this email are private and may contain Protected Health Information. If you are not the intended recipient, be advised that any unauthorized use, disclosure, copying, distribution or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please immediately notify the sender via return email at [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joseph Greenberg [REDACTED] n>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

32 million Americans are at risk of suffering the same debt and turmoil that came to me when my state (Texas) would not stand up to Blue Cross after it stopped paying for my brain tumor surgery, while i was still in intensive care.

My cost: \$253,000; inability to get health insurance for 4 years because of pre-existing condition until ACA; destruction of excellent credit rating; 7 years of destitution; having to return to work after only 2 months to earn money to eat and pay the rent.

This is the fate you will doom millions of your constituents if you pass Graham Cassidy. If you believe those voters will not hold you accountable during your reelection, you are as out of touch as most Americans now believe. No amount of Koch Brothers funding will save your careers, reputations or fate at the hand of historians.

Do your duty as public servants: reject Graham Cassidy

Sent from Joe Greenberg's iPhone6

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Eck [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GrahamCassidy Bill

This bill will hurt millions of people. I am begging you to vote NO on GrahamCassidy. I know you all know, or have been told, of someone who will lose their life if this bill is passed. Please put People above Party. Save our lives. Vote No.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Larry Ragent <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Keep and improve the ACA

Please do all you can to retain the ACA . My 27 year old son has relied on it for coverage that is comprehensive and affordable.

Don't pass the Graham- Cassidy bill.

Thanks,

Larry Ragent

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: susanfay67 [REDACTED] m>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham - Cassidy Bill

Dear Senate finance.

I don't think you realize the numbers and people you will impact with this ridiculous bill. If it weren't so dire for so many people, your push to get the bill through with no bi-partisan assistance would be laughable. This is a sorry excuse for replacing Obamacare.

As someone who did Medicaid budgets for the State of Nebraska, you need to become educated.

Sincerely,
Susan Fay Mitchell

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Cramer [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

My family and many of my friends rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Therefore I completely oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. This bill destroys any faith I have had in the Senate's ability to do what is best for the country. I am happy that Senator McCain has voiced that he cannot support this bill. He at least has the welfare of our citizens uppermost in his mind.

I would welcome a bipartisan Congressional effort to improved the ACA. I am against any repeal of this legislation.

Sincerely yours,

Mary M Cramer

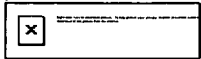
Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kyle Shepard [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH comment

Please do NOT pass this bill. It is a disaster for America.
Kyle Shepard

.....
Kyle Shepard

[REDACTED]



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Dear Senators, I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have a pre-existing deteriorating bone disease which requires very expensive medication. The current ACA allows me to afford this medicine in a quest for a better quality of life. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Berta Nason

Helena, Montana

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: ANN GLUCK [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:00 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 the process is too fast. It has not been vetted by the CBO and all previous bills have penalized millions of people who depended on the ACA for their health care. You are trying to push this thing through with one small hearing and no vetting, and it will impact on 1/5 of the economy, not to mention tens of millions of people. I am requesting that you return to the bipartisan process that was begun after July of shoring up the insurance markets and fixing the flaws in the ACA.

ANN GLUCK

19038
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Milano <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:00 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
....

Carol Milano

18955
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathleen VanGorder [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Attn: Senate Finance Committee- Statement for the Record- Graham-Cassidy Hearing- Sept 25, 2017

Good Morning,

I will keep this brief, as I hope you have many thousands of emails with stories similar to mine that will help all involved understand the negative impact passage of the Graham-Cassidy bill will have on many people, especially those with pre-existing conditions.

My 25-year-old daughter, Bethany VanGorder is one of them. She was diagnosed with Type-1 Diabetes at age 7. This is not a lifestyle disease, but an auto-immune disease, which we had no family history of. We/she have spent the past 18 years not only managing the disease, but also the challenge of paying for her essential medications and care. She takes good care of herself to avoid life-threatening complications of not appropriately managing her blood sugar levels.

Fast forward to today, where Bethany is currently starting her third year of veterinary school at The University of Glasgow in SCOTLAND, where she has better, more affordable access to care and essential medications, **EVEN THOUGH SHE IS NOT A CITIZEN!** I hope, once she completes her veterinary studies and graduates in 2020, that I will not have to look her in the eye, and tell her that she will be better off staying and living in Scotland; as her country, **THIS COUNTRY**, does not see fit to provide equal access to medical care for all of its citizens, especially those with pre-existing conditions. How will she pay off her student loans, **AND** pay for the lifetime of medical supplies, medication and supportive care that she will need?

My family has experienced first hand what turning over health insurance decisions to the states has caused. Our inept, embarrassing Governor, Paul LePage, has consistently refused to expand Medicaid, which would have provided access to medical care for our twenty-something, college-educated sons, while they were participating in internships and/or lower-paying seasonal jobs, as they begin their career journeys.

We have just had to remortgage our very small, modest home, at age 60, in order to help catch up with medical debt, and so that we can possibly contribute towards college tuition for our other children. And this makes us some of the lucky ones, who actually have a house to remortgage, and the possibility of a college education for our kids.

Access to Medical Care is a **RIGHT**, and an **INVESTMENT** in healthy, productive citizens. The rest of the developed world understands and provides that. How unfortunate for all of us, that our politicians continue to **PLAY** politics with our health. **SHAME ON THEM.**

Sincerely, Kathy VanGorder

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joseph Goodrich <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: please say no to Graham/Cassidy bill...

Thirty-two million Americans could lose coverage, there are radical changes to Medicaid and diminished funding for every state, and it's getting 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.

Many thanks!

Joe Goodrich

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Harold Love <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:55 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it is a mean-spirited, reprehensible piece of legislation that will remove many of our most vulnerable citizens from Medicaid by undoing Medicaid expansion. Repealing the ACA isn't necessary. Fixing certain elements makes sense but this bill is too destructive.

Harold Love

15206
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: cheri snyder [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Greetings,

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

I know first hand how a catastrophic illness can financially ruin a household in a very short amount of time. When my husband went into kidney failure, he was hospitalized several times prior to being stabilized and getting on dialysis. Even though we are insured thru my husbands employer our medical copays added up very quickly, our copay for peritoneal dialysis alone was \$100.00 per day. Back in 1972 our republican president, Richard Nixon signed a bill allowing medicare to cover any patient with kidney failure. Without this program my husband and many others would either be dead or flat broke without this compassionate program. What I and most Americans would like to see is a bipartisan congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. I beg of all of you to look at this issue with compassion and empathy.

Please take note of what is happening all around the county this weekend and listen to the majority of Americans on this issue.

Thank you,

Cheri Snyder

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shari Neece [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

To the people making laws about our futures:

Please, please reject the inhumane Graham-Cassidy health "care" bill. It will literally leave thousands and thousands of people without medical care. The only option for these folks to get care will be the ER. And don't we pay for that anyway?

One question: can one receive chemotherapy and dialysis at an Emergency Room?

Please reject this bill.

~Shari Neece

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robert Young [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:50 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: David Elin
Subject: Statement on Graham-Cassidy to SCF

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

As someone who an adult child with cystic fibrosis (my son Sean, age 19), the current health care debate in Washington is personal to me. Cystic Fibrosis (CF) is chronic disease that effects the lungs and digestive tract, leading to frequent lung infections and other complications. When my son was first diagnosed, he was given a life expectancy of only 31. The current life expectancy for someone with CF is about 40 years. In the 17 years that my son has lived with the disease, he has gained at least another 10+ years of his life. This is due to the wonders of modern science and the expect care he receives from his accredited CF clinic.

While we were given many dire statistics about my son the morning of his diagnosis, we were also given an extraordinary amount of hope. Our doctor told us that amazing things were coming down the CF therapeutic drug pipeline and the best gift we could give our son was to talk openly and optimistically about his future. I am happy and relieved to know that he was absolutely right. Sean went home the morning he was diagnosed with only 2 medicines to treat just the symptoms of his disease - albuterol to help open up his airways and enzymes to help him digest his food. Today Sean takes 13 different medications: swallowing up to 40 pills, inhaling 5 others through a nebulizer and injecting himself with two types of insulin throughout the day. While this might seem like a lot of medication (and you wouldn't be wrong), we are grateful for every pill, vial, capsule and injection because they help keep our son alive.

As you can imagine, all of these medications come with a steep price tag - about \$400,000 a year to be exact. More drugs are currently being developed to further target the genetic makeup of cystic fibrosis and essentially "controlling" his disease. It is our hope to one day treat CF similar to diabetes in the near future; the ultimate goal would be complete cure. The best and brightest minds in science have looked me in the eye and told me this is possible: The CEO of Vertex, the CEO of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and even President Obama. Two years ago, my son and I were fortunate enough to be invited by the White House to attend the Precision Medicine Initiative. It was very clear to me that this great nation of ours has all the tools in our hands to cure diseases like cystic fibrosis, cancer, diabetes, ALS, heart disease and more; we simply need more time and money to get up there. Treating diseases is not cheap, but it is the last uncharted territory of humanity. We have explored every inch of this planet, sailed it's seven seas, and even explored the once unthinkable realms of outer space. Why not discover the mysteries of human genetics and diseases next? The implications are limitless.

Over Sean's lifetime, we have raised him to understand (and respect) the gravity of his disease, but also instill him with the faith he he can (and will) live the life he has always imagined for himself. Currently he is s sophomore in college (Southern Methodist University) studying biology. He wants to be a doctor one day. So many people have helped him thrive over the years, he wants to do the same for others. In fact, he actually spent his summer interning at Vertex Pharmaceuticals researching his own disease. In so many ways, he is a shining example of the future. He did not ask to be born with a defective protein; nor does he want to live with chronic disease. He just wants to go to school, fall in love and lead his life like anyone else. He just requires more help to do so.

However, the Graham-Cassidy bill negates all of our hopes and dreams for our son. Just the simple fact that it reinstates annual and/or lifetime caps would make Sean ineligible for health insurance before he graduates from colleges. Do the mat: \$400,000 x

2 years + doctors appointments + required X-rays, tests, blood draws and prescribed procedures + hospital admissions = an amount that far exceeds most insurance companies limits of \$1M or \$2M. At a time in which he should be starting his life, career and hopes and dreams, Sean would be saddled with a disease without a cure, immense medical bills, and no means to pay for the care he requires. Essentially it would be a death sentence. If my son does not get the medicines he needs, he WILL die. If he does not have insurance to pay for his care, he WILL die. While this might sound dramatic, it is true.

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

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

a. Remove full pre-existing condition protections for people with CF by allowing insurers to set premiums based on an individuals' health status. This may put insurance coverage financially out of reach for some people with CF and prevent them from accessing critical health care.

b. Eliminate Medicaid expansion and drastically cut funding for the program by instituting a per capita cap or a state block grant system, putting coverage of new and innovative treatments at risk. Medicaid provides a critical source of health care coverage for one half of children and one third of adults with CF. We must preserve this safety net by retaining expanded eligibility and ensuring adequate funding for Medicaid.

c. Remove protections against annual and lifetime coverage caps, including for the millions of Americans with employer-sponsored insurance, by making it easier for states to amend Essential Health Benefits standards. Health care costs can accumulate very quickly for people with CF, making it very easy to reach annual or lifetime caps. The results of these caps can be devastating – leaving people with CF stranded without any coverage – and our community needs the protections against these caps to be kept in place.

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

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

As a mother who loves her son and only wants him to have what most others are able to enjoy (the promise of a full, happy and productive life), I strongly urge all US Senators to please keep families like mine in mind as you consider this legislation.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joshua Ayares <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Block Graham-Cassidy Bill - PLEASE!

Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

As someone who cares deeply about the ability of America's patients to access the care they need, I write in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill to replace the ACA. This bill is as incompetent 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 so hard to achieve over the years.

Any physician knows that when it comes to helping 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 people ($\approx 30,000,000$) between the cracks – especially the most vulnerable - the disabled, elderly and children.

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,

--

Joshua Ayares
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mark Breitenstein [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:07 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Bill

It's long past time to step away from repealing the ACA. It's time to work as a Senate and a Congress to improve and correct the problems with that bill. That bill is a first step toward insuring that the American people have a health care system that takes care of all of us. If you can pass a defense bill without troubles between the two parties surely you can work on a health care bill. How about finding the courage to say to your drug company supporters that it's time we consider the needs of the public. Stop trying to repeal the ACA. Stop now.
Mark Breitenstein

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michael Harris PhD MDiv [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: A bill of Health Care Disaster -- Reasons why the Graham-Cassidy Health Bill should not be adopted.

Greetings.

I have a Ph.D. in counseling psychology and I provide counseling services in Eugene, Oregon.

It is my very strong belief that the Graham-Cassidy bill would be a disaster for many many vulnerable Americans and that it is absolutely clear that many deaths would be directly attributable to this legislation.

First of all, this bill eliminates protections for pre-existing conditions, leaving it to the states to decide. This would result in many states deciding to eliminate such coverage, and for insurance to become simply unaffordable for many Americans. Before the Affordable Care Act, I myself could not even receive insurance, and I have only minor physical difficulties. This bill would leave millions in that same situation, unable to procure insurance for any price, period.

Some care would become cost-prohibitive at that point for many Americans in many states, leaving a checkerboard of coverage standards.

This bill would take millions of dollars directly out of the healthcare system, right off the bat, prior to disbursements to the states.

And then there is the matter of many states simply not having the structures or ability to effectively administer such a program, again resulting in poor coverage for even those who are able to receive coverage under this new system.

The lifetime caps that the bill includes would mean that some babies born with correctable congenital defects, would no longer be qualified for healthcare after only a few weeks of life. And that same injustice runs along a continuum for all participants, as there is no appropriate lifetime cap for coverage for a living American citizen.

This bill unfairly redistributes resources from blue states to red states, an agenda which should have nothing to do with healthcare.

With no CBO score to rate this bill, we have no way to know how much it would cost. In all likelihood, this bill, will result in huge increases in costs, which we can not afford, for reductions in the quality of healthcare for many of us.

Every single health care group, including the American Medical Association, as well as consumer groups, such as the American Association of Retired People (AARP) have come out strongly against this bill, due to the cuts in health care services that it represents.

If this bill passes, the toxic results will stick with all Americans, but it will especially stick, both in the near future and in history, to the legislators themselves who passed it, and it will be the end of those legislative careers due to Americans voting massively to turn those legislators out.

Please, do not vote to pass this bill and to, resultantly, spend more money for less coverage, and to kill countless Americans who would not receive the benefits that they currently have. Worse coverage for more money is just simply a no-brainer if you are actually working for the American people.

Thank you for your consideration.

Warmly,

Michael Harris, Ph.D., M.Div.

Michael S. Harris, Ph.D., M.Div.

NOTICE: This email (including attachments) is covered by the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. 2510-2521, is confidential, and may be privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, please be aware that any retention, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is prohibited. Please reply to the sender that you have received this message in error, then delete it. Thank you for helping to maintain privacy.

Email messages typically reside on various servers even after all parties have deleted the messages. Therefore, email should not be considered a secure form of communication. It is not possible to guarantee confidentiality in an email message.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:05 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy blunder

I do NOT approve of passage of this bill. Do your job as representing the PEOPLE of this country, not special interests (big money) I VOTE. I WILL CERTAINLY VOTE BASED ON THE OUTCOME OF THIS BILL.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Darcy [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I do not support this bill. Vote 'No' on the Graham-Cassidy bill. I implore all of congress to return to regular order.

Sincerely,

Darcy Goldorf
Midland, Michigan
48640

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Emily Chalmers <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill

To the Committee:

An ordinary American with friends whose lives have been saved by the Affordable Care Act, I strenuously oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill, which would further destabilize insurance markets, disrupt Medicaid, and deny affordable coverage to people with pre-existing conditions. I am appalled that Congress, faced with so many important concerns, including the problems in the Middle East, North Korea, and the budget, would waste its time trying to dismantle a health delivery system that has proven workable and that can be improved so that it functions more efficiently.

Here is what this legislation would do to four people I know:

Tom, the 50-something man who does yard work around my neighborhood, was saved when he had a heart attack by a hospital that was able to sign him up for expanded Medicaid. He had previously been unable to afford insurance because of pre-existing conditions. Without the protections the ACA affords, he will again be uninsured and could die if he has another heart attack.

Bill, a construction worker and another 50-something with pre-existing conditions purchased insurance as soon as it became available under the ACA. A few months later, he had quadruple bypass surgery that saved his life. He said that he would not have lived without Obamacare, and without it he could die if he has another heart attack..

Gregory, an artist and textbook writer, has spent a small fortune over the years maintaining health insurance with deductibles so high that he could never pay them and so mostly went without health care. Last year he was finally able to buy insurance with an ACA subsidy that had a reasonable deduction. A few months later, the retina in his left eye ruptured, but he was able to afford the necessary surgery, without which he would have gone blind in that eye. Without ACA protections, he will not be able to afford insurance because of this pre-existing condition.

Elise, a child-care worker, had lymphoma as a child and could not afford insurance until Maryland expanded its Medicaid program with the help of the ACA. Elise was able to see a doctor for a tumor on her thyroid and was immediately scheduled for a biopsy. Without the ACA protections, she will not be able to afford insurance. She remains at a very high risk for cancer.

Please do not risk the lives of my friends and countless others with this truly heartless bill. You all have health insurance. Why do you want so badly to deny it to others?

Thank you.

Emily Chalmers
[REDACTED]
Baltimore MD 21213
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: L Dunham [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

This bill is going to ruin our economy. It will effect everything from people purchasing things to work productivity. VOTE NO.

Get a single payer system like the rest of the world already.

Leslie Dunham

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Weissman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:53 PM
To: gchcomments

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. Do not harm or kill Americans. Reject this bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shannon Murphy <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham-Cassidy bill

The Graham Cassidy bill will make health care and health care coverage unaffordable for me. I have several existing health conditions as a mature woman (age 57). The cost of my health conditions have already eaten much of my savings to the point where I know I cannot afford to retire. If this bill passes, I will surely suffer more and increase my risk of death from known conditions that I won't be able to afford to treat. Please let the ACA, as flawed as it is, stand.

Shannon Murphy
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pirronne Yousefzadeh [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject Graham Cassidy

To Whom It May Concern:

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.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Warmly,
Pirronne Yousefzadeh
Brooklyn NY

--
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Haley Richter <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:52 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.

Haley Richter
[REDACTED]
Fond du Lac, WI 54935
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: dawn callaway <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do NOT repeal ACA

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Don't repeal/replace the ACA. The new bill is terrible. The new bill does not cover people well enough to be called "healthcare". More like "health doesn't care". For example, "You got cancer again? Sorry you've hit your lifetime cap. Health doesn't care". What's that person supposed to do? No one can pay for cancer treatment out of pocket, that's what insurance is for. Oh except your version of insurance doesn't pay after a certain limit has been reached. Your version is going to mean that cancer patient is going to be denied treatment because insurance no longer pays... and now they get to just die.

You don't cover pre existing conditions, pregnancy, or medication? And premiums will increase beyond the current astronomical rates? Sounds pretty useless. And it has not been properly evaluated by the budget office. Quit sneaking legislation past us. Get input from all sides and let the budget office evaluate it. Enough of the dishonest, integrity free, sneaky weasel behavior. You are playing with people's lives! Start accepting the responsibility you've been given to make sure healthcare is a right in this country!

Thank you for your service.

Best Regards,
Dawn Callaway

.....
Dawn Callaway

Poison Girl
Antidote
Black Hole
Little Dipper
OKRA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Natalie McKliget <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Proposal

To the Senate Finance Committee:

As a mother of three children, two of whom have pre-existing conditions, I urge you to reject the Graham-Cassidy healthcare proposal. Despite congressional justifications otherwise, this proposal would and will negatively impact those Americans with pre-existing conditions in the following ways:

1. States could seek waivers that allow insurers to charge people more on account of health problems. That would allow insurers to offer lower-premium plans to healthier customers.
2. States could also get waivers that allow insurers to tailor benefits so that people with costly conditions are discouraged from signing up.

This is not health care reform, this is a desperate attempt to fulfill a campaign pledge in an effort to secure re-election.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kendra Hamilton [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care travesty

Dear Sen. Graham,

So the more I hear about this health care disaster you are cooking up, the worse it sounds. Not only are you "repealing" Obamacare, you are creating a health care disaster that the states will be forced to clean up with no ability to do so, because you are also taking all the money out of the system.

You are my home state senator and there are many things I find to admire about you. But this is where I have to get off the train and ask of you and your fellow travelers in the Republican Party: What kind of people are you? Is it really more important to keep your word to a bunch of rabid racists--yes, because birtherism, racism, and Islamophobia were your trump cards in whipping up opposition to this moderate Republican approach to solving the health care crisis--than to keep constituents safe? Is being able to say, "I wiped Obama's legacy from the earth" more important than your constitutional oath to PROTECT the United States from enemies foreign and domestic and faithfully discharge your duties? Do you honestly believe that that means allowing insurance companies to bankrupt your constituents? That depriving us of services necessary to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness achieves the constitutional vision of a just and humane society?

You have lost your way. As human beings, you fail every test of common sense, every test of empathy, every test of human decency. You're seeking to pass this bill KNOWING that carnage will ensue, knowing that people will suffer needlessly, that people will die. And what is your reason? Because you promised a group of ranting loons radicalized to the point of utter unreason by Fox News and Russian propaganda that you would? Or is it more that your donors have told you they will turn off the taps of cash that appear to be your only raison d'etre as congresspersons? It's certainly not any deeply felt conviction motivating you ... You have utterly lost your way.

I've spent the last few nights watching the Ken Burns documentary on the Vietnam War. And for all the failures of governance that that documentary highlights, one thing comes through with a clarity that makes one want to weep at the contrast with today. And that thing is the quality of debate and discussion that used to characterize the U.S. Congress. The intellect, the grasp of policy nuance, the passion, and commitment to the American people that comes through in the congressional testimony of 40 years ago forms the starkest contrast that can be imagined with congressional performance today.

You repeat lies without appearing to care that people know you're lying. You can't be bothered with CBO scoring. You can't stop fundraising long enough to figure out what's in the bill. You're using the process to settle scores and punish states that had the audacity to put their constituents before your narrow politics. You're poised to unleash utter chaos on the American people, on insurance markets, on hospitals, health providers ... **AND YOU CAN'T EVEN CLEARLY ARTICULATE A REASON WHY!!!**

I was going to say that if the Republican Party succeeds in doing this, you will cease to exist as a party because the voters WILL turn in droves on people who appear to want nothing more than to kill them. But actually, the Republican Party already has ceased to exist. Republicans used to be the smart people's party. Prudent. Cautious. Committed to conserving what was good and what worked. Republicans, in fact, conceived Obamacare as a market based solution to the problems with the health system. The fact that you are

cannibalizing your own child and, in the process, hurting the most vulnerable of your own constituents speaks volumes about who you are... You are MONSTERS.

I'm not going to beg you to do the right thing. I'm not going to list the ways in which this bill hurts America, because if you cared about America more than the 2018 midterms, you wouldn't do it. You would never even consider a bill this flawed, this bankrupt of merit.

You are utterly lost--you are mindlessly wrecking the little prosperity that ordinary citizens have been able to eke out after the LAST Republican disaster, the 2008 financial crisis. To quote one of the authors of that mess, George W. Bush, "heckuva job there, Lindsay."

Kendra Hamilton
Clinton, South Carolina

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Monica Hubbard <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please REJECT the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

The Graham-Cassidy Bill is the most draconian health care bill that has been proposed this year. It spells disaster for millions of hard-working Americans and their families. The unintended economic consequences to the country are dire.

Please REJECT the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

Monica Hubbard | [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], Altadena, CA 91001-3436 | [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Teri Knowlton <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

This bill is a joke right? If this passes the GOP is doomed. Stop for a minute and think about what you would be doing to us if you vote to pass this crap! Do the right thing for us instead of your donors!

Teri Knowlton
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dale Coronato <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare
Attachments: image1.JPG; image2.PNG; ATT00001.txt

To whom it may concern~

This disastrous Healthcare Bill must not pass.

Let's talk about pre-existing conditions for instance. In my family alone:

-Son had a stroke at 17 and spent 2 weeks in ICU - now a preexisting condition -Granddaughter - placenta previa - born 6 weeks early, two weeks in NICU - now prematurity is a preexisting condition -Myself - fell and hit my head - suffered a TBI - 70% disabled - I now have a preexisting condition -My niece - 23 yo non smoker - diagnosed two weeks ago with bilateral pulmonary emboli- now has a preexisting condition

These are just a few examples. Not only could my state opt to charge me more for all of these unexpected illnesses (now preexisting conditions) additionally we would have hit our lifetime caps. That is inhumane.

Additionally, having a son who went to West Point and is now a Captain in the Army (flies Blackhawk's - yes I'm super proud). This has made me hyper aware of Military issues. Vets depend on Medicaid... currently the ACA covers them. They will be greatly and negatively affected if Medicaid is cut in any way.

Lastly, as a healthcare provider myself, there is nothing in this bill that protects "first do no harm". It is unfathomable that anyone would think 32-35 Million without healthcare would "do no harm".

You never know you're going to need adequate, reasonably priced healthcare... until you do.

Please protect the citizens of this country! Americans deserve "regular order".

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jackie Braverman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No no no

Dastardly plan will render my son without health insurance. The effects on millions of Americans is horrific - this bill is shameful!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Tracy [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Concerned citizen

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to convey my opposition to the Graham/Cassidy health care bill.

The American people have spoken loudly and clearly since January.

- Marches attended by millions.
- Phone call after phone call
- Human chain around the capital.
- Countless tweets and posts

It's clear, the American people want to continue the work of the HHS committee and fix the ACA as it exists today. We don't want some conservative experiment that is rushed and not well thought out.

Respectfully,

Karen Tracy
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Steven Eagan [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Bill

Hello,

I am writing this email as an attempt to get the GOP to NOT vote Yes on Graham/Cassidy bill! This bill is a travesty that the entire medical industry is starkly against! No one but the rich executives wants Graham/Cassidy!

Personally, I had a heart attack last year and my daughter is Autistic. Under ACA I was well taken care of at my local hospital and my daughter has gotten all the care she desperately needs as a growing child but under Graham/Cassidy I will have to choose between paying for healthcare or paying rent! Graham/Cassidy will certainly spell doom for my family and I will not sit idly by and let that happen!

Graham/Cassidy shows pre-existing conditions will not be covered and that will certainly kill me! How can the GOP care so little about other Americans is something I will never understand! That tax money isn't yours! It belongs to the American taxpayers and WE want to keep ObamaCare! I would pay in if it wasn't free to me but under Graham/Cassidy I will go broke, very quickly! My daughter's and my Dr. visits and medications would exceed \$7,500/month! That's more than I make!

So in closing I am begging you, urging you, to work together in Congress to fix the issues in the ACA to help ALL Americans be healthy so we can ALL have a chance to be successful! Isn't that what's best for our country?

Thank you for your time,
Steven Eagan & family.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jordan Weaver [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Dear Senators,

I am a licensed mental health professional who writes to you in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill that is being pushed through Congress without debate, amendments and a full CBO review and score.

I urge you to not set a damaging precedent by holding a vote on this bill. A bill that will irrevocably restructure 1/6 of the American economy and eliminate Medicaid expansion as we know it causing untold amounts of damage as states lose billions in funding.

The cost of premiums would increase significantly for older adults and children with chronic illnesses and disabilities. People will lose their lives and families will lose their homes. Why would you consider a vote for legislation that will harm your fellow Americans and constituents?

I want to believe that you did not become a public servant to take away from people what they need most. I have seen an analysis that says upwards of 32million people could lose health insurance as a result of this bill.

In conclusion; do not pass this bill. Americans want a bi-partisan process to stabilize the ACA markets while we work together to expand coverage and affordability for all Americans.

Thank you for your time,
-Jordan Weaver, LMHC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Wayne Akagi [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: #SaveACA

Stop Graham-Cassidy!
Go back to regular order and get a proper bi-partisan bill!

Wayne Akagi
San Leandro, CA 94577

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Curtin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy-Graham-Heller-Johnson Amendment to H.R. 1628/American Health Care Act of 2017
Attachments: Curtin-Senate Finance Committee_GrahamCassidy_9-22-17.docx; ATT00001.htm
Importance: High

To: Senate Finance Committee

From: Carol Curtin, PhD, LICSW [REDACTED], MA 01801

Re: Cassidy-Graham-Heller-Johnson Amendment to H.R. 1628/American Health Care Act of 2017

Date: 22 September 2017

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

As a professional in the human services field, the sibling of an adult man with developmental disabilities, the daughter of an aging mother, and as a person with a chronic health condition, I am writing to express my vehement opposition to the Cassidy-Graham-Heller-Johnson Amendment to H.R. 1628, the "American Health Care Act of 2017." I request that this letter be included in the testimony that you are collecting for your hearing on September 25, 2017. I have also attached this letter to this email as a word document.

The Graham-Cassidy Amendment will have more devastating effects than the previous repeal bills – it is not moving in the direction that our nation needs. My family and I will be personally affected by this amendment, as will the people I work with every day.

I have a very rare and serious blood disorder called Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia Purpura (TTP) and have periodic relapses which require hospitalization and plasma transfusions. Thirty years ago, the mortality rate for TTP was 99%. Fortunately, as a result of the discovery that plasma transfusions reverse the cascade of events that lead to death, the mortality rate is now about 3%. I am very thankful to be alive. I have not had a relapse for nearly 14 years, but I still have the disease, and a relapse is always a possibility. I shudder to think that my premiums could rise simply because I have this pre-existing condition.

My brother is currently on SSDI and receives both Medicare and Medicaid. Medicaid has provided coverage for services and supports not available from Medicare. He has numerous health conditions including diabetes, hypertension, and scoliosis, and he recently had a failed hernia repair and an intestinal blockage that necessitated major emergency surgery and a prolonged stay in rehab. If it weren't for his comprehensive health care coverage he would have had a large bill to pay and less follow-up/home care.

My mother is 86 years old and currently living in an independent living facility for the elderly, for which she pays full freight. Should she need nursing home care in the future, we are fully prepared to exhaust her savings to pay for it; we purposely have not made any provisions to hasten her eligibility for Medicaid. However, I am very concerned about what will happen to her if when her savings are exhausted, Medicaid is not available to her because it has become a block-granted, capped program. There are millions of people like her who are facing dementia and Alzheimer's disease who

need intensive services and long-term care. Families cannot take on this burden as they are not equipped, but if forced to do so, it will have take a devastating toll on family caregivers. There are myriad studies that have shown the strain on caregivers of elderly patients with dementia and the increased health risks they encounter as well as their own diminished capacity for gainful employment.

As a professional in the developmental disabilities field, I am gravely concerned about the impact that this amendment will have on a population that I care deeply about. This population relies on Medicaid, and although there may be imperfections in the system, a block-grant approach will put millions of people in harm's way, as Medicaid will surely be cut and capped. What is to become of their health care, housing, and other supports? Will we return to an era of institutionalization, or will we allow them to simply live and die on the streets?

Overall, the Graham-Cassidy Amendment is seriously flawed: millions of Americans will lose their health insurance coverage, health insurance markets will be de-stabilized, and many citizens will have decreased access to affordable coverage and care. It is of serious concern that the amendment does not take steps toward coverage and access for all Americans. Although insurers will still be required to offer coverage to patients with pre-existing conditions, the amendment's provision that allows states to obtain waivers to adjust premiums based on an individual's health status would permit insurers to charge high-priced and exorbitant premiums to individuals who have pre-existing conditions. We should not punish the sick and infirm by charging them higher premiums.

My understanding is that the Amendment would eliminate both the employer and the individual mandate. This is a seriously flawed approach – by definition, insurance only works when everyone is required to participate! Multiple analyses have concluded that removing this requirement would make health insurance more expensive for all, and would lead to millions of people being uncovered.

The stipulation that states would be allowed to apply for waivers that could change what qualifies as an essential health benefit is extremely dangerous. This will have a serious impact on people with pre-existing conditions and will potentially set limits for insurance coverage ... what does this mean for people who have chronic conditions or have recurrences of illnesses such as cancer? At some point when their coverage is exhausted, should they just be allowed to die without treatment because they've been given enough? I find it interesting that the Amendment defunds Planned Parenthood because of the abortion issue. How ironic that the Republican party wants to save the lives of fetuses, but after they are born, they're on their own. I consider this philosophy not to be "pro-life" but simply "pro-gestation".

This Amendment targets low-income people and those who are already ill or have disabilities. Someone recently said, *"We're the richest country in the world. When we say we can't afford something, we mean that we don't care enough about it."* This legislation would create billions of dollars in budget savings will likely result in tax cuts for the rich and for corporations. I gladly pay my taxes, as I am paid well, and I would be willing to pay even more taxes in order to ensure that people receive the coverage and care they need. Health care should be viewed as an inalienable right in our country. The savings proposed by the Cassidy-Graham Amendment come at the expense of our poorest and most vulnerable citizens. We can and should do better. A thoughtful, deliberate, bi-partisan approach to addressing problems with the Affordable Care Act should be our mandate, not gutting the program and placing millions of people at risk.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my story and my concerns.

Sincerely yours,

Carol Curtin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Peggy Roberts, DVM [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: do not allow the Graham-Cassidy bill to be voted on

I oppose the Graham/Cassidy bill as it will take health care away or out of reach for millions of people.

Peggy H. Roberts, DVM
Sierra Animal Wellness Center

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Colfax, CA 95713
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joe Zarrow <jzarrow@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please block Cassidy-Graham

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

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,
Joe Zarrow
Ann Arbor, MI

--



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gene Douglas [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Bill

To the U.S. Senate:

Politicians are trying to mislead the public into believing the proposed bill will be of greater benefit than harm to the public. Not all the public believes this, and many know that you will be literally killing people if the bill passes. Waiting a couple of weeks for the CBO report will give us more accurate figures, and after having waited 6 years, a few weeks won't matter that much.

Sincerely,
E. E. Douglas

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: LEENELSON1951 [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy healthcare bill

My name is Lee Nelson

I live at [REDACTED], Petaluma, CA. [REDACTED]

I strongly urge you to block the proposed Graham/Cassidy bill!

It is damning to millions of people who would eventually not be able to afford healthcare.

Try fixing the problems with the ACA, to make it better.

The only reason the Republicans want this bill to be able to receive the \$400M in political contributions. There is absolutely no thought of the American people!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: KC Camp [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

The fact that votes for this bill are being bought by promising that it won't be enforced in the state of the politician who votes yes are evidence of the destruction and financial havoc it will wreak.

It is a bill designed to punish & harm. And those who vote for it are abandoning the basic tenets of human decency.

How dare you vote to destroy the opportunity for basic coverage for millions while you are safely covered by a better plan?

Those who vote yes had better be prepared to answer the anguish of each of us who lose a loved one because they did not have affordable health care. No amount of Koch money will scrub the blood from your hands.

K. Camp
Los Angeles , CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sanchez, Elaine R <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: New graham healthcare bill vote NO

Dear Senate Finance Committee. My name is Elaine Sanchez and I live in Austin, texas, [REDACTED] I ask that this new graham Healthcare bill be defeated- vote NO. Fix the ACA instead. If this is passed generations of people's le, American, your Bret, my very own family and yours, will be seriously hurt for years to come. It will devastate many and damage the economy. I and all of us are more important than the republicans can base. This bill plays wit babies, Childrens, disable, poor people, everyone's lives, except for those who make enough money to buy healthcare. Vote NO and fix the ACA. Your conscience should guide you, not your political party nor your desire to stay in office. Help us. I am in Germany right now, attending German classes. I fell yesterday and I think my wrist is broken. I didn't buy health insurance here, so I'm waiting 4 days until I get home to go see my doctor. I'm in pain, but I have health insurance in the US. Many others rely on the ACA to get them to the dr. If they don't have healthcare, they will suffer. And some will die. Don't force them to suffer and die. Be reasonable, logical, be human and represent we the people, all the people, not just the republicans who for self gain want this horror passed. Vote No. fix the ACA. Save us, save our children. Save our parents. Vote NO.

Sincerely,
Elaine Sanchez

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Hesse [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: MY VOICE FROM MN

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

NO, I do NOT want ACA repealed. I DO NOT want one penny of my tax dollars supporting this inhumane Graham Cassidy bill.

Sincerely,
Nancy Hesse



TrollDental

Nancy Hesse
USA Managing Director

[REDACTED]
Oakdale, MN 55128

[REDACTED] 55129



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Emily Shooltz [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: REJECT the GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

32 Million Americans could lose coverage, see radical and catastrophic changes to Medicaid and diminished funding for every state, with 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,
Emily Shooltz

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cathy Olofson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to Graham Cassidy

I am a resident of Massachusetts and I strongly oppose the Graham Cassidy bill. This is not a health care bill. It is a health carelessness bill. It has not been given a CBO score, so we have no way of knowing its true cost to the US economy. It will allow states to loosen protections on pre-existing conditions. It will cut medicaid drastically and hurt millions of elderly and disabled. It is heartless, it is mean, and it is un-American.

Please do not pass this bill.

--
Cathy Olofson
[REDACTED]
Belmont, MA 02478

617-646-9508

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Megan Mostyn-Brown <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

To Whom It May Concern:

The Graham-Cassidy bill is inhumane and should not be passed. As a woman, it's insane that birth control won't be covered and pregnancy is a pre-existing condition. Like what the literal fuck are we supposed to do????

Not to mention the fact that, 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.

We as Americans deserve better than this.

Sincerely,

Megan Mostyn-Brown

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michael Zaken [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote against the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare amendment Proposal.

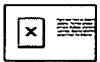
Please take notice:

Personally for me, having a disability would drastically impact me if the the Graham-Cassidy amendment was approved.

It is more devastating to healthcare than any other proposal. It does not simply reduce the ACA's commitment to healthcare, it ends it all together. Medicaid Expansion and subsidies for individual insurance? Gone in 2026. What's also gone? Protections for people with pre-existing conditions. Also eliminated are the standards that ensure everyone has access to high quality health plans. What is the same is that it guts Medicaid and radically reduces care for children, seniors, and people with disabilities.

Please don't change healthcare, if you can't come up with a better plan.
Thank you.

Michael J Zaken



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lyn Perkins <lwperkinsart@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill--Please do not pass this

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, this bogus bill will damage 17.8 percent of the nation's economy. It will put 30+ million Americans out of medical care.

If it is so important to "repeal" the ACA, why don't you just rename it? And fix it?

If your rich donors complain, they are what--100? 1000 people? Compare that to the entire economy and the lives of 30 million people.

Do the right thing here, people.

Lynn Perkins

Downers Grove, Illinois

--
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Loren Shlaes <lorenshlaes@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO GRAHAM-CASSIDY

To the Committee:

I absolutely oppose this cruel, horrific bill. NO NO NO. We as Americans should be better than this. Countries who take care of their citizens flourish.

I pay over \$500 dollars a month for a crappy health care plan. I would be happy for my taxes to go up in order to have universal health care.

Loren Shlaes


New York, NY 10040

Loren Shlaes Registered Occupational Therapist Certified Teacher of the Alexander Technique New York, New York
<http://pediatricOT.blogspot.com>

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lorelle Parker <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: #GrahamCassidy

If this bill was anything but vindictive then the Senate would be willing to wait for the CBO score. This amendment will kill.
Stop playing with people's lives. We deserve better than greedy GOP politicians...do something to stop this.

and ps I want the tax money that went from the previous 70 repeal attempts back as well as the tax money that has been going to pay for the cabinet members private travel on chartered jets.

--
Lorelle Parker, M.S., Psy.D.
415.314.5818

NOTICE TO RECIPIENT: If you are not the intended recipient of this e-mail, you are prohibited from sharing, copying, or otherwise using or disclosing its contents. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender immediately by reply e-mail and permanently delete this e-mail and any attachments without reading, forwarding or saving them. Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: health care bill

Why are you trying to hurt the people that pay your salaries. This health care bill is a disgrace.

L.G.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Craig and/or Karen James <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GC bill

The bill MUST HAVE A CBO score.

If the CBO can't do it by next Sat, then you MUST forget this bill NOW.

This is ONE SIXTH of the economy you're talking about here, not to mention the lives of your fellow American citizens/voters.

Please please please, hold a REAL hearing with questions and data and facts and actual answers.

Please do NOT ram this through with a show-hearing.

Thank you,

Karen James

[REDACTED]
Algonquin IL 60102
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tory Stewart <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I'm the mother of a family of four and we rely on Obamacare. Do not vote on the Graham Cassidy bill, especially without real debate or the CBO score.

Fix it, don't repeal it. You are punishing tax paying Americans.

All the best,
Victoria Stewart
Glendale, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sara Stutz [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: health care

Hi.

I am a hard-working, tax paying, proud american 57 year-old, self-employed mother of two young adults.

Through no fault of our own, all four members of my family have pre-existing conditions. We have insurance through Covered California (we do not have subsidized plans). Prior to Covered California, we paid had huge insurance bills - our rates came down with Covered California, even with deductibles. The new "health care" plan will be devastating to our family - one daughter with Celiac Disease will certainly have many ongoing health issues in her life - how will she get coverage? She is only 20 years old-this should not be hanging over her head. And will any of us be able to afford insurance with our pre-existing conditions - this is ridiculous! You need a "pot" of people to make insurance a viable proposition. I was that healthy person for so many years and paid into that pot. Now I need some help - that's how insurance works!

My 48 year old brother is severely retarded and lives in an assisted living center and is funded by Medicaid. What will happen to Eric? He is completely dependent. We could not take him with his current medical needs.

Many of the clients I work with have developmental disabilities and receive funding through Medicaid. They have so many needs - who will help them?

The bill you are proposing is short-sighted and dishonest in it's intentions. Please do the right thing and stand united for the rights of all Americans. Who knows? Maybe someday you will be vulnerable - even though you've worked hard and played by the rules all of your life.

Signed,

Sara Stutz
A person who votes and encourages others to as well

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Altered Ego <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: DeathCare

To whom it may concern:

Being that the majority of Americans, bi-partisan group of Governors, every single Healthcare related industry has come out against this atrocious bill, I ask you to please save us from the irresponsibility of Graham/Cassidy and anyone pushing this legislation. This is NOT regular order. There have been zero hearings, no CBO score, no amendments. This will damage the economy. Damage Americans finances. Throw people into medical bankruptcy. Bankrupt states. It's repulsive that every single day for months we've had to literally beg congress to NOT kill us. It's legislative terrorism/malpractice. One sixth of the economy cannot be thrown under the bus for politics. Millions of Americans cannot be thrown on death's doorstep because of politics. There is nothing pro-life or conservative about this. STOP this now. I'm begging you for life.

Thank you,
Kerry Crawford
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Paula and Larry Garcia <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill - Vote No

As 2 full-time tax paying citizens who have worked hard all their lives....BUT have experienced health issues (stroke, back surgery, epilepsy + more) we are vehemently opposed to the Graham-Lindsay bill. The idea that the most advanced country puts money over citizens' health and well-being is the most horrendous thing I have ever heard.

The fear of how people will pay for medical care is going to cause people to put off getting the help they need. This will cause deaths and those that vote yes will have to live with this fact.

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Isaac Butler <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment on Graham-Cassidy Health Bill
Attachments: IMG_3065.JPG

Hello,

My name is Isaac Butler, and I live in New York State with my wife and daughter. I am writing to voice my *firm* opposition to Graham-Cassidy. Despite some public comments by the bill's advocates, the text of the bill explicitly allows states to repeal regulations that protect people with pre-existing conditions. This would be a total disaster for my family, and families like mine. My daughter, who is only three years old, has asthma. We get our insurance through my wife's place of work. Thanks to that insurance, our copay for the medication that keeps my daughter able to breathe every day is under ten dollars a month. Without that coverage, we'd be out hundreds of dollars a month to cover the costs, not to mention her visits to her pulmonologist and her pediatrician.

That's not the only preexisting condition in our family. My father has diabetes. My mother in law has arthritis. My wife has asthma. I have received treatment in the past for anxiety.

I don't like talking about my health publicly like this, but the truth is that it's necessary now. The ACA has its problems, but Graham-Cassidy makes all of those problems worse. Compared to the status quo before Obamacare, the ACA is a godsend, and it makes my family able to live a middle class life without fear that we will fall off the cliff if one of us has a health crisis.

I am furthermore incredibly frustrated as an American citizen who believes in our democracy that the various attempts at dismantling the ACA have been promoted through openly lying to the American people. If Graham-Cassidy were good, and just, and in America's best interests, you wouldn't have to lie about it, you wouldn't have to rush it through before the CBO could adequately score it for what would happen to coverage, and Senators supporting it would actually know what it says and what it does.

I've attached to this e-mail a photo of my daughter. Would you want to look her in the eye and say that she doesn't deserve to be able to breathe so that a health insurance company can make more money? If not, then you cannot in good conscience vote for Graham-Cassidy.

Yours,

Isaac

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: James Cooper <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: jimc@pobox.com
Subject: Reject the Graham-Cassidy health care proposal

The current proposed healthcare bill is a disaster and, in my opinion, is even worse than the previous GOP proposals.

Please stop screwing around with healthcare. Scrap this plan and begin the move to healthcare for ALL like so many other countries on this planet. Basically, from looking at our current planned military budget, it certainly seems that we can afford to provide healthcare for our citizens.

PLEASE support the citizens of the United States and reject the Graham-Cassidy proposal!

James Cooper

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Danielle Kantor [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill opposition.

I urge opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill. Allowing states to restrict access to pregnant women, poor Americans, the chronically ill, and babies is morally abhorrent. There is no excuse for such callous disregard for human life. All deserve care.

Regards,
Danielle Kantor

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Samantha Sherman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Gillibrand, Kirsten (Gillibrand); schumer, scheduling (Schumer)
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, September 25, 2017

Hi,

I'm emailing about the hearing to consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal on September 25, 2017. I'm deeply worried about the repeal of the ACA and how it will affect our state. Americans want a bipartisan plan to fix to the ACA, not a repeal. This is nothing more than attempt to steal from the poor in order to get the rich richer. There is no concern for the American people. It is selfish & will hurt millions of people. It's reckless. I am a women and that should not make me a pre-existing condition. The white wealthy men trying to pass this do not represent the people- even though that is supposed to be their job. It's disgusting. Do not allow this cruelty. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Samantha Sherman
[REDACTED]
Brooklyn, NY 11206

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sandi Kochiss [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GrahamCassidy

This bill needs lengthy, in depth hearings to make sure all the consequences will be understood. People should expect nothing less.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: chl milne <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:20 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fwd: Healthcare

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

From: "chl milne" <[REDACTED]>
Date: Sep 22, 2017 9:16 AM
Subject: Healthcare
To: <[REDACTED]>
Cc:

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee

Please consider the devastating and likely immediate impacts of the GC Healthcare bill on the American people. These will be both financial and medical. As a 15 year breast cancer survivor, the loss of insurance or life time caps will likely bankrupt my family. What if i can not get insurance because I have a pre existing condition? This will limit my ability to change jobs, buy a new home, and myriad other economic decisions.

Why is a bill being rushed thru w/o debate, regular order, CBO scoring? Why is the health and well being of millions of Americans a political game rather than a commitment to govern in a bipartisan manner? Why, to misquote Sen Gillibrand, doesnt the Senate consider its job to help the American people.

The Senate MUST do better for the American people. Debate and stabilize the ACA. Nothing else is acceptable.

Thank you - Claudia Milne 06902

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laurie Kennedy <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy ACA Repeal Bill

My name is Laurie Kennedy, New York, New York 10025.

I am very against the Graham-Cassidy Repeal of the ACA bill. I am against the way it is being pushed through Congress, I am against robbing Peter to pay Paul--i.e taking money from New York and California--two states who opted for Medicaid expansion-- to give to Republican states who decided not to opt for Medicaid expansion. Also against this secretive tax bill being forced on us by wealthy donors to the Republican party who want their tax breaks--even though they don't need them. This isn't a health bill--it is a tax bill--and a terrible one at that. I'm sick of Republicans lying about what they really are doing. They should work with the Democrats and IMPROVE the ACA instead of trying to gut it over 60 times. What a waste of tax payer money.

If you want to save money--start making Trump and his family pay for their own legal fees, start making cabinet members take reasonable travel options instead of using chartered air lines and spending \$17,000 to get from Washington to Philly. It is obscene what Congress is not insisting upon vis a vis these spoiled cabinet members and president. Control those expenses why don't you. Tom Price has spent over \$300,000 so far as the secretary of health. Unbelievable.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robert Friedman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Please save healthcare for millions and protect pre-existing conditions by killing this abomination of a bill!

Robert Friedman
Baltimore, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: robbie tucker <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: new healthcare bill

VOTE NO!!! THIS IS AN OUTRAGE!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cerelle Woods [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

My grandson, Sterling, is turning 5 next week. He's had type 1 diabetes since he was 3 and he will always have it, barring major medical advances in his lifetime. Type 1 is expensive, which means keeping Sterling alive and healthy is expensive, plus he has celiac disease, so even his food costs extra. But that's not all! Sterling's dad and one of his older brothers have type 1 diabetes, too. That's 3 people with expensive, life-threatening conditions under the same roof, and by the way, type 1 diabetes isn't something that happens to you because of "lifestyle choices" -- it's genetic.

Sterling's parents work hard, but they're self-employed. Employee health insurance plans aren't available them, so they depend on the ACA (Obamacare) and Medicaid to help cover the costs of keeping 3 family members in test strips, glucose monitors, insulin pens, and other supplies, not to mention regular doctor visits and appointments with endocrinologists.

We live in Texas, and as you know, Texas opted out of the Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act. Further cuts to Medicaid will put my family in immediate peril. The Graham-Cassidy bill is another dark cloud on the horizon for a family that already has its share of dark clouds. In fact, every attempt by this White House and Republican Congressmembers to "repeal and replace Obamacare" and every action already taken to undermine the ACA or "let it implode" has been a cynical dismissal of the importance of their health and indeed their very lives. Please think of us and so many others like us when you discuss the impact this bill will have on the smallest and most vulnerable Americans. I believe Sterling and his struggling family deserve your most careful and compassionate consideration.

Sincerely,

Cerelle Woods

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marissa Lawall <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:56 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 believe healthcare is a human rights issue not a partisan issue. Any bill passed should be bi-partisan based, otherwise it will cause instability in the markets as Democrats look to a repeal and replace plan, because this bill is obviously inefficient.

The defects of the bill are many and it is not simply about passing a law it is people's lives at stake and their jobs.

First, by allowing insurance companies to charge older adults, with pre-existing conditions, many of whom are already on a budget at a 5:1 ratio is fiscally and morally wrong. My 80 year old grandmother, is middle class, she receives social security, and has Parkinson's disease. She will not be able to afford a 5:1 increase in premiums. With less money she will be forced to choose between medication or another life necessity. There are millions of people like my grandmother in this country.

Further, freezing planned parenthood is a disgrace. As you should know the Hyde act prohibits federal dollars from being spent on abortion. Thus this is a deliberate attack on low income women seeking preventative care.

Lastly, this bill will harm all Americans. Everyone including the wealthy will be forced to pay higher premiums, many people will be uninsured, causing them to file for medical bankruptcy, and there will be unequal and lack of access to healthcare.

When considering voting for this bill I have one question, how many bodies are you willing to have laid at your feet when individuals start dying from preventable diseases?

Do not pass this bill, stabilize the markets using the Murray-Alexander Bill then create a bi-partisan approach that is not only fiscally responsible but morally right.

Respectfully,
Marissa Lawall

Marissa Lawall

18052
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bird York [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: STRONGLY OPPOSED TO GRAHAM CASSIDY .

No No No on this bill. Seriously.

Kathleen York

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anne Flounders <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Graham-Cassidy

This disastrous bill would be a death sentence for countless Americans. I urge a NO vote on this bill.

Thank you,
Anne Flounders
Stamford, Connecticut

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Todd London <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senators:

The Graham-Cassidy bill is a devastation. It is also an abdication of your duty to attend to the health of Americans by passing off responsibility to the States in unrealistic and, frankly, brutal ways. 32 Million Americans could lose coverage under this plan. This is a radical change to Medicaid and diminished funding for every state, all after 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.

Thank you,

Todd London

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: tony supancic [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

To our Congress

Please do not pass this bill. People with preexisting health conditions and more specifically with children/adults born with disabilities would be blocked from medical treatment. Surely the government and politicians cannot be serious in injuring our society this badly

Tony and Jennie Supancic
Plattsmouth, Nebraska
Sent from my Verizon LG Smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marilyn Geissler [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham, Cassidy, Heller Bill

I want the Senators to SIGN this bill. I am a parent of a Down Syndrome son age 39 years old. We have waited too long to have Obama Care REPEALED.

Thank you,
Marilyn Geissler

[REDACTED]
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shauna Pickett-Gordon [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Shauna Pickett-Gordon
Subject: Vote against Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

This country needs so many things. Let's start with the basics that our new healthcare legislation needs:

- We need bipartisanship.
- We need a CBO score.
- We need health care for women, children, and those with pre-existing conditions.
- We need healthcare 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.

Sincerely,
Shauna Pickett-Gordon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christine Stultz <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:55 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. Christine Stultz

[REDACTED]
Sergeant Bluff, IA 51054
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy Allen [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: SFC hearing

When I was 12, my mother's health insurance refused to take me on because of a "Pre-existing condition". I've had Asthma since I was 5. With no other option, my mother had to apply for the Indiana Crippled Children's Fund. It was a fund to provide health insurance for children with illnesses from poor families. In the state of Indiana, from the age of 13 to 21, I had 100% covered health insurance. Under the care of Doctors at Riley Children's Hospital, my Asthma became manageable and now at 37 years old, my Asthma is only exercise induced and I only have to carry with me an emergency inhaler.

I was diagnosed with PCOS at the age of 28. Birth control pills are the best way to treat PCOS. At that time, there was no ACA. A 3 month supply of birth control pills cost me \$120, and that was with insurance. Once the ACA went into effect, my birth control pills became free. I am not a millionaire. Saving \$480 a year is a HUGE deal for me.

This year, through a genetic blood test, I discovered that I carry a gene mutation that increases my chances of developing blood clots. This means that I have a higher risk for stroke and deep vein thrombosis.

Also, thank God I chose to never have kids. This bill makes being pregnant a "Pre-existing condition". That is INSANE. I don't have \$17,000 in savings just to pay for having a child.

Due to the fact that I have Asthma, PCOS, & this gene mutation, it is very doubtful that any health insurance company will ever cover me because of all of my "Pre-existing conditions". I can't change my DNA. I was born this way. I shouldn't be punished by either being denied health insurance or having insurance cost me more money than I make in my salary.

How can the Graham-Cassidy bill be called a "Health Bill"? All it does is punish people for issues beyond their control.

Amy Allen

R&D Supervisor

Cosway Co.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], Carson, CA 90810

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chip Rachlin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Your "health" bill

Your proposed legislation is cynical and self serving.

It benefits no one but your donors.

You should be ashamed of yourselves.

Election Day can't come soon enough.

Charles Rachlin

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cynthia Manson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please tell me who this bill benefits, because it's terrifying me and my family.

Dear Senators:

I've worked since I was 14 - and I didn't stop working when I was diagnosed with MS in 2002. I've managed, with some luck and a lot of effort, to maintain both my health and my career.

But I've already had disability insurance try to use a misreading of a loophole to kick me off my company plan (several times) for having a pre-existing condition. And I think my blood pressure went down about 30 points in 2009 when finally, nationally, I could move and work where I wanted to without worrying about pre-existing conditions and insurance.

I don't even take expensive medication right now - I just need insurance for the reasons everyone needs insurance. I might get hit by a car (I bike to work) or get some unexpected illness. Or maybe the MS will flare, though thank God it has been dormant for over 12 years.

But that won't stop insurers from charging me more. Massachusetts may fight that, but it sounds like this bill prevents our state from even having the marketplace that Mitt Romney set up. I've seen no guarantees from anyone that I won't see skyrocketing premiums.

And worse - it sounds like other states may get to keep some of their health care - the prize for voting to push other states off healthcare options they WANT - is keeping the health care option you are voting AGAINST? Oh - and you still get health care, right? It's just the people who want it who don't?

I'd like to request that you do something very simple: allow every American to sign up for the same plan Congress has. After all, you work for us. At my company the bosses and the employees have the same plan. The American people should have the same plan as their employees.

But whatever you do, don't pass this terrible bill. Especially don't pass it for a President who promised better, cheaper health care for everyone.

Oh one more thing - have you really sat down and looked at the morality of what you are doing? Who benefits from this bill, and who suffers? Can you really live with yourselves knowing that families across the country will be in pain and ruin because of you? May God have mercy on your immortal souls if you cause this unnecessary tragedy, knowing how many will suffer because of you.

Cindy Manson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Gavin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am against the Graham-Cassidy bill because it will put untold numbers of ill people at risk because of the provision in the bill regarding pre-existing conditions. We are the richest country in the world! Why would we discriminate against those most in need of health care?

Barbara J Gavin-Lewellyn
[REDACTED]
Madison, WI 53703
[REDACTED]

--

Sometimes life is one pile of manure after another. You can sit on the piles of manure with the stink and filth, complaining about how awful life is or with a little work, you can use it as fertilizer and grow roses. Roses look and smell a lot nicer than manure. Make an effort! Surround yourself with beauty and celebrate the joys in life!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: MacKenzie K. Moore <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please kill the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Kill any bill that will reduce the number of americans who have health insurance!

--
Best wishes,

MacKenzie

MacKenzie Moore, PhD (she, her, hers)
Student Academic Advisor
Cognitive Science
[REDACTED]

If you need in-person CogSci related advising, [Make an appointment with MacKenzie](#)

- [Declaring Cognitive Science and link to major declaration form](#)
- [Major requirements](#)
- [Enrollment tips for Cog Sci courses](#)
- [Cog Sci Course List](#)
- [Information for Junior transfers](#)
- [Planning to study abroad as a Cog Sci Major](#)
- [Pursuing a double major](#)
- [Pursuing a minor](#)
- Honors: [General Honors](#) and Honors in the major
- [2017 Cog Sci Commencement Information](#)
- [Cog Sci elective petition form \(for both on campus and off campus courses\)](#)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathryn Birstein <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Gillibrand, Kirsten (Gillibrand); schumer, scheduling (Schumer)
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, September 25, 2017
Attachments: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy Bill.docx

Hello,

I am submitting my Comments both in this email body and in the attached Word document since I don't which is preferred.

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

To Whom it May Concern:

I am one of those people who lost my insurance policy of 22 years because of Obamacare so I was not happy when the law was passed. However, then my brother Philip got on Obamacare after not having any health care plan for years. He is a plumber and works temp jobs because he has not been able to get a full time job since the 2008 housing crisis. Obamacare allowed him to get insurance for the first time in years.

Nine months ago it was discovered on a routine visit that he has the beginnings of prostate cancer and he was able to have an one day procedure to nip it in the bud, although he has to be checked every three months for the rest of his life. Without Obamacare it would have grown and who knows at what stage it would have been discovered. He lives in Maryland, so probably would then he would be put on Medicaid at a stage perhaps when his cancer would be much more advanced, which would cost a lot more than nipping it in the bud now and, of course, be much more dangerous. But with this new Graham-Cassidy bill maybe even Medicaid would not be available. And given the administrations lack of supporting Obamacare, my brother's plan, which is now \$248 a month, may rise significantly next year and he may not be able to pay.

I also have a good friend who is slowly dying of stage 4 bone cancer. She can no longer work because of pain in her back and has to pay \$900 a month for an insurance policy that she only has access to for another 18 months (she can't get on Obamacare because none of the plans include Sloan Kettering, where she is being treated). Unfortunately, even with that high premium, it doesn't pay everything so a proud woman who has worked all her life in the film and television industry had to resort to GOFUNDME to pay the extra medical bills (she is an adopted only child so no family can help).

It just makes me incredibly angry and sad that she has to go through the trauma, pain and terror of cancer (she's been fighting it for 7 years) and still suffer the humiliation and worry of

not being able to pay her medical expenses. Thank God she lives in NYC and has wonderful friends and is being treated by Sloan Kettering, one of the best cancer hospitals in the world.

I am one of those people that is well aware of the problems around health care. There simply isn't enough money in the whole world to take care of everything so choices about where to spend money are very hard.

But I can't believe we as a country can't do any better than the Graham-Cassidy bill. It's absolutely insane, as the insurance companies are pointing out, to let the states make different rules and create more paperwork on top of the every-increasing medical paperwork that already exists. I've heard estimates that as much as 30-40% of money spent on medical services goes to bureaucracy and I can easily believe it given with what nurses and doctors I know tell me.

I'm not a huge fan of single-payer systems since I know there will be huge hidden problems in them that can't be anticipated beforehand but I think it's worth it to take the plunge to get rid of all the paperwork created by having this crazy private insurance system. NY state is only one vote away from getting serious about a single-payer bill and I'm praying that it passes, which I'm sure it will eventually, hopefully before I get cancer or some other dread disease. I don't think I could deal with the endless paperwork, money problems and stress my friend with cancer is going through. I think I would prefer suicide.

So how ridiculous is it that a person like me who has good insurance from a global company would consider suicide as an option because of health care nightmares? And why can European countries and Canada have systems that cover everybody and we can't?

Please do the right thing and fix Obamacare and work with the partisan effort in Congress RIGHT NOW so my brother can continue on his Obamacare plan.

Finally, I think it must be obvious to any thinking person that there are three sure-fire ways of reducing our ever-escalating health care costs:

- Reduce paperwork to an absolute minimum
- Provide early detection screening for cancer and other diseases
- Teach preventive skills like proper diet and exercise to everyone

A health care plan that includes these will go a long way to solving this very, very difficult issue.

Thanks for listening.

Mrs. Kathryn Birstein


New York, NY 10019

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Corine Quickel [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare for all

My whole family has pre existing conditions. We go to Dr. once a month. Eat a healthy diet don't drink don't smoke. You will give us a slow death sentence by passing this bill. One migraine medication cost \$700. For 9 pills with out insurance. I just got out of ER before hurricane with migraine so bad. I didn't want to go Dr. insisting I go so they could treat me before the hurricane hit. You think about how many families this will effect and what That will do to the economy and stop flying Price around in private jets. Cruel is what it is.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Peggy Muster <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GRAHAM CASSIDY HEALTHCARE BILL

I am vehemently opposed to this healthcare initiative. Put Americans first!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lauren Fitzgerald [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GrahamCassidy bill

Committee Members:

I know I don't need to tell you that the Graham-Cassidy Obamacare Repeal bill terrible policy; everyone knows that you know. It's long past time for the people who campaigned on repealing ACA to realize that the tide has turned--public support for the provisions this bill most directly threatens is overwhelming, and all the claims to the contrary are transparently untrue.

Politics aside: we also all know that the only reason not to wait for a CBO score is that you already know it'll be bad for you. Whether you imperil the well-being of 28 million people instead of 32 million people, you're still doing something horrifying to a huge chunk of the population you're sworn to serve.

In hopes of a moment of sanity after years of smoke-blowing, dishonesty, and campaign-finance-driven dissembling....

Sincerely,

Lauren Fitzgerald
New York, NY 10040

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Donna Beck <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please HELP

I have a Brother and Sister with disabilities Please STOP the cuts to Medicaid along with the Graham-Cassidy bill..

These people can't help them self. They need all the help they can get. They do not need bills passed that will stop them from the medical attention that is needed.

- Oppose cuts to Medicaid. Any cuts to Medicaid threaten the lives of people with disabilities.
- Oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Thanks Donna Beck

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Juliana Morawski [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Dear sirs and madams:

I am opposed to the bill as written because it does not GUARANTEE adequate health coverage. This needs to be a federal mandate. I am a Registered Nurse and live in Illinois. We are struggling as it is. If you are at all familiar with our state politics, you will easily understand that the money allocated will NOT go to the uninsured. You MUST keep the mandates for women's health, mental health, etc. please do not do this to people already struggling. Fix the ACA.

Sincerely

Juliana Morawski BSN, RN

[REDACTED]
Crystal Lake, Illinois
60014

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: E Singer [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My child's health insurance

I am the parent of a special needs child whose medical costs exceed my income. Please do not hurt my child and the children of this country so your party can claim a "win."

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.

E Singer
NYC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathy Petrie <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:57 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please say NO

...to the current proposed repeal of the Affordable Care Act. Covering people with pre-existing conditions is one of the best things about The ACT. Not having that protection would be a travesty causing many to not be able to afford insurance therefore causing suffering and even death. PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE DO NOT pass the repeal. Just say no.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julie Collins <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:57 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: INFURIATED

This proposal is absurd. The Republican Party should be utterly and completely ashamed of themselves. Who do you think you are??? Who do you think you're fooling???

WE PUT YOU THERE. I am one of those individuals who never got involved in politics until this monstrosity of a "man" took office. NOW I AM PAYING ATTENTION.

I strongly, emphatically urge you not to pass this bill.
Just remember, people are paying attention now. Laxidasical days of trust are over.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alivia Hockenberry <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:57 AM
To: gchcomments; info@pahealthaccess.org
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill - the bill that will kill millions

This is a direct message to all senators voting especially the no good Mr. Toomey.

I am writing today regarding the AHCA or whatever the hell the new name is it changes every time due to frail pride. My name is Alivia and I live in Carlisle.

I expect much more of both of my senators. Especially you Toomey. I am a 20 year old female that is listed a 5 of 5 to have a stroke due to menstrual migraines. My pills stop me from dying of a stroke by the age of 25. My pills will be almost 700 for 3 packs due to this bill (as told from my providers).

Since when did you deserve fast cash at the expense of people dying? Since when do people on Medicaid bow down to you? Since when did you not represent me. VOTE NO. If you want any possible chance to be voted in again, get your ass in gear. VOTE NO. Save the children on Medicaid, save my friends with special diseases, save me. If not be prepared.

A storms coming.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Toby Koch <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:57 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

This bill is a travesty. To take healthcare away from millions is morally reprehensible. To keep states from helping their constituents is inhuman. To ignore the people you serve and experts in the medical and insurance field is beyond ignorant and arrogant. To refuse to work on a bipartisan solution to healthcare is myopic. And to lie to the American people and say none of this is happening is incredibly dishonest.

For a short while, my husband and I were without insurance and had to pay out of pocket for everything. We got a taste of the fear you have when you don't have health insurance. We were fortunate in that we had resources to pay for care and that nothing catastrophic happened during this time. We were lucky, very lucky.

Being on Medicare is a blessing for us. However, given the lack of morals, unbridled selfishness and greed in the GOP-held Congress I wonder how long it will be before steps are taken to take Medicare away.

This bill should be voted down. No further action to repeal/replace should be taken. It's become very clear, that many members of Congress just want to repeal ACA, period.

Linda Koch
Resident, State of Illinois

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nate Krenkel <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:57 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy

I am writing in regards to this bill currently being proposed.

I know there are many experts and groups in the medical and health insurance professions that oppose this. I know the President has tried to bully and shame congress into passing it. And I know how unpopular this bill is when citizens exam it closely.

But I want to stress one other aspect of it that I find disgusting: the racism of it. This racism stems from the GOP and the President's vile obsession with erasing the achievements of America's first black president. This racism is so deeply rooted now in the DNA of the modern GOP and the President that white nationalists and white supremacists are marching in the streets in celebration.

The blind obsession and hatred of President Obama that grew like cancer into the soul of the GOP has allowed a reality TV show huckster racist to take control of the party. This obsession continues to drag our nation down. The Graham-Cassidy Bill is the latest manifestation of this plague of hate and white rage. Please don't allow this to come to a vote. The ACA needs fixing, but erasing.

thank you,

Nathaniel Krenkel
New Paltz, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christine Mandell <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:57 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare is a right

No one should die because they cannot afford health insurance. The majority receiving medicaid are the working poor. It is unconsciable for the @GOP to disregard the lives of millions of Americans in order to give tax cuts to donors, friends and those that do not need them. I am an Ovarian cancer survivor and should not be denied full coverage for any care that I may need because of lifetime caps.

Sincerely,
Christine Mandell

[REDACTED]
Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Terp [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:59 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it fails to improve our health care situation in the US, is fiscally irresponsibly and morally reprehensible. Our healthcare system needs to be FIXED and this will require bi-partisan hearings and work. This current proposal is a political circus act. Pull it and get to work on a real fix.

Mary Terp

18055
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: John Shutkin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:59 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Graham-Cassidy!

This bill is an indefensible catastrophe. No citizens support it, even Republicans. Not doctors, not insurance companies. Not state officials. It is out there only so that Republican politicians can unlock Koch money for themselves.

Trump understands nothing about it. He is just for it because it repeals something Obama did.

Shame on any of you if you support it.

John A. Shutkin

office phone: [REDACTED] 

cell phone: [REDACTED] 

e-mail: j[REDACTED]m

office e-mail [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Megan Hart [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:59 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

This bill is yet another heartless, mean-spirited and economically unwise attempt to dismantle the ACA rather than build on what about it is already working. Please do better. Millions of Americans' lives are at stake.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Olivia Henderson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:02 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

The senate cannot claim to represent their constituents, or any Americans, and vote for this bill at the same time. Lives will be lost, people dropped off their plans. Services that are basic BASIC healthcare services will be dropped (pre-natal care?!?) - PLEASE CONSIDER THE BLOOD ON YOUR HANDS IF THIS BILL PASSES!

Thank you,
Olivia Henderson
New York, NY

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Sullivan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:02 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

I do not support this heartless attempt to restrict healthcare and access to healthcare for our citizens. Why is it that our country is the only major industrial country that cannot figure this out? Stop bowing to industrial interests and put the citizens interests first as you have sworn to do. Defeat this mean-spirited attempt to gut the Affordable Care Act which has been a major step forward in guaranteeing healthcare to Americans, all Americans, those with pre-existing conditions, without employee sponsored healthcare, those suffering from addiction-- which by the way was caused in large part by the greed of the pharmaceutical companies that so many of our elected officials seem more interested in protecting. Shame on you. The Affordable Care Act is far from perfect but it was an attempt to give more of us access to healthcare--fix it, don't dismantle it. Please.

Karen Sullivan
Glastonbury, CT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: elydia lerman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:02 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA repeal... Not a good option

Dear Senators

Without a CBO score or understanding of the impact on the lives of Americans how can you vote Yes? This bill will surely be damaging for more than 30 million Americans, myself being one. I was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer 9 years ago, and require 3 Month surveillance. An expensive treatment. How would I survive after this bill.

You know the only reason you want to put your Deathcare bill in place is because you hated our first black president. And now, you are supporting a mentally ill, liar, cheater, traitor.

I urge you to vote NO on the Cassidy bill, it hurts Americans. A Healthy America is a Strong America.

Sincerely
Elydia

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Bugle [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:04 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Senators: the reason for this email is to urge you not to support the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill. I have a grandchild with severe epilepsy - this bill would likely mean bankruptcy for his family - they have two other children to support as well. It would be devastating to middle-class families who are dealing with family members with cancer or diabetes or heart disease and to seniors like my husband and me. Please return to regular order and work in a bipartisan effort to improve what is already in place. Thank you for your time Sincerely,

Linda Bugle R.N.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eileen Kelly [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:03 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham Cassidy

Please follow the guidance and requests of the hundreds of physicians and healthcare organizations that oppose this bill. Stay the course to fix the existing law.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Schwarz <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:04 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
....

If this health plan isn't good enough for elected government officials, such as yourselves, then it's not good enough for the rest of the country. If senators want to be exempt from this plan, to have their own special health coverage (which is BETTER), then perhaps you need to think about why that is? Perhaps this plan isn't the right one.

Karen Schwarz

19335
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Franklin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:03 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care story - submitted for the 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.

Jim Rainwood
98501
[REDACTED]

When I was 25, 40 years ago, I was not responsible enough to use birth control but absolutely positive that I did not want children. I had health insurance (Group Health) and I asked my doctor for a vasectomy. He refused, but referred me to a doctor who was willing to do the operation. Later, I met a wonderful woman who shared my beliefs about being childless and we've been married happily for 37 years.

I'm so glad I had insurance that allowed me to control my reproduction. I've spent a lifetime outgrowing the rage I inherited from my father and healing from the damage his rage did to me. The time I've been able to dedicate to personal growth has allowed me to be a contributing member of the community in many ways. I frankly cannot imagine what my life would have been like if I had been unable to get a vasectomy. That is why, every Friday that I can, from 5pm to 6pm you'll find me standing out in front of the Olympia Planned Parenthood with a sign, "Support Planned Parenthood." My operation was so simple - and free - for me. It should be simple and free for women too, including abortions on demand. Sometimes having no children--or no more children--really is the best choice. My life is proof of that.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sarah Franklin
Indivisible Kirkland Kenmore
www.ikkwa.com

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Colleen Fitzgerald <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:04 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 if we can afford \$84 Billion for our military, we can afford universal health care.

This bill is immoral.

Colleen Fitzgerald

19529
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: kathy <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fwd: Pic

Liz, 20 lives with her parents in Sussex. In 1997, she held the WI record for the state's smallest baby to survive at 13oz 12inches. Being a micro premie and disabled at birth, she has had some challenges over the years but Medicaid has helped her parents provide her a good life. Even though, her local school district presently provides DAY services by law until 21 years old, her parents continue to search for what life will be once services stop. Families struggle to obtain support to fill basic needs and services for quality of life for their loved ones at any age.

Self Direction (IRIS) has been the major support in allowing us to use funding for Liz to do what brings her the most joy and fulfillment. She currently relies on her parents and respite workers for all her daily needs. In home Healing thru Art therapy has been a huge outlet for her socially and mentally. An Art Camp was founded in 2016 due to the great need for individuals with autism plus Liz's personal request of Healing thru Art owner, Kathleen Kaufman. Attached are pictures of Liz this year at camp "Keep Calm Paint On"

Without Medicaid covering these home and community based services Liz would be in an institution.

This effects way too many vulnerable people to rush it through. Please consider other ways to solve health care budget issues than on the backs of those that truly need the assistance.

Thank you for listening.
Kathy Shimek Hahn

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kathleen <kaufmankrk@yahoo.com>
Date: September 21, 2017 at 4:28:08 PM CDT
To: "kathylizbill@yahoo.com" <kathylizbill@yahoo.com>
Subject: Pic

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Andrea Kamins [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:14 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment on Proposed Graham-Cassidy Legislation

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed Graham-Cassidy legislation. I am one of the majority of Americans who oppose this measure for the following reasons:

- * It brings back pre-existing conditions clauses.
- * It allows insurers to raise rates when a patient receives a new diagnosis.
- * It allows states to cut funding for, or let insurers exclude:
 - * maternity services
 - * hospitalizations
 - * laboratory tests
 - * dental benefits for children
 - * mental health
 - * substance abuse programs
- * It would allow individual states to prevent women's clinics from charging Medicaid for services like cancer screenings and birth control.
- * It shifts billions of dollars of costs onto states, giving them incentive to cut the above items.
- * It lets states spend block grants on non-healthcare spending.
- * Federal aid for Medicaid would plummet.
- * Insurers would be able to double their surcharge on elderly customers.
- * It kills the existing insurance subsidies made available to those in economic need through the Affordable Care Act.

I am one of many citizens urging my legislators and the Senate Finance Committee to block this legislation as its impact would be truly devastating for the vast majority of Americans, especially those already made vulnerable because of existing health and financial challenges.

Sincerely,

Andrea Kamins
Michigan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jane Fritz [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:16 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Don't repeal the ACA!

The ACA has allowed some of our country's most vulnerable citizens access to healthcare, which is a human right that the richest country in the world should be proud to provide to its citizens. I strongly oppose any measures to repeal the ACA, including the most recent measure redistributing the funds as state blocks. If Republicans want people to "pull themselves up by their bootstraps" they should take responsibility for our citizens health to at least give them half a chance!

Jane Fritz, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy Simso Dean [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:15 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment on Graham-Cassidy

Beyond the deep cuts in medicaid (penalizing states that expanded medicaid to cover more people) and the penalizing people for preexisting conditions... the Block grant idea simply does not make economic sense. Medical care and costs are not a fixed element. By not encouraging (requiring) healthy individuals to join the healthcare pool, you are hamstringing the insurance market. It relies on people who don't use it as much as people who do to be successful.

This bill is a loser for the American people.

Amy



Add extra color to your (or a friend's) world.
Check out my stained glass at
www.Scrappy-Bird-Stained-Glass.myshopify.com

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: SHAUNA TINDALL [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:17 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare legislation

I am writing to implore the senate to vote down this bill. My daughters, who earn at the poverty line, are absolutely dependent on the subsidy for their health care. This bill is cruel, taking away the subsidy and doing nothing to guarantee coverage for people with pre-existing conditions. This is not a moderate bill, it is extreme in its cruelty and lack of compassion for the working poor.

Shauna Tindall

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christopher Dorr [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:15 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH Comment

I am contacting you today to express my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy proposal. People with disabilities rely on Medicaid, and the per capita caps and cuts included in Graham-Cassidy will jeopardize our health, threaten our independence, and put lives at risk. Please reconsider any support you may have for this legislation.

Thank you,

Christopher Dorr

Christopher Dorr • ILS Coordinator
IndependenceFirst • [REDACTED] • Milwaukee, Wisconsin • 53204



IndependenceFirst
The Resource For People With Disabilities

Confidentiality Notice: This e-mail is covered by the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. Sections 2510-2521 and is intended only for the use of the individual to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged and confidential. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply email and destroy all copies of the original message.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Megan Costill <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:17 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GOP - Stop Destroying Healthcare!

Graham-Cassidy is a disastrous bill that helps no one but super rich people. The only reason my husband and I were able to buy our own business and "live the American dream" is the Affordable Care Act. We are able to buy affordable healthcare for our family through the exchange and we rely on the subsidy to help us pay for it. What are we supposed to do without the subsidy that Graham-Cassidy takes away? We won't be able to afford insurance. Do we give up our dreams and business to find a job that provides crappy and expensive healthcare? There won't even be Medicaid for the children if Graham-Cassidy passes. Don't take my family's health insurance away just so rich people can get a tax cut.

Megan Costill

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eric Geiss [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:18 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Drop this bill

It is amazing to me how backhanded, shady and evil this bill is and how so many of our representatives no longer represent but rather only do what their money men and their god tell them to. When you have most of the nation screaming 'NO' how can you in good conscience let this travesty pass? NO NO NO.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jessica Tucker <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:18 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017 - Jessica Tucker-Schauer 411 Collins St Carlyle, IL 62231

Please vote down the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill.

A person's right to comprehensive, affordable healthcare should not be dependent on what state in which they live. It should be a universal right for everyone.

I am one of the many people who have benefited from the current Affordable Care Act. I have suffered from severe depression, and chronic anxiety for most of my life, but it wasn't until the ACA was passed that I was able to get treatment, my previous insurance had very minimal health benefits. I went from being unable to see past the end of the day, to making plans for the future. This would not have been possible without the guarantee that I would have access to mental health services. My health benefits have doubled since the ACA was passed, without paying significantly more in premium.

No one chooses to be sick, or to need healthcare, and no one should be punished for living in a state that doesn't require basic, affordable benefits for everyone.

Please vote no on Graham-Cassidy.

Thank you,

Jessica Tucker-Schauer

[REDACTED]
Carlyle, IL 62231

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anne Katz and David Wallner [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:18 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: We oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

Please don't take away the ability to access health care from millions of working Americans. We oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Anne Katz and David Wallner
[REDACTED]
Madison, WI 53703

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rebecca Hershberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:18 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to the healthcare bill!

Hello,

As a psychologist and mental health provider, as a parent and a caregiver, as a citizen and a human, I am horrified by the Graham-Cassidy bill. I fail to understand why the republican majority hates pregnant mothers, children, those with disabilities, and those who live with mental illness. As the party of family values, they are failing their responsibility to support and uplift families.

Please vote no on this travesty of a bill that will hurt so many and ruin an important sector of our economy.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Hershberg

--

Little House Calls
Dr. Rebecca Schrag Hershberg
Early Childhood Psychologist & Consultant
NYC | Westchester | Rockland

[REDACTED]

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This email and any attachments are for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure, or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient(s) please contact the sender by reply email and delete all copies of this email and attachments from your system. Thank you for your cooperation.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karla Johnson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:18 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

If you made \$45,000.00 a year, is this the healthcare you'd want available to you? To your grandchildren? To your Mother?

Karla Johnson
Accounting Associate
Plaspros, Inc.

[REDACTED]
McHenry, IL 60050
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lindsey Maliekel [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:19 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Good morning,

I am writing today to express my intense concern about the graham Cassidy bill.

I am concerned that it has not cbo score.

I am concerned that Pre-existing coverage would not be guaranteed to be covered at an affordable price.

I am concerned that women's health care will be at the discretion of insurance companies.

I am concerned that 30 million Americans will lose coverage.

More than that - I am saddened that the bipartisan movement to work on healthcare TOGETHER was shut down. That bipartisan movement was the first bit of hope I've had that our democracy might still be able to work. And now I feel that we have been thrust right back into the mire of partisanship. And once again - elected officials are trying to 'win' at all cost. And make no mistake - the cost is incredibly high and very tragic. The loss includes people's lives and a continual loss of our trust in the underpinnings of our democracy.

Please stop this madness and get to work on creating a bipartisan bill that is thoughtful and reasonable. This is insanity.

Lindsey Buller Maliekel

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Garrison <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:57 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it is a poorly constructed bill that will leave millions of Americans without healthcare; it will dismantle Medicaid and punish the States that chose to expand Medicaid; everything I have read recently says it will not achieve "the fairness" that Sen. Graham is pushing. After the devastation of two major hurricanes, those in greatest need will suffer the most without the help of the Federal Government through Medicaid coverage. Please vote NO on this irresponsible and poorly designed bill. Don't put politics before peoples' healthcare needs. Thank you.

Barbara Garrison

18020
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:19 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

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

September 25, 2017

Heather Lacks

[REDACTED]
South Portland, ME 04106

To whom it may concern,

I respectfully submit this as documentation regarding one of the citizens opposing the GC proposal. I am an insulin-dependent diabetic. I lost my state-sponsored insurance several months ago and was able to acquire new insurance through the ACA, to take effect at the beginning of the following month. While that time passed, I researched what my medications would cost if paid out-of pocket. Just ONE of my insulins would cost \$1,030 a month. That does not account for the other, any oral medications or testing supplies. My disabled husband receives state-sponsored health insurance, as does our youngest son, who has asthma. The loss of the protections of the ACA would be clear. I would die. I would DIE. My husband would lose his wife. My sons would lose their mother. The loss of access to Medicaid would devastate our family further, leaving a disabled man to care for a young boy as both struggle without the required medications.

There has never been a time where I have been more baffled and frightened by the motives of the legislature of this country.

How much more must we plead to you to listen to the voices of the people?

Heather Lacks

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeff Kirby <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:19 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: RE: Oppose Graham-Cassidy Health Legislation

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy Health Legislation.

Jeffrey Kirby

--
This email was Anti Virus checked by Sophos UTM Security Gateway.

This email and any attached files are confidential and intended solely for the intended recipient(s). If you are not the named recipient you should not read, distribute, copy or alter this email. Any views or opinions expressed in this email are those of the author and do not represent those of GCCMH. Warning: Although precautions have been taken to make sure no viruses are present in this email, the company cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage that arise from the use of this email or attachments.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Heather Dane <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:19 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I have a 7 year old daughter who loves roller coasters, baby dolls, pretend kitchen play, and cars. Yes I said cars. She is feisty, sweet, shy, and funny. She deeply loves and misses her brother who passed away 14 months ago from complications due to his disability. She also relies on protections of the ACA and Medicaid because she herself has a disability and special healthcare needs. Without the protections of preexisting conditions and the dismantling of life time caps she would have been uninsurable from just a few months old. Without Medicaid she wouldn't have access to specialized therapy and services that help her to thrive to become an adult who contributes to her community and the economy. Without these protections and Medicaid coverage our family would literally be bankrupt. I am begging you, for my daughter, for my parents who have heart conditions, for my husband who has high blood pressure, for my neighbor who has asthma, for my friends and family who currently need or will absolutely need health insurance coverage in the future, for my community as a whole, please put the politics of one side versus the other aside. Please work to protect all Americans from any bill that removes the protections of the ACA and cuts spending on Medicaid. These types of cuts and changes have detrimental affects to the most vulnerable populations. Leaving it up to individual states is not a viable option. Please do the right thing and don't allow the Graham Cassidy bill to pass.

Heather Dane
Indianapolis, IN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Beuchat PhD [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: RE Graham Cassidy proposal

To whom it may concern:

I have a chronic pre-existing condition that is not expensive to treat but has precluded me from getting health insurance for many years.

During this time, I had to foot the bill for ALL of my medical expenses

- shoulder surgery, broken bones, yearly mammograms and pap smears, mole removal, surgical repair of a broken wrist, routine blood tests, eye exams and cataract surgery, and of course the medication for my pre-existing condition - EVERYTHING.

This depleted my savings, then it depleted most of the money I had set aside for my retirement. I will never be able to buy a house. I have ruined my credit. I am a PhD scientist but I have lived in fear of getting a serious illness that I would not be able to afford to treat.

Finally, the ADA allowed me to get the first health insurance I've had in years, and because of my financial status I qualified for Medi-Cal in California. In July 2017, I was diagnosed with Stage 3 Breast Cancer. I was advised that the treatment would be chemo- and immunotherapy, surgery, then radiation, with medication for the next 10 years. This care is all covered by my health insurance. I receive my second chemo treatment tomorrow.

I am flabbergasted that a bill is now under consideration that would probably result in the loss of my health insurance. Without treatment, my treatable - and possibly curable - cancer will KILL me.

I am certain that our elected representatives would decline the opportunity to give up the health insurance they now have for the plan they propose for the rest of us.

I have many professional colleagues around the world, and they are uniformly appalled by the draconian legislation being proposed by the Senate.

My question for the Senators: If you lost YOUR health insurance today, and this bill was your only option, would it be adequate for YOU and YOUR family???

Without health insurance, I will die of Cancer. To those that support the Graham Cassidy bill, shame on you!

Sincerely,

Carol Beuchat

--

Carol Beuchat PhD

[REDACTED]
Scientific Director
Institute of Canine Biology

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rj [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments about ACA

I am an ACA success story.

After my Graves' Disease diagnosis 12 years ago, I thought I would never be insured again. The law allowed me to be discriminated against because of my pre-existing condition. Over the years many insurance companies denied me individual coverage and one even rescinded coverage and back-billed me when their underwriters discovered the "mistake" they made by covering me.

My job cut its group health insurance benefits right before I started working there, citing high costs of the ACA, but still paying out premium bonuses to upper management to this day.

My Graves' Disease was getting worse with time. Being hyperthyroid causes muscle loss (thyrotoxic myopathy), hair loss, cardiac damage, a rapid pulse that is hard to control with beta blockers, low testosterone, and many devastating psychological effects including "Graves' Rage", an inability to concentrate, and severe anxiety.

It is an autoimmune disease that despite my best efforts, was not responding to treatment. The pills were losing their effectiveness and starting to damage my liver. My options were running out.

I was becoming worthless to society. My quality of life was extremely low. My mental health was suffering as well from the frustration of being helpless.

September 2012, I found an endocrinologist that would see me, for \$11 a minute, cash. A lab that would run my blood work without a Dr's order, cash. A hospital that would administer the radioactive iodine treatment as long as I prepaid, cash.

The radiation treatment was expensive, unsuccessful and left me with other and more complications from the disease, leading me to find an

ophthalmologist that accepted cash as well. TED, thyroid eye disease, is an inflammation of the tissues behind the eyes exacerbated by the radioactive iodine treatment. Had my endocrinologist warned me about this, I would never have done the treatment. I guess that is the quality of care I deserve for not being insurable.

My last option was a total thyroidectomy. A \$150,000 surgical procedure that would require a substantial down payment, if I could find a surgeon and facility willing to take the risk of financing the procedure.

I was 39 years old and worked full time at a good job but there is no way I could have afforded that surgery even if I saved every extra penny. I am middle class. My family is on a very tight budget. Inflation and the cost of living in Phoenix has not been kind.

When the health care marketplace opened up and the laws changed, I was excited and optimistic. The ACA site worked perfectly for me, the first time I tried. I had a high deductible "gold" policy ready for the first of the new year. Unfortunately I did not qualify for any subsidizing, but the opportunity to have insurance coverage at all was more than gratifying after all these years of being sick and being rejected.

January 1, 2014 ended the pre-existing condition restriction and I was ready to go.

My surgeon saw me January 13th 2014 and I was scheduled for a total thyroidectomy January 27th 2014. I had no issues getting in to see any doctors or getting any of my pre-surgical blood work, x-rays, or diagnostics performed in a timely manner. The hospital had the procedure approved with my insurer without any problems.

On January 27th 2014 my thyroid was removed without complication and since that day, my life has had a complete turn around. I feel really good. My mind is clear again. My body is already starting to recover from the myopathy, my TED has receded. I am stronger every day and have not felt this good or "normal" in over a decade.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Murchison <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment on Graham Cassidy

Dear Senate Finance Colleagues,

Please meet my 44 year old brother, Andrew, who has intellectual and developmental disabilities. See below with his mother at Christmas

Andrew receives Medicaid healthcare and community living supports. These supports allow him to see a Psychiatrist who accepts Medicaid (FYI-most don't, so you can imagine those who do are either people with incredible hearts or were not graduates at the top of their class). He see's this HCP on a quarterly basis in addition to his primary care physician who has seen him for 40+ years (Incidentally, this has been critical to supporting Andrew's healthcare needs because you don't have to retell his whole history).

Today, the supports Andrew receives are barely enough to provide him with the care he requires to have a productive life. He actually has his own business mowing lawns and removing snow for his peers. He can not get paid for this job or a get real job for four basic reasons:

- (1) if he makes too much money he loses the Medicaid coverage he needs for healthcare.
- (2) a real job would require a job coach to keep him on task and who would pay that individual and many companies don't what a coach in addition to a IDD individual in their office
- (3) no real company is incentivized to hire Andrew, pay him a living wage and provide healthcare coverage.

You know how companies like Walmart hire folks, but not full time so they they can avoid giving healthcare benefits or overtime, same concept applies. Yes, they all send out those 'catnip' pieces about how they helped the one guy with down syndrome have a job for 40 years, but if you dig in to it you will see it was a part time job, no benefits and not enough to live on OR it was a family friend with a heart doing a favor for someone

- (4) Andrew is funny and super friendly, but sometimes he drools and talks to you a little to close or a little too long and that makes the "normal" employees or the customers uncomfortable.

Because of Medicaid Community Living supports Andrew has a terrific staff- all underpaid for the work they do, but that is another conversation. His staff help to make sure he has a full life and is active in the community. They also keep him from burning down the house when he attempts to make his own breakfast, his staff are who have taught him to even try cooking which is an example of the success that come from the community living supports he receives. It is actually how the program is supposed to work. My parents fought hard against institutionalization in the 1970s when people told them to just dump their son, they ensured he was integrated into public schools which resulted in 1000's of students becoming better citizens for having known him. Andrew has life that many told them was not possible and he has enriched the lives of many by way of it.

I, on the other hand, am an executive in the healthcare industry and a small business owner working with healthcare start-ups. I truly understand what you are up to with this bill and the breadth of healthcare companies and professional organizations who are speaking out against this bill and its contents. I frankly am disgusted by your behavior, thoughtlessness and lack of consideration for anyone other than most elite American citizens. How dare you push a bill without a budget score or a debate. If ran my business in a

similarly reckless manner I would not have one and if an employee behaved in the manner I have seen many of you behave, on both sides of the aisle, I would fire them.

So here my reality, my work and success puts me among the top income earners in our country (minus the ultra rich and of course the folks with the family money, like some of you). If you decide to try and screw my brother, he is going to be fine because will I make sure his needs continue to be met. So that leads me to the real reason I am writing, which is on behalf of all the other IDD people who have been dumped by their families and don't have anyone to stand up for them, all the patients with cystic fibrosis I have spent years trying to help navigate our healthcare system and the patients who have yet to be diagnosed with that disease that this bill will allow an insurer to call a pre-existing condition so they can get out of paying for the care required despite years of families paying for healthcare insurance they thought would cover them.

This bill is despicable, you all know it in your heart of hearts and shame on you for not doing the right thing for your constituents. It's incredibly difficult to help folks understand what it is like to have a sibling with IDD, their needs etc.. and even more to get them to truly care about it as an issue that does not really impact their lives. It's my expectation that elected officials are different, held to a higher standard and that you represent ALL people without me begging you to do your job.

Right now, you regularly just let us all down.

Sarah A Murchison


Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kelsey Hart <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: In opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the health care legislation proposed by Senators Graham and Cassidy. The American people is counting on you to act with logic and intelligence and compassion and vote no on this damaging bill. I will share my personal story to help illustrate why this bill must not pass.

I had a major emergency back surgery and spinal fusion almost three years ago to remove a benign spinal cord tumor. It took a team of neurologists and emergency clinicians to make the diagnosis that finally explained my months of pain and neurologic deficits, an amazingly talented neurosurgeon removed the tumor and affected nerve root and leave me with a healthy spinal cord and no deficits, a week in the hospital in the neurology care unit to be able to walk even with a walker, and 9 months of physical therapy to be fully functional and mostly pain free. I am almost 100% now and am able to lift my children and practice yoga daily, and most importantly, am able to continue to work as a large animal veterinarian.

The medical bills for my diagnostic workup, hospitalization, surgery, and aftercare totaled a quarter of a million dollars. \$250,000. I had excellent insurance through work, and we paid just about \$10k.

Here's the important part, though. I switched to that insurance plan just 25 days before they found the tumor and just 28 days prior to my surgery. This insurance change was due to my husband's job change, and occurred in the midst of my seeing various neurologists and orthopedic surgeons to try to figure out the cause of my months of my arm and leg pain and numbness. Without the Affordable Care Act's protection, this would have been excluded as a pre-existing condition, or I would have had much higher rates or been denied coverage all together. If it recurs in the future, and I need another surgery, the ACA currently ensures it would still be covered no matter what health care plan I am on.

I think I have "lived a good life" thus far - I grew up in comfortable and safe circumstances, attended an Ivy League college, earned two doctorates and specialty veterinary board certification, and have a strong marriage and amazing family. I have a very good job and we are financially secure, but we do not have \$250k for emergency medical expenses laying around. And that is just a tiny portion of what medical expenses for a cancer diagnosis or severe accident or sick newborn baby or chronic illness might total. We would have lost our house three years ago without the ACA, and if I have future related problems that do not have to be covered, as this proposed legislation would allow, we still might. Not because I have made bad choices and lived a bad life, but because of our broken health care system and the bad legislation proposed by Senators Graham and Cassidy. The ACA is far from perfect, and you and your colleagues should and must work to repair and improve it, but this bill is absolutely not the way to do that.

You all have sought a life in public service, and you have an awesome responsibility to all Americans in these unprecedented times. I am certain that you care about making sure your work leaves Americans better off, not worse off. I know you believe that a person's income level should not dictate if they can buy needed medicine, pay for hospitalization, or even see their doctor for preventative care. I know you don't believe that an unexpected health expense should bankrupt a family.

I implore every single one of you to courageously and consciously vote no on this damaging and illogical bill. Then more importantly, please immediately begin to work together with your colleagues on both sides of the aisle to ensure that more - not fewer - Americans have access to affordable health care. I am not being trite when I say that all of our lives and futures truly do depend on you.

Sincerely,
Kelsey Hart

--

Sent from Gmail Mobile.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Brienne Parker [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: How Graham-Cassidy would hurt my family

My name is Brie Parker. I'm a 36 year old Oklahoman who is also a wife, mom, and political science professor. The Affordable Care Act saved my life because of its requirement that insurance plans cover mental illness and its protections for people with pre-existing conditions. Here's the short version of why this matters so much to me: I have lived with mental illness on both sides of the ACA. Before, when I couldn't access medication and treatment because insurance wasn't required to cover mental health, or to allow people with a history of any illness to buy insurance, I was suicidal many times. I hurt myself and my family. I missed out on a lot with my kids because it was all I could do just to stay alive. I struggled in my job and at school. After the ACA, when my mental illness was treated as being just like someone else's cardiac disease, diabetes, or COPD, I was able to get the intensive treatment that I needed, which in turn led to finally getting a correct diagnosis along with a medication plan to manage it. With treatment, I can be a present, loving, and productive mom, wife, and teacher. Without it, I eventually wind up in a locked ward.

Here's the longer version. There are so many ways that Graham-Cassidy would hurt my family, chief among them that despite the fact that the GOP keeps saying that it protects people with pre-existing conditions, it doesn't. Sure, I would theoretically be able to buy insurance because insurers wouldn't be able to deny coverage because I'd been sick before. But the fact that it allows states to apply for waivers that would allow insurance companies to go back to charging people with pre-existing conditions more means that my family would not at all be able to afford insurance. Oklahoma would apply for that waiver before the ink had dried on the president's signature. Based on the premium surcharges the American Progress Institute calculated, which were in turn based on CMS data, my family of 5 would be looking at premium surcharges of almost \$30,000 a year. That's the tab for one case of bipolar disorder, one case of diabetes, two cases of asthma, and one case of autism. Thank God I don't (yet) have metastatic cancer, which is what killed my father, as the premium surcharge for that is in excess of \$140,000. People with pre-existing conditions aren't protected if the premium increases associated with their illnesses make it absolutely impossible to obtain insurance. There are plenty of people who will talk about numbers, though. I want to tell you about the difference that being able to buy health insurance has made in my life. I want to tell you what my worst day without care was like, because if my senators are going to vote in favor of this bill, and they almost certainly are, then I want them to have to face that worst day.

Prior to the ACA, we couldn't buy insurance. We tried, but were turned down by four different companies due to pre-existing conditions. My husband and I were both college educated and working full time. We made too much money for Medicaid or Insure Oklahoma, but not enough that we could pay out of pocket for the kind of regular visits that are necessary to manage mental illness - just like regular visits that are necessary to manage any other chronic illness. My treatment plan was based on whatever the doctor I saved up to see once every six months could cobble together off the \$4 generics list at different pharmacies. Therapy, which might have helped me need less medication, was out of the question because there was no way to afford to go consistently, even at sliding scale clinics.

I knew that there was something wrong with my brain, but I didn't know what. I'd gone to OU on a full scholarship as a National Merit Scholar, but could no longer concentrate long enough to read a few pages in a book. I'd always been outgoing and successful, but became withdrawn and was often lethargic to the point where just getting out of bed took literally every ounce of energy that I had. I'd always been a hard worker, but I

started coming in late to work and taking too long to get through my assigned tasks. My brain was wrapped in cotton, except when it wasn't and everything was TOO much. My body felt like I was wearing a 500 pound lead suit that made moving almost impossible. To say that it was exhausting wouldn't begin to touch the reality, which was that from the moment I woke up to the moment that I fell asleep my brain was at war with itself. One November night in 2009, when my husband and our (then only) child were out of town, I lined up 90 sleeping pills on the counter. In that moment, in that darkness, it didn't matter that I had a husband who loved me and a three year old who needed me. It didn't matter that I had seen firsthand what losing a parent can do to a young child, as I watched my 6 year old brother struggle after our dad died of metastatic cancer while I was in college. It didn't matter that I was supposedly intelligent, and gifted, and going to do great things. All that mattered was that I deeply and truly believed the lies that my dysfunctional brain was telling me - that I was a failure, that I would always be a failure, that my son deserved a good mom instead of me, that my family really would be better off without me. Suicide didn't just seem like A rational response to my situation, it seemed like the ONLY rational response to my situation. Something stopped me, though, and I drove to the ER instead of taking the pills. There began the first of many emergency hospitalizations, where I was locked up and treated as a criminal in the name of keeping me safe from myself. I was taken to a locked ward at a public facility. I was forced to strip down and shower while a nurse watched, not even allowed the dignity and privacy of a curtain. I was given too-small, too-tight clothes to wear in front of a staff that openly and loudly made fun of the people who were there. People who, like me, were struggling. You don't wind up on a locked unit because you're having a good day. I spent four days there. I could spend time in my freezing cold room or the day room, which was full of people who needed help and people who worked there making fun of or ignoring those people. The day was basically waiting for nighttime meds, where they handed out sleeping pills like candy so the night would be quiet. I would never, ever, ever go back to that place. I already felt worthless; the hospital didn't help. I was discharged with no diagnosis, with an appointment to meet with a doctor I'd never heard of for a follow-up appointment that I couldn't afford.

That was the worst hospitalization, but there were others. Some I chose, some I didn't. I wish I could say that after that things got better, and they did for a little while, but they didn't stay there. We didn't know this then, but that's because rather than the major depressive disorder that I was eventually diagnosed with and sort of treated for I have bipolar disorder. When a person with bipolar disorder is treated just for their depressive symptoms, it increases the severity of the disease overall. The biggest problem was that we still didn't have health insurance. I still couldn't see a doctor. When the ACA went into effect, we immediately bought a policy. That's all we had wanted to be able to do the whole time - buy insurance. By then another little boy had come along and we were a family of four. I was in grad school, but struggling because my symptoms were still not well managed. I'd just started seeing a doctor regularly when we moved to California for another ministry opportunity. We were blessed to be able to FINALLY be on a group plan in California, but the ACA saved me again because that group plan was required to cover mental health. Insurance plans didn't have to do that before the ACA, and unless you could afford to add a rider (if that was even an option on your plan; on mine, the mental health rider cost more than my share of the cost of the entire insurance plan so we couldn't afford it) to add it it likely wasn't covered. California is where I got my diagnosis and months of intense therapy. It's where I got a treatment plan that was based on what worked best for me and not what was cheapest at the pharmacy. It's where, for the first time in my adult life, I felt like I had a shot a normal life.

Now the GOP is trying to advance a bill that would make it possible for insurance companies to go back to the old way of penalizing people who get sick. Everyone gets sick or seriously injured eventually. No one knows when it will happen or what it will be, but one bad day can wipe out a family's entire financial existence. ONE of my emergency holds - which the hospital was required to put me on by law if I came in or was brought in and thought to be a danger to myself - would be billed at anywhere from \$2500 - \$7000. If I was transported by ambulance, rather than the back of a squad car, there was another \$1200 or so billed for the ambulance. If I already think I'm a drain on my family, why would I choose to go to the hospital and burden them with those costs? Besides the emergency holds, there's the cost of treatment - two weeks of intensive daily therapy while I was in California was billed at over \$10,000. I wouldn't have been able to go if it hadn't been for insurance, and

I honestly don't think that I'd still be here if I hadn't been able to go to therapy like that. That's just mental illness, it doesn't touch numbers for some other serious illnesses. The ONE night my husband spent in the hospital on telemetry when he was diagnosed with asthma was billed at almost \$11,000. The emergency surgery and hospital stay that my Dad had when he woke up one morning in excruciating pain ran over \$75,000. July 30th, Dad was healthy as far as we knew. July 31st, he had stage IV colon cancer. One day, one moment, and everything can change, and without insurance people do not have the same chance at living at all, or at the same quality of life while they are alive.

Without insurance, my quality of life would be poorer (and possibly gone completely, as I might have completed a suicide attempt). My children would be adversely affected, either by a mom who's struggling to participate in day to day life or by being without their mother at all. It's not just mental illness that is like this. Having insurance allows you to get treatment for any disease, and it's not just about the big expensive things. It's about being able to go to the doctor when you first feel a tiny lump instead of putting it off because of the cost of a mammogram and winding up diagnosed with Stage IV metastatic cancer and hospice rather than Stage I and a lumpectomy. It's about getting early childhood intervention for things like autism spectrum disorder so that those kids can be successful in school and get good jobs. It's about going to a regular checkup, and the doctor seeing that your blood pressure is running high so you get on medication and don't have any complications versus not having that checkup and having a stroke because you didn't even know that your blood pressure was high. Preventative care saves lives and money, and the best way to ensure that people have access to preventative care is to make sure that they have access to insurance. Not "access" where I can get a plan if I can afford to pay \$30,000 a year extra in premiums so that it will cover the illnesses that members of my family have, but real actual access to real actually affordable coverage.

This is life and death for my family. It's life and death for millions of families. Graham-Cassidy isn't really about doing what is best for people; it's about getting something, ANYTHING passed so that the GOP can say that they got rid of ObamaCare. I spent most of my life as a registered and active member of the Republican party. I left when I realized that their priorities and my priorities are different. Turning something over to the states for the sake of turning it over to the states, without any real idea of what is going to happen if they do that is NOT good policy, it's NOT caring about people, it is a partisan maneuver plain and simple. The ACA is not perfect. Nobody is saying it is. But we're talking about millions of lives and 1/6th of the economy, and that's worth taking the time to work through this in a bipartisan and deliberate way. Talk about the cost of care. Talk about the cost of prescription drugs. Talk about getting access to consistent and quality preventative care. But, GOP, don't do this. Don't slam a bill through at the 11th hour under something that doesn't even approach the "regular order" that members from both parties are advocating a return to just for the sake of being able to say you've passed something. My thanks to the Democrats in the Senate and to the Republicans who are willing to set aside partisan scorekeeping to work with the Democrats to try to come up with something that actually would protect people instead of being a hash mark on the president's political score card.

Sincerely,
Brienne Parker

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: tjulianne [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Unexpected Medical Needs

Growing up, my father taught us one important thing. "IT IS A HARSH WORLD OUT THERE AND YOU NEED TO WORK TO SURVIVE." I started working at 13, babysitting, and running a babysitting group for our local church. By the time I was 16, I was regularly holding down at least 1 job, to pay for my own expenses. My father gave us, basic food, a roof and utilities. My paychecks paid for things like clothes that I WANTED, makeup, junk food, and transportation. I bought my own car and paid for everything to keep it on the road.

By 18, I was working as an Executive Secretary for one of the VPs of a high tech firm, in the same office building as both my parents and had excellent insurance coverage. I NEVER planned a life that would include 3 preterm babies and eventually ending up permanently disabled.

My youngest son, was born premature and sick. He would have died, had it NOT been for excellent medical care provided by CA Medi-CAL. I was 23 years old and had 3 babies to care for. But I STILL worked! Their father and I struggled to give those boys a good life. Even after our divorce, I made SURE my job had good insurance for my sons.

At 32 years old, I was injured coming home from work one night. I NEVER planned on ending up disabled. When the disability insurance ran out, I found out that I had worked enough hours in my lifetime to qualify for my retirement (except for the fact that I was too young). But I did get my Social Security benefits and Medicare.

Only problem was and IS, Social Security does NOT pay enough to live off of and Medicare, covers 80% for most things. They pay nothing for prescriptions, vision or dental. I found myself back on Medi-Cal (or CCA) and barely surviving.

I am now 46 years old, still disabled, needing more medical help, the older I get and my benefits cover less and less each year. My SSI money is NOT enough to even pay for housing in the SF Bay Area, (where I was born and raised). WITHOUT ACA, I would be unable to pay for ANY medical care. Food being top priority, medicine and medical procedures for my disability would be given up.

I NEVER planned on getting hurt. I NEVER planned on needing my Social Security benefits as a young woman. I NEVER planned on NEEDING government health care again!

I raised three amazing sons, my youngest having served as a US Marine, who's taxes now pay to give insurance to people JUST LIKE THEIR MOM. They are healthy, and they work. They know and support the idea that it is the responsibility to help the less fortunate, it is how I raised them. They understand that not only is it a "HARSH WORLD", but that they need "compassion for those in need"! They learned that from me, they see that with their own mother. They grew up with a mom who ended up sick, and needed extra help. They BELIEVE our government has a DUTY to ALL its Citizens, NOT just the wealthy!

I paid my taxes from 13 to the time I was injured. I KNEW my money went to help those in need, and I KNEW it was the right thing to do! It is the way this country is supposed to work. Please remember, this country

NEEDS all its citizens. Had it NOT been for Medi-Cal, you would have had one less MAN to SERVE this country! He would have died as a baby.

Thank you,

Tisha J. Vogt

[REDACTED]

Aromas, CA [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Debra Georgvich [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Insurance

Importance: High

To Whom It May Concern:

I wanted to share my health journey and beg that our political parties do justice for those of us who live in misery with conditions that will not go away and conditions that God bestowed upon us because we are fighters.

At age 25 I was diagnosed with Lupus and Ankylosing Spondylitis. I am now 46 and have been a fighter, along with my medical team, this whole time. When I graduated college with my dual bachelors degree I knew something was not right. I saw doctor after doctor and finally found my way to a rheumatologist who ran a battery of tests and figured out what was going on. While going through all this I continued teaching students with special needs and eventually transferred in to a "traditional" 4th grade classroom. My conditions were manageable at that time. I went on to get my Master's Degree in Educational Leadership and then continued on to get my Principal Certificate. While furthering my education, and teaching our community of children, I began to have further problems. Through AS I developed Iritis. Which is basically arthritis in your eye and if not seen immediately it can cause blindness. My AS also started attacking other parts of my body. As if it weren't hard enough to deal with AS I also dealt with LUPUS. Through my first pregnancy I a few complications due to my health, leading me to have to see a perinatologist. My second pregnancy was completely overseen by a team of perinatologists. I was on so much medication after birth, that I was almost unrecognizable. BUT again, due to my amazing medical team before during and after my pregnancies I was able to have two wonderful children and fight through my challenges. These challenges were, and are, preexisting conditions. The way the new bill is written is that states have the option to opt out of preexisting conditions or set a lifetime limit. If this happens I could, in all seriousness DIE!!!! leaving behind my husband, two amazing children, family and friends. After having children, my health became more and more of a battle. My inflammation rate continues to be severely elevated. My body fights against itself. Instead of being the principal that I WAS years ago I am now on disability and fighting these horrible diseases. I currently receive Remicade Infusions which are helping, but of course don't make everything better. I fight with Iritis about 6 times a year (on average). With my last bout I actually had to have my eye paralyzed for 6 weeks because it was such a bad case. Again, as the current bill is written I wouldn't be able to get that covered. I would go blind. I wouldn't be able to see my beautiful children go up. I fight a daily battle all while trying to maintain a positive attitude. My medical team are the only people that can continue to maintain my current health successes. PLEASE, I am begging you, do NOT give states the option to opt out or preexisting health issues. IF you don't stop this you will allowing our government to KILL me and MANY others. We didn't want these conditions. God gave them to us because we are badass fighters. He only gives us what we can handle. These conditions are not diseases that are curable or diseases that go away....EVER!!! Don't allow our government to inadvertently kill good American people who work hard, who have families, who have loving and caring hearts. Don't let them take my life away, because if this goes through....I WILL not be able to get the medical attention I need for my diseases and I WILL DIE. There's no doubt...without continued help, I WILL DIE!!!

Blessing to you,
Debra Georgvich
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Doris Gonzalez <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO GrahamCassidy!

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a very nervous American. My husband was diagnosed with kidney cancer a few weeks ago. We're awaiting surgery to remove part of his kidney. This isn't the first time.

Six years ago, nearly to the day, he was diagnosed with testicular cancer. He lost his job, we lost our home, but we didn't lose him, because of our access to Medicaid. Although we eventually earned enough again to buy private insurance off the ACA marketplace, an unforeseen layoff struck again this summer. Once again we were forced onto Medicaid. I urged him to get a check-up because of some pain he was experiencing even after he had some rest from his last job, which was incredibly labor intensive, fearing his cancer came back. I was half right. He had cancer again, but it was actually unrelated to his previous episode. Two cancers, at 25 and 31, a shock to any family, but especially to such a young one. Years of planning, hopes, and dreams, smashed from one instant to the next. His prognosis is good, but as with any health battle, there are always complications we fear.

If you or anyone you love has had cancer, you may know that hearing those words again from your doctor is your greatest nightmare, "it's cancer". The memories of the difficulties we had during the first time came flooding back. My daughter was one then. She is about to turn eight. We also have a son now, who just turned four on 9/11. Those two words are scary, absolutely. But I've come to see, thanks to the blatantly craven, politically motivated actions by elected representatives of the United States of America, that the scariest words you can hear are, "your country wants to take away your healthcare, smack in the middle of a fight with a deadly, cancerous invasion of your body". It has been made clear by more than one Senator that the GOPs desire to dismantle anything done by the Obama administration because "they promised" to do something. No motivation whatsoever in actually making functional legislation! Here are a few quotes from American representatives:

"You know, I could maybe give you 10 reasons why this bill shouldn't be considered, but Republicans campaigned on this so often that you have a responsibility to carry out what you said in the campaign. That's pretty much as much of a reason as the substance of the bill."
-Senator Chuck Grassley

"This is not the best possible bill — this is the best bill possible under the circumstances."
-Senator Pat Roberts

And I will never forget in 2010, the one quote that truly made me realize that people weren't kidding when they said the people elected to represent us were only in it for their own personal agendas and not for the American people:

"The single most important thing we want to achieve is for President Obama to be a one-term president."
-Senator Mitch McConnell

Imagine saying that, and promising a better option to the ACA, over a period of 8 years, and then coming up with nothing but a big old present for the insurance industry. Now I would like you to think about whether these kinds of statements are about representing the American people, or representing a bunch of politician's past and future campaigns.

What millions upon millions of Americans are begging our elected representatives to do is to represent us. In case it is news to you, our esteemed elected representatives, many of your constituents are not only sick, but their employment situations are not great. Pay has not risen commensurate with productivity. According to the Economic Policy Institute, "...wage stagnation is how the rise in inequality has damaged the vast majority of American workers...It is an incontrovertible fact that hourly wages and benefits for the majority of American workers have lagged behind overall productivity growth." People are earning fractions of what they should be earning, had wages kept up with the rise in cost of everything else. So do the math. More people getting paid less means, in the end, the government assistance groups are picking up the tab for things like healthcare or food costs that businesses just aren't paying adequately enough for their employees to cover themselves. Obviously, income inequality and poor pay and compensation for American workers is a major concern that continues to go unaddressed by you, our elected representatives. But right now the fight is in healthcare and its greedy, sticky fingered middle man. Let's cut the middleman.

In this case, the middleman is the insurance industry. I have done my homework. I know nearly \$5 million dollars has been paid into both the House and the Senate to all parties by insurance lobbyists. I also know Republicans outpace Democrats in these healthcare industry campaign contributions nearly 2:1, Republicans that are getting paid millions more to push this present to the insurance industry down American's throats, a present with an approval rating in the teens. And on top of that, the United States of America is basically the only major industrialized country that does not offer single-payer/universal health care. This is not only embarrassing as a proud American, to see our greedy politicians do everything in their power to keep their pockets lined, but it is embarrassing that we aren't taking care of our own citizens, when we have plenty of resources.

Imagine seeing articles daily about various government employees spending hundreds of thousands to millions on things like private chartered flights and golf carts, while some of us just want to wake up next to the person we married for a few decades like many of these wasteful spenders have had the pleasure to. People like Tom Price, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, who has spent \$300,000 on two dozen private jet flights, or the Secret Service (which itself has outspent its budget in this administration) that has spent \$60,000 alone on golf cart rentals! It hits especially close to home for me, clearly, as I would lose the love of my life, the father of my children, and the currently only source of income my family has. Let's stop the childish games played by fragile men. It is time to stop these petty fights over wanting to discredit anything the former President Obama has done. Stop trying to repeal the only lifeline millions of people in this country can.

EXTEND THE LIFELINE TO ALL AMERICANS.

VOTE NO ON GRAHAMCASSIDY AND YES ON SINGLE-PAYER.

Regards,

Doris

Resources:

<https://www.opensecrets.org/industries/summary.php?ind=H04++>

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeff Jeans [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

In one illness I experienced the old system, the ACA and a high-risk pool. I had always had insurance and because of my employer — was uninsured when I lost my voice.

When you hear the "C" word your world changes.

Stage III — IV CANCER of the vocal cord. I felt like I was viewing the world in slow motion. My wife was trying to hide her tears as she spoke to doctor in her businesslike way, the fear in her voice scared me even more. Listening to the prognosis, the doctor mentioned a high cure rate and hope rose out of the numbness. The tumor was so big at that time that I was struggling to breathe, and was admitted to the ICU as we made plans to get to get what we hoped would be lifesaving chemo and radiation. Even though I didn't have insurance, we did have a good amount of cash at our disposal. Turns out under the old system that nobody was willing to take 3 times the amount of the treatment in CASH — upfront. The doctor explained that without treatment the cancer would overtake my body in an estimated 6 weeks.

Without treatment, they would keep me on a breathing machine until I died — and as a parting gift they would burden my wife with a bill of around 3 million dollars. Thank God she is a persistent woman and didn't give up! She procured insurance through one of the first provisions of the Affordable Care Act. I met the enrollment criteria and we secured the insurance card that was needed to begin the treatments that would end up saving my life.

I just recently celebrated my 5-year cancer-free anniversary, and am considered medically cured of cancer. Any new occurrence would be considered a separate incident, yet I will always be labeled "pre-existing" as far as insurance companies are concerned. I started the Facebook page "Obamacare Saved My Lfe" just a few months after I received my cancer-free diagnosis. I've been honored to hear the stories of thousands of people that have also benefited from the Affordable Care Act. Their lives have changed forever and their compassion for others reaches into their whole being, including the loved ones of those whose lives were swallowed by the sadness of losing their battle for life. I too am forever grateful, and this experience has changed me profoundly and my life has taken twists and turns I could have never imagined. I am far less concerned with material things, and am more focused on family — even finding my long-lost brother after 52 years. The joy of life is clear in the present, instead of being just out of reach in the future.

This all happened in 2012, two years before the ACA exchanges began. I was placed in a high-risk pool during that lapse. In 2013 we started out with a \$4000 maximum out of pocket costs, and every time Congress met they decreased the budget which increased my out of pocket expenses — as there is always something more important for them to spend money on. In the next 10 months their actions increased our out of pocket expenses threefold to \$12,000. They also quit accepting new enrollees in the pool because all the budgeted money was used and now gone. My lesson to you is this — high-risk pools DO NOT WORK and leave people with "pre-existing" conditions extremely vulnerable.

It is also important to note that the insurance companies can label pretty much anything a "pre-existing" condition, and you, too, will be in a high-risk pool with high premiums and subpar coverage. This fear of segregation often leads patients to lie to their doctor which unfortunately causes misdiagnosis and delayed treatment, which can ultimately mean the difference between life and death.

President Trump and other legislators have mentioned moving to a different state to get the health insurance you need. We love where we live — and have worked hard to build our businesses and become integral members of our community. Moving for medical care presents a future with a loss of freedom that I never thought I would experience in the United States of America.

Essential benefits and patient protections should be uniform and reliable in ALL 50 states.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: margaret [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: "health" 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."

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Keri Fitzgerald [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy -NO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

NO on Graham-Cassidy.

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.

--
Keri Fitzgerald
Cell: [REDACTED]
Home: [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Give us the same healthcare Congress gets or

Give us a healthcare that has a grandfather clause for pre-existing conditions. If you think Obama care is so bad, then why should those people be punished because of the bad healthcare they may not have received. I lived in Mass under Romney care - Republican which is not much different than Obama care.

One way to cut our deficits is reduce the number in Congress to 1 rep per state. Corporate businesses have reps covering larger territories in some cases more than one state.

Give us a healthcare you would want your mother or father or family have. □

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I am writing to oppose this terrible piece of legislation. You should be ashamed of yourself for trying to screw over the American people.

Jason

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judi Paradis [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Friends,

I believe that Americans deserve quality affordable healthcare. Consequently, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am a cancer survivor and want to ensure that as someone with a pre-existing condition, I will continue to receive coverage. Members of my family are dependent upon our state Mass Health insurance, including my niece who has multiple disabilities and requires full-time medical care for chronic health issues. I agree with Senator McCain that Americans deserve a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the Affordable Care Act, not repeal it. As Senator McCain points out, a bipartisan agreement will ensure that we will not have to worry that our insurance will be in shambles every time a new party takes office.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**Judi Paradis
Arlington, Massachusetts**

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

Sincerely, [name]

[town, state]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Geri Diorio [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: public testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband and I have pre-existing conditions and we need insurance!

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

Sincerely,

Geri Diorio

Stratford, CT

--

Geri Diorio

'Let us read, and let us dance; these two amusements will never do any harm to the world.'

Voltaire

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carolyn Gayton [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Bill

Please vote no on the Graham/Cassidy bill. It is my believe that Republicans and Democrats should work together to improve the ACA. Listen to the hospitals, doctors and the majority of the people. Thank you!

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elizabeth Tiller (Beth) <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Why are the Republicans abrogating the democratic process just to deprive people of life, liberty and happiness

Grow up. Become real people. Just try to imagine what it is to live on \$25,000 a year with a full time job and still have to find \$4000 for a health deductible. You want to make that worse? Are you that stupid or that evil? Have you no shame? Have you no shame? The Republicans = the wrecking crew of ALL that is good in this country. I would have liked to think of myself as an independent but I doubt that in my lifetime there actually will be any choice again. I will have to always strive to elect a Democrat. What is the matter with all of you? Destroy the basic functioning of the Senate; operate in secret — just to totally screw the public. Tell me again why you are an elected official who supposedly works for the people? I know why — to become even more filthy rich.

HAVE YOU NO SHAME?

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David Hutchison <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Obamacare

Dear Sirs and Madams: Please be advised that I oppose all efforts to repeal Obamacare. The present attempt is a heartless, poorly thought out attempt to deprive millions of American of basic health care which should be a right. Respectfully, David S. Hutchison, M. D.
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Adam Rose [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Hello -

I am a US Citizen and Connecticut resident. I strongly opposed the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill. Please do not pass this terrible piece of legislation.

Thank you,

Adam Rose
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Heather [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No Graham-Cassidy

My work in healthcare reinforces every day that Americans need universal, predictable coverage.

Today, getting an X-ray of my foot I read the explanation of why they the office cannot try and predict an individual's cost.

I am fortunate that I can absorb a wide range of costs, but I would not have been able to 15 or 20 years ago and their is no guarantee I will be able to 5 years from now at the rate that medical costs rise.

My fellow Americans matter to me and I hope they matter to you. Graham-Cassidy is not what we need now.

Thank you.
Heather Campbell Slutzky
Zip [REDACTED] (and yes, I vote)

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: MaryBeth [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Kill The Bill - GrahamCassidyTravesty - before it kills millions

I object to this horrid, vile piece of legislation that will devastate the health care of millions of Americans and potentially break the whole system. It must be blocked.

Marybeth Urbin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Fran Uecker <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: graham cassidy

My family would be devastated if this bill passes.



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sherri Andrews [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham Cassidy Bill!

This will destroy people and their well being...taking away healthcare and raising premiums beyond what we "regular" people can afford.
Stop it now! No Graham Cassidy!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jessica Wester <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE NO on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Health Care Bill.

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

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

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

It shifts Medicaid funding to a "per capita cap" system. Shifting to per capita cap funding (a fixed amount of funding per person) may sound reasonable, but would not keep up with growth in costs and needs. This would result in states being forced to cut Medicaid services and eligibility, which would harm children and adults with mental illness.

It effectively ends Medicaid expansion. One in three people covered by Medicaid expansion plans lives with a mental health or substance use condition. Under this bill, Medicaid expansion would be converted to a smaller, temporary block grant that states could use for health coverage or any other health purpose, with no guarantee of mental health or substance use coverage.

It reduces help to purchase health insurance. Block grants would provide a fixed amount of temporary federal funding to replace insurance subsidies, severely cutting federal help for people to buy insurance. This will leave many people unable to afford the coverage they need for mental health or substance use treatment.

Please vote **NO** on this potentially devastating bill.

Sincerely,

Jessica Wester

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: ALAN AND LISA HUBBARD [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Healthcare...VOTE NO!!!

Vote NO on the Graham/Cassidy healthcare bill! Put the needs and wants of the majority of Americans before your hatred of Obama and do the right thing!
Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kayeri Akweks [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: DO NOT CHANGE HEALTH CARE

I do not support the current bill in play to change health care.

Vote No On Graham-Cassidy Deathcare Bill

--
Kayeri Akweks

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cerie Moon [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: health care financing

As a registered nurse who is still actively working after 46 years, you need to consider this fact. Whether you continue to support healthcare for all financially, people will still need the care. If you make them wait until they are seriously ill, it will make for poorer patient outcomes and someone will still have to pay - what more free care that hospitals have to absorb?

I ponder how you can face yourselves in the mirror if you withdraw the federal support for caring for the ill.

As a nurse, I have cared for whoever presented in need. I don't check their wallet, their green card, their nationality, who they have sex with - I simply try to care for patients and families/significant others the way I would care for you or my family.

I would also like to add that another part of the government (CMS) or state DPH continue to make regulations that these same hospitals you want to provide free care must adhere to, regardless of cost. Most rules help improve the care of patients - but not all.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: madeleine waldmann <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

Make the ACA better with bipartisan and common sense solutions to existing problems that could be overcome if the Trump administration were not actively sabotaging the ACA. No on Graham Cassidy Bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patrick <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repeal of ACA

I am strongly against the repeal of the ACA. This is settled law as upheld by the Supreme Court. Your jobs should be to improve what we have, not to pull the rug from underneath millions of citizens to facilitate a tax break for wealthy people. Please get to work.

Thank you,

Patrick

Sent from my iPhone please excuse any errors.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Scott Hochman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Kennedy Plan must NOT pass

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.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Bill

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to express my extreme dissatisfaction with the proposed Graham-Cassidy bill. Despite the false claims of both of the bill's authors, the bill would abandon those with pre-existing conditions, devastate Medicaid and see the shift of funds from specific states to those whose governors intentionally and knowingly refused Medicaid expansion. The bill would raise costs to individuals by staggering amounts and the most vulnerable in our society would suffer. Add to this the utter lack of regard for the regular order of legislative process and complete shutting out of Democrats from the scripting of the bill, and one is left with a completely partisan bill that does nothing beyond savage our nation's healthcare system. I am also appalled at Graham's verbal acknowledgement that 'blue' states will be harmed by this bill and today's rancorous words about the 'left' during a television interview. This is unseemly for a legislator, especially for a bill with such wide-ranging implications. I urge strongly that this bill be set aside and bipartisan efforts continue to improve health care for this country.

Sincerely,

Cerise Cauthron

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Miriel Thomas Reneau <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Heller bill and my family

My daughter Rosemarie was born in May of 2016. She is a playful, happy, affectionate girl and she brings joy to our family every day. She also happens to have a genetic disorder called neurofibromatosis type 1 and a skeletal condition called congenital pseudarthrosis of the tibia. She needs regular physical and occupational therapy, has trouble gaining weight, and is facing the amputation of her lower left leg. As she grows, she is at an increased risk of benign tumors that interfere with function, brain tumors, malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumors, various kinds of cancer including an especially elevated risk of breast cancer, scoliosis, learning disabilities, blindness, hypertension, and epilepsy. By any actuarial assessment of her "health status," Rosemarie is an extraordinarily high risk individual. Under the provisions of Graham Cassidy Heller, procuring individual health insurance coverage for our family would bankrupt us, and coverage for her as she grows into adulthood would be entirely inaccessible.

Rosemarie is a baby. She has not done anything wrong. She does not "deserve" her health risks; they are not her "individual responsibility." She, like all Americans, deserves access to the health care that she needs, regardless of her socioeconomic status or our employment status. This bill is wrong for her and for America. I urge you to oppose it in the strongest possible terms.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: CARRIE <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare. Bill

Please work to fix the ACA. This bill would make it so those with preexisting conditions would pay more.

Both my husband and I were born with congenital hear defects. He had his repaired at five years of age. My defect, however, was not discovered until I was 33 and at the time my children were 1 and 3. I was worried about that so much prior to surgery about the surgery, my recovery, who would care for my children but health insurance was not one of my worries as I was on my husband's insurance plan. His company's plan was better and cost less than my employer. My company however could not take the chance that I would return and go on their health insurance at some point. Even with a corrected defect, I raised the risk pool too high for the small company and would raise rates for the whole company. so I had to agree in writing in order to keep my job that I would NEVER take their insurance.

Fast forward to my son graduating from college and discovering a week after graduation that he has an autoimmune kidney disease. This disease attacks his kidney and 50 percent of those with it will require a kidney transplant within 10 years. His doctor told him he was very lucky that the ACA is law as prior to the ACA those with the disease would be denied insurance and/or dropped from insurance. So imagine you are 22 and just starting your life and you can't get health insurance and you know you may possibly need dialysis within a few years while you hope you will get a kidney match. How could you possibly pay for this? How do you start your life? It breaks my heart that he has this disease but the thought that he may have this disease and no healthcare coverage is a Mother's nightmare.

So I am begging as a mother, fix the ACA! Please don't let people die because they can't afford or can't get health insurance.

Insurance by nature spreads the risk. You never know when in fact you will need it - you could think you are a healthy young mom and then find out you need a 15 hour heart surgery or you could think you are a healthy college graduate a about to embark on your career, but then find you have an auto immune kidney disease and may need a kidney transplant within the next 10 years.

Sent from XFINITY Connect Mobile App

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:52 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy statement

The details of my story--as succinct as I keep my rendition here--are not things I like to share. There's too much shame, too much pain, too much stigma in them, which is another story altogether. Yet I feel strongly that it is incumbent upon me as a person who has lived with chronic autoimmune and other diseases for virtually my entire life, and who is legally classified as disabled as a result, to do so. If my story convinces even one person to call their senators and to get their friends and family to call their senators to stop this humanitarian disaster waiting to happen, I will consider it well worth it.

When I was 7, I was diagnosed with ulcerative colitis, though I had suffered from symptoms well before then. Following years of unimaginable pain and symptoms, trying and failing virtually every medication in the book, hospitalizations, and numerous procedures and backs-and-forths of diagnoses, I had my entire colon removed in middle school. My respite was short-lived, as I was re-diagnosed with Crohn's disease just a few years later, when I was a freshman in high school. Ulcerative colitis can technically be cured via surgery, although I did not know that until middle school. Crohn's disease cannot, because it is an autoimmune disease that impacts the entire digestive tract and can extend into other organs as well. Until relatively recent medical developments, Crohn's was a life-threatening disease, and even now can become such if not treated thoroughly, carefully, and constantly. And even then, people with Crohn's can come dangerously close to death. I know because I did.

Over the last two years, I required two emergency, intensive, and lifesaving surgeries, extensive hospital stays, multiple procedures, the insertion of an enteral feeding tube, and innumerable trials of treatments. Since my initial diagnosis, I have also been diagnosed with a handful of related chronic conditions, one just this past spring. My most recent major surgery was in early July, and after weeks of excruciating pain, I wound up back in the hospital just last week for two emergency procedures. I was finally discharged on my 27th birthday.

I remember when I learned about President Obama's and Secretary Clinton's healthcare plans in high school. Until then, I did not know that insurance companies could deny me coverage or charge me unaffordable prices simply because I had the misfortune to be diagnosed with a chronic autoimmune disease as a child. Watching that documentary and seeing my diseases printed in white scrolling against the black screen as reasons insurers could refuse to provide me with vital healthcare is a moment I doubt I will ever forget. Precisely because I was sick, I might not be able to receive the literally vital care I needed. The ACA gave me a sense of security and worth. It made me feel that I mattered, and wasn't expendable simply because it cost too much money to care for me.

The ACA transformed the reality in which people like me live. Insurers cannot deny us coverage or charge us unaffordable prices. Insurers cannot levy lifetime or annual caps that people with chronic illnesses and disabilities would max out of faster than you can imagine. Insurers cannot force us to submit to the inhumanity and indignity of sharing private health information and then refusing us coverage as a result of our health statuses over which we have no control.

Republicans' determination to decimate our healthcare come hell or high water reveals the dead soul of what little remains of their party and ideology. It tells me that my life doesn't matter to them. That

the millions of Americans who strive to live their best possible lives with the added burden of chronic illnesses don't matter to them. That it's as easy to cross us out as it is to strike out items on a balance sheet. That we're reducible to numbers or to pawns in a political game. Too many Americans depend upon the many provisions in the Affordable Care Act that enable us--many for the first time--to receive quality and accessible healthcare that treats us as complete human beings, rather than as diseased organs. We too deserve a chance to live our lives. It shouldn't be that complicated.

Best,
Hannah Greene

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Adrienne Gunter [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I have multiple sclerosis and I rely on Medicaid

My name is Adrienne Gunter, I'm 32 years old, and I have multiple sclerosis.

Multiple sclerosis is an auto-immune disease that attacks the central nervous system. Science doesn't know what causes it, but scars, known as lesions, form in the brain and the spinal column. These lesions interfere with nerve receptors and make everything difficult. I walk with a cane, but it's hard to lift my legs. My hands don't grip the way they used to and I need help getting the lid off a jar of peanut butter. No matter how well I chew my food, I have difficulty swallowing. I have full-body tremors and I never know when they're going to happen. I have all of these problems and more.

But the most important thing to remember is that there is no cure for multiple sclerosis.

I graduated from the University of the Arts in 2013 with a BFA in Writing for Film and Television. I wanted to make movies and television – it was the best 4 years of my life. So imagine my surprise when MS struck my senior year. Suddenly, I'm turning in my homework late. Suddenly, I'm missing class. Suddenly, I'm tired all the time. Suddenly, I don't understand. I thought it was stress; nevertheless, after graduation, I thought the stress was over and I could focus on getting my career together. My plan was to get an internship working with the Philadelphia film scene, work to get some money together, and study for my GRE because I wanted an MFA in film – I planned to package myself as a writer-director. And that's when I lost vision in my left eye.

The neuro-ophthomologist I went to diagnosed it as optic neuritis. It heals over time, but she encouraged me to get an MRI because she said, and I quote, "Optic neuritis is one of the first signs of multiple sclerosis."

My life came to a crashing halt. Instantly, I became unemployed and unemployable. The fatigue, the brain fog, and the muscle weakness were only getting worse. As a result, I have 68 thousand dollars in student loan debt. I was denied Social Security Disability, so my mother, alone, takes care of me.

For 2 years I applied for health insurance and was denied 4 times. It's only when Governor Tom Wolfe signed the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion that I was finally able to get insurance. But by then, the lesions in my brain had migrated from my mid-brain to my hindbrain, and now I have 2 lesions in my spinal column in an area that, if left untreated, can cause total and permanent paralysis. I already feel like a burden, I don't want to become an invalid.

There is no cure for multiple sclerosis, but there is treatment. Treatment doesn't repair the damage -- those lesions aren't going anywhere -- but treatment can prevent new lesions from forming. My first treatment was covered through the ACA's Medicaid expansion. Without coverage, the medication would have cost \$5,747.75. For 12 doses per month, but the co-pay was \$0. I'm on a new treatment and it costs \$6,441 for 28 doses per month, but with Medicaid, the co-pay is \$3. Medicaid also covers my doctor's appointments. Medicaid covers the MRIs that track the progression of this disease. Medicaid also gives me hope that if I have a terrible reaction to medication, or a fall where I break my bones, or anything I can't predict, it will be covered and my mother won't be buried in endless medical bills.

And bless my mother, she doesn't have to take care of me.

So if Medicaid goes away – if the Affordable Care Act is repealed, it's the same as punishing people for being sick.

I didn't ask for this disease. I don't want it. If I could reach inside myself and rip this disease out of me, I would, but I can't. There is no cure for multiple sclerosis. I'm 32 years old. This is the rest of my life.

Thank you.

—Adrienne Gunter

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Frank Chindamo <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The repeal bill is murderous

This bill will kill more Americans than any of our wars.

If a foreign country threatened to do to Americans what this bill does, we'd declare war on them!

Yours truly,
Prof. Frank Chindamo

This email is confidential to the addressee only. Do NOT share it with TMZ, thanks.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:02 AM
To: gchcomments

once upon a not so very long ago, my insurance policy did not cover pregnancy. & the powers that be saw this, & said, that's okay. "complications of pregnancy" <were> covered, but hyperemesis (me) & intrauterine growth retardation (sam) didn't fall within that definition. so we paid, in advance of course, for every single pregnancy-related expense from vitamins to "stress tests", though the stress of finances should have been diagnostic in itself.

i was very very lucky, & my son-to-be was in unmovable breech position, due to his bilateral dislocated hips, club feet & hyperextended knees. i had a c-section, which-- imagine my good fortune--WAS considered a complication of pregnancy, so that expense was covered, at 80%, after a \$1000 deductible.

six months later, he had spent a month in traction & i can promise you that nursing a 6 lb baby at a 45-degree angle was an acrobatic accomplishment. the day after surgery on his dislocated hips, which required a frog-leg body cast, with an IV in his scalp & a drain full of blood from the incisions--the financial affairs office at the children's hospital called to ask why he had not yet discharged & how we planned to pay the daily room rate which exceeded by 200% the \$100 per day our insurance paid.

(he would be almost 2, by the way, & the veteran of 3 surgeries, paid for, of course, in advance, before we received the 1st dollar in reimbursement from the insurance company. & the powers that be saw this, & said, that's okay.)

not so very much later, i experienced severe clinical depression & weighed under 90 lbs. my insurance company did not cover mental health treatment, or any medications which could possibly be construed as treating depression. the powers that be saw this, & said, that's okay.

quite a bit later, had my drastically inflamed gallbladder signaled its status 3 weeks earlier, i would have fallen within the exclusion period--we all know about exclusion--& the 8-inch incision plus subsequent pneumonia would have not been covered. what a strange contingency, to be grateful to a gallbladder's sense of dramatic timing.

my son, now 34, samuel has a developmental disability and his own lawncare business, with his name embroidered on the pocket of his work shirts to prove the point. he works harder than anyone i know, mowing up to 18 yards a day in the deathly heat of southern summers.

prior to the affordable care act, samuel paid over \$4000 per quarter--and no, i did not misplace the decimal point--for lousy health insurance. he had a \$5000 deductible and a FIFTY PERCENT COPAY for the 1st additional \$10,000 in costs.

this night of the living dead stealth-care bill, graham-cassidy, like its zombie predecessors, is based on these fundamental principles: do not get sick. do not have a disability. do not be a woman. do not be poor. do not get old.

i have a new pre-existing condition, with onset occurring 11/8/16:
SOULSICKNESS. this is so far from the best we can do in this rich, wildly diverse, precious country of ours.

tragedy surrounds us, both the human-made & of "natural" causes. please stop burning up vast amounts of time--paid for by the people who elected you--and energy on these mean-spirited, secretive, partisan bills which would dismantle medicaid, and put healthcare beyond the reach of tens of millions of americans. reach across the aisle, and to experts, advocates, representatives of the very real people who, unlike our members of congress, will be affected by your actions. we deserve better.
sincerely, holly lu conant rees

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Liz Regan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:36 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

All I have heard for years is how everyone has a Right to Life, stop all funding to places like Planned Parenthood because that child has a right to life. Yet you are willing to take away healthcare for millions and millions of Americans who will then die or make it so they can't afford to take care of their health care needs. Do you understand how difficult it is to have a pre existing condition and how difficult it is to have an Insurance company refuse to pay for this condition. I remember because I have afib and I had Insurance but because I had this condition my insurance refused to pay for an ER visit do you know what it feels like to have your heart beating 210 miles a minute like it is going to beat right out of your chest and won't stop? Do you understand this is not something they can cure only with medication will help sometimes and that medication stops your heart for a few seconds to try and get your heart to go back to normal and you almost faint in the process or see bright lights as the blood is no longer going to your brain, you are dying and then the medication kicks in and you come back to life, it is the worst feeling in the world and it happen to me over and over again.

The medication for this is very costly and without out Medicaid to help me pay for it I will die. I am a Mother, Grand Mother, Sister, Aunt and friend you will take me from my family because I could not afford this medication on Medicare alone. Who can afford \$1400 a month in a supplement Insurance policy that would not even cover pre-existing conditions under your healthcare bill when I live on \$1,045 dollars a month on Social Security. Do you have any idea how stressful you have made our lives over the last few months? Remember the movie Jaws when they tell people it is safe to go in the water again and then there is another shark pulling someone under, that is how I feel every time I think this is going to be OK, there you are again trying to shove us back in the water waiting for us to be eaten by a shark. I don't want to die I want a few more years with my kids and grand kids with my sister's I want to see my grandson and grand daughter go to college I want to enjoy the time I have left without this worry every few months that you are going to gut my Insurance. And let me remind you I work for over 40 years and paid taxes, never in that time did I ask for anything nor do I now except to be able to get the best healthcare I can afford. I did not go on food stamps or ask for any other assistance because I was so grateful for the help I am getting through Medicaid we are people and we are Americans, my father was in WWII never received Social Security neither did my Mother they both died before they could collect it both work up until the day of their death.

Thank You,
Mary Regan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Justin Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:41 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham Cassidy Bill and Protect Medicaid

Greetings from a young man with severe cerebral palsy who depends on Medicaid,

I would like to share my [video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T09HV1PE8I0) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T09HV1PE8I0>) about why Medicaid is so important to me, a young man with severe cerebral palsy. I want to live with as much choice and independence as possible. The Medicaid services and community supports waiver covers my support staff and medical costs so that I can live in and contribute to making my community a better place. The Graham Cassidy Bill would be devastating for people with disabilities.

Here is the transcript from my video about why people like me need Medicaid:

Hello. My name is Justin Smith. I have cerebral palsy. Medicaid helps in providing trained support staff and the specialized equipment that help me be an important member of my community.

I need support for all my basic personal cares. Imagine that you must depend on others to give you a drink of water if you're thirsty, feed you if you're hungry and help you go to the bathroom when you need to go. It's important for people to realize that I can do what I do because I have trained support staff to help me.

You cannot imagine how expensive it is to live with a severe disability. Even with good private health insurance the co-pays for my medical care and durable medical equipment would be outrageously expensive and could have bankrupted my parents. I had six surgeries within about one year including multiple deep brain stimulation surgeries to help me get better control over my uncontrolled movement. Medicaid helps cover these costs and helps cover co-pays for my power wheelchair, communication device, shower chair, wheelchair lift and other equipment I need to help me participate fully in my community, and to attend college and become an author someday.

Without Medicaid, I am scared that I could end up in a nursing or group home. Don't let institutional settings be the only options! I want to live with as much choice and independence as possible. Medicaid services and community supports help me contribute to making my community a better place.

If I could say one thing to our Senators and Representatives, this is why people with disabilities need Medicaid - to help cover the many medical costs that many people never have to worry about and get the special equipment and staffing support we depend on to help us live independent lives.

Please save Medicaid!

--
From Justin
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jenny Borgh [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Wisconsin Medicaid Story - JB
Attachments: 20294459_10101821617775245_3249282847792590425_n.jpg; 21191970_10101864136786805_510094264400761773_n.jpg

Hello:

Thank you for the opportunity to send Medicaid stories to you. I saw this e-mail address listed on the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities' Facebook post.

I wanted to share my brother's story with you.

My brother Josh was born on July 17, 1978. He has bright red hair and has a smile and laugh that are contagious. When he was around 6 months old, my mom and doctors noticed some delays with Josh's development. They determined that he had cerebral palsy, microcephaly and epilepsy. The doctors at the time recommended to my mom that Josh be placed in an institution to "live out his remaining years." The doctor's predicted Josh would only live until 2 years old. This past July we celebrated Josh turning 39. 39 years old. Sometimes I wish I could meet that doctor so Josh and I could show him how wrong he was.

How has Josh lived this long? He is our miracle. Our entire family has embraced him, our friends have embraced him and always ask how Josh is doing. Josh leaves an impression wherever he goes. He cannot walk or talk and needs assistance doing everything. Josh lived at home with us until he was 18 years old. We made the decision as a family to move Josh into a residential facility for people with disabilities as he was continuing to grow and we didn't know how much longer we could keep him at home. A few years after Josh moved into the facility, the facility was closing down. Josh has since lived in a smaller group home with other adults with disabilities.

During Josh's 39 years he's endured countless surgeries and recoveries. He continues to amaze us. After one of his most recent procedures the only pain medication he took was motrin. This doesn't surprise me as he continues to show us all how strong he is. Josh is a recipient of Wisconsin Medicaid. Josh is able to live in the group home he lives in because of funding received through Wisconsin's home and community based waivers. Josh's durable medical equipment supplies are all paid for by Wisconsin Medicaid. Josh's medications are paid for by Medicaid. Josh's nutritional supplement that he takes via a feeding tube is covered by Medicaid. Josh's hospital stays, surgeries, doctor visits are all paid for by Medicaid. The staff at Josh's home are paid via money that is paid through Wisconsin Medicaid.

In Wisconsin, Medicaid for people with disabilities similar to Josh has been free of waiting lists for services for a few years now. If Medicaid turns to a block grant system I worry what that will mean for the services that Josh receives. Will that mean that he has less staff? Currently the staff levels are low--usually one to two during certain times of the day for 6 residents in the group home. The staff level is already concerning too as Josh does not have 1 to 1 care. Will block grants (and a reduction in Medicaid funding to Wisconsin) mean that Josh will have to take less medication? Will his medications no longer be covered? What will this mean for the food that Josh receives through his feeding tube...will that be limited now with a block grant

system? What about if he needs a new wheelchair, how about his diapers and associated supplies? Turning Medicaid into a block grant system essentially means limiting the funding that is provided to states and states will have to determine whether to lessen the services that are provided, limit who is eligible for the services or both which could mean a waiting list again for home and community based services in Wisconsin. Wisconsin could also decide to allocate more funding for the state's share of funding, but with their current legislative body and governor I do not anticipate that happening.

I ask that the Senate strongly consider these concerns as they determine whether they will pass the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

Please note that my family is willing to provide more information and would welcome the opportunity to speak with any of the Senators willing to speak with us. My phone number is: (202) 459-1178 or I can be reached at this e-mail address. In addition, I am enclosing two pictures of my brother as I think it's nice to have a face with his story.

Thank you again for your time.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Borgh

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Natalie Kraft [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Shame on you! Rather than work bipartisan to solve the problem, you sold out to your party & big money!
And again are trying to cram this through without any input from experts in the medical or health insurance fields, let alone comments or amendments!

I am an old lady Republican who hangs my head in shame. This is NOT the party I used to love. My Republican friends agree. All we talk about is how you are abusing your office. I hope there are a lot like me around the country!

Vote for your constituents NOT against them !!!

Again I say SHAME ON YOU! I

Natalie

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: eric portillo [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy

With all do respect,

This has got to be the most devastating health care proposal in the history of the United States of America health care system. Why is this even being considered? Have you no earthly morals or heart and compassion for the hard working American who is struggling to make ends meet? Everyone on this land deserves the right to receive the best health care in the world. And you come up with a system better than the Affordable Care Act, then go for it repeal. But don't try to repeal without a comprehensive system ready to be put in place that is fair to ALL Americans. Remember please, the hard working people of this country who are struggling to make ends meet. Don't take our health care away. Don't repeal the Affordable Care Act. Don't repeal "Obama Care". Hear our words.

Thanks,

Eric Portillo

C: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

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

Sincerely, [name]

[town, state]

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.

The Honorable Public Servants elected to the US Senate:

Please do not pass the Graham-Cassidy bill. This bill just surfaced without much discussion. No one knows its ramifications. Health providers do not know how it will affect a patient/doctor/insurance relationship. Where are the reviews, the studies, the support outside congress?

Our private insurance premiums rose 150% in an 18 month period. That was in 2002. My friend who was diagnosed with cancer was dropped from her insurance policy. That was in 2005. My daughter is struggling financially and benefits from the subsidized Covered CA Silver Plan. She has kidney stones and would be denied insurance if left to the insurance providers. As owner of a real estate rental business who runs credit reports for potential tenants, I ignore health related items because just one car accident can ruin someone's credit. I do not want to return to those days!!! Even today, I have to fight for claims to be processed as promised so the system is not perfect.

We have family in New Zealand who think it is ridiculous that a country as wealthy as the US cannot offer universal health care. They do not wait for treatment, quality of care is wonderful, and they do not have to fight with an insurance provider over a denied claim. They receive help and recover - very simple.

I am very disappointed with the GOP (the party of NO) for not improving the ACA. For two terms they wanted a repeal without planning a replacement. Now they are scrambling with who knows what without committee reviews. US citizens deserve better than a political maneuver based on everything against Pres Obama rather than creating a health system that is well conceived. Honestly, just look north to Canada for a really good example. A Princeton doctorate studied the efficacy of the US and Canada's health care and found Canada's superior. Its citizens were healthier, birth rate mortality less, longer life expectancy, etc.

This is flippant, but from the outside looking in it seems the GOP is not in touch with the needs of its citizens. The main focus is catering to health insurance providers' profits. Unfortunately their profits do not trickle down to citizens' benefits. Making health care universal like most of Europe, Canada, New Zealand, and Australia makes a lot of sense.

Linda Morris
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michelle Peterson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Dear Senators,

I am a breast cancer survivor. One in eight American women get breast cancer. If you pass this horrible bill none of us will be able to afford healthcare if our cancer should reoccur.

One in eight American women!!!

Vote NO on the ACA repeal. We survivors don't want it. We didn't survive cancer to be discriminated against.

Indivisible,

Michelle Peterson

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: cherie hyman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Graham Cassidy is a terrible bill for many reasons. I get insurance through the exchange because as a cancer survivor I suffer from several after effects of treatment so, for now, I need to go the doctor every 6 months. If I lose coverage through the exchange I will be forced to close my business. This means 2 wonderful employees will lose their jobs and my elderly father will decline rapidly because he will have nothing to make him feel relevant or useful on daily basis. Those are consequences for just one person if you take that and multiply it by millions up millions who will lose coverage Congress will start an economic downturn they are not prepared for. Additionally making states responsible for health care makes zero and no sense. Is it really smart to have 50 different healthcare systems? I don't think so I don't think the country is strong enough to handle such a disaster at this point. It is already so fractured and Congress wants to fracture it more which seems to be very unwise to me. Lastly, I think this country will turn into a Democrat only country because people will vote for their family and friends before they vote for party loyalty or anything else. I once again turn to myself as an example. 2 friends who vote Republican have already said that they love me more than they care about the party so they will vote Democratic to save me. Many times I have a hard time stomaching some of the b.s. Republicans pull but I believe we need a strong 2 party system and I think this bill will put that in serious jeopardy.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Janis Hubschman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

Dear Committee Members,

If this bill is truly great for all Americans, as you have claimed, why aren't you trying to pass it with regular hearings, a committee deliberation, and a CBO score? What's the rush?

This bill is reported to have many of the same flaws as the last one that failed to pass. Governor Chris Christie, has come out to say that it is bad for people of my state, New Jersey. And, I agree with him. Millions of people in the US will lose coverage and coverage for pre-existing conditions will not be guaranteed.

Best regards,
Janis Hubschman

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: cj wilson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy!!!

I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I rely on affordable, quality healthcare. I urge all representatives in Congress to work together to strengthen the ACA, not to weaken it. I believe that America is stronger, and our economy far healthier with affordable quality healthcare for all.

Respectfully,

Carolyn Wilson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sandra Fryer [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:02 PM
To: [REDACTED] gchcomments
Subject: Re: Health Care Bill

Thinking about it, maybe leave out a few things like son losing job - don't want people to be able to guess who wrote it and know too much about my family.

Sandra Fryer
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Ellen Toplin [REDACTED]
To: Sandra Fryer [REDACTED] GCHcomments <GCHcomments@finance.senate.gov>
Sent: Fri, Sep 22, 2017 6:17 pm
Subject: Re: Health Care Bill

great letter- can I share without saying your name!

On September 22, 2017 at 6:11 PM Sandra Fryer <sahofr1@verizon.net> wrote:

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

I am very concerned about and opposed to the new health care bill that is currently before the Senate for the following reasons:

- It unfairly targets states that accepted reimbursement for expanded Medicaid
-
- The money distributed to states will not be enough to cover Medicaid needs which covers many people in nursing homes, physically and mentally challenged and developmentally disabled children and adults as well as people who do not have jobs or have low paying jobs that do not offer health care insurance - I have an autistic adult grandson who depends on Medicaid for many of his services.
-
- I do not believe that those with pre-existing conditions (a category into which 3 of my four children fit) will be adequately and affordably covered. One of my children just lost his job and has challenging health issues and another who started her own small business has been able to purchase good affordable health care insurance from a reputable company through the Affordable Health Care Program
-
- I believe that the lower cost insurance plans to which many senators keep referring will be inferior, have higher do-pays and deductibles and cover far less than the type of plan my daughter (the small business owner with a pre-existing condition) has now because of the Affordable Health Care plan.
-
- Those who are pushing the current bill talk about the penalties for not signing up for health care insurance in big dollars rather than the fact that the fine per person is very minimal which is why most people who think they won't need insurance pay it. Then when these same people have a real problem they go to the emergency room which impacts the cost of health care for everyone else.
-

- I object to charging higher premiums to adults who are not yet eligible for Medicare being as they get older - most of them have paid for health insurance for years even though they did not use it much and it should be there for them at an affordable rate as they age.
-
- Having taken advantage of a health savings account through work, I know it will not be helpful to everyone - firstly you have to be able to afford putting aside the money; secondly the paperwork involved to get the money reimbursed is too complicated for many people. How do we know that the amount they are allowed to put aside or the tax break will be adequate to cover their higher deductibles and co-pays?
-
- We have a decent income but it does not increase every year and we do not have enough to take care of our adult children's health care.
-
- We cannot take advantage of the tax loopholes that the very wealthy can -but see our paying taxes as the patriotic thing to do to invest in the future of our country and the well being of those who live here. We feel this way in spite of the fact that the members of the house and senate don't have to worry about having good health insurance and their salaries are automatically increased a good % every year - then many vote against it after they have already have the guaranteed increase so they can tell the voters they did so.
-
- I know that those of you who look toward their conscience and what is good for the people of this country rather than what will enable the lowering of taxes for the **very** wealthy will in good conscience not support the current bill

Thank you for your consideration.

Sandra Fryer



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laura Siciliano-Rosen [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: oppose GC bill

My family and friends RELY on quality, affordable health care. I firmly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Any change to anything as far-reaching as health care MUST be given due diligence and more thought; it is life or death for too many people! I wouldn't have been able to have my 2 babies in a hospital without affordable health care; I wouldn't be able to rest easy knowing they'll be cared for when they are sick without breaking the bank.

Like many other citizens in this great country, I would like to see a bipartisan congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. I'd like to think our Congress is capable of working together for the greater good, and not solely for individual/party gain. Please prove me right.

Best,
Laura

--

Laura Siciliano-Rosen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marie Welch [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy health bill

Do any of you heartless people realize how many rural hospital & clinics this would close? People have to travel hundreds of miles to get healthcare & don't live in the gorgeous places you all do! All in the name of Obama! For Christ's sake!!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cathy Marron [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

All I can say is No, no, no, no, no! Please keep ACA intact or at least make IT better. Do not repeal or replace.

Catherine Marron

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julie Hagenbuch [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Graham-Cassidy would be a tragedy for me. I am a 58 year old with a history of breast cancer. Although I am healthy, not a burden on the health system, I have preexisting conditions. My premium now is nearly \$26,000/year for my husband and I. Thankfully most of it is offset with a tax credit. Next year with the 25% projected increase the premium will go to \$32,500. I am optimistic that the tax credit will cover enough that I can have health insurance.

Should Graham Cassidy be voted in and older "sicker" person can be charged 5 times that of young and healthy the premium would be over \$54,000 per year. We would have to pay all of this premium as there will be no tax credits. We will not longer have insurance in this instance. How can this be good for the country?

Please take my story as one of 32 million that will be hurt badly for no good reason. Please do what you can to block this catastrophic legislation.

Julie Hagenbuch
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: MaryAnna Cole [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:48 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 of the loss of coverage for children, disabled and seniors. These are all populations that need coverage the most, especially our children! Penalties for pre-existing conditions are an unfair burden as well. Please reconsider repealing the ACA and work together to reform it instead. Or better yet, work towards universal medicare type healthcare for all?

MaryAnna Cole

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elizabeth <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy

To anyone considering voting to pass G/C:

My son turns 15 tomorrow...he has been undergoing treatment for leukemia since December 2015. He is on the Autism spectrum.

He will forever be a pre-existing condition.

Do not take away his protection to be covered.

Do allow lifetime limits to be imposed

Limits he already met under pre- ACA rules.

Do not vote yes because you put party before people. Do ignore our calls/faxes/emails.

Do not think you can wear us down.

Do not lie to us. We can read...

Do not think the states will protect us.

Do not vote yes just because you said you would repeal ACA during your campaign.

If even one person dies because they were denied care under this plan how could you sleep at night?

Stop wasting time doing the same thing over and over....stop trying to push the responsibility to the states...

Stop pretending it's about money, if you can pass \$90 billion for defense you can afford health care.

Sincerely

Your people

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elizabeth [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy

To anyone considering voting to pass G/C:

My son turns 15 tomorrow...he has been undergoing treatment for leukemia since December 2015. He is on the Autism spectrum.

He will forever be a pre-existing condition.

Do not take away his protection to be covered.

Do allow lifetime limits to be imposed

Limits he already met under pre- ACA rules.

Do not vote yes because you put party before people. Do ignore our calls/faxes/emails.

Do not think you can wear us down.

Do not lie to us. We can read...

Do not think the states will protect us.

Do not vote yes just because you said you would repeal ACA during your campaign.

If even one person dies because they were denied care under this plan how could you sleep at night?

Stop wasting time doing the same thing over and over....stop trying to push the responsibility to the states...

Stop pretending it's about money, if you can pass \$90 billion for defense you can afford health care.

Sincerely

Your people

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Nett [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: From the mother of a child with disabilities - Please vote NO Graham-Cassidy health care bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

We have a child with multiple and severe disabilities. She is now 17, and we have lived in Florida for the last five years. I am an original Arizonan (YEA John McCain!) and my husband is a native Wisconsinite.

We were very FORTUNATE to not being living in the United States as my husband was working at NATO at the time when Katie joined our family.

For me, this is a humbling and powerful statement.

I grew up as a proud American, from a solidly Republican family for many generations. I was very fortunate growing up with a professional father (pharmacist) and professional mother (accountant) and we always had health care insurance. When I graduated from college I worked for Honeywell and Intel corporation and had health insurance.

My husband spent 27 years in the US Military.

We thought the United States was the BEST country in the world.

We did not know how poorly the United States provided access to health care until we experienced the system that serves NATO. Our daughter was provided with all the services she needed to help her develop to her potential. When I spoke with my friends in the United States at that time, I heard insurance companies denying physical therapy for children with cerebral palsy because the child never walked...they said physical therapy

is for REhabilitation -- gaining function lost - not developing function which teaching to walk would be. I have a friend now who's 19 year old son may well spend his life in a wheel chair in pain because of contractures that could have easily been prevented with physical therapy. *There but for the grace of God (having us living in Belgium during the formative years) goes our daughter.*

We are terrified for our child once she turns 18! She has pre-existing conditions galore and will require medical services for her life.

We can't understand how the political party that INSISTS on these precious babies with disabilities being BORN, does not want to carry that commitment to their LIVES! PRO LIFE means just that -- caring for them after the birth as well.

There is enough wealth in this country that we should be ashamed not to provide the best care to the most vulnerable. Many countries do it far better than we do. We personally have experienced it living in Belgium for 15 years.

Please vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy health care bill. FIX the problems with the ACA. There was a bi-partisian group working on this before the Graham-Cassidy bill came up.

Please don't turn your back on the most vulnerable. Please don't turn your back on our child.

Best Regards,

Carol and Tom Nett

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: MATTHEW ZERDEN <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: From an OBGYN who cares for Medicaid patients, the Graham Cassidy bill is bad for the USA

Dear Senate Committee on Finance:

I am a board-certified OBGYN physician and a health care provider at WakeMed Health & Hospitals in Raleigh, North Carolina. I am also a member of Physicians for Reproductive Health, a doctor-led national advocacy organization that uses evidence-based medicine to promote sound reproductive health policies. As a physician who cares for individuals who benefit from the Affordable Care Act (ACA) every day, I respectfully write to voice my opposition to the efforts to repeal the ACA, including the most recently proposed Graham Cassidy bill.

The Affordable Care Act ensures nearly universal health insurance coverage and guarantees access to critical reproductive health services such as well-woman visits, contraception without cost-sharing, and maternity care. Since its passage, I have seen this legislation benefit countless patients. The repeated attempts to repeal the ACA not only demonstrate a lack of understanding of how my patients have benefitted from the ACA, but would actually put many of my patients in a much worse position than before the ACA was passed. The majority of the patients I see for obstetrical care have Medicaid, and I recently delivered an infant with a life-long cardiac condition. Changing the cost structure to a block-grant format, where the state legislature may allow life-time caps, would place that child at risk of losing coverage for the expensive treatment he will need for his condition. I cannot imagine one of my children not receiving the care they need because of lack of coverage, and this little child should not be growing up worried that he will lose insurance coverage for necessary procedures and care.

As a reproductive health care professional, I see the benefits of the Affordable Care Act every day in my practice. I am gravely concerned that this repeal bill, like others before it, would push health care access out of reach for many of my patients. The proposed bill includes bans on abortion coverage in private plans, bars Medicaid recipients from accessing preventive care at Planned Parenthood, and dramatically changes the vital Medicaid program, potentially leaving millions of my patients with the greatest need without health care coverage. I am also deeply concerned that the bill is being moved forward without a full scoring from the Congressional Budget Office to fully understand the financial impact of the bill and estimates of how many people will lose coverage. It is for these reasons that I join the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Public Health Association, the American Hospital Association, and countless other health care professionals in opposing this hasty, harmful repeal of the Affordable Care Act.

When it comes to something as serious as health care, my patients deserve coverage that meets their needs – not politics. I sincerely hope that any further examination of our health care system, including changes to the ACA, are considered through the deliberative, bipartisan process that such weighty legislation deserves. I further hope that any future legislation to change or repeal the Affordable Care Act would involve the input of the medical community, who have not been consulted as part of this repeal process despite the dozens of medical organizations that have voiced their opposition to this devastating legislation.

As a health care provider who sees the benefits of the Affordable Care Act every day in my practice, I add my voice to the chorus of health care professionals and medical organizations that oppose this legislation. My patients deserve for Congress to work together to ensure that all Americans have the best health care programs possible, not proposals that would increase premiums and cost millions of people their health insurance. I therefore ask you to reject this proposal.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: melissa august <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Why the Graham-Cassidy may kill my son

Dear Senate Finance Committee,



This is Jack. Jack's Pancreas died when he was 7. Jack's life depends on being vigilant 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year until the day he dies from, hopefully, natural causes. Jack's insulin costs about \$1000 every three months, after our insurance kicks in. The strips he needs to test his blood cost \$1/per strip, he uses about 10/day. He's vigilant about testing himself. You see, if he does not test himself, and administer insulin manually all day, every day, he will end up in a diabetic coma, and either incur hundreds of thousands in hospital bill or die. What will Jack do once he's no longer allowed to be on his parent's insurance? Who will insure him? How will he pay for his life-saving insulin, insulin pump supplies, Continuous Glucose monitor? How will this young man manage to thrive in life if he's fighting to live?

Here are the facts"

"There is just no question that protections for people with pre-existing conditions are at risk under this bill," said Larry Levitt, a senior vice president at the Kaiser Family Foundation.

While Mr. Cassidy's bill forbids insurers to deny coverage to people with pre-existing conditions, it does permit states to obtain waivers that allow insurers to charge more based on health status.

Mr. Cassidy's argument hinges on a provision in the bill that requires states to describe how they intend to provide "adequate and affordable health insurance coverage for individuals with pre-existing conditions" if they approve a waiver. Experts are skeptical that the requirement will amount to the same level of protection as the Affordable Care Act. The current law "has layer on layer of requirements and prohibitions, all of which are aimed toward ensuring that people with health issues have the same access as people who are healthy," said Timothy Jost, an expert on health care at Washington and Lee University. Mr. Cassidy's bill, he said, contains a "simple promise" without a guarantee.

The bill does not define "affordable and adequate," leaving states to interpret the requirement as they see fit. Mr. Jost speculated that high-risk pools, which tended to be very expensive to insure before the current health care law took effect, may be acceptable to some states.

The measure also does not stipulate any way to make sure that states and insurers follow through with their declared intentions."

The bill allows states to waive the Affordable Care Act's requirements that insurers provide "essential health benefits." (ONE OF WHICH ARE PRESCRIPTIONS) These are 10 categories of benefits that include maternity care and pediatric services, as well as hospitalization and mental health care." NTY

I don't care how much Republicans hate all thing Obama. I don't care that they PROMISED to repeal the ACA and want to save face with their constituents. I DON'T CARE! What I do care about is that both of these motives are horrible, self serving, greedy and lazy. I care that this bill will result in stress and DEATHS. Please, by all means, improve the ACA, but this...this bill is an affront to decency, humanity and compassion. My son deserves better.

Sincerely,

Melissa August-Levin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rochelle Prosser <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy ACA repeal and Replace Bill

I am the mother of a seven year old little girl, struggling with the aftermath of brain cancer. Her name is Kayla Prosser. She was diagnosed with an extremely rare and aggressive form of pediatric brain cancer; called Pilomyxoid Astrocytoma, just a few days after her fourth birthday. It is a struggle everyday to pay her medical bills and prescription needs. Without the help of the Affordable Care Act, my daughter would not be here to greet me every morning. As a family we do not dwell on her illness. We just enjoy every moment we have with her.

I only ask one think from you. Please do not approve this latest repeal and replace health care bill.

Sincerely,
Rochelle Prosser
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Craig and Amy [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fix the ACA!!! Stop the partisan nonsense

Hello-

I believe the ACA is not broken. Never has been.

Does it need refinement? Yes.

Does it help millions of Americans achieve some semblance of reasonable and accessible medical care? YES.

Congress just allocated \$80 BILLION to the defense budget-

\$30 BILLION MORE than Trump asked for. Why? Because defense contractors contribute to campaign coffers.

Can you imagine what that \$30 BILLION could have accomplished had it been directed to meaningful healthcare reform?

Get your act together. Start taking care of Americans. We aren't stupid. We see your greed.

Amy Williams

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dave Humes [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: comments of Graham-Cassidy
Attachments: SenFinCom comment GrahamCAssidy.pdf

I hope you will take the time to read my thoughts on this bill.

--

In Peace,

Dave Humes
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
www.attackaddiction.org
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

"Nothing about us, without us." - Walton "Bud" Osborn Jr. (attrib.)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Debbie Gleason <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Break out the ice floes

Dear Senators,

If this bill becomes law, you all may as well place our older daughter, Maura, and me on an ice floe and wave to us as we drift away. Or perhaps you would turn your back on us instead, as it is very clear to me that you are indifferent to the plight of Maura and me and many others like us.

Maura was born with severe cerebral palsy. She is wheelchair bound. She cannot speak. She can, however, understand most of what is discussed with her. Whenever President Obama was on TV, we could not ever get her to go to bed before his speech was over. She would hang on every word. Maura is very social and turning into a beautiful young woman. If she could speak, she would work the room. If she could overcome various barriers, who knows, maybe she would run for office. And, believe me, she would give you all a piece of her mind.

Maura was born with this disability. You cannot get more pre-existing than that. Before the Affordable Care Act, Maura was not insurable. I wasn't either, as I had been treated for post-partum depression. But now you want to take our insurance away, or, at the very least, make it so impossible for us to pay premiums, that it amounts to the same thing.

In 2014, I underwent treatment for Stage 3 inflammatory breast cancer. That treatment included chemotherapy, a double mastectomy and radiation therapy. Unlike Senators McCain and Hirono, if I lose my health insurance, we will end up being bankrupt.

On October 11th, the day after my twenty-fourth wedding anniversary, I have an appointment with my oncologist. I hope that she will officially declare me to be at the three year mark. If the blood tests that I will take the day before show something is amiss, then I may have to start all over again. This is very worrisome not just because I would have to possibly endure treatment all over again but because my husband, Gerald Gleason, an MIT graduate, knows already that he will be laid off at the end of the year. We will be without coverage through his company. If the ACA is repealed, we will not have any options available to us except very expensive ones which we may not be able to afford. We could lose our house, and the two of us plus Maura and her younger sister could end up who knows where. And on top of that, if my cancer has metastasized, I might not survive. My husband needs me as much if not more than I need him. When I was undergoing treatment, I had no idea how frightened he was.

Please do not put us in a place of deciding pay the mortgage or pay for cancer treatment. That would be a terrible decision to have to make.

I hope someone on that committee has a heart.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments.

Debra S. Gleason

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: robin helbling <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

This bill is a joke. A mean-spirited, not funny at all joke, foisted upon the American public by a Republican party that has no regard for the welfare of the citizens of this country. Cloaked in the language of states rights, Republicans are looking to repeal and replace Obamacare because President Trump can't stand the idea of anything having to do with Obama. It's clear Republicans have no coherent plan, just a hastily thrown together mess that they are rushing through before the 50 votes to pass in the Senate expires at the end of the month. There is no debate, no analysis, no input from Democrats desired.

The Republican Party has NO CONSCIENCE!!! NONE!!! With the exception of John McCain. This bill is a travesty. Republicans and anyone who supports it should be ashamed of themselves. Winning just to win. As Chuck Grassley so aptly put it: "Repealing ObamaCare Is More Important Than Whatever Replaces It". Appalling. Vile. Partisan. And he's a Senator. Absolutely sickening.

Robin Helbling
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joni Schultz [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Senators, I cannot understand why you want to take healthcare away from the American people. Good healthcare should not be tied to our jobs. It should be universal for all. I will pay more tax so that others may have the same GOOD care that I do through my job. Do not take out country backwards!

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Windhaven Press [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Gentlemen & Ladies,

I suffer from lupus, Sjogren's, IBS, diabetes, and other autoimmune diseases. The Graham-Cassidy plan would quite literally kill me, even though I have current health insurance through my husband's employment.

With changes to provisions such as pre-existing conditions, coverage of tests, hospitalization, and prescriptions, my doctor — with whom I had a serious discussion about this lately — estimates I will live approximately 60-90 days after implementation of the Graham-Cassidy plan.

I am not the only one. You are condemning MILLIONS of people to death with this plan. Not just the ones who will lose health insurance from dropping Obamacare itself. But from changes in plans in existing insurance.

Millions of people in the United States will die. To inflate tax savings for the ultra-wealthy, including most GOP senators. Now, killing off the "not useful" in a society has been tried before, has been planned before, but think about the consequences. Who will be buying goods, who will be running jobs in the corporations that put money in your pockets (and the pockets of the Koch Brothers)? Who will be mowing your lawns or cooking your food or cleaning your house? You have killed them all.

Society will collapse and you will be left with a country full of dead bodies and nobody to do your work for you.

Is that what you want?

Let's take the empathy and concern for the poor and diseased out of the picture — since that doesn't seem to concern the GOP much anyway — and talk practicalities such as I've pictured above. The practicalities don't add up. With no money going into the economy, and nobody to work at businesses and corporations — all the "little people" — you will have a country left with only yourselves and no money coming in.

Not a good plan, now is it?

I'd plead for my own life, which apparently I'm going to lose under Graham-Cassidy, but I know you don't care about that. But do you care about yourself? Think about it.

Regards,
Nancy C. Hanger

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

~~~~~

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Jessie Bean [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:26 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No repeal!

Less than a month ago my husband was diagnosed with a grade IV glioblastoma. This is the same type of brain tumor that Senator John McCain has, so you might be familiar with what a horrible diagnosis this is to get. Without healthcare, we would not be able to get the quality of treatment that my husband needs. He is in his 30's and is very healthy otherwise, so we are hoping that he will be able to live a relatively normal life outside of the radiation, chemotherapy, and possible future surgeries that he will have to undergo. My husband and I own a small business and have been living out some sort of American dream the last couple of years. We work hard, pay our bills, and contribute to society in many ways. Brain cancer has definitely changed our paths. My husband might be out of work and I would have to run the business by myself. We can deal with these problems, make life work, but none of this would be possible without affordable health care. If you allow insurance companies the right to jack up the prices as they see fit and get rid of tax exemptions, we would go bankrupt. How can you make someone choose being bankruptcy and death? My husband did not make some bad choices in life that ended brain cancer, it was completely out of his control, anyone's control. However, our health care is in your hands. You have the ability to choose whether or not my husband is able to live. This choice is not just for one man, but millions of people. I beg of you to do what is morally right. Please do not repeal the ACA.

Sincerely,

Jessie Bailey

## **Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Marty Newhard <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:58 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

This Bill is filled with "Bad Faith" for the people of our country! The bill is partisan and favoring groups who do not have a clue about every citizen's right to healthcare.

There was no bipartisan effort put forth which we so need now!! Those who tried to do that were shut down.

I have good coverage for now - who knows the way our "leadership" will take us next. I stand for those disenfranchised citizens who will be deprived of coverage. And lives of all people that matter which will be lost!

This bill gives states the rights to do as they wish - I thought we settled that with BROWN VERSUS THE BOARD OF EDUCATION. Is that on the White House agenda also?

I hope our Representative in this state I love, finally gets it together and sees what truly is going on. I am happy to support our Senators!!!

I am dismayed and appalled that this bill is even being considered. Perhaps some of the Senators should get out and travel our Country more. This is rash, poorly written, not thoughtfully considered to please an angry, hateful, self serving, bigoted, group'

I am a Non Partisan Moderate Old Woman crying for my country

Martha Jackson Newhard

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Ardis C. Nelson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:26 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

**To whom it may concern:**

My husband and I have always relied on quality, affordable healthcare. When our youngest daughter was born with a heart condition that was only fixed by surgery at the University of Minnesota Hospital, had we not been insured through our school's policy, we would have been sorely financially tested. Now We are both newly on Medicare and just beginning to learn the system. We, and all Americans need a healthcare insurance system that covers us all. 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,

Ardis C. Nelson

Sent from iPad  
Ardis Nelson



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Marian Moldan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:26 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote No

We need a single payor system!  
Marian Moldan, LCSW-R

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

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Nancy Dugan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:26 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare

Do not do away with Obamacare. Don't pass something just for the sake of it!! We the people demand that you think of us over party.

Thank you,  
Nancy Dugan

Kindness is free.... So give generously

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Judith Leslee [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:27 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Cassidy/Graham

Please act with integrity and kill this bill instead of the vulnerable members of our nation.  
Sincerely, Judith Leslee

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Denise Rickles [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:27 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

To Committee Members,

Reject this bill because 32 Million Americans could lose medical coverage, this radical change to Medicaid will diminish. funding for every state and will allow 90 seconds of debate. Cruel, mean and heartless. If you want to keep your campaign pledges start by keeping your pledge not to touch Medicaid benefits. I repeat reject this bill.

Denise Rickles

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Peggy Sklio [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:29 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote no. Graham Cassidy

If any one of you have a child, friend, or family member with cancer. (You know you do, don't kid yourself) you are condemning them to suffer the effects of this bill. The uncertainty alone will kill you when you are soooooo sick. For God's sake. Grow up. As a survivor of stage 3 colon cancer, I am fully insured by a good company and I passed \$100,000 a long long time ago in what I still owe. Put you privileged self into someone else's shoes. Grow up. Politics are ridiculous when it results in lives lost. Vote no. Please. I am begging you.

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Sandra Fryer <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:29 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Health Care Bill

You can add the following under the bullet about the penalties per person for those not signing up with an insurance company.

"If indeed the small penalties per person are adding up to millions of dollars, then a goal is actually being achieved - the goal of defraying the costs of subsidizing those who do sign up but are below a certain income level."

Sandra Fryer  
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Sandra Fryer <[REDACTED]>  
**To:** [REDACTED]; GCHcomments <GCHcomments@finance.senate.gov>  
**Sent:** Fri, Sep 22, 2017 8:01 pm  
**Subject:** Re: Health Care Bill

Thinking about it, maybe leave out a few things like son losing job - don't want people to be able to guess who wrote it and know too much about my family.

Sandra Fryer  
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Ellen Toplin <[REDACTED]>  
**To:** Sandra Fryer <[REDACTED]>; GCHcomments <GCHcomments@finance.senate.gov>  
**Sent:** Fri, Sep 22, 2017 6:17 pm  
**Subject:** Re: Health Care Bill

great letter- can I share without saying your name!

On September 22, 2017 at 6:11 PM Sandra Fryer <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,


I am very concerned about and opposed to the new health care bill that is currently before the Senate for the following reasons:

- It unfairly targets states that accepted reimbursement for expanded Medicaid
- 
- The money distributed to states will not be enough to cover Medicaid needs which covers many people in nursing homes, physically and mentally challenged and developmentally disabled children and adults as well as people who do not have jobs or have low paying jobs that do not offer health care insurance - I have an autistic adult grandson who depends on Medicaid for many of his services.
- 
- I do not believe that those with pre-existing conditions (a category into which 3 of my four children fit) will be adequately and affordably covered. One of my children just lost his job and has challenging health issues and another who started her own small business has been able to

purchase good affordable health care insurance from a reputable company through the Affordable Health Care Program

- 
- I believe that the lower cost insurance plans to which many senators keep referring will be inferior, have higher co-pays and deductibles and cover far less than the type of plan my daughter (the small business owner with a pre-existing condition) has now because of the Affordable Health Care plan.
- 
- Those who are pushing the current bill talk about the penalties for not signing up for health care insurance in big dollars rather than the fact that the fine per person is very minimal which is why most people who think they won't need insurance pay it. Then when these same people have a real problem they go to the emergency room which impacts the cost of health care for everyone else.
- 
- I object to charging higher premiums to adults who are not yet eligible for Medicare being as they get older - most of them have paid for health insurance for years even though they did not use it much and it should be there for them at an affordable rate as they age.
- 
- Having taken advantage of a health savings account through work, I know it will not be helpful to everyone - firstly you have to be able to afford putting aside the money; secondly the paperwork involved to get the money reimbursed is too complicated for many people. How do we know that the amount they are allowed to put aside or the tax break will be adequate to cover their higher deductibles and co-pays?
- 
- We have a decent income but it does not increase every year and we do not have enough to take care of our adult children's health care.
- 
- We cannot take advantage of the tax loopholes that the very wealthy can -but see our paying taxes as the patriotic thing to do to invest in the future of our country and the well being of those who live here. We feel this way in spite of the fact that the members of the house and senate don't have to worry about having good health insurance and their salaries are automatically increased a good % every year - then many vote against it after they have already have the guaranteed increase so they can tell the voters they did so.
- 
- I know that those of you who look toward their conscience and what is good for the people of this country rather than what will enable the lowering of taxes for the **very** wealthy will in good conscience not support the current bill

Thank you for your consideration.

Sandra Fryer  


**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Karen Watt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:30 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Say No to Graham Cassidy Bill!

You can do better for Americans by working to improve Health Care and not destroying it. Please Say No to Graham Cassidy Bill!

Sincerely,

Karen Watt



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Hannah Conway [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:29 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill

Please vote no - this bill will price insurance out of most people's income and they will vote you out to change it when they realize it

Thanks! Hannah

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Nina [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:29 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Do the right thing!!!

NO REPEAL! fix ACA !

Sent from my iPhone

## **Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** cdmanolis [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:29 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

The Graham-Cassidy bill will rip insurance from tens of millions of people and as a result, some of them will die. Elected officials know this is fact. How, in good conscience, can you proceed with such a bill? This bill also guts Medicaid. You can spin it all you want but we know the truth and that truth is unconscionable. The politics being played with this bill is an embarrassment.

Why aren't we trying to provide even more people with health insurance? Why aren't we doing more to protect our most vulnerable citizens? Why do the wealthiest among us profit from this bill and poorest suffer even more? Access to health care shouldn't be based on the size of our bank account and no one should be forced into bankruptcy because they were diagnosed with cancer. For-profit health insurance will never work for a civilized people.

This bill doesn't reflect who we are as a nation and the majority of Americans clearly don't want it. Please, don't do this to us.

Sent from my U.S. Cellular® Smartphone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** rica bea [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:30 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy health care bill

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my opinion on the proposed Graham-Cassidy health care bill. What I have to say is fairly simple: Any bill that drops even ONE person from having health insurance is unacceptable. I do believe every single American deserves affordable health care at all times, with no exceptions. I am appalled by the way the Republican party has continued to attack Planned Parenthood, women's health, our senior's health, and anyone with a pre-existing condition.

Although I think the ACA has helped countless numbers of individuals which I am incredibly grateful for, there is still the ongoing issue of Americans struggling to afford health insurance. This is something that many of us want to be remedied, but the Graham-Cassidy bill does just the opposite. I find it insulting that drug companies have such a pull on health care to financially benefit from while leaving the consumer to struggle and in many cases, die from the greed.

I would like to see an option for single-payer healthcare. I would like for both parties to come together and work towards something that will help absolutely everyone. Anything less will not be enough.

Thank you for taking the time to listen.

Sincerely,

Kerica Bowers

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Terry Dothard [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:26 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

I seriously doubt this email will get read. But here goes. My concern or this health care Graham-Cassidy is not or myself or my children. But for my sister, who is raising two children with disabilities and serious health issues which are pre-existing. Her eldest son has Mental retardation and is severely autistic as well. He is now having severe seizure's. Her daughter, who has also pre-existing illness as she was born missing two heart valves. She has had extensive surgeries since she was born. And two years ago after waiting so long finally received a new heart. She is a miracle, but is on so much medication and having to go out of town monthly for her checkups. My sister relies on her husbands insurance, and pays dearly out of pocket. If this so called insurance does not cover pre-existing, both her children will die. Please consider this as you vote for something that just might kill these children and they have not yet to begin to live.

Thank you



Virus-free. [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Lacey Wootton [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:30 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

Please do not support this bill. I do not believe that it's in the best interest of our citizens, but also, it has not gone through any kind of government process or vetting Please do not put politics before democracy.

Thank you—Lacey Wootton

---

Lacey Wootton

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Elizabeth Estes <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:23 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

This bill is horrendous. It is the worst possible thing to do. It is politically motivated and NOT what's best for the people. 32,000,000 people without healthcare. The Koch brothers are directing this monstrosity for personal gain, and the senators that wrote it and the ones that support it are hoping to pick up some of that 400,000,000 that the Kochs promise to spread around. A political win is the last thing one should be thinking about when discussing lives. This MUST be shot down for the good of We The People.  
Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** wilsons [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:22 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Save the ACA

We need to continue the ACA and have single payer option to compete with insurance companies.

Sent from my iPhone



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Chris Coakley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:22 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Pending healthcare bill

Please do pass another peice of poorly developed legislation. Does nobody on the hill understand the difference between helping and hurting people?

Take one year ( despite the fact that you have already squandered almost 9) and work for the people.

If you value your jobs you won't try to ride this garbage through another election season.

Sincerely,

Christopher Coakley

chris

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Corinna Bisgaier <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:21 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote NO to save American lives!

My husband and I both work, but he had cancer when he was 18, so pre-existing condition. And, our kids are on CHIP. Without the ACA, I'm not sure where we would be. We cannot afford out-of-pocket costs for private health insurance. Please do not leave millions of Americans without the basic level of care! Healthcare should be a basic human right. We pay taxes, we vote. -Corinna Bisgaier [REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Rhonda Hagar <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:21 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

I simply cannot fathom how people that call themselves Christians can go to such lengths to support a bill that would harm so many. You say you are pro life but that is not the case when you support a bill that would cause so many deaths. How can you support men being so deceptive by trying to bribe governors into supporting the bill? How can you look yourself in the mirror when you support circumventing the normal process of bill passage? The whole issue is plagued with evil, judgmental thoughts regarding trying to deny Americans that you have deemed unworthy and deplorable to receive healthcare and all for the love of money and profit for the wealthy via tax cuts. You are basically willing to commit murder in order to simply repeal and replace the Affordable Health Care Act because you hate President Obama because he is black and for the love of money. Whoever supports this horrible bill and this line of thinking is truly evil.  
Rhonda Hagar

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

## **Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Laquita Christian [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:59 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Dear Sirs and Madams,

My name is Laquita Christian. I am writing to you today to plead with you to not pass the Graham- Cassidy bill that is currently up for consideration. As a person who has several pre-existing conditions, I am concerned that this bill in its current form does not provide protections for people like me.

I have juvenile onset Rheumatoid Arthritis, Fibromyalgia, Temporal Mandibular Joint Disease( my jaw dislocates itself), two artificial knees, a rebuilt ankle, and an Interstim Device(implanted tens unit) for chronic pain. I have had a hard go but still continue to try to work. I am also a veteran of the US Army.

People like me are facing uncertainty because if our particular state ( mine happens to be Alabama) chooses a waiver, the current protection that is provided by the Affordable Care Act, will no longer protect me under the new legislation in its current form. I understand that you have campaigned for the last seven years on Repeal and Replace of the Affordable Care Act( even branding it Obamacare to get people on board), but this bill would hurt average Americans like me.

Medicaid being block granted to the states would hurt the most vulnerable among us, the very young, the very old, and those with severe disabilities. Medicaid picks up where Medicare leaves off for a lot of our elderly population. It allows some families the ability to keep their handicapped children at home. They would otherwise have to go to a facility which are already at capacity in this country. It allows families to tend to their elderly parents and grandparents. Medicaid expansion has been a Godsend for families who didn't know how they were going to get quality medical care for their family members.

Please don't disregard me as a liberal( that is how you have referred to Kimmel and anyone else who has spoken out against this bill). I am not(though there is nothing wrong with being a liberal, we need everyone in on fixing healthcare). I actually identified as Conservative until very recently. I am worried for our country. I would love to see us return to the days of Tip O'Neill and Ronald Reagan when things got done in a bipartisan way to make things better for the American people, ALL. AMERICAN PEOPLE, NOT JUST THE DONORS.

Thank you so much for listening. Thank you so much for your service. I understand that this is a hard job. We your American constituents are counting on all of you to do the right thing for all of us.

Sincerely,  
Laquita A. Christian

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Kate Murray [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:55 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please do not pass the Graham/Cassidy bill

Hello,

I am writing about the proposed Graham/Cassidy bill for changes to the ACA. Surely by every measure, this is not a good bill.

Firstly, I ask Congress not to hold a vote on this bill that will affect 1/6 of the American economy without a CBO score. How can you vote on proposed legislation without fully understanding how it will impact the lives of Americans? Your job as elected officials is to serve the needs of the people and passing this bill would literally endanger and kill American people.

Secondly, I am very concerned about language in the bill that allows states to loosen protections for pre-existing conditions. I will be directly affected by this provision, as I have had an issue with chronic kidney stones for the past ten years. I will not be able to afford the extra costs being predicted for my care, and will be effectively priced out of healthcare. There is no "cure" for my condition so I know I will continue to fight it even if I lose my healthcare and will eventually be forced to just be in pain once I can't afford my medications and treatments. The pain is overwhelming and it will prevent me from continuing to live my life the way a normal person should.

Thirdly, I am distressed that monies to Medicaid will be reduced so drastically, making costs for seniors and the disabled to skyrocket.

From what I read, this bill does not bring healthcare to more Americans – in fact, it is predicated that upwards of 30 million will lose their existing coverage. And, like before the ACA, people will have to choose between eating and getting healthcare. People will die.

In conclusion, I find this proposed bill to be heartless and mean. It really is just a way for the GOP to pay for tax cuts. Rather than helping our fellow man, it is a bill that will hurt the most vulnerable in our population.

Please do not pass the Graham/Cassidy bill. Instead, please return to regular order. Let's work on improving the existing law with bipartisan committees, and a vote that requires all of Congress to work together for a solution.

Thank you for your consideration.

-Katie Murray

Katie Murray  
North Bay Leadership Council

[REDACTED] 401  
Petaluma, CA [REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Brendan Dowd [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:53 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health Care bill feedback

Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

My name is Brendan Dowd. I lost my right leg in a near fatal car accident on July 2nd, 2014. The accident occurred while I was leaving work. I am writing because the Graham-Cassidy Health Care Plan will hurt me and all individuals living with limb loss/difference in the United States. Let me state the importance of this issue clearly: *I will not vote in the midterm and next presidential election for any Representative or Senator who supports this bill.*

I have studied the effect of this bill since it became public. The impact it would have on amputees like me would be catastrophic.

**1. Graham-Cassidy will allow insurers to assert annual and lifetime caps on prostheses.** Currently, all 50 states consider prosthetics an essential health benefit, but that would change under Graham-Cassidy. In states where prosthetics lose essential health benefit status, amputees will be subjected to annual and/or lifetime caps that render the insurance we pay premiums for useless. This will put the devices that we depend on to take every step and to open every door financially out of reach for many amputees. Alternatively, insurers can simply choose to offer policies that provide no coverage for prosthetics at all. This amounts to tacit federal sanctioning of discrimination against amputees. It is unacceptable.

**2. Graham-Cassidy will permit insurers to discriminate against individuals with pre-existing conditions.** While Senators Graham and Cassidy insist that the prohibition against pre-existing condition exclusions will remain in effect under their proposal, they ignore the fact that the bill simultaneously gives insurers the right to charge higher premiums to people with pre-existing conditions. I urge you to look beyond the political spin and examine the actual *effect* of this change. People like me will suddenly see their premiums explode because we have a pre-existing condition; for many Americans with limb loss, this will be a financial burden they simply cannot bear, and they will fall into the ranks of the uninsured, unable to receive *any* prosthetic care and treatment. Not only is this bad from a moral and ethical standpoint, it is also a shortsighted economic decision. *Because of* our current access to quality prosthetic care and treatment, millions of amputees in the U.S. live active, productive lives. Relegating us to crutches and wheelchairs will cost the government money in the long run.

**3. Graham-Cassidy will result in an explosion of uninsured Americans.** While current indications are that the Senate majority is willing to put this bill up for a vote without a CBO score, The Commonwealth Fund has published a preliminary analysis of the effects of Graham-Cassidy. It concludes that over the next 10 years, more than 30 *million* Americans will lose access to health insurance as a result of this ill-conceived proposal. Again, this is not acceptable.

I cannot say it strongly or plainly enough: Graham-Cassidy is bad politics, bad politics, and it will do incalculable damage to Americans with disabilities generally and amputees like me specifically. Instead, I urge Congress to follow the bipartisan efforts of some in the Senate and of numerous state governors: work together to fix the issues that everyone – Democrat, Republican, and Independent – freely acknowledge exist with the health care system.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my point of view on this critically important issue. I will be watching and voting in 2018 and beyond based on what happens in Washington over the next week.

Very truly yours,

Brendan Dowd

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Michael Azerrad <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:52 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No on Graham-Cassidy

Please do not vote for Graham-Cassidy. It will deprive many millions of people of urgently needed healthcare benefits. It would be a disaster for our country.

Thanks.

— Michael Azerrad  
New York, NY



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Karen Lauinger <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:49 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

Dear Finance Committee,

I lost my leg in an accident 2yrs ago. I would not have had insurance if it weren't for the mandate, my accident happened 1 week after getting insurance and if I didn't have it, the medivac would not have picked me up and taken me from Cozumel to Miami. I would have certainly died.

I am now limited physically and cannot do the same work I used to, but I do work and I do contribute. The only way I can afford health insurance is through the ACA. Now I have a preexisting condition and I need to have access to health insurance that I can afford. I have that now, it is imperative that I can keep it.

I am not looking for a handout, just health insurance. I never filed for SS benefits or Medicaid. I own a small townhouse with my boyfriend, we both work hard and live simply.

I am the face of ObamaCare.

Thank you,  
Karen Lauinger

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** James Whelan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:49 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect affordable healthcare for all Americans!

While I don't know how badly the repeal of the ACA will affect me, I know many people on whom the effect will be very bad. Therefore I strongly oppose GrahamCassidy.

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** aaron Huitt [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:48 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Don't repeal the ACA.

DO NOT REPEAL THE ACA!!!!!!!!!!

Aaron Huitt LPN  
Clinical Nurse Liaison  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone  
Please excuse typos

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** jrobin mcmillan <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:49 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy

Dear Committee members,

As the father of two daughters, one of which suffers from a pre-existing behavioral condition, and the son-in-law of an 89-year-old whose ability to walk diminishes by the day, I have more than a passing interest in this bill.

That it should even be considered baffles me.

In fact, this is not even a healthcare bill. It is a transparent attempt by Congress to avoid responsible tax cuts by spitting the bit and passing on responsibility to state administrations ill-equipped to handle. How does making state health worse add up to better federal health? It makes no sense.

This raises so many concerns, there are not enough days in a year to properly discuss each one.

Fortunately, there are only so many days until the next round of elections. We are counting those carefully, and are aware of who is running where and, more important, what he or she stands for.

Even more important, whether he or she cares more for his or her constituents, or cares only for a party divided and one's own pathetic self-interest,

This bill cannot be considered.

THEREFORE IT MUST BE VOTED DOWN. DISAPPROVE IT. VOTE NO.

Yours sincerely,

Robin McMillan  
New York, NY

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Sandoe, Scott M. <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:50 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I am writing to oppose Graham-Cassidy!

... this bill is danger for America and it is simply BAD legislation. If this passes, it will be a death sentence to many Americans.

\*\*\*\*\*  
This electronic mail transmission may contain confidential or privileged information. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender by reply transmission and delete the message without copying or disclosing it.  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** jean-huy Tran [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:50 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill

Dear Committee members:

My name is jean-huy. I am writing to you regarding the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill. This bill is a disastrous bill for our healthcare system. If a healthcare bill is resulting in less American enrolled in healthcare, it is not a right one for the Americans.

The budget cuts proposed on this healthcare is equally alarming as well. The fact that it is a cut almost across the board for the states, while only a handful are getting increased is something to consider about. We are looking at an ironic situation where our healthcare is getting less funding, while the military is getting an increase so that President Trump can have an ego fest with the North Korea on whose nuclear bomb are bigger. It is time to invest in the Americans.

The question here should be: do Americans want healthcare or nuclear bombs!

Please consider these thoughts & vote with your conscience! Millions of Americans' healthcare is in your hand, your vote today will carry through the history of millions remembering the day you jeopardize their healthcare.

Thank you for your time!

Warm regards,  
jean-huy.  
San Diego, CA

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Meredith Sherter Benston <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:50 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Brian Benston  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill

Hello,

Two years ago my then 10 year old son was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. It is a different disease from the more referenced and known Type 2 version. Type 1 is an autoimmune disease wherein something triggered his body to attack and now his pancreas does not produce any insulin. There is no cure for this disease. He is 100% dependent on man made insulin and all the equipment required to constantly check his blood sugars and inject insulin. He is now 12, and until there is a cure, which might not come during his lifetime, this is forever for him.

Without insurance coverage the cost for his insulin and supplies would be \$2500 a month. With insurance through my company, our co-pay is about \$300/month, or \$3600/year. He is not our only child.

My husband and I are both solidly middle class. We both have professional white collar jobs and in the 25 or so years we have been working at our careers we have both been unemployed at most a year. We own a house, we pay our taxes, we vote, we are active in our communities. We are good people. That is the point actually, we are PEOPLE. As much as we try to take care of ourselves, we are not immune to aging and like anyone, are perhaps one car accident away from never being able to work and take care of ourselves and our family.

The Graham Cassidy bill would ruin our lives and quite possibly kill our son. He can't skip a dosage or just eat right and exercise, he is 100% dependent on insulin the cost of which has skyrocketed. Without being covered for this pre-existing condition, and if there are lifetime caps on his coverage, he is a dead man before he is even a man.

He is an honors student who shows kindness and compassion to everyone he meets. He loves to help people. He is the kind of person we need more of in this world.

Please consider that there are real people the Graham Cassidy bill would impact, people who will die or not be able to reach their potential because of it.

Best regards,  
Meredith Benston

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Tracy Quinn <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:50 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Repealing ACA

Please do not repeal ACA- make it better. All who vote against the American people will lose their seats.

America over Party.

Tracy Quinn

Sent from my iPad



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Jim Tillotson [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:46 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote against Health Care 'Pass the Buck' Bill

I urge a 'NO' vote on the Graham-Cassidy 'Health Care' Bill.

Americans increasingly are considering Health Care an 'right' like public education and not just a 'privilege'.

DEVOLVING control back to the states will guarantee an exacerbation of Unequal rights and Unequal access to healthcare.

It's definitely going the WRONG direction and should be VOTED DOWN.

....Jim Tillotson

---

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

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Jo Frame [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:51 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy/Heller Healthcare Bill

Josephine A Frame  
[REDACTED]

Roberts, WI. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

9/22/17

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this email in the hope that I may be able share my story with you, and thereby help you understand what ACA has done for my family and me, and what devastation losing it will mean-devastation that will come, should you succeed in passing Graham/Cassidy/Heller.

I lost my job in January of 2014, due to multiple debilitating illnesses, so my husband is our only breadwinner. I require multiple medications and the regular care of not only a primary physician, but also specialists, to treat the illnesses that threaten my life every day. Without this care, I WILL DIE. This is not hyperbole, but simply fact. If I lose my health insurance, I will not be able to get another plan, because of my pre-existing conditions, or if there is actually a plan available to me, I won't be able to afford it. I will have to choose between insurance or eating/keeping my home... not much of a choice, huh?

Millions of Americans all over this country are living with this same fear right now, and it's exhausting. We want you to fix ACA, work together to make it more affordable for everyone. Don't take insurance away from 32,000,000 people, just because you "campaigned on Repeal and Replace and now you kind of gotta do it"... This is our lives you're dealing with here, and WE MATTER. You were all sent to Washington to be OUR voice, and WORK FOR US, not take money from people like the Mercers and the Koch brothers, and WORK ONLY FOR THEM.

DO THE RIGHT THING HERE. VOTE NO TO GRAHAM/CASSIDY/HELLER!!!

Sincerely,

Josephine A Frame

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Cynthia Lehigh <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:51 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

This terrible bill, conceived in private back rooms with no input from the medical community or public input, which affects a fifth of our economy should be go forward. I oppose it for these reasons:

1. **It violates all promises** Trump and Congress made about taking care of the vulnerable and people with preexisting conditions.

2. **It is cruel.** My sister had Type 1 diabetes and worked all her life so she could have health coverage. Insulin and supplies are very costly. After she suffered a hypoglycemic event and subsequent brain injury, she lost her job in 2009, and was denied health insurance. There was no risk pool. She could not afford the exorbitant prices or to get her meds, so she tried to stretch out her insulin, reuse her needles till they were dull. She passed away the year after the ACA was passed, because she wasn't able to afford the medical care she needed.

**My two kids have Type 1 diabetes, and I fear they too will denied coverage, or offered coverage so costly as to be unaffordable.** I fear for their future, and pray the ACA is not repealed. People with medical conditions have enough fear and stress to deal with. Passage of this bill would be cruel.

3. Repealing the ACA and replacing its with Graham Cassidy is a **bad economic decision.** First, a health workforce is a more productive workforce. Ending Medicaid for the working poor guarantees many of them will become disabled due to lack of medical care and medications. Failure to take insulin or high blood pressure meds leads to disability, which costs the government much more than preventing the condition in the first place.

People will begin to fill up the ERs again, where they will be treated and released, only to come back because they are not getting medical management. Prices will rise for everyone else.

In Arizona, healthcare accounts for one of the largest sectors of our economic. Cutting back Medicaid will be harmful to the economy. The ASU-Seidman Institute Study (Jan. 2017) estimates repeal could cost the state more than \$5B/yr.

Everyone knows the real reason for repealing the ACA is to ensure a greater tax benefit for the wealthy. That is not a good reason to hurt so many people and harm our economy.

Please let this bill die.  
Sincerely,  
Cynthia J. Lehigh

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Lisa Hechtner <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 12:43 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Affordable Care Act

I am writing this message to clearly and profoundly state my OBJECTION to the Graham-Cassidy repeal of ACA....which will throw millions of Americans off of health care...including my parents. My mother has battled cancer 2 times and won! Her pre-existing condition will....if left to the State of Idaho...and this bill passing...will no longer be able to afford health care! Please listen to the millions of people...your constituents...the people who got you into office....and do the RIGHT thing for them!

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Jason Arnold [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:51 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health Care Bill

Dear Senators,

The Senate should hold multiple hearings, hear from key witnesses, stakeholders, and qualified experts before they vote on this bill. The Senate should get a full report from the Congressional Budget Office on this bill before they vote on this bill. The Senate should hold town halls and meetings with their constituents about this bill before they vote on this bill. The Senate should allow other Senators to debate this bill before they vote on this bill. The Senate should allow Senators to offer amendments to the bill before they vote on this bill.

None of this is happening. This bill will affect millions of Americans and at least 1/6th of the U.S. Economy. This is not a bill to rush through. There is no emergency - this bill isn't providing immediate relief to victims of Harvey and Irma and Maria. This bill will affect the entire country and is not given enough time for everyone to think and reflect on the ramifications of it.

Don't vote on this bill. Allow careful consideration before taking further steps.

Thank you,

Jason Arnold

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Jane Gold <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:48 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Medicaid Cuts!!!!!!

Hello,

Please consider our feedback regarding the proposed devastating cuts to Maryland Medicaid.

For many adults and children with birth defects, chronic diseases, developmental disabilities, and trauma- Medicaid (Maryland Medical Care Program), is the only health insurance, the only hope for survival and some quality of life. It pays for care from doctors, specialists, and hospitals, as well as prescriptions.

Medicaid fee schedule has already been cut to a minimum and any further cuts will result in lack of patient access to medical services. This will have devastating results on their lives and may result in higher overall costs of inevitable institutionalizations.

Please, please, do not consider cuts to Medicaid!!!!!!

These people need our help and support!

Sincerely,  
Jane Gold.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Paul McMahon [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:52 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare: Please vote against the Graham Cassidy bill

To whom it may concern,

As an American, I believe that our country should use our resources to take care of each other. This new proposed bill takes too much away from people who need healthcare the most. Please vote against the Graham Cassidy bill.

Thank you,

Paul McMahon

patients deserve for Congress to work together to ensure that all Americans have the best health care programs possible, not proposals that would increase premiums and cost millions of people their health insurance. I therefore ask you to reject this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Deborah Nucatola, MD

Physicians for Reproductive Health



# M

September 22, 2017

I am writing about the proposed Graham/Cassidy bill for changes to the ACA. Surely by every measure, this is not a good bill, perhaps the worst yet. Firstly, I ask Congress not to hold a vote on this bill that will affect 1/6 of the American economy without a CBO score. How can you vote on proposed legislation without fully understanding how it will impact the lives of Americans? Numerous articles to date show that too many politicians do not understand the depth of negative impact this will have upon so many Americans. Instead they are being unduly influenced by the desire of the current administration to REPEAL the ACA at any cost.

Secondly, I am very concerned about language in the bill that allows states to loosen protections for pre-existing conditions. My family will be directly affected by this provision and we will not be able to afford the extra costs being predicted for care, and will be effectively priced out of healthcare. This will be the NEW Reality for too many hard working Americans.

Thirdly, I am distressed that monies to Medicaid will be reduced so drastically, making costs for seniors and the disabled to skyrocket.

From what I read, this bill does not bring healthcare to more Americans - in fact, it is predicted that over 30 million will lose their existing coverage. And, like before the ACA, people will have to choose between eating and getting healthcare. People will die.

In conclusion, I find this proposed bill to be heartless and mean. It really is just a way for the GOP to pay for tax cuts. Rather than helping our fellow man, it is a bill that will hurt the most vulnerable in our population. It is motivated by greed, ego and nothing more.

**Please do not pass the Graham/ Cassidy bill.** Instead, please return to regular order. Let's work on improving the existing law with **bipartisan committees**, and a vote that requires all of Congress to work together for a solution.

Kind Regards,



Mark Miller

 Brookline Ma. 

Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal  
Monday, September 25, 2017  
2:00 PM  
215 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

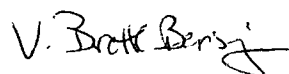
I have been involved with Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago for over 20 years and serve on its Public Policy Committee. I also am proud to serve as the Chair of the hospital's Founders' Board, a group of 105 of the strongest women and moms who believe there is no more important issue to this nation than the health of its children. For the future of our children, I urge you to oppose the Graham-Cassidy health reform proposal. It will dramatically cut vital Medicaid funding for Illinois as well as threatens health care access and coverage for more than **30 million CHILDREN insured by Medicaid**.

The Graham-Cassidy proposal also removes the certainty which states like ours (Illinois) count on to provide health coverage to our most vulnerable children -- including those impacted by natural disasters and public health emergencies. Further, this bill weakens consumer safeguards. As a result, Illinois children in working families would no longer be assured that their private insurance covers the most basic of services -- regardless of any underlying medical condition.



Our health care would become much more expensive than it is now, and this bill would have devastating consequences for families. The bill jeopardizes children's access to vital care and has no protections for those who have pre-existing medical conditions. One in four children in America are insured by Medicaid. This bill very significantly reduces the best investment this nation can make in medicine - the health of our children.

I implore you to oppose the Graham-Cassidy health reform proposal and instead work to find solutions that will improve care for our children.

Sincerely,



V. Brette Bensinger

  
Chicago, Illinois 

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Deborah Alquist [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:26 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

Dear Sirs and Madams of the Senate Committee on Finance:

I am a practicing Obstetrician-Gynecologist who cares for women in California, Hawaii, and Illinois. I am also a member of Physicians for Reproductive Health, a doctor-led national advocacy organization that uses evidence-based medicine to promote sound reproductive health policies. As a physician who cares for individuals who benefit from the Affordable Care Act (ACA) every day, I respectfully write to voice my opposition to any efforts to repeal the ACA, including the most recently proposed Graham Cassidy bill.

The Affordable Care Act ensures nearly universal health insurance coverage and guarantees access to critical reproductive health services such as well-woman visits, contraception without cost-sharing, and maternity care. Since its passage, I have seen this legislation benefit countless patients. The repeated attempts to repeal the ACA not only demonstrate a deep lack of understanding of how my patients have benefitted from the ACA, but would actually put many of my patients in a much worse position than before the ACA was passed. I don't want to have to tell another patient that they can't get the best contraceptive method for them because they can't afford to pay for it. I don't want to see another patient with an unintended pregnancy because they had to decide between buying their months supply of birth control pills or providing food for their children. And I certainly don't want to see another woman who delayed care for a breast mass until it was so far advanced that their breast cancer was a death sentence

As a reproductive health care professional, I see the benefits of the Affordable Care Act every day in my practice. I am gravely concerned that this repeal bill, like others before it, would push health care access out of reach for so many of my patients. The proposed bill includes bans on abortion coverage in private insurance plans, bars Medicaid recipients from accessing preventive care at Planned Parenthood – an organization that has seen 1 in 5 women living in this country at some point in their lifetime, and dramatically changes the vital Medicaid program, potentially leaving millions of my patients with the greatest need without any health care coverage. I am also deeply concerned that the bill is being moved forward without a full scoring from the Congressional Budget Office to fully understand the financial impact of the bill and estimates of how many people will lose coverage – this is incredibly irresponsible. It is for these reasons that I join the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Public Health Association, the American Hospital Association, and countless other health care professionals in opposing this hasty, harmful repeal of the Affordable Care Act.

When it comes to something as serious as health care, my patients deserve coverage that meets their medical needs – not coverage that is mandated or eliminated because of politics. I sincerely hope that any further examination of our health care system, including changes to the ACA, are considered through the deliberative, bipartisan process that such weighty legislation deserves. I further hope that any future legislation to change or repeal the Affordable Care Act would involve the input of the medical community, who have never been consulted as part of this repeal process despite the dozens of medical organizations that have voiced their opposition to this devastating legislation.

As a health care provider who sees the benefits of the Affordable Care Act every day in my practice, I add my voice to the chorus of health care professionals and medical organizations that oppose this legislation. My

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Joshua Tryon [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:15 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comment for G-C hearing  
**Attachments:** Comment for Graham-Cassidy Hearing on Monday, September 25, 2017.docx

(Comment for hearing below and attached as document)

Comment for Graham-Cassidy Hearing on Monday, September 25, 2017

From Joshua V. Tryon, [REDACTED], Coventry CT [REDACTED]

My name is Joshua Tryon and I have schizoaffective disorder, which is similar to schizophrenia but also shares features with bipolar disorder. Originally I hoped to be a history professor, and I graduated from college Phi Beta Kappa, but after becoming ill with this brain disorder, I was unable to work or maintain housing for many years. I was hospitalized 22 times, once warehoused for 26 months in a state institution where I received no therapy and very little care. When I was not hospitalized, I depended on homeless shelters and soup kitchens to survive, as I was not functional enough to care for myself or maintain relationships with people who could help me.

However, because of the Medicaid expansion of the ACA, I have been given a visiting nurse who manages my medications, something I cannot do myself. (My illness is very brittle, and if I miss even one day of medication, I do not believe I need meds by the next day.) Thanks to this service and the other mental health care the ACA provides me, I have been back to work full-time for over a year now, working more than 50 hours a week. I have also been able to maintain and pay for my own room in a rooming house, pay my taxes on time, make regular car payments, and begin to pay down my student loans. I am also again able to have relationships with friends and family, something I could not do before, and I am no longer a danger behind the wheel.

I am terrified that the life I have finally been able to build thanks to the ACA will be snatched from me by the Graham-Cassidy bill. It is only the Medicaid expansion that pays for my daily medication nurse, which is the most critical aspect of my care and is not covered by regular insurance. Furthermore, my illness is both preexisting and mental health related, and so my national, out-of-state employer would likely choose not to offer insurance plans that would cover my condition (since they did not offer them before). Without medication management and other health services, I will immediately lose my job, my housing, my ability to pay my debts, my reason and my ability to function personally. I will again be homeless and friendless, and dependant on repeated hospitalizations I can't afford to stabilize me for only a few days at a time.

I beg the Senate to consider the cost of the Graham-Cassidy bill to individuals such as myself, to families, and to society that has to pay for people like me when we can't support ourselves. There are a lot of hidden costs to society in this bill, and I am one of them. Please do not rob me of my productivity by passing this bill.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Elizabeth Steinhauer <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:02 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Senate Finance Committee Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, 9/25/17

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

I am a psychiatrist and bioethicist in Chicago. I am writing to voice my alarm that the Graham-Cassidy bill is even being entertained by the Senate.

The cuts to Medicaid are draconian and reckless. Under Graham-Cassidy, millions of Americans will lose their insurance due to the elimination of marketplace subsidies, smaller and eventually decimated Medicaid block grants, and unreasonable premium surcharges when states exercise their waiver option. The waiver text that ends federal protections for pre-existing conditions and prevents annual and lifetime caps on benefits is cruel and will add to the numbers of uninsured Americans. As more citizens are uninsured, the inevitable costs of health care will be transferred to those fortunate enough to have employment and insurance. More uninsured patients requires more treatment in county hospitals, which will be funded by taxpayer dollars.

Many of my patients in recent years have for the first time been able to access mental health treatment with the Affordable Care Act's removal of pre-existing condition clauses. This has allowed for primary preventive care and has saved in health care costs down the road. Denying Americans insurance due to pre-existing conditions is unethical, heartless, and economically shortsighted. If we do not allow Americans to receive basic primary medical and mental health care, including health care in pregnancy and well-child visits, we will be saddled with the burden of caring for more severe, complex chronic illnesses that might have been averted or modified with earlier interventions.

The Graham-Cassidy Bill provides no funding for natural disasters, public health emergencies, or recessions. States will be economically devastated by dealing with the health care costs from an infectious pandemic or natural disaster. All states will enter a fiscal crisis in 2027 when block grants are eliminated.

This bill will not just be devastating to patients, the elderly, women, the indigent and the disabled. This bill will devastate the American healthcare system and the dedicated practitioners who provide compassionate care.

The Graham-Cassidy Bill will increase costs, decrease accessibility, result in harm and death to countless Americans. This is a travesty of a bill, being rushed through without any vetting, without any CBO score and without debate. It is a crime against humanity. Illness is not a failure of willpower. Unemployment and poverty are not character defects. Any one of us is vulnerable to illness, infirmity, disability, unemployment or changed financial circumstances. It is unconscionable to suggest otherwise.

Please do not dismiss this as an isolated viewpoint. The Graham-Cassidy bill is opposed by:

The American Medical Association  
The American Psychiatric Association  
The American Public Health Association  
The National Institute for Reproductive Health  
the Federation of American Hospitals  
The American Academy of Pediatrics

The Association of American Medical Colleges  
The American Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists....and many more.

Please reject this bill. Instead, work together in a bipartisan fashion to strengthen the ACA's individual markets and find ways to increase competition among insurers across the country. Any bill with such enormous impact on the lives of millions of Americans ought to be able to garner 60 votes after debate, vetting and receiving a favorable CBO score.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Steinhauer, MD

Elizabeth Steinhauer, MD, LLC

[REDACTED]  
Chicago, IL  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Send a message to my personal SecureInbox:

[https://www.privacydatasystems.net/csi\\_send\\_2.aspx?csiid=07da118d-bbcf-4570-990c-71780bec7a84](https://www.privacydatasystems.net/csi_send_2.aspx?csiid=07da118d-bbcf-4570-990c-71780bec7a84)

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Megan McQuillan <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 2:15 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please don't allow passage of Graham/Cassidy

Dear Committee Members,

This bill is not the answer. Please please please thinking compassionately and pragmatically about the impact this bill will have on people with pre-existing conditions and on the working class. Dooming people to financial ruin and death by allowing corporations to make profit-motive decisions with premiums and policy exclusions. Please look at the total cost to all Americans, in all states, and make the wise, loving choice.

Thank you,  
Megan McQuillan  
Brooklyn, NY [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Becky Steiner <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 2:16 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** h/t Nell Minow

I strongly request to all who are able -vote NO on Graham Cassidy!!! Please!!

Becky Steiner  
Slingerlands, NY



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Susan Blubaugh [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:52 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill

I am adamantly against passage of the Graham Cassidy Bill. It would have devastating consequences to my family's ability to obtain affordable quality healthcare. It is clearly the very worst version of Republican "repeal and replace" attempts to roll back progress in this country for 10s of millions of Americans. It will negatively effect women's healthcare especially. American voters now see clearly that Republican Senators and Representatives care more about Koch Brothers money than the lives and well-being of citizens. This is truly shameful! It is the opposite of good governance!

Susan M. Blubaugh

I VOTE IN EVERY ELECTION

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Elizabeth Ivankovic [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:16 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare changes

Dear Senate member,

On 9/11/2001, while planes were hitting the World Trade Center my husband and I found out that our twin pregnancy had a condition called Twin to Twin Transfusion Syndrome. Our boys were born 5 weeks later. They will be 16 next month. The smaller twin at birth (1#14oz) has done very well even though he came home from the hospital at 5 months of age and was on oxygen for 14 months. He is a sophomore in High School, a Life Boy Scout who has worked hard his whole life to keep up with his peers. He loves animals and which ever career route he takes, I will guarantee he will be successful at work and in the community. The larger twin at birth (2#14oz) has a mind like a steel trap and a passion for movies and Disney. He also has Cerebral Palsy, a mitral Valve replaced in his heart, cognitive disabilities and is currently recovering from a double knee surgery to help him transfer easier.

My husband and I have appreciated qualifying for a few Medicaid programs. Both boys qualified while in the NICU for Medicaid coverage. My bills alone from being on bedrest in the hospital for 5 weeks were extremely high for a young family. If Medicaid hadn't have helped us out with their early life, we would have really struggled and would not have been able to give them and their older brother the care and attention they needed to grow.

Our son with Cerebral Palsy is currently on the Katie Beckett program through Wisconsin Medicaid. It picks up where our insurance does not and again, this is so helpful. He has had a few illnesses that were very lengthy and very expensive.

My long term worry is for my son with severe disabilities. We have and are doing as much planning, saving, and caring for him because we don't know what the future will hold for him. He is a very fun, wonderful young man who we hope will have a future of one day giving back to his community. He won't be able to do that without support. We do all of his needs for him right now....teeth brushing, showering, toileting, dressing, positioning, running him to doctors and other health care providers when necessary....but we won't be here forever. The right equipment, the right surgical procedures on children with CP, the right supports can make such a huge difference for a family as well as the individual. Cutting out supports for people with disabilities will have a snowball effect on a family which will lead to a worsening of the community.

Please work with disability groups to find ways to make effective, positive, long term change.

Sincerely, Elizabeth Ivankovic

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** betsy van stone [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:26 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham/Cassidy!!!

Dear Wonderful People Who Are Making Decisions That Affect All Our Lives,

Say no. Don't pass this. No No No. Sadly, some people in this country are stupid enough to believe that this bill/repeal will save their lives. You and I both know that is a lie. Passing Graham/Cassidy will LITERALLY KILL millions of people. I might even be one of them.

Besides the fact that the name Obama is attached to Obamacare, we all know it's not the devil. It's saved lives. Millions of them.

Why not go back to your roots and pull the old bait and switch and just retile the existing health care system? Call it Trumpcare. Call it TrumpIsKing. Call it whatever you want. Just don't put Graham/Cassidy in it's place. It DOES NOT benefit anyone except for very healthy rich people.

Thank you,  
Betsy Van Stone  
California  
New York  
Texas

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Dana Berry [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:49 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy Health Care Bill

Please DO NOT repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act! DO NOT approve this horrible, political maneuver called the Graham/Cassidy bill. If you really care about Americans access to health care, keep the Affordable Care Act in place and work as a body to make bi-partisan changes to our existing health care system.

Thank you,

Dana Berry

[REDACTED]  
Oakland, CA [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Suzanne Harp [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:48 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill

Hello,  
I am writing to say I am against the GrahamCassidy bill. Please do not pass this detrimental bill.

*Suzanne Harp*

[REDACTED]  
*Madison, WI*

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Aaron Grossman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:50 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please don't gut my coverage!

The Graham/Cassidy bill will take away my protections with the help of the ADA. Please vote against it! For me!

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Alexa Jarvis [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:51 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Gillibrand, Kirsten (Gillibrand); schumer, scheduling (Schumer)  
**Subject:** Testimony - Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

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

September 25, 2017

Alexa Jarvis

[REDACTED]

Brooklyn, NY

[REDACTED]

My name is Alexa Jarvis. I am a 28 year old opera singer who sings all over the world. I also have type 1 diabetes (juvenile diabetes), a disease which makes me dependent on insulin to survive. I test my blood sugar 10 times a day to manage my diabetes using test strips, a continuous glucose monitor and an insulin pump. I am on NY Medicaid and depend on the benefits to carry out this management regime. I speak for millions of victims with Type 1 diabetes who are in my shoes. Please, I beg you to NOT pass this proposal. It will kill millions of Americans who depend on government support.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Alexa Jarvis

[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Siri Gosselin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:50 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill Comments

Senate Finance Committee,

I just spent a week in Oregon sitting in the hospital with my brother. He had a surgery that frankly, I didn't know whether he would survive. He is thankfully on the mend, but this is likely not his last trip to the hospital. This surgery is the third major surgery in his lifetime and he is 38 years old. My co-worker just successfully finished several rounds of chemo. My stepmother was just hospitalized and is too on the mend. My husband and I have each had gall bladders removed. He had his appendix out. I had two healthy babies. I am unbelievably fortunate, because these were all expensive trips to the hospital and they were made possible with caps on lifetime limits, max out of pocket expenses, no prohibiting pre-existing conditions, and they all went smoothly. Not everyone is as fortunate and often the situation is completely out of a person's control. Healthcare is important to everyone because terrible things happen.

The fact that we will have inconsistent healthcare with block grants to States scares me. Most people I know cannot afford to "vote with their feet" and up and move to another State just for better care. Keeping healthcare regulated federally means we should get the same care in Colorado as Kentucky. The same rules apply. The prices may not be the same, but on the off chance you change jobs, or move out of State, you should still have a viable and comparable healthcare option.

An Aide for my Republican Senator told someone yesterday that only women should be responsible for paying for their contraception. We should pay more because pregnancy is a woman's problem. It is 2017. I'm not sure how old the Aide was, but if he is answering the phone for a Senator, I hope he is old enough to understand how babies are made. Meanwhile Viagra continues to be subsidized. While studies and States like Colorado demonstrate that access to free forms of birth control reduce unwanted pregnancies and abortions, the Graham-Cassidy Bill seeks to strip current insurance protections for maternity care and birth control.

This is not about Men vs. Women or Poor vs. Rich or Blue State vs. Red State. It is about people actively working together to care for each other. ACA is not perfect, but it has helped millions. And fixing it can help millions more. An effort toward a bipartisan bill, which might have been a step toward that, was discarded as a result of the Graham-Cassidy Bill that has almost enough votes to pass. This bill hurts all of us. Premiums rise whether you are on the ACA or this new bill. It's a bald-faced lie to say any different (looking at you Senator Cory Gardner). And the bill sponsors don't even know how much because they are going to pass it without the CBO's full review. Pre-existing conditions may no longer be covered because they are no longer protected. Sick people's premiums will rise so exorbitantly that families will be forced to choose between keeping family alive and discontinuing care. It happened before the ACA began. All indications of previous CBO scoring for related bill have shown painful premium increases. Medical bankruptcies dropped BY HALF after the ACA. I do not want that figure to increase again.

This matters very much to me and to people I love. It should matter as much to you. Please represent ALL of your constituents and vote no on these efforts to hurt millions of people.

Thank you,  
Siri Gosselin



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Samantha McGuire [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:51 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Campbell, Katie (Donnelly); Light, Jaymi (Young)  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators:

Please oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill that would reduce funding for Medicaid and eliminate protections for those with pre-existing conditions. My daughter lives with a genetic neurodevelopmental disorder called Rett Syndrome. She cannot walk, talk, or feed herself. However, through Medicaid waiver funding, she has a wheelchair for mobility, a computer that allows her to communicate, and a feeding pump that supplies formula for her basic nutrition. She will need these supports for her entire life.

The proposed changes to funding in the Graham-Cassidy bill would result in an overall cut in healthcare funding to the state of Indiana of \$7 billion between 2020 and 2027 (ref. Avalere Health study). I can only see this level of cuts harming the most vulnerable and needy Hoosier citizens, one of whom is my daughter.

In addition, I am concerned about the elimination of protections for pre-existing conditions. I am a healthy person (I need to be to care for my disabled daughter); however, I have a benign growth on my liver, that although it does not affect my health adversely, is in my health record as a "risk factor." When my long-time insurer went bankrupt two years ago, I was denied coverage by the plan that covers the rest of my family. I could only get a plan via the healthcare marketplace established by the ACA. I am fearful that if the ACA pre-existing protections are eliminated, I will not be able to get insurance coverage come November.

I urge you to please reject this bill and the harmful effects it will have on millions of Americans.

Thank you,

Samantha McGuire  
Martinsville, Indiana

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Richard Seifman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:51 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy Bill currently being pushed through the Senate because there has been no regular order or true hearing on this proposal, nor is there a CBO scoring for you to have any real idea what the implications are. This proposal and the way you are proceeding flies in the face of basic democratic values.

As to the substance, in particular, the dismal treatment of "pre-existing conditions" is unbelievable. Have you had migraine headaches, measles, enlarged prostate, corrected vision, broken limbs, seizures, high blood pressure, high cholesterol? All of these conditions can be determined by health insurance companies as ineligible for coverage. I know because we faced this with our sons? How about you and your family? Please do not go forward with this bill. It is a travesty to all Americans.

Richard Seifman  
National Physicians Alliance Board Member

Richard Seifman

[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Rachel Ellis Adams <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:52 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Cassidy-Graham

I strongly oppose the Cassidy-Graham healthcare bill.

If the vast majority of the people who work IN the healthcare industry day in and day out (all the medical organizations that have come out opposing the bill)-- and who are "no slouches" intellectually or in their proof of analytic ability -- are against this bill, how could anyone who does not know what they know actually be for it??

As a freelance writer and filmmaker (with an M.A. and about to finish an M.F.A.), I work primarily adjunct teaching jobs at universities, and these jobs do not pay well and very rarely offer health insurance, so I have to purchase my own.

I have a history of gynecological problems that would definitely count as pre-existing conditions. In fact, right now I am preparing to have a hysterectomy, which I only have been able to consult with doctors about and choose because I recently qualified for Medicaid to help me pay for the office visits and surgery.

Before it occurred to me that I might qualify for Medicaid, I was paying for private insurance that was not meeting my needs. Twice in the last two years I had doctors prescribe MRIs (once for a back injury -- pre-existing condition now; and once for a growth on my pituitary gland -- pre-existing condition now), but I didn't go to get them because my co-pay would have been hundreds of dollars each, which I did not have, as I have no savings. This was even with private insurance.

I finish my MFA and will move to a new city for a teaching job in January -- right in the middle of my recovery from the hysterectomy. What insurance will I be able to procure in my new state? It will be stressful enough to find the right doctor for my follow-up care, needed immediately, but I will have to figure out the insurance issue as well.

Reform is NEEDED!!! Our "insurance" system is highly, highly flawed -- but the change should not make us worse off!!

Before the ACA, I went for a couple of years with no insurance at all. I got so anemic from menorrhagia because I avoided going to the doctor that by the time I finally went, I almost needed to be admitted to the hospital for immediate blood transfusions.

At another time in my freelance life when I had no insurance, I had strep throat and didn't seek care because I thought if I just rested, it would go away. The infection grew "acute" and was much harder to cure by the time I sought a clinic that would see me for a sliding-scale fee. The doctor admonished me!

I don't want to live like that again!!

I cannot imagine how many thousands of adjunct university teachers are going to be affected badly if the Cassidy-Graham bill passes. Let alone the people with less education and fewer resources to figure out work-arounds.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Grossman, Karun F., M.D. [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:17 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GC Healthcare Bill comments

Dear Committee,

I am a family doctor in Sacramento, California and I have been at the front line of caring for patients who for the first time in years had access to healthcare thanks to the ACA. Real lives have been saved. I speak to patients every day who finally can get their diabetes and hypertension medications, measure their blood sugars, and avoid strokes, heart attacks and hospitalizations and death. Please don't repeal all the good that was done.

Real people, millions of them, will be harmed. I know them, and they are us. They are our neighbors, our friends, and our families. If you don't think they are, then you are mistaken.

We can improve the ACA, but the GC bill does not do that.

Sincerely,  
Karun Grossman, MD  
Sacramento, CA [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Diane Marcussen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:51 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health Care Bill

Please do not subject the USA (republicans and democrats alike) to a bill that needs more work just to save face. You would have the power of "push back" if this had gone through committee, was clear to the USA what it included, and you could show that it would not rip healthcare from those who really need it.

As it is, any damage that you cause to those who lose health care opens you up to lawsuits, one would think, because you are recklessly careening out of control!

Come up with some weasel worded statement that says "conditions have changed" or "we want to do the right thing for all" and then tell everyone it will be delayed. Seems like if you do not take the approach that looks like you really do care about LIVES of the citizens of the USA that it will be entirely clear that you only care about your Lobbyists.

This is a disaster in the making. Please think twice and take the time to do this right. As I said, if you do it right you will come out much less vulnerable.

Thank you for your consideration.

Diane Marcussen

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Patrick Thompson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:22 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** handouts to billionaire's more important than millions of american lives?

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) — At least one influential donor has informed congressional Republicans that the "Dallas piggy bank" is closed until he sees major action on health care and taxes.

And that entirely explains republicans trying to sneak a healthcare repeal, affecting MILLIONS of americans negatively.

Republicans will easily be the most dangerous group attacking US citizens - in our entire history.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Brian L. Trotier [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:20 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare

Please stop this train wreck piece of legislation now before you hurt millions of decent, hard working Americans by robbing them of coverage. Offering "access" to coverage at astronomical prices is the same as taking coverage away. Don't think your clever use of semantics is fooling anyone. This is a bad bill and is being pushed just to make political points. If this passes we, the people, will unleash our anger at the ballot box in 2018 and put many of you out to pasture for good.

Brian L. Trotier, JD  
Yale [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Jori Dodge [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please vote NO on Graham Cassidy

As a concerned citizen of the United States and the state of Arizona, I urge you to VOTE NO on this atrocious bill. Please. The world is looking on, waiting to see what direction you will take our country. We implore you to do what's right, and VOTE NO on this bill.

Thank you,  
Joanne Dodge  
Queen Creek, AZ  
[REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Jori Dodge [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please vote NO on Graham Cassidy

As a concerned citizen of the United States and the state of Arizona, I urge you to VOTE NO on this atrocious bill. Please. The world is looking on, waiting to see what direction you will take our country. We implore you to do what's right, and VOTE NO on this bill.

Thank you,  
Joanne Dodge  
Queen Creek, AZ  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Cynthia Paster [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:03 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

To the Committee,

As one who has depended on Medicare for my mother with dementia, as a grandmother who knows, because of the ACA, my granddaughter will have treatment for her Crohn's disease, my grandson will have the appropriate medical care for Asperger related conditions, I implore you to please, do not allow the Graham Cassidy bill to supplant the ACA. The ACA has been critical to the care of my own family. As a CASA, ( court appointed special advocate for children in foster care) I know how much these kids depend on Medicaid for their health needs as they move through the foster care system.

Please, leave the ACA in place. Work to fix it, yes! But this Graham Cassidy bill is going to hurt millions of people in Arizona and throughout the country.

Sent from my iPad.

Sincerely,  
Cynthia Paster  
Sedona, Az.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Jamie Daugherty Andrews [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:39 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please do not pass Graham-Cassidy

Because it will cost millions of people healthcare and their lives  
Because it will shift unbearable burden to so many states  
Because it will effectively kill Medicaid in a few years  
Because it will cost jobs  
Because it will increase premiums  
Because we have some humanity left

I have spent 40 years, since I was a child in various parts of our healthcare system. As a healthcare consultant, I'm more than aware of its flaws. But it saves lives. The ACA SAVED lives.

Just about every family member in my birth state of Kentucky has a pre-existing condition. They will be punished because of their Medicaid expansion. Some run small businesses. Some have special needs children. Some have children with congenital disorders.

Please, listen to the American people. The large majority does NOT want this bill. Governors don't want it. ALL 50 Medicaid directors don't want it. Just about every medical society and advocacy group has spoken out. AARP has spoken out. We've rarely had this kind of consensus on anything, ever.

Please let's put this one to rest and bring back sensible discussions on how to improve the current bill and focus on bringing costs down.

Respectfully,  
Jamie

**Jamie Daugherty Andrews, MHA**  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Snail [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:37 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Reject Graham-Cassidy

Hello. I am (ironically) sick right now and having trouble writing coherently, so I may write another email when I am well, but since time is of the essence; the Graham-Cassidy repeal is a terrible idea for many reasons, the most important of which is that it will kill people, but it's also not great for any state budgets in the long run. I am writing to express my strong opposition to it. Thank you for your time.

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Ruth Covington [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:53 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am writing to express my dismay over the GOP's latest version of the so called "healthcare" bill. What they are trying to push through is most certainly NOT healthcare. It's a piece of legislative garbage put together so they can line their pockets with Koch money and give tax breaks to the rich. I'm disgusted by our congress and their inability to remember that they work for the people, not corporations.

Way too many Americans are going to suffer under this bill if it's passed. That is not acceptable. We are a better country than that. We need to look after each other. We need to ensure the old, the poor, the sick, the needy are cared for. It's not acceptable to expect people to have to choose between housing, food, utilities, and other basic necessities and healthcare.

It's very disturbing that the sponsors of the bill really have no idea what it says and how it will affect the citizens. Leaving decisions up to the states is bad judgement. Do they honestly believe states are going to choose on the side of residents over money? Congress doesn't. Why should they expect states to?

The fact that the CBO doesn't have time to release a score on this bill is equally disturbing. That leads me to believe the sponsors know it's a piece of garbage. And they don't care.

Yes, the ACA needs to be fixed. There are many things wrong with the current plan, but there are many things right with it as well. There is NOTHING right with the plan the GOP is shoving down our throats.

I expect my government to work for me. To look out for my best interests. Healthcare is a right every American is entitled to. We are so far behind other countries in this that it's embarrassing. We're supposed to be the "greatest nation in the world" and our government won't even bother trying to protect its citizens? That's beyond appalling.

Please, do not let this bill go through.

Kind regards,  
Ruth Covington  
Phoenix, AZ

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Sebastien Lasseur <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:37 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Concerns

Hello,

I am writing about the proposed Graham/Cassidy bill, which would repeal the ACA without offering a well-thought out replacement.

My primary issue with GCHC is the process that is being used to pass it. I understand it is politically expedient to use the Budget Reconciliation process so that the bill may pass without any Democratic votes, but I do not think that is how Congress should govern or make policy. It is unconscionable to vote on a bill that remakes 1/6 of the American economy without knowing what the consequences will be for ordinary Americans.

I remember vividly a speech Sen. Hatch had on the floor where he decried the current state of the Senate and reaffirmed his institutional patriotism. Every Senator seems to want the Senate to function again, and to pursue regular order. However, actions are more powerful than words, and if Sen. Hatch did what Sen. McCain did when he killed the previous ACA repeal effort, he would again reject leaderships' effort to push through partisan legislation that does nothing to help the country or to bring America together. We are more divided than ever, and it is the Senate's job to cool this tension and to govern responsibly.

I urge Congress to go through this process under regular order and to seek a bipartisan solution to healthcare. Senators have already taken steps to do so, and I ask that you give them the opportunity to address the problems that plague the ACA. The GOP and Congress has an opportunity to change our divisive politics, and I fear that the laughable process GCHC is being considered under will poison the well for any bipartisan cooperation.

As for the GCHC bill itself, it is clear that the proponents of the legislation are not being honest about its consequences. Allowing states to receive waivers for pre-existing conditions will reduce the protections so many Americans depend on. Despite what it might seem in Washington, this is not a game and the GOP should not pass a bill purely for the sake of being able to say they kept a promise and repealed Obamacare.

Sincerely,

Sebastien Lasseur

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Beatriz Kravetz <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:12 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No to Graham Cassidy Bill

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am a citizen in Arizona and I am appalled that Republicans have even proposed this bill. To threaten our lives, our health and our livelihood is the very opposite of what government should be doing. This is contrary to the public's will; does that not mean anything? And to use us as bargaining chips to get the carrot promised to them by the Koch brothers will cause irreparable harm to the psyche of our nation. What happened to 'justice for all'?

The only correct outcome here is for Graham Cassidy not to be allowed. Please don't ignore us citizens.

Sincerely,

Beatriz Kravetz  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Ann Cooper <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:01 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Don't weaken health coverage

Any change to the ACA which discriminates against people with preexisting conditions is inhumane.

I have 3 daughters. One, a Cardiac Nurse Practitioner has an inherited, life-threatening heart condition. With proper care, she does well, and contributes far more to the care of her patients that she consumes as a patient herself. This bill could make her uninsurable, and no one in our family can afford the cost of a new pacemaker or--God forbid--heart transplant, should that be needed.

Another daughter has a thyroid condition, but with proper care she is able to lead a vital life, and represents and inspires women in the bicycling community. If she were unable to get healthcare, not only would her life be diminished, so would her influence on the health of others.

My youngest daughter is an inspiring middle school teacher, who often works two jobs and her husband picks up overtime to make ends meet. They want to have a child. The proposed bill would weaken women's health by allowing people to opt out of maternity coverage, thereby diminishing the insurance pool needed for maternity care. I notice the option to exclude viagra is not among the proposed criteria.

Apparent in the Republican efforts to overturn the ACA is an inaccurate and misogynistic assumption that anyone affected by a gutted health care system must necessarily be a slacker or a "taker." That's false, inhumane and shortsighted.

Oppose this vicious effort. Change the ACA so it increases care, instead of trashing it.

Sincerely,  
Ann Cooper



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Victoria Coursey <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:50 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please do not take away ACA

I am writing you as a retired RN on SSDI and Medicare with a bad back! My grandchildren live in Apache county AZ they started to receive Health Care insurance when Governor Brewer accepted the Medicare expansion! It's not perfect but it is So much better than No Coverage! #MedicareForAll is the best solution! I witnessed patients who delayed seeking treatment only to receive a Terminal diagnosis when the symptoms got severe and they finally came in! NO REPEAL Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Loralyn Hegland <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 12:46 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy ACA Repeal

This bill is the GOP saying "only the very wealthy have human value."

It's just that simple. This bill must not pass.

Thank you,

Loralyn Hegland  
Bismarck, North Dakota

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Kat Stoll <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 12:15 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Chantal Fields; Renate Pore  
**Subject:** GCHJ hearing comments from West Virginians for Affordable Health Care  
**Attachments:** Comments to SFC on Cassidy-Graham-Heller-Johnson.docx

Attached please find comments submitted for the record by West Virginians for Affordable Health Care for the GCHJ Full Finance Committee Hearing on Monday, September 25 at 2:00.

Thank you

Kathleen (Kat) D. Stoll

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Mandy Siegfried [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 12:16 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Just Say No

To The Senate Finance Committee:

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 bell.

Sincerely,

A concerned American,

Manda Siegfried

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Renee Larson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 12:06 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Current proposed Cassidy-Graham healthcare bill

To the finance committee,

Thank you for taking the time to hear from Americans on a bill that is being rushed through without proper hearings, CBO score and hearing feedback from major health organizations.

My husband has cancer that is incurable but we are using treatment to allow him to live with the disease and hopefully live a life with minimal suffering. We won't be able to afford the fees with preexisting conditions. I also have an anxiety disorder. We both are terrified for our future without going bankrupt over healthcare costs.

This third try to take away ACA from us has caused considerable stress that doesn't help a cancer patient to stay positive. It also causes sleep loss and constant fight or flight syndrome anxieties. So the political games that are being played out have deadly consequences on my husband and my health.

It will take true profiles in courage to stand up for people that shouldn't be forced to decline care because of affordability. We are working Americans and we have done everything responsible.

Sincerely,  
Renee Morris Larson

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Beth Isaacs [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:20 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill  
**Attachments:** Comments on Graham-Cassidy Bill.docx

Beth Isaacs  
[REDACTED]  
Oak Park, Illinois [REDACTED]

September 22, 2017

Subject: Senate Finance Committee hearing on the Graham-Cassidy Bill, Monday, September 25, 2:00 pm ET

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 and threaten care for millions of low-income seniors, children, and people living with disabilities and shift massive costs and risks to states;
- Jeopardize access to life-saving and effective treatments for addiction and weaken states' efforts to address the current crisis of drug overdose deaths
- Undermine essential protections for people with pre-existing conditions;
- Resurrect - *and worsen* - the devastating cuts in coverage and benefits that the American public and the majority of Congress have already rejected.

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal threatens the health and financial security of millions of Americans including older adults, low-and moderate-income families, people living with disabilities, veterans and people with preexisting conditions. It does nothing to improve affordability or availability of coverage for consumers and will likely result in at least 965,000 Illinoisans losing coverage by 2027 and will undermine the financial stability of our health care system and place additional fiscal strains on our state budget. Below we've laid out in more detail our concerns with this proposal and the devastating impact it will have on consumers.

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

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

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

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

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



into institutions for their care. And the burden will likely hit communities of color especially hard, where Medicaid enrollment is especially high.

### **Pushes massive new costs onto states.**

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

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

Because federal dollars for Medicaid account for about 20% of state budgets, FitchRatings "believes substantial Medicaid cuts would require states to make material budget adjustments over the next decade and beyond."<sup>[1]</sup> And by pulling coverage from so many, this proposal would drive up uncompensated care costs on local communities, state budgets, safety net providers, and hospitals.

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

By repealing the individual mandate and eliminating advanced premium tax credits and cost sharing reductions, this proposal would drive up premiums and cause insurers to exit the ACA's marketplaces. As we know from previous CBO projections, repealing the individual mandate alone would increase the number of uninsured individuals by 15 million and cause premiums to increase by 20 percent. Furthermore, by replacing the financing of the ACA's financial assistance with a block grant without any guarantee that states would direct their temporary block grant funds toward financial assistance, this proposal puts the 965,000 Illinoisans who currently rely on financial assistance at risk for sharply higher out-of-pocket costs and coverage loss.

Beyond the impact of this proposal on individuals, insurers currently selling in Get Covered Illinois would face extreme uncertainty. Because this proposal allows states to change the market reform rules under the ACA and

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

**Eliminates critical consumer protections.**

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

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

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

---

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

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Ammy Woodbury <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:38 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill

I'm fiscally conservative. It is in my interest that we as a nation find a better way to handle our health care woes. We spend far too much for insurance companies and hospital administrators to squander on items that are not appropriate care.

However, this bill is an abomination that neither solves for spending less nor improves care. Stop it.

And read this: <https://deathofthepressbox.com/2017/09/21/it-can-happen-to-you/>.

Ammy Woodbury

[REDACTED]  
Santa Clara, CA [REDACTED]

## **Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Ann Schleppe [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:23 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham- Cassidy = death to seniors, disabled, Poor and middle-class

We all know that the main push behind repeal of the ACA is to give large corporations and the very rich tax breaks which were imposed by the ACA, and to appease administration's promise to repeal "Obamacare".

My husband is a cancer survivor. He worked for a multibillion dollar company until age 59 when he was diagnosed with dementia. He also suffers from severe depression. We are both 64 and have multiple complex conditions; my husband has COPD, Diabetes, a fib, hypertension. I am hypothyroid and I also have COPD. My husband's income went from six figures to less than \$25,000 a year on SSDI. We have already lost two homes through short sales due to the unregulated banking practices back in 2004 and the housing market crash of 2008. I used my 401K to buy a small home in Sun City Arizona.

I am sure you are not naïve about what will happen when insurance companies have the ability to charge higher premiums for those with pre-existing conditions. Even my employer will be able to raise my premium because of our pre-existing conditions. At that, I will have to work until I die. And my husband is saying he will stop seeing specialists and discontinue his medication if that is what it takes for us to survive in our home. We have both worked since we were 16 years old, and paid into Social Security and Medicare!

So please tell me, what did the corporate CEO and 1%'er sacrifice when the ACA was passed? How many homes did they lose, what healthcare did they go without, how did they suffer having to pay more taxes? And how is going without one more Ferrari more important than a life?

Congress needs to start thinking about the people they represent and not the party. You must oppose any healthcare reform that denies people like us and millions of others from basic healthcare.

Ann Schleppe with Craig Schleppe

Sun City, AZ [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Diana Stirling [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:38 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please keep & improve the ACA

Dear Members of the Committee:

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

I agree that the ACA has some issues that need to be resolved. But eliminating protections for our most vulnerable populations--those on fixed incomes, the working poor (of which I am a member), children, people who are ill with chronic conditions--is not a fix. It is an insult to the spirit of humanity on which our country was founded.

I was without health care for most of the 10 years preceding the enactment of the ACA. During that time, I had friends who died prematurely and of treatable conditions because they did not have health care coverage.

I live in an economically depressed area. Although I have a master's degree, I have been unable to find full-time work for many years. I work at a college that employs more part-time than full-time workers. In 2015, I suffered a spinal fracture as the result of a car accident. Without the benefit of my insurance through the Health Care Marketplace, I would not have been able to afford care during my recovery. (As it was, I had to work with the fracture because at that time there was no sick leave available to part-time workers and I could not afford to take time off without pay. Fortunately, our state recently passed a law requiring employers to provide sick leave for all workers.)

Please revisit the values inherent in our society and remember that people are more important than profits. The health of our society depends on our treating one another with respect and dignity. In a wealthy nation, strong with innovation and blessed with advanced treatment options, it would be a crime to prevent access to those options to those who cannot afford them. Every one of us makes a contribution, although the value of that contribution often cannot be measured in dollars.

In addition to being a member of the working poor, I also have chronic health conditions. I have contributed to my community by working for low pay as our town librarian, serving on economic development committees and work groups, and by working as a math tutor at the college. Chances are good that I will need care for my chronic conditions in the future. They will be considered pre-existing conditions. If I cannot afford insurance (or cannot afford the high deductibles and co-pays required by insurance), or if treatment for pre-existing conditions is not covered by any insurance I am able to afford, I will not be able to receive the care I need.

Although I have served my community for many years, I do not have great wealth to show for my contribution. I was willing to make that choice. Do you believe that, therefore, my contribution has been worthless? Do you think I should suffer needlessly without care because of that choice?

I don't.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Diana Stirling  
Mammoth, Arizona [REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Pidge Meade [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:34 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Opposition to Graham Cassidy bill

Hello:

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with pre-existing conditions is that because I was diagnosed with depression in my 20s and received medication to (successfully) treat it, and because I have received occasional medical treatment for anxiety (which is not chronic but acute/occasional) I would be INELIGIBLE to receive insurance on the open market if the ACA was gutted in the way the Graham-Cassidy bill intends. This would be a disaster for me and many other Americans. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Patricia Meade  
Pacifica, CA

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Evelyn Wadkins [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:39 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Why I oppose Graham-Cassidy: please read my story

To whom it may concern:

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My father, who worked his whole life as a small business owner, is 82 and has Alzheimer's disease. He relies on Medicaid for his healthcare, and he is now in a memory care facility which is costing my mother their entire savings. She wants the best for my father, and this was the best option for him, but she is paying over \$8,000 every month for this facility. If he didn't have Medicaid, she would be bankrupt. I don't know how much longer my father has left on this earth, but I want him to live his last days in dignity, and I want my mother to feel that she has done her best by him. I feel strongly that as a country, we need to take care of each other: the strong need to help the vulnerable so that we can work together peacefully as one. I also feel strongly about bipartisan politics, and I think that the best government is one which doesn't get bogged down in turf wars. I pray that there will be a bipartisan effort to improve the ACA instead of ditching something which has saved lives.

God bless you.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Wadkins

Yonkers, New York

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:39 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Opposition to Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Senators,

My name is Alice Scott Burris. My husband and I are legal guardians and caregivers for our granddaughter, Shelbi. Shelbi is a multiple special needs child with an overall diagnosis of Cerebral Palsy due to Hypoxic Eschemia Encephalopathy meaning she was deprived of oxygen at birth for an extended period of time. This lack of oxygen caused wide spread brain damage thus Shelbi requires across the board total care in order to survive. She has a seizure disorder, Cortical Visual Impairment (Legally Blind), Bilateral Hearing Loss, Universal Developmental Delays, Osteopenia to name just her major disabilities. We have raised Shelbi from infancy and she is now a beautiful, joyful and inspiring 17 years old young lady! The road to getting her where she is has not been an easy one and due her medical fragility we know each day we have her with us is a blessing.

As I stated my husband and I care for all of Shelbi's needs but as we age it becomes harder each year to continue this great responsibility by ourselves. My husband is a retired naval officer with almost 25 years of service so we know what sacrifice is; which is what, at times, carries us through the "low" times when Shelbi's health is challenged. We had empty nester dreams to travel and experience the freedom to do so but when we were called to take on Shelbi's care we did so knowing we would have to give up those old dreams and find new ones. So we took this path voluntarily and have never regretted our decision. The cost of Shelbi's care is astronomical as she has had over fourteen surgeries plus sees numerous specialists for her different anomalies. She is a failure to thrive kiddo with a gastrostomy feeding tube and requires medical food for subsistence, receives over twenty different medications plus all therapies (OT, PT, Speech, Vision and Assistive Tecnolgy) and is wheelchair bound. We are fortunate that we have primary insurance through TriCare Prime and Medicaid as secondary because Shelbi is on SSI due to her medical condition. If we did not have Medicaid as a secondary insurer, we would have had to file for bankruptcy long ago! I know how blessed we are as I have seen many other families loose everything in order to care for their special needs children. But, we are retired and on a fixed income. Should Graham-Cassidy become law and we loose those services that Medicaid provides that are not covered by TriCare; we may not be able to continue to care for our granddaughter in our home! I cannot believe that anyone in America should be faced with that choice; nor should we have to choose! Our granddaughter is family whom we love and want to continue to care for her as long as we are able! But to put it in blunt terms which are the only ones that this Congress seems to understand (\$\$\$\$\$!); if we do not get the help so that we can care for Shelbi then the government will be tasked with doing so at a much higher cost. So the bottom line is we are saving the government a lot of money!

In closing, my plea is for The Congress not pass this horrible law that will take insurance from millions of people who need it! I have faith that when given the chance you will do what is morally right especially since so many of you profess to be people of faith! Show it!!! Anything less; is unconscionable!

Respectfully,

Alice S. Burris  
[REDACTED]

Savannah, GA [REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Kristi Coombs [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:32 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy hearing

To whom it may concern,

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have pre-existing conditions and am self-employed and currently on a fairly low income, and I am very concerned about keeping my healthcare intact and affordable.

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

Sincerely,

Diane Coombs  
Santa Rosa, CA [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:40 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am now on Medicare and really appreciate the seamless access to healthcare providers. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to support Medicare for all, but lacking that initiative, please improve the ACA, do not repeal it.

Sincerely, Virginia Volk-Anderson

Sacramento, CA

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** A. Duffy Batzer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:40 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy.

This bill is awful. I will vote against anyone who votes for it, and I will work to get other votes to as well. It would behoove The Republican Party to admit that repealing isn't an option and instead work with Democrats to revise The ACA to work for even more Americans.

Thank you for your time.