

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sallie Email [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health bill

I am very pleased to see Senator John McCain hold out for a bi-partisan health bill. I encourage our Congress to come up with bi-partisan improvements to the current ACA plan rather than repeal it. Polls show most Americans want improvements, not repeal, including a majority of Republicans.

Thank you, Senator McCain, for your level-headed response.

Sallie Dickinson
Lawrence, Kansas

[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Russitah Tse [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:40 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. Russitah Tse

[REDACTED]
Tempe, AZ [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: DO NOT Repeal ACA

I have a granddaughter who has had Type 1 Diabetes from the age of two years old, who needs affordable healthcare. She and others with pre-existing conditions should not be denied healthcare because they had the misfortune of getting a serious illness.

Affordable health care should be available to everyone. Keeping all Americans healthy should be the goal of any health care program..

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

Ms. Terry Sachsel
Des Plaines, Illinois

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Juli Thompson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Testimony for Graham/Cassidy Hearing

To the Senate Committee Convening a Hearing on Graham/Cassidy,

Like every other family in America, my family relies on our insurance to pay for our healthcare. Since the ACA went into effect, we have had much better experiences. My two daughters each have a (different) congenital medical condition. In both cases, with treatment they are productive and happy citizens. However, their treatment is expensive - before ACA, medicine for one of my children was over \$900/month. The other doesn't require ongoing medication, but she does require yearly monitoring, with MRI and/or other tests. It was a constant battle with insurance companies to make sure these needs were covered, and we were always afraid that my children would meet their lifetime spending cap on treatment.

Thanks to the ACA, the lifetime cap was removed, and they can go forward without having to be afraid that the process of simply living will render them uninsurable. In addition, the fact that they have medical conditions will never be held against them. Graham-Cassidy contains language which specifically removes the protections that the ACA has given them. By allowing insurance companies to charge people like my children more for insurance, the bill allows the companies to claim that they offer insurance even if it is priced so that no one can afford it. Since we know from their congressional testimony in June of 2009 that insurance companies have no problems cancelling insurance for sick people in the name of greater profits (check the archives under "rescission"), we can be sure that they will take advantage of this new loophole.

We are lucky enough to live in Minnesota, which has put forth enormous effort to see to it that everyone is insured. However, as our Governor has written to the Department of Health and Human Services earlier this week, it seems that HHS was not working with us in good faith. Our creative solutions to health care problems are being undermined, apparently because HHS doesn't believe that insuring everyone is a worthy goal. On top of that, Graham-Cassidy will take money away from Minnesota to give it to states that made a huge public issue of rejecting this very funding. (After, of course, taking a huge cut off the top in order to benefit the wealthiest 1% at everyone else's expense.)

This bill is horrific. It will hurt my family. It will hurt other families in Minnesota. It will hurt families across the country. Please kill it, and let it lie quiet in its grave, never to trouble us again.

Sincerely,

Julia Thompson
St. Anthony Village, Minnesota

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tina Andes [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham /Cassidy [REDACTED]

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,

Janiece Andes

Felton, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Candice Lucado [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:32 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. Lifetime caps on coverage and denying coverage for pre-existing conditions is morally wrong. I want to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Healthcare is a human right.

Sincerely,

Candice Lucado

Cupertino, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beth Shimek [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Testimony: Graham-Cassidy

As a young attorney with a very small law firm and a former childhood Medicaid recipient, I rely on the Affordable Care Act to provide quality, affordable healthcare. I vehemently oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill because I believe its approach is unfair and its result would be catastrophic for millions of people like me, particularly our most vulnerable community members.

My boyfriend is a leukemia survivor. His hospital bill alone totaled more than \$620,000 -- enough to bankrupt anyone without decent insurance. His family was so, so fortunate to have employer-provided insurance that covered most of his costs. However, he now relies on the Affordable Care Act and its protections to ensure he can continue to receive health insurance, despite his "preexisting" condition.

My father, a working-class small business owner -- the kind of person everyone lauds as a "job creator" -- was diagnosed at 53 with Stage 4 pancreatic cancer. He lived three months with treatment. Without treatment, he would have lived less than two weeks from his date of diagnosis. His medications alone cost over \$80,000 PER MONTH -- that was nearly double our family's yearly income, each month. Without independent health insurance, my father would have had to choose between treatment that prolonged his time with his wife and three teenaged children and financial stability for his family.

My mother was recently diagnosed with Stage 1 breast cancer. The doctors say she has a very, very good chance of beating it, but from now on, her medical records will reflect that history. She is 53 and will have that "preexisting condition" stamp for the rest of her life. She relies on the Affordable Care Act's protections to ensure she can receive care for the rest of her (hopefully long and happy) life.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA and continue protections for those with preexisting conditions. Please do not repeal a bill that has allowed me to get insured and protects the people I love the most in the world.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Shimek, JD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julie Reich [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham-Cassidy bill

Good evening,

Because my husband and I are both self-employed, we depend on independent health insurance. We are fortunate to live in Massachusetts, where for many years we have been able to get insurance regardless of pre-existing conditions. As a survivor of breast cancer, I have every reason to fear rejection because of my illness and treatment. Long before my diagnosis, however, when my husband and I lived in another state, we learned it does not take much for insurers to view you unfavorably. My husband visited his doctor to ask about a strange feeling in his chest. Even though the doctor said there was nothing wrong with him, the visit was coded in a way that made it seem he had heart problem. We paid through the nose to get a bare-bones insurance policy.

We now have decent, affordable healthcare. We are concerned that repealing the ACA will affect not only us but our friends and family in other parts of the country. And yes, we also care about strangers. Paying into a system to help everyone in the system is the very basis of health insurance.

Because of my story and so many others like it, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Julie Reich
Needham, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: 'Marcia Bagnall' [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:37 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I OPPOSE Graham-Cassidy

Please don't vote for this sucker punch of a bill! I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you,
Marcia Bagnall
Vancouver, WA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Camilla Elvis [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:36 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No Graham-Cassidy

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Being diagnosed and treated for Adult ADD was facilitated by MassHealth (medicaid). This has made a tremendous difference in my life and work ability. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Camilla Elvis

Cambridge, MA

--
Camilla Elvis

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Courtney Klein [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:35 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham Cassidy Bill

Hello,

I am writing to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill because not only my life, but also that of many friends and families, rely on quality affordable healthcare. When I was in my twenties, and no longer covered by my parents insurance, I went without it because I couldn't afford it and was afraid to be diagnosed with a pre-existing condition before I had the means to support myself with good insurance. The ACA ended that fear and allowed me to go to the doctor where they discovered a heart defect. I was so relieved that I didn't have to be scared that my insurance would be taken away, either literally or through soaring premium costs, and I have been able to have a yearly checkup that keeps a record of my heart. Now, I am afraid that if the ACA is taken away, I will no longer be able to monitor this, and as I get older, I am afraid that I won't be able to afford the care that I need if my condition worsens.

I recognize that the ACA is not perfect, but progress can only happen by building upon what we already have, not by wiping it away. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you -- Courtney Klein, Ridgewood, New York

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Heather LaVine [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:12 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mrs. Heather LaVine

[REDACTED]
Hixson, TN [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lily Oster [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:12 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

As a student, I would be lost without access to quality, affordable healthcare, and as a sufferer of chronic illness my whole life, blocks to pre-existing conditions would leave me without the care I need to survive.

I absolutely oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. This last-ditch attempt to push through this bill without a CBO score is reckless and could leave millions uninsured.

My family and I want a bipartisan approach to repairing the ACA and strengthening its individual markets, **NOT A REPEAL.**

Thank you,

Lily Oster

[REDACTED]
Atlanta, GA [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christy Scott [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:11 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

My husband and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, we oppose the Graham Cassidy bill. We both have pre-existing conditions, and want to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely yours,
Christine Scott
Signal Mountain, TN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lori Tishle [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:11 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators,

I am a physician who works exclusively with our most vulnerable patients. Most of my patients have both Medicare and Medicaid. They have hard lives - many are disabled, mentally and physically. Some are homeless. Others have faced challenges that most of us would find unimaginable. All of them are traumatized by events in their lives. And, right now, all of them are scared. As a great nation, we have a moral imperative to protect the health and well-being of our citizens. This is bigger than democrats and republicans. It's bigger than red states and blue states. It's MUCH bigger than campaign promises.

Please do the right thing and vote against this bill. Please work to improve the affordable care act, but move on from trying to repeal it. Our lives depend on it. Our children's lives depend on it.

Sincerely,

Lori Wiviott Tishler, MD MPH

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hagues [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:10 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: #nogramhamcassidy!

Mary Hague
Wisconsin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Constance Vandre [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:07 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Bill

We need quality, affordable health care in this country. Therefore, I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Medicare, Medicaid, coverage for pre-existing conditions need to be continued for the sake of those of us in my family who rely on the existing health measures. I want members of Congress to work together to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you,

Constance Vandre
Sheboygan Wisconsin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ellie Peck [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

Hello

I am writing to express my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill.

I support the ACA strongly oppose any attempt to terminate it. We are a first world country and yet many of our citizens are denied health coverage or driven into bankruptcy by the cost of healthcare. I urge you to do everything in your power to protect Americans' right to healthcare.

This latest ACA repeal attempt is hasty, deeply flawed and not remotely to the benefit of most Americans. It must not pass.

Thank you
Ellen Chadwick
Los Angeles CA 90026

Ellie Chadwick
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kelley Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:04 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Why I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senators,

I write to urge you to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Like many Americans, I have a story to tell about how quality healthcare has saved lives. My daughter was born with severe meconium aspiration syndrome, and spent a month in the neonatal intensive care unit learning to breathe on her own. She was full-term, and I had had a completely normal and uneventful pregnancy.

At age 39, I was diagnosed with a brain tumor, despite having no family history of the condition nor any warning signs. Almost 7 years, 2 brain surgeries, 6 weeks of radiation, and 6 months of chemotherapy, I am writing to you.

Both experiences were akin to being struck by lightning: they were totally unexpected and plunged us into worry, stress, and fear. Thankfully, I had wonderful health insurance that enabled my daughter and me to get the care we needed at the most vulnerable times in our lives.

All Americans deserve quality, affordable healthcare like that that you and your Congressional colleagues receive. I hope you will oppose this dangerous healthcare bill and instead work towards a bipartisan effort to improve the Affordable Care Act.

Serious illnesses can and do happen to anyone, and so do chronic conditions, accidents. We are all vulnerable. We all need healthcare. Please do the right thing - the compassionate thing - and vote against Graham-Cassidy.

Sincerely,
Kelley Smith
Lincoln, RI

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Geraldine Piccard [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:05 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Cassidy/Graham

Please do not approve the latest health-care bill. We need our representatives to work in a bipartisan way to create a better ACA program. Do not scrap it! Improve it... together.

Geraldine Hewitt Piccard
Decherd TN [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Abigail Bostwick [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:04 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH Comment

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am a young disabled woman living with multiple pre-existing conditions, including Multiple-Sclerosis.

As a person affected by MS, I am urging you to please oppose the proposal put forth by Senators Graham, Cassidy, Heller and Johnson. This bill would reduce access to adequate and affordable health coverage and care; cut funding for state Medicaid programs and threaten existing protections including annual and lifetime caps on health insurance benefits.

My annual care is very expensive to maintain an already very difficult quality of life. Should a lifetime cap be imposed upon my care, I will likely be unable to treat my MS and suffer greatly. My medications, doctors, tests and treatments are all very expensive. I did not choose this life, I can only cope with it.

Please continue the bipartisan work being led by the Senate HELP Committee to stabilize the health insurance marketplaces and make coverage more affordable.

Thank you,
Sincerely,
Abigail M. Bostwick

[REDACTED]
Tomahawk, WI [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kate Lang Salazar [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:04 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband required heart surgery this year and thanks to the ACA, we were able to take care of his procedure and pay our portion of the bills without going into significant debt. It made a tough and scary situation manageable.

I cannot imagine facing that with my old insurance, before the ACA.

Our deductible and out of pocket maximum were enormous and would have put us into severe financial hardship. My husband and I are both self employed, so we do not benefit from sick pay from an employer. If we're not at work, there is no money coming in.

So to take that hit AND have to face staggering medical bills would have crippled us pretty severely.

We still had to manage his time off from work (and mine) for his surgery and recovery. We also had to leave the area for the surgery, so we had 10 days of expenses in a city 6 hours away from home. It was a challenging time. Do people in congress forget what it's like to go through times like that? Or are you all so wealthy that you don't really have any idea?

There are so many details to attend to when a family member is sick or injured. And to have to be scared and stressed about how to pay for it all is unbelievably difficult. I believe our country should be about compassion and kindness and inclusiveness and lifting one another up, not tearing people down.

We can do a whole lot better.

We made it through a tough year and we're back on our feet, thanks to the ACA.

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

Sincerely,

Kate Lang Salazar

Eureka, Ca

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joan Karp [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:02 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy will kill people

Greetings, ✿

As someone with many pre-existing conditions, I am fortunate to have affordable health care through my husband's job. I shudder to think what would happen to me if he lost his job.

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

Sincerely,

Joan Karp

Cambridge, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathy [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:02 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

This is an awful bill. It's punitive to states that legally expanded Medicaid and rewards states who didn't (because they are wealthier). This bill will fatally affect West Virginia and will ultimately hurt my private employer funded coverage threatening my premiums and protections for preexisting conditions.
I am a school nurse and it will devastate my students especially my disabled and students living in poverty. This is active cruelty.

Kathleen Lloyd
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Katie Anderson [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:00 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassady

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

Two of us have pre-existing conditions including a genetic disorder since birth. Without our healthcare, our prescription costs alone would exceed \$600 dollars a month.

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

Sincerely,

Kathryn K. Anderson

West Hills, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Molly Clements [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:00 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My healthcare statement

Dear sirs and ma'ams,

I have been blessed. I happen to work for a company that provides quality healthcare options to its employees.

We basically choose from 3: you could consider them gold, silver and bronze levels. So we have choices but not a myriad, just a few. Because of this, I have never had to think twice about asking for and paying for the care I or my family receives. Last week as the debate raged on the evening news, I lay in a comfortable bed awaiting test results at our urgent care facility. \$25 for the visit, \$10 for antibiotics.

That easy affordable and accessible visit meant no time away from work and I'm able to continue to care for my family.

Without HC, I would likely have waited (hoping i would get better so I wouldnt have to pay for a dr. Visit) until I was too sick and had no choice. That little UTI would likely have turned into a kidney infection and I would be in the hospital for days instead. My employer would lose out. My family of course would be worried and their life disrupted.

Or how about last year when my daughter ended up with a crazy & relatively rare reaction to Strep that made her lose muscle control? That was resolved because of a smart doctor who had access to modern technology and a wonderful children's hospital nearby.

What is the purpose of civilization...living as a group of humans together...if NOT to combine resources and protect the young and most vulnerable? No matter whether that vulnerability is short or ongoing, we must support eachother. The alternative is not acceptable anywhere, but especially not here in the richest country in the world.

It's frankly embarrassing to think that we can't make healthcare like I enjoy consistently, affordably, and readily available to our citizens.

And....Relying so heavily on Employer funding isn't good for the economy. When workers are not free to move to new employers because they are afraid to lose HC (due to pre-existing conditions for example) the economy as a whole cannot be as nimble. And in a world that is changing faster all the time, being "stuck" is bad news. Change or die is the way of the world. Not only is weak HC policy bad for sick, aging, vulnerable people now...in the long run our financial future is at stake as well.

So please, please consider your role as our representatives for what it is: you were chosen to do your job so that we could do ours. Your constituents include those who paid to place you there, those who voted for you and those who did neither. Just as my employer deserves my best effort every day, you owe ALL of those you represent YOUR best. Stand on the right side of history and prove that Americans do understand the value of combined resources and sacrifice so that the most vulnerable are protected and cared for by guaranteeing affordable coverage for the young and those with pre-existing conditions. Stop introducing chaos every couple of months and further destabilizing the insurance markets. Guarantee coverage for pre-and-post natal care

(seriously, how is this even a question for the "pro-life party"? Men AND women are heartbroken if pregnancy goes wrong!).

Maybe spend a little less on bullets and a little more on HC. It's worth it.

Thank you all for your service to our homeland.

Sincerely,
Molly Clements, Woodstock, GA.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judy [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:58 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham-Cassidy

I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill because I rely on the quality, affordable healthcare I get through the Affordable Care Act (ACA). I retired early to care for my parents, who were living in their home but needed help from my husband and I. Thanks to the ACA I was able to retire and give them the help they needed. My husband and I both have pre-existing conditions and we are over 50, so we would be seriously hurt by provisions in Graham-Cassidy that would allow insurers to either not cover us or price us out of the market. It's time to stop trying to harm people like my husband and I and work together to improve the ACA.

Thank you for your time and for considering this important request.

Sincerely,

Judy Grant
St. Paul, MN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Glenn B [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:56 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No on Graham Cassidy

This is a horrible bill. It amounts to cruelty.

I urge ALL Senators to vote "No!" on this awful bill.

Glenn Boylan
Johns Creek, GA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julie Boodt [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:46 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Health Care Repeal Bill

Dear Committee Members,

My low income clients, and my family, all rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My low income client clientele showed up with needs for bankruptcy, serious illness, etc before the ACA. As an over 50 family with a list of pre-existing conditions, some major, some minor, who will lose our group health care next year due to an unanticipated "early retirement", we will need access to the open market to obtain affordable health care that covers our preexisting conditions. In fact, our 20 something children still on our policy have "preexisting conditions" as defined prior to the ACA. The ability to get affordable health care that actually provides the coverage needed should not depend on which state you live in, or what your illness happens to be or the whim of the next legislature or governor in your state.

The American people deserve full and robust bipartisan debate on this vital issue. Not another attempt to rush through repeal designed behind closed doors. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, J. Boodt

Carmel, Indiana

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Garcia, Eduardo, M.D. [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:45 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidi

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Eduardo Garcia, MD
Assistant Clinical Professor
Assistant Director
Clinical Neurophysiology Lab
Newton-Wellesley Hospital

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lona Carr Breitkopf [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:43 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Good morning, Senators.

As the mother of five daughters, the grandmother of three, and the eldest daughter of a still-living 91 year-old mother, affordable, quality healthcare is an imperative to me and to each and every one of us. Let me give you a peek into the daily life of my eldest daughter who struggled with MS for six years prior to her death.

In her second year of college, mild seizure activity caused Stephanie to appear asleep during classes; her college professors believed that she spent her evenings partying with drugs and alcohol, so far from truth we soon learned. After two EEGs, the problem was pinpointed as seizures and we accessed services from the local Epilepsy Association. After a year of tests and struggles, at age 21, Stephanie was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis; we had an answer to the problems she'd been progressively experiencing from age 15. Her quick and constant decline both prevented continuing her studies beyond an Associate's Degree and necessitated more supervision from the local MS Daycare. Stephanie qualified for Medicaid, thank God, that covered both her transportation to and stay at the Day Care.

It wasn't long- two months- before her deterioration had progressed enough for her to need more intensive care. My husband changed jobs so he could be at home with Stephanie during the day while I taught at a local school. Within six months, beginning in December of 1994, she required hospitalization and was never again able to be at home with her younger sisters and Stan and me. Again, thank God for Medicaid that covered her hospitalizations.

Stephanie lived in a vent unit at a fairly local hospital. She had been on life support for nearly four years when we took her desires as truth and removed her breathing tubes. For five months afterward she lived with frequent grand mal seizures that caused further brain deterioration and ultimately her death.

Stephanie died at 26 years old in a nursing home on 23 May 1998. Her years' long stay at numerous facilities were covered by Medicaid.

How many stories like mine have you heard? How many stories like mine will you need to hear to realize that appropriate, affordable, and accessible healthcare is an absolute necessity--a right--for every human?

I'd like an answer.

May the very abbreviated story of Stephanie Rebekah Breitkopf and the stories of your constituents drive your humanity in declining to vote in the positive on the Graham-Cassidy bill!

With hope and trust in your ability to do the right thing~

Lona Carr Breitkopf

[REDACTED]
Palmyra, NY [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julie Bliven [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing

Dear Senators:

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with pre-existing conditions, disabilities, and affordability is linked to my son's diagnosis of Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA). I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Julie Bliven
West Hartford, CT

--
Julie

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Evie Morrow [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: why I oppose the Graham- Cassidy bill

My family & I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would be negatively affected if I could not obtain insurance, or only at much higher premiums, due to pre-existing conditions like asthma. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Evie Morrow

Clinton Corners, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shelley Schieffelin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: against Graham Cassidy: US needs a bipartisan effort

Thank you for taking my public testimony.

My husband and I are both senior citizens. We both rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, we oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. We would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. So many health care professionals have expressed opposition to Graham-Cassidy because it does not pass the "DO NO HARM" test.

Fix the ACA

Sincerely,

Lois S. Schieffelin

Northampton, MA [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sally Payson Hays [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA repeal

Dear US Senators,

I write you to strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Every member of my immediate family has a pre-existing condition and I have a small business that has meant I have relied upon having access to health care through the ACA that otherwise would be unavailable. I would not be able to have my own business without this option for health insurance coverage. Further my extended family on both sides relies heavily on the ACA in order to not be bankrupted by health costs. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Any repeal vote will be remembered by ALL of us who are affected. If you pass this bill, I guarantee you will lose in the next election! Do not hurt small business owners (whose welfare you profess to care about) and the weakest among us who are far more likely to sicken, die and/or go bankrupt if this disastrous bill passes!!!

Sincerely,

Sally Payson Hays

San Francisco, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laura Weber [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Testimony for Graham-Cassidy Bill

To whom it may concern,

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare that prohibits discrimination based on pre-existing conditions and lifetime caps.

My story: I have a pre-existing condition - PTSD. I have it because my grandfather repeatedly raped me as a child. Through no fault of my own, I've had to work incredibly hard to be a contributing, healthy citizen of our society. In fact, my husband and I pay an insane amount of taxes, contributing beyond most others in our community. We are happy to do so because we are blessed, and we understand that the community thrives when we all contribute. However, without access to both traditional and mental health care, I would not be in this spot. I would not be a successful entrepreneur. I wouldn't be contributing to society in many ways beyond taxes. I would've been capped out of insurance a long time ago, which means I would not have received the treatment I so desperately needed just a few years ago. I would have been discriminated against because being raped as a child and getting a diagnosis from that is - apparently - a pre-existing condition.

I have stories from my friends, my family, my neighbors. ALL of whom would be negatively impacted by the Graham-Cassidy bill. All of whom are amazing human beings trying to do the right thing for themselves and their families.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. I would like to see serious research and contemplation, brainstorming legitimate ideas, keeping the needs of citizens at the forefront of decision-making. And, this makes practical sense from the perspective of cost, economic stability, insurance market and provider stability, choice, etc.

Do not pass Graham-Cassidy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Laura Weber
Milwaukee, WI [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Brianne Cline [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

Hello,

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My spouse and I are healthy young adults with college degrees, but the ACA has remained our most affordable option for healthcare. Many individuals like us work multiple part-time jobs at one time and are not eligible for healthcare through employers. The ACA offers protection and options for us as we build our lives and family.

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

Sincerely,
Brianne Cline
Oak Park, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kim Reed [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cssidy Bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have a disease called Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome or PCOS. My son has autism. Both have been considered pre-existing conditions in the past, and while our state might decide that we could still have access to health insurance, there is no guarantee that it would be affordable. A monthly premium that is even a few hundred dollars higher would bankrupt our family. And without lifetime caps, we might quickly reach the point where we would have to pay out of pocket anyway. My family's story is not unusual. Our conditions are very manageable with the right medications and therapies. In my case, without medication, I am at greater risk for heart disease and stroke and would probably shave many years off my life. In my son's case, without therapies, he will have a much harder time managing school and eventually living independently and working.

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

Sincerely, Kimberly Reed

Kirkville, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: sandy oppenheimer [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am months away from Medicare. The Affordable Care made it possible for me, and my husband to get health care we could afford. Although it had a high deductible, we could at least afford the co-pay and go see a doctor when needed. ... I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

S.A.Oppenheimer

Fort Bragg, CA

--

Sandy Oppenheimer

Painting with Paper
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Hi,

I'm concerned about many components of the Graham-Cassidy bill, and in particular Medicaid. I have a brother with autism and he relies heavily on Medicaid. Neither my other brother nor I could afford to help with his medical needs and my parents are too elderly to offer much assistance. I look forward to seeing congress work on a bipartisan bill to solve Obamacare's shortcomings.

Sincerely,

Sarah Antos

LaGrange, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lynn Renshaw [REDACTED] <>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017, 1:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham Cassidy

Hello,

My husband and I are self employed. We earn enough that we do not receive any subsidy for our insurance. Our health insurance is about \$1800/per month, more than our mortgage. We are over 50 years old. If \$1800 is 3 times what a young person pays, then if over 50 pay 5X our new premium could be \$3,000/per month. Our deductible is \$8000. So the total could be \$44,000 per year for health care. That does not work. People will be hurt and outraged!

Lynn Renshaw
Software Consultant
Santa Cruz, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: talyberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: DO NOT REPEAL THE ACA, IMPROVE IT!!!!!!!!!!

To the Committee:

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband, who makes a living as a storyteller and author, was diagnosed with thyroid cancer in 1997 and had a recurrence in 2007. As a result of the first surgery, he lost his voice. A special surgical intervention restored his voice a year and a half later. Without the Affordable Care Act we are vulnerable to preexisting condition restrictions. This could potentially be devastating financially and emotionally if we were unable to receive coverage or would have to pay a significant portion of our income for healthcare. Why punish those who get sick? They have it hard enough.

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

Sincerely,

Taly Rutenberg
Berkeley, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Don Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

Dear Committee Members,

As you consider the merits of the proposed health care bill, I ask that you STOP and consider how this drive to merely pass something and declare yourselves "winners" will impact your constituents. As I near my retirement age in the next five years, I am terrified of what I will do for health care. I am also terrified for my sister, who is battling diabetes, for my brother who had polio as a child, for my sister-in-law who is dealing with Lupus. All hardworking people, who have worked their entire lives and served their communities well. How will they be covered for "their preexisting conditions", if the 10 essential health benefits are left to the whim of state governors and legislators? My state, Oklahoma, has not shown itself to be one that puts the needs of the people first under any circumstances. My state has gutted education, mental health and healthcare repeatedly to make up for budget shortfalls which have been created by these elected officials. What will happen to me if this left to the states? What will happen to children, the disabled, the mentally ill? We are better than this.

Healthcare is a large and complicated issue that has been so politicized in our nation... the results of which have been horrible for the American People. Why we as one of the richest nations in the world remain one of the most unhealthy is baffling. Why we have let big Insurance and Big Pharma drive our costs is beyond me. Why we have let our health care be the victim of partisanship is appalling.

What I want and demand of you, our elected officials is to DO THE WORK. Make the needed changes to the Affordable Care Act, because we all know it needs improvement. BUT DON'T THROW OUT THE PLAN, just so you can declare yourselves winners. That is absurd and beneath the dignity of our Congress. We have lost enough of our dignity in recent months, Stand up for what is right and what is good.

Do not allow this bill to proceed. Do not allow millions to lose their healthcare benefits.

Jane Jones
[REDACTED]

Oklahoma City, OK
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: JENNIFER LEE GMAIL [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment on Graham Cassidy Bill

Dear Committee,

About 7 years ago, I was in-between regular jobs and freelancing while taking continuing education classes for about a year. When I tried to apply with the same insurer that I had under my employer's plan, I discovered that they would not accept me. According to them, I had a pre-existing condition.

What was this condition? A few years before, a routine pap exam came back with abnormal results, for which my physician recommended a biopsy. When the biopsy came back okay, she recommended that I come back for a pap exam every year until I had a series of normal results for 3 exams. After which, she said I could go back to the normal schedule of every 3 years.

Apparently, following your doctor's recommended plan for routine pap smears was considered a pre-existing condition for which the insurance company could deny me coverage!

I lived in fear during that year, as I could not get insurance anywhere, and worried that if I got into an accident or had some sort of health event, it would bankrupt me. Eventually, I finished up my continuing education courses, and got another job. That experience made me realize the great need for the ACA, if only for the provision that insurers cannot cap your lifetime coverage and cannot reject you for a condition or put you into some exorbitantly priced 'tier' of insurance. It is not the fault of states that looked out for their citizens and expanded Medicare for the lowest income workers. It is on the states who chose not to receive federal money. Do not punish the states that wisely and pragmatically did what was good for their citizens.

I strongly demand that you do the moral thing — to think about the least fortunate of us — and reject the Graham-Cassidy bill which basically ensures that millions will lose their healthcare. Even though I'm now covered under my employer's plan, I know from experience that it could happen to any of us.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Lee

[REDACTED]
Oakland, CA [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sherra Picketts [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy non-health bill

Finance Committee,

Yet another iteration of Zombicare only intended to facilitate tax cuts for the wealthy.

It's cruel, barbaric & must be stopped dead in its tracks.

Sherra Picketts

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

San Francisco, California [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julie Baher [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: improve the ACA, not repeal it.

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with healthcare is that like all women and mothers, we have pre-existing conditions like pregnancy or, in my case, a high risk pregnancy. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Julie Baher
Mountain View, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: curtis appel [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care bill

I am an obgyn physician, and my patients rely on affordable health care. That is why I'm urging you to the defeat the Graham-Cassidy bill.

This bill would hurt my patients ability to access contraception and maternity care. Many of my patients rely on Medicaid and other government funding which would be sharply curtailed if this bill goes through.

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

Sincerely
Curtis Appel, MD
Bronx, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lorrie Fredette [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill is Devastating

Dear Distinguished Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Me and my family rely on quality, affordable healthcare.

My family story is 65 people strong living across this great nation in Red States and Blue States. We are Republicans and we are Democrats. We are all blue with a few "light blue" collar workers.

Our demographic is:

34 women/girls
31 men/boys

For the 34 women/girls, this bill considers our gender a pre-existing condition.

19 of the women are of child bearing age. Again, a pre-existing condition.

4 family members are in cancer remission.

2 family members live in rural communities.

2 family members are covered under CHIP.

4 family members were premies.

3 family members are on medicare

There are 5 other family members with chronic health issues and this is just what I know since not everyone speaks about non-life threatening health issues. Maybe someone has allergies or a broken arm, etc.

The ACA effects ALL of us. It's not a perfect system. I believe the majority of us would agree that the "new" ACHA is an abusive bill with tossing millions off Medicaid, lifetime maximum and restrictions or non-insurance for pre-existing conditions (allergies, diabetics, etc.).

Do the "right thing". Deny this bill further consideration. Return to "normal order" and bring a bi-partisan bill through the proper process to the floor.

Sincerely,
Lorrie Fredette
West Camp, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO Graham-Cassidy

My family rely/relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband and I have numerus pre-existing conditions like Diabetes, sleep anthia, colitis and a heart condition., I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you
Daniel Mahoney
Douglas Gronholm

[REDACTED]
Lost River WV [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: health care

I have been underemployed for years and have finally gotten a decent-paying job. I was relieved because it will provide health care so I don't have to spend so much of my salary on insurance premiums, and I feel safe that I won't risk losing my house if I get seriously ill. But repealing ACA and replacing it with this new flimsy plan will change that and put my health and the health of many U.S. citizens in jeopardy. Senators and members of Congress don't have to worry that their health benefits will be reduced, but the rest of us do. Please consider this move very carefully and think of your constituents' welfare.

Sincerely,

Tanya Grove
Berkeley, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: wendy lau [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Hi there,

I want to express my dismay at the possibility of the Graham-Cassidy bill and what it would do to Americans who are enrolled in the Affordable Care Act. I have multiple friend and family who are on ACA and it would ruin their lives if the Affordable Care Act is dismantled.

Thank you for your time,
Wendy Lau
Los Angeles, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Roberta Barnett
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:25 PM
To: gencorments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing

All four of our children work and none of them had insurance until the ACA was passed because of the cost. When half your income goes to housing there is no way to pay \$800 - 1000 a month for insurance. Several of them had health issues that thankfully are being taken care of now. One of our daughter had back surgery years ago and was uninsurable until the ACA was passed. Now she has good coverage that she can afford and is worried sick that she might lose it. My brother in law had cancer in his 50's and then lost his insurance. He has affordable quality care now thanks to the ACA and without it if he got sick again he would most likely die and my sister would be alone. I am a nurse with 45 years of experience and I am sad to say I have seen many die because of the inability to afford timely health care. For these reasons I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Roberta Barnett

Santa Cruz, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Yana Davis [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham-Cassidy Bill

I wish to add my comments to those of others about the so-called Graham-Cassidy Bill.

The bill, if it became law, would result in millions losing the insurance they have under the Affordable Care Act. Perhaps even more insidiously, by giving block grants to state governments, and allowing states to “opt-out” of requirements insurance companies cover pre-existing conditions, etc., Graham-Cassidy would transfer the administration of what public health care remains to the mostly-incompetent and corruption-ridden governments of half or more of the 50 states.

Rather than enact this this travesty, I believe the Congress should enact Medicare-for-All, joining *all the other developed countries of the world* that provide health care as a right to all. And you know what, estimates are that while Medicare-for-All would cost about \$22 trillion over ten years, the current mixed system will cost more than **twice** that much.

I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy. It is bad policy, it is immoral policy and it will wreak havoc in our country, particularly among those of lower-income and many elderly. It eliminates funding for Planned Parenthood, despite the fact that more than 90% of that organization's services are basic health care for women and children and that federal law already prohibits using federal monies for abortion by that organization.

Sincerely,

S. Yana Davis

[REDACTED]
Birmingham, AL [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kris Smelser [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy no health care act

I am opposed to the Graham/Cassidy act. It is unconscionable to me that our elected officials would even think of killing off the ACA, which has covered so many more Americans and decreased the trajectory of medical costs and imposing this new law which will upend the insurance and medical fields, and throw so many citizens off health insurance. From what I've read, not one industry involved in the medical field is in favor of this law. What we really need is to have the same type of healthcare that every other major nation in the world enjoys. But until then, what we need is a thoughtful, bipartisan discussion of how to improve the ACA and how to finance it so that as many Americans as possible can have basic, affordable health care.

Once that has been accomplished, we can move on to getting health care for EVERY American citizen.

Clarissa Smelser
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rachel [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My sister's story with pre-existing conditions is an important example of how this bill would be detrimental to my family. She had sepsis about a year ago and lost her job because she was too ill to return to work. Now that she has recuperated she is beginning to work again and should be entitled to receive health insurance from her new employer, this bill could put that in jeopardy.

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

Sincerely,

Rachel Svihel

Plymouth, MN

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bill Coker [REDACTED] <>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:34 PM
To: gehccomments
Subject: Health care bill that caps or block grants Medicaid

Dear Finance Committee of the US Senate, Senator Fischer, and Senator Sasse,

We are parents of two adult children who were born blind and developmentally disabled. Medicaid funds much of what makes training for more independence and community involvement possible, including their day service program. Daniel, age 40, has funding for living in an Extended Family Home, while Amanda (age 35) wants to reside with an EFH someday as well, especially as we both turn 70 soon and have a few serious health issues. Amanda is involved in the community and is improving her independent-living skills with in-home residential staff funded by Medicaid.

Much more seriously, Dan and Amanda depend on Medicare and Medicaid for funding for doctors' and PT and speech therapy appointments, as well as DDHS service coordination. Their quality of life could be greatly reduced if the government goes to block grants and caps for Medicaid.

State oversight may sound ideal, but our state of Nebraska has already made huge reductions in the budget this spring, which has resulted in agencies closing and parents having to quit jobs to take care of their adult children with disabilities. Many other agencies have reduced staff and services. The health care bills proposed so far have caused great fear in the Developmental Disability population, their service providers and the parents and guardians, as these bills threaten to undo years of progress which our loved ones have made.

Please do not vote for any bill that would cap Medicaid for individuals or that would do away with coverage for pre-existing conditions, as this could hurt our dear family members too.

We do not want a bill that would harm the most disadvantaged population.

Thank you in advance for reading our concerns and responding to them by finding the right solution. You are in our prayers!

Bill and Karin Coker
Omaha, Ne

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pablo Bobe [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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.

Pablo Bobe
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
ny, Massachusetts [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Leslie Thompson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ms. Leslie Thompson
[REDACTED]
Westlake Village, CA [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dawn Peterson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Dawn Peterson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Santa Rosa, [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michele Isaacson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story about pre-existing conditions is....before ACA my husband could not get coverage by insurance because he is allergic to bees! My daughter had Kawasaki's Disease as an infant and we were unable to get coverage for her as an 8 year old before the ACA. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Michele Isaacson

Prairie du Sac, WI

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Coffin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Like many in Wisconsin, I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Around the country, millions of people now have health insurance who did not have it a few years ago. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Susan Coffin

Madison, WI

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sam [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE no on Graham-Cassidy - Protect Medicaid

Dear US Senate,

The Graham-Cassidy proposal is an egregious attempt to take away health care from children and adults with disabilities and other vulnerable populations. It would devastate the state budget for health care in Massachusetts. I urge you to oppose this proposal.

cc Senator Warren (Beth_Pearson@warren.senate.gov) and Senator Markey (Nikki_Hurt@markey.senate.gov)

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Phillips [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:09 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.

Mary Phillips

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tucson, Arizona [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Timothy Walker [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Timothy Walker
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Alabama, Alabama [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kurt Mosel [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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Kurt Mosel

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

San Diego, California [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Evan Jane Kriss [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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Evan Jane Kriss

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Sausalito, California [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gloriajean Rocco McKendree [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:10 PM
To: gchcomments [REDACTED]
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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Gloriajean Rocco McKendree
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Sacramento, CA, California [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: janet krist-finkbeiner [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not pass Graham-Cassidy

Hello.

I am asking that you say no to the Graham Cassidy health care bill.

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare.

Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband has ulcerative colitis, this would have the potential of making it very difficult for us to keep up on the medications he has to take to keep his illness in check.

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

Sincerely,

Janet Krist-Finkbeiner

Fort Wayne, IN [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michelle B. [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Senator (Gillibrand); schumer, scheduling (Schumer)
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal, September 25 2017
Attachments: Hearing to Consider the Graham.docx; ATT00001.htm

My name is Michelle Bova.

I live at [REDACTED] Jackson Heights, [REDACTED]

Please read below, and see attached, my comment on the Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal.

Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal, September 25 2017

My name is Michelle Bova. I live at 3534 77th Street, Apt 32, Jackson Heights, NY 11372. I would like to submit my comments on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal before this committee.

I just want to state before this committee a very short story about my family. My mother, a Trump supporter though goodness knows why, lives in Western Pennsylvania. For many years she struggled with bipolar depression and was unable to sustain full-time work. She took pride in being able to work full time, but she was frequently laid off and out of work for many months.

Several years ago, she was out of work again and unable to afford Advair, a medication that helped her control asthma and COPD. After several months discussing with her what we might do, she was hospitalized and the bill amounted to thousands of dollars.

My mother got ill and out of work too early for ObamaCare. Since she generally at least worked part time, she had too many earnings to qualify for Medicaid. The Medicaid expansion would have helped my mother, and ObamaCare would have prevented her from going into thousands of dollars of debt.

We are still paying that bill off, \$100 at a time. Since that time, my mother was diagnosed with a disability, and as such, qualifies for programs that keep her insured. But did you know that being eligible for SSDI doesn't automatically enroll you for free or low cost medical care? In fact, there is a two year waiting period before you are enrolled.

What are people who are considered sick enough to not be able to earn enough to sustain themselves supposed to do for two years?

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lois Matusow [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. It will effect members of my family by making premiums high for preexisting conditions and severely reduce services for many people who rely on Medicaid for their healthcare.

The ACA needs reforming, not replacement. I encourage Republicans and Democrats to work together to come up with the necessary reforms that will make the ACA more effective without making healthcare unaffordable or non existent for many Americans.

Sincerely,
Lois Matusow
San Jose, CA

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: sakari lindhen: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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sakari lindhen

[REDACTED]
sheridan dr

kenosha, Västra Götalands län [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jack David Marcus [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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Jack David Marcus
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
NY, New York [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Brian chapman [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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Brian chapman
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Chicago il, Illinois [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jacqueline Wurzelbacher [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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Jacqueline Wurzelbacher
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Chicago, Illinois [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alexandria Luostari [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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Alexandria Luostari

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Los Angeles, California [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: tomlinson jean [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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tomlinson jean
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

torrance, California [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jan [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: PLEASE Do not repeal the ACA

Dear Sirs: My adult, employed daughter relies on the Affordable Health care Act to have access to and receive quality, affordable health care. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My Daughter's situation with access to and affordability of health care is only one of many people I know or come in contact with. I am a registered nurse and know firsthand the importance health care for all. Yes, the Affordable Care Act is not perfect, but I have personally witnessed the tragedies that happened before we had it. In this great, rich country we should be able to provide access for all.

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

Sincerely, Debbi Saint John
Aptos, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kevin Branstetter [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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Kevin Branstetter
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Applegate, California [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David Wappler [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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David Wappler
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Ojai, California [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: William Korbel Korbel [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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William Korbel Korbel
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Waterloo, New York [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Correspondence (Duckworth); info@dickdurbin.com
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday , Sept. 25, 2017

Good evening.

I am writing to express my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Bill which is scheduled to come before the Senate Finance Committee on September 25.

As a voter and a taxpayer, and as an individual who has struggled with the debt that comes of having inadequate medical insurance, I vehemently oppose the passage of the Graham-Cassidy Bill. For the last few years, my healthcare costs have dropped and I am finally starting to feel that I may one day be out of debt. The Graham-Cassidy Bill will undo many of the provisions of the Affordable Care Act which have made this possible. It is unconscionable that a body which represents all of the people of the United States will try to pass a bill which stands to remove access to affordable healthcare from more than 20 million of those people.

To date 16 health and patient organizations including the ALS Association, the American Cancer Society, the Cancer Action Network, the American Diabetes Association, the American Heart Association, the American Lung Association, the Arthritis Foundation, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the Family Voices, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, the Lutheran Services in America, the March of Dimes, the National Health Council, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the National Organization for Rare Diseases, the Volunteers of America, and WomenHeart have expressed opposition to this bill. I join these established, respected organizations in opposing this damaging legislation.

Thank you for your time.
Respectfully,

Rebecca Kidd

[REDACTED]
Chicago, IL [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Allison Lemons [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: statement for Senate Finance Committee Hearing on Graham-Cassidy, 9/25/17

Senate Finance Committee Hearing on the Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

September 25, 2017

Submitted by:

Allison Lemons

[REDACTED]
Santa Fe, NM [REDACTED]

On behalf of her brother and ward, Charles Karlake

c/o Easter Seal's El Mirador
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Senators:

You are considering a bill that will destroy Medicaid. The only debatable question is, how long will it take? Before you cast that vote, you should know how much Medicaid, with its federal dollars for the disabled, means to my brother and myself.

My only sibling, my 66-year old brother Charles, has cerebral palsy. He lived at home with our parents in Michigan and, after graduating from high school at 21 with a special education diploma, he found a job as a door-check at the Michigan State University library, a job he held for over a decade until being displaced by an electronic eye. Although testing was done by Vocational Rehabilitation, and my mother pressured the University to find him a different position, he never held another job.

Our mother died 17 years ago. By that time, she was 84, and living with my brother in Wichita, KS, where I lived with my husband and teenage sons. Our mother had lived with Charles his entire life, supervised

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Diane Sweeney [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:25 AM
To: Lesliann Furcht
Cc: gchcomments
Subject: Re: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill!

Thank you!!

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 23, 2017, at 9:32 AM, Lesliann Furcht [REDACTED] wrote:

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. As do MILLIONS of Americans. **Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.** We need Congress to HEAR that Americans MUST HAVE affordable healthcare, and the MAJORITY of American citizens SUPPORT the need for affordable healthcare. The ACA needs improvement. Throwing it out without a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve it will wreck havoc on millions of Americans.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Mount Washington, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Catharine Burk [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:24 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

This bill is a monstrosity and will directly lead to the death or financial ruin of millions of Americans. It is not in any way an improvement to access or cost of healthcare benefits, but rather a stripping away of care for those most at risk and a shift of those monies to the people who have the most money and power already. Billionaires and millionaires DO NOT need tax breaks!

Another reason this bill should not proceed is that there will be no CBO score out this week. How can anyone in good conscience adopt a program that is an unknown commodity? Fully 1/6 of our economy will be affected and we won't exactly know how?! There are some knowledgeable estimates and the suffering this bill will cause dwarfs all the other failed attempts.

I am appalled by the comments of Senator Grassley that the most important thing in his mind is to fulfill the GOP campaign promise of repealing Obamacare, not to replace it with something better. What kind of stewardship is that? There are other senators who have revealed that GOP donors are the ones driving this last ditch effort to scrap the ACA. Of course they want that because Graham-Cassidy will put millions back in their pockets.

This bill should not be allowed to move to a vote for the reasons I've listed above. It is a despicable vehicle for wealth distribution from the lower and middle classes to the 1 %, plain and simple, and a decimation of Medicaid, a program that protects our most vulnerable. Americans deserve better.

Catharine Burki
Gig, Harbor, WA

↳ Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anna Grafwallner <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:24 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Anna Grafwallner
[REDACTED]
Princeton, WI 54968
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: SUSAN FRANCIS [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:50 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Monday's hearing on Graham Cassidy bill

Hello finance committee members:

I write as a self-employed person in my own small business, as someone who had a life-threatening illness, and as someone who worked in medical social work for nearly 30 years. I myself have relied first on Medicaid while I was ill, then on the ACA as my only option for quality, affordable healthcare.

Because of my own experience and those of my clients over many years, I firmly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Like Jimmy Kimmel, and most Americans with strong feelings about this, I have my own story of why a working ACA is life-saving. After moving to Oregon to care for my elderly parents, I eventually went through their loss and sadly returned to Chicagoland, partly for my relationship back there, partly because I could better support myself there. In Oregon I had been a director in the Central Oregon Council on Aging, and was responsible for implementing the start of Medicare Part D, and needless to say, saw up close the need for good coverage and good policy through that difficult time.

Upon moving back to Chicago, the change was a lot: Briefly, to increase my existing stress after loss of both parents and major moves across country, I eventually went through a break-up with the man I was engaged to, and though I got back my former social work position, in which I worked with people with HIV on Chicago's south side, that caused more problems. Because when the economy went under, our high needs case load went up exponentially, while our ability to help went down at about the same rate. I was in despair for my clients, who, on the edge already, were losing everything... harder still to watch after much of my own.

But I am a fighter and determined, so when, with all this stress I became very ill and developed a serious cough, I did not stop working. Staff at Mercy Hospital where we had our clinic even insisted I be tested for tuberculosis as some of our clients carried the titer. Fortunately, I was negative. As client needs were so desperately urgent I continued to work despite the cough. At the end of each day I would have to rest before I even had the strength to drive home as I had so much trouble breathing. The nurse practitioner in charge of our program kept minimizing my symptoms, and so did I. We are a country of workaholics!

Finally, one night I ended up in the Rush Hospital Oak Park emergency room. Though they gave me oxygen, after they left the room, somehow my lungs closed, I couldn't breathe and I could not call for help. When they found me I was passing out. I nearly died that night.

Turned out I had walking pneumonia and Lyme's disease that was not easily treated. I went on short term disability. I was very fortunate to have good health care and COBRA. But when my disability ran out, my doctor would not release me to such a high stress, high risk position at that point in my life.

I started my own small business while I continued to recover, which took a long time. And eventually could not afford my COBRA. For some time I was on Medicaid, which was indispensable. But when I earned enough to get off of it, I could not afford my own coverage.

I spent quite some time being scared to be without coverage until ACA kicked in. It was truly as God send, as it was to many other friends in business... all of us had been either without coverage or had terrible coverage that was nonetheless pricey. Along with others in a variety of situations that left them without coverage. I never saw the widespread complaints about Obamacare that were publicized... I saw, and felt, enormous relief..

More importantly than my own story is that of my clients, who over the years were forced to rely solely on Medicaid and various forms of Medicare disability for their coverage. These people had disabilities, and/or had lost work and/or had kids who needed coverage they could not provide. These are not people who could simply find a job, nor were they "slackers"... in fact, I found most of them to be strong and inspirational in coping with their pain and difficulty. I invite anyone in congress who judges those on Medicaid... veterans, seniors, children, the disabled... to come walk a mile in the footsteps of these folks and see how these public officials would fare in their place.

So I have been horrified that we have come to a point in our country that the very survival of Americans would be endangered by the proposed health care plans. Plans not developed slowly over time with depth of expertise. Plans not developed with the input of professional organizations, the good of the market place much less the good of the people using the plans in mind. Plans for which they will not even wait for a CBO score... presumably because they know it will be very bad, presumably because they are trying to stop informed discussion and the usual order of the Senate,... as Senator McCain himself has pointed out.

The solution? I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. There are so many solutions at hand, many backed by the health care and insurance market place. Even Republicans know that all leading medical groups, the insurance industry and more (hardly left leaning organizations). want this as well. They know the ACA not only directly affects lives, but our economy as a whole, an economy enmeshed in the enormous health care industry. There is no sound logic. no good public policy to any of these plans to banish the ACA, while fixes are relatively easy.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cherri Musser <cherrimusser@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Hearing

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Prior to the Affordable Care Act, I personally was not able to get insurance when I retired due to pre-existing conditions – I understand the fear of not having coverage and the VERY expensive (and unaffordable) alternative that a high risk pool provided. I have nieces and nephews who could not get insurance prior to the ACA – the Graham-Cassidy bill will return them to the same situation – unaffordable health care.

A bipartisan Congressional effort is needed to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Cherri Musser
Loudon, TN 37774

The Graham Cassidy plan ONLY makes sense to appease wealthy donors who were promised a tax cut, and Trump voters who were promised easy, affordable healthcare... without truly understanding the complexities involved. And catering to either, while not educating, would be catastrophic... often to those very same Trump voters.

As a result, you all will wear the decision you make here, as well as the resulting consequences to our country, for a very long time. I hope that more informed and centered minds will hold steady and reject this bill that would cost so many so very much, and finally focus on a plan that can actually help both our citizens and our economy and make our entire country stronger and safer. It seems we move away from a safer country with each passing day...even as catastrophes in nature and in politics increase all around the world.

So now, today, here... please. Country before politics. I ask you to develop sane, informed policy... for the sake of us all.

Thank you,

Susan Francis


Lisle, IL 60532

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marianna [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable Care Act

My daughter relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My daughter has medical insurance through ACA and his need of medication for her pre-existing conditions and its affordable for her because she is seeking a full time professional job and her income is rather low right now. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Marianna McKim
West Whately, MA

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA-Health Care

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I suffered kidney failure that was due I believe to radiation treatments for another condition. This resulted to three years on dialysis and then fortunately a kidney transplant. If not for appropriate insurance, I would be either bankrupt or dead by now. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, and not another effort to repeal it.

Thank you,

Bruce Dodds
Richmond IN 47374

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ben Eisenberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:46 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Ben Eisenberg
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Shelburne, Vermont 05482

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: marcia kelce [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:45 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: health care

I struggle now to even pay \$25 to see my nurse practitioner and pay for my 2 prescriptions never mind if I need to go to the hospital? MA has always been called taxachusetts and nothing has changed? I live in affordable housing and until up to recently never ever paid an electric bill but now that has changed which dips even more into what little I have left for money? It's mere survival any more and when I'm told "I don't have to pay bills any more that is no answer to me when I have "always" paid my bills? Our nation and it's people-the poor are in serious trouble and someone needs to wake up especially just what we receive for social security-nothing but disgusting?

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ben Eisenberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:43 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Ben Eisenberg
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Shelburne, Vermont 05482

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:40 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GC Bill

This bill does not take care of the health insurance needs of the people of the United States. The purpose of elected officials is to represent their constituents and enact legislation in their best interests. Anyone who supports this ill conceived attempt to repeal the affordable care act, is not doing their job. Propose and passa bill that you would be comfortable with for you and your family. .

Very truly yours,
Anne Condon
Tarrytown, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anne Canter [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:43 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing.

To Whom It May Concern:

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with affordability is that I have often been an independent contractor, responsible for my own health care, as have other members of my family. Affordable health care, particularly the ACA, made it possible for me to receive preventive care. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Anne Canter
Rochester, NY

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Penny Benatovich [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:42 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Health "care" plan

Hello-

I am writing about this horrible idea of a health no-care Graham-Cassidy bill changes to the ACA. This is the worst of all of the plans attempted to shove through to destroy the good parts of the Affordable Care Act.

We cannot have a vote without a CBO score. How can anyone dare vote on proposed legislation without fully disclosing every inch of that plan and how it will impact millions of lives (all of us at one time or another are going to need something that we have paid into for decades of taxes)

It is irresponsible on all the levels they are trying to "repeal". It's a GOP tax cut proposal not a health care plan.

Someone, anyone that we the American people pay for the elected officials to work for us need to stand up and yell we MUST work together ALL of our citizens— this is the opposite and will devastate our most vulnerable of citizens.

Please help to ensure our government returns to regular process order. Let's work to improve the existing law with bipartisan committees and a vote that requires all of the Congress to work in unity to get a solution.

Thank you for your work and support-

Penny Benatovich
Boston, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chandra Orrill [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:41 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. While I look and act like a totally healthy 40-something, that appearance is through great medical treatment. I have pre-existing conditions (asthma and allergies) that could prevent me from having health insurance under Graham-Cassidy. Without access to the daily medications I take, I would soon become unable to live a healthy, active life. I would literally go from being able to run run half-marathons several times each year to never running again. It is frightening to me that this bill could cost me the freedom my medication grants me.

More than my story, though, I look at the people whose lives are changed forever in an instant. My friend who will have a mastectomy this coming week was, until a few weeks ago, a healthy mom working hard to support her family. Now, she wears a new label - cancer patient. And, hopefully, she will soon wear the label "cancer survivor". But, this bill would make getting health care nearly impossible for her for the rest of her life - despite having a Ph.D., despite working full-time for most of her adult life. She would be labeled as uninsurable.

Then, there are the people who need the safety net of medicaid. By not funding medicaid, this bill would deprive the poorest Americans of regular access to medical care. We know from research, that such moves serve only to increase the use of emergency facilities by the poor. Which means, that the poor are going to the hospital to treat conditions that are out of control because they have not had access to the care they need to control them. Because only public hospitals will see the uninsured, the taxpayers end up paying their medical bills. So, we have an option, we can pay less for ongoing treatment for the poor or we can pay more for emergency care when ignoring their problems won't work anymore. Cutting medicaid is short-cited and inhumane without solving any financial problems.

In short, I would like to see a bipartisan effort to improve the ACA. I do not support its repeal at all.

Sincerely,
Chandra Orrill
Fall River, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Suzanne Baldwin [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:40 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not repeal the ACA

I and my family members rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have some pre-existing conditions for which I need medication. My mother has leukemia, and relies on good health care to live. My sister, her husband and her adult children all work full time jobs, however, they do not receive health insurance from their employers, nor do they make enough money to pay for their full plan. They rely on the subsidies provided by the ACA in their state of Oregon. She has four grandchildren, under 5 years old, who need well children medical care. The Graham-Cassidy plan is ill conceived and will be detrimental to the lives of many Americans. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Suzanne G Baldwin

Orangevale, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ann Frutkin [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:39 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearings

My family and many of my fellow Indiana citizens rely on an affordable healthcare system. Because of this, I am against the Graham-Cassidy bill. We have a disabled daughter who is reliant on some government health support. Please work on a bi-partisanship Congressional movement to make the ACA better.

Sincerely,
Ann B Frutkin
Indianapolis IN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: foosbeal <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:38 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: OPPOSE GRAHAM CASSIDY

Our country deserves health care. Don't blow it up again. You have wasted so much time in the 50 attempts to do so -and this new bill is one of the worst.

We wish Congress remembered a time when they themselves did not have the gold standard healthcare they already have.

Our family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. My husband has Parkinson's. He did not ask for this. My sister is handicapped. She has survived cancer. She did not ask for this. Our two neighbors have had cancer. All of them have health issues that would not be treated under this new bill. Because of this, we vehemently oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

We hope to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Tandy Beal, Jon Scoville, Ron Taylor, Susan Hoard (all Felton CA) and Susie Scoville (West Hartford CT)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rebecca Scheer [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:25 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Why my family and I are an ACA "success story"

I urge all Senators to do the right thing and to vote NO on Graham Cassidy. This bill is being rushed through the Senate with appallingly little time for debate. Even worse, the CBO will not have time to provide an analysis of its effects. This defies all procedural norms of the Senate. To vote on a bill--yes or no--given this timeframe and under such constraints would be wildly irresponsible, full stop.

My family and I rely on the ACA for our healthcare. We are an ACA "success story:" The ACA has allowed my husband to leave his job and to start his own successful business, while I have returned to school and am teaching part time, and also stay at home part time with our two young children. The ACA has provided us with the freedom and independence to follow our desired path to economic success.

We are terrified at the thought of losing coverage, since doing so would mean the upheaval of how we support ourselves. We are not shortsighted enough to think that it's OK to go without health insurance, yet what are our options if the ACA is repealed? I am not confident that Graham Cassidy will allow us to remain insured. It does not guarantee coverage for those with preexisting conditions, for instance. It gives too much power to insurance companies.

Graham Cassidy would be bad for the economy, as well as for the health of millions of Americans nationwide. Please vote NO on Graham Cassidy.

Rebecca S.

Maplewood NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Parth A Leach [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy repeal bill

This is my 14 year old daughter. She was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes just one day after her third birthday in 2005. In June, 2016, she was diagnosed as being on the Autism Spectrum.



From the day she was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes, I have been concerned about the future of her health. I was concerned that she would be forced to take a full-time job that offered benefits, regardless of the whether or not she really wanted that job...it would be a matter of life and death for her. When the ACA was passed, I was relieved that she would be able to stay on our insurance until age 26, and then be able to get insurance through the Marketplace if she still hadn't found a job that offered benefits.

When she was diagnosed as being on the Autism Spectrum, I worried about her ability to find a decent job, period.

My family does not have insurance through the ACA. Our insurance is through my husband's employer. But I know how the ACA changed our insurance when it was enacted, and I can imagine how our insurance will be affected if it is repealed.

The Graham-Cassidy repeal bill being put forth will be extremely detrimental to the working and the working poor. We can barely afford the monthly premiums and co-pays for all of my daughter's prescriptions. We do not live paycheck to paycheck, but we do not spend extravagantly either. Our last major purchase was a new TV in 2011...and it was on sale. We prioritize repairs when they arise. We have money to pay our bills, but very little extra.

If premiums rise because my daughter has a pre-existing condition, I don't know what we will do. If we can not afford her prescriptions, she will die. The plan put forth claims that people with pre-existing conditions will still be covered...but the reality is that individual states will be able to decide whether or not they will require insurance companies to cover them and/or raise premiums.

The Essential Health Benefits in the ACA are wonderful guidelines that help many people. As the mother of two daughters, I am concerned about their abilities to receive basic women's health care, also at risk with the Graham-Cassidy repeal bill.

Almost every medical organization has opposed the Graham-Cassidy repeal bill. Congress should be listening to medical professionals and medical organizations. Please do not allow this bill to become a reality. My daughter's life, literally, depends on this repeal bill not passing.

Thank you,

Parth A. Leach
New Jersey

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nan Perigo [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please stand with caring humans

Please - Vote against Graham-Cassidy.

Please - Don't get rid of the protections for people with pre-existing conditions. This farce allows insurance companies to shut out those who need care most. Don't make them go back to waiting until an emergency and forcing them to use the emergency room system, which has better uses.

Please - If you must change the health care system, give us Single Payer, like all the other wealthy, caring, countries in the world.

Please. Have a care. Don't support or vote in agreement with this horrible bill. Many will become more ill and many will die.

Please support the people in our country who need good care.
Trash this bill and try again.

Nancy Perigo
Morris Plains, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: ALEXANDRA MARTIN [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health

As a wealthy nation, we surely can take care of our people with decent health care. This bill does not provide this but leaves millions without decent affordable health care. This bill has got to be voted down.

Alexandra martin
[REDACTED]
Belmar, NJ 07719

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rita Romeu [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Hello,

I am an elected official in New Jersey and prior to that had a long career in health care finance and policy.

From what I reading about the proposed bill, it appears to potentially have some devastating consequences for many Americans.

The one I'll focus on are the changes to Medicaid. Most states cannot afford to maintain their Medicaid programs on block grants. This will constrain availability of necessary medical services and decrease eligibility. I am afraid this will affect the children's programs especially.

I have had many middle class friends have to turn to Medicaid at some point in their lives when they had financial difficulties. This program protects many Americans, and is working pretty well the way it is now. Many of my constituents depend on this.

Please do not vote to further this Proposed legislation.

Thank you,

Rita Romeu
Committeewoman
Chesterfield New Jersey
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Deborah Hadley [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I OPPOSE GRAHAM-CASSIDY

I am a 47-year-old woman living in NJ. I am self-employed and currently run two businesses, one of which I launched in 2016. I have several chronic health issues that require me to take daily prescription medications, and to visit doctors frequently. I purchase my health insurance from the federal ACA exchange.

This year, an unexpected drop in income meant I had to adjust my ACA enrollment mid-year, so my premium is partially subsidized. I am extremely grateful to have that help. If I were uninsured and unable to keep my health issues under control, I would not be able to work. The ACA has kept me healthy and has enabled me to survive this temporary drop in income.

No medical associations or healthcare provider groups support this bill. Many Republican governors oppose this bill. The American people oppose this bill.

If passed, the Graham-Cassidy amendment would be devastating to me. Both my health and my livelihood would be impacted severely. The ACA is not perfect, and I was hopeful when I heard (finally) some bipartisan discussions of how to improve the ACA were taking place. But the ACA has been a huge help to me, and gave me the ability to launch my second business last year.

PLEASE OPPOSE THIS BILL. It does not help anyone, but it will hurt millions of Americans.

Debbie Hadley
Jackson, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patti Moore [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Hello,

I am writing as a very concerned citizen about the Graham/Cassidy bill. I strongly support healthcare access for all Americans! I am willing to pay my part to make sure that people don't die or go bankrupt because of lack of access to affordable care.

It is reckless and irresponsible to force a vote on a bill before a complete CBO analysis has been completed and publicly shared with the American people. Decisions that affect our entire country should not be politically motivated. When every major medical group comes out in opposition to the bill, we must listen. We need public hearing and transparency and bipartisan communication in order to make any healthcare changes. Many Americans are living in fear for the consequences of this bill which will frankly be a death sentence for many. Do you want to be responsible for a drastic decline in many Americans lives moving forward?

I beg you to listen to your conscience, and not the politics of this bill.

Thank you,
Patti and Owen Moore
Maplewood, NJ 07040

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Wright, Kevin (Finance)


From: Young, Matt [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Good afternoon!

I am writing to voice my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill, as a replacement for the Affordable Care Act. To vote on a bill that affects millions of Americans, without hearings or CBO scoring is an affront to normalcy and the rules of order of the Senate.

Thank you

Matthew D. Young
Bordentown, New Jersey

[REDACTED]
 please don't print this e-mail unless you really need to.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mimi Michalski [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please REJECT Graham-Cassidy Bill!

I am a very fortunate person. I was diagnosed with cancer in 2005 while I had excellent insurance through my employer. Because I live in the NY metro area I had access to one of the best cancer centers in the world, Memorial Sloan-Kettering. Although it was "out of network" my insurance covered a vast majority of the expense of surgery and follow-up visits. I was also fortunate that since I had a good job, I could afford to pay the copayments. My cancer was cured.

I am still a very fortunate person because my employer provided retiree healthcare benefits after I retired in 2010 and having previously had cancer did not prevent me from getting subsidized, affordable health insurance.

Now, think about someone who was less fortunate; someone who worked just as hard (or harder!) than I did but didn't get any healthcare benefits at their job. Someone who gets paid minimum wage and works two part-time jobs perhaps, and got the same diagnosis I did.

That person, through no fault of their own, would not have had the advantages I did and might not have been cured of their cancer before the ACA (Obamacare) existed. Then, even if they were cured, they would be considered to have a pre-existing condition and would have been rejected by insurance companies or forced to pay exorbitant amounts for insurance premiums if they wanted to get insurance.

Thanks to the ACA, that person has been able to afford health insurance and not be charged extra due to their pre-existing condition.

This heinous bill would take away those protections and once again people with pre-existing conditions would be at the mercy of the health insurance companies who would have no incentive to allow them to be part of their program without enormous increases in premiums.

This is wrong and this bill must be killed. Use your efforts to ensure the ACA is fully functioning and fully funded as required by law.

Sincerely,

Miriam Michalski
Bloomfield, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margaret Saracco [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

To our Honorable Senators on the Finance Committee,

Please, I urge to scrap the Graham Cassidy bill. Aside from the provision allowing adult children to stay on their parent's plan until age 26 (which NJ and NY thankfully had before Obamacare anyway), it will eliminate the safety nets provided by Obamacare. Health care is not a privilege, it is the right of all citizens to have fair and affordable access. Graham Cassidy is NOT the answer!

Thank you,
Margaret Saracco
Spring Lake Heights, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gloria M Ron-Fornes [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to Graham-Cassidy bill

As a citizen and resident of NJ, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill and ask the finance committee in the Senate to reject this bill.

Graham-Cassidy bill destroys Medicaid as we know it by fundamentally and permanently transforming the funding for the program into a capped system.

My mother who worked all her life and contributed to her healthcare, needed to rely on Medicaid in the last few years of her life in order to pay for nursing home needs. This bill would impact MANY MANY senior citizens who cannot pay for their health and nursing home needs.

Limiting how much federal money states receive will limit coverage, access and state's options when more people need coverage. So are you asking states to decide between caring for the poor vs children vs the elderly? And what if another natural disaster occurs? For example, if we had a per-capita cap system now and Hurricane Harvey or Irma hit, Texas and Florida might be out of federal Medicaid money for the year!

This bill eliminates protection for people with pre-existing conditions - period! Senator Cassidy tries to tell us that it is not so - he is lying. The bill undermines protections for people with pre-existing conditions and people who need treatment for opioid abuse (a crisis in this country) by allowing state to waive essential health benefits. States would have increidbly broad discretion in how they use the vague waiver in the proposed bill. Insurere could also decide to raise anyone's premiums at any time. This bill simply does NOT protect the citizens of the United States!

Graham-Cassidy bill attacks women's health. It enacts a total prohibition on any covered insurance plans offering abortion coverage.

What the Graham-Cassidy bill DOES prove is a giant tax brwak for those who DO NOT need it!. It includes a special new tax break for the well-off, allowing Health Savings Accounts to be used for health insurance premiums. This may also incentivize employers to just put tax-free money into these HSAs and stop offering their staff health insurance all together!

And what about the retired employee, like me, who has worked for 33 years and who's cost for health benefits rise significantly every year so that my pension gets smaller and smaller while my deductible continues to go up. This bill does NOT do anything for me.

The block grants allows for a 2% growth only, a far slower growth rate than medical costs grow. And amazingly, all the funding ends in 2027!!! States would then receive exactly ZERO dollars in their already slim block grants. How many million Americans would suddenly be thrown off health insurance ? 29 million? 32 million? more? Congress would need to give the states new money and we know Congress does NOT deal well with deadlines.

The Federal government needs to protect its citizens - ALL its citizens - not just the wealthy. This bill demonstrates that Congress does not really care about policy and how it affects its citizens. This bill is a political move - plain and simple - to appease those that have given money for political favors.

We are all paying attention. DO NOT allow this deadly bill to pass.

Gloria M Ron-Fornes
Summit, New Jersey

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Em Alsko [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: nfo@booker.senate.gov
Subject: How the Graham-Cassidy bill will affect my healthcare

Dear Senators -

The Graham-Cassidy bill is not good for any American for many reasons. My personal story is about pre-existing conditions; I have a long-standing heart condition and I am worried about continuing insurance coverage under G-C. In my family, every single person has a pre-existing condition - it is a factor of our American healthcare system that just about everyone can be classified with a pre-existing condition.

And a very personal story - my little brother just died from a catastrophic heart attack. He could not afford healthcare insurance; as an auto mechanic, he made just a little too much for subsidies and not enough to pay for insurance. I feel strongly that there has to be a bipartisan solution that makes healthcare insurance a way of life for all people of the greatest country in the world.

My thanks for listening -
Mary Laskow
Lambertville NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mallory King <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham-Cassidy Bill is UNACCEPTABLE

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

The Graham-Cassidy Bill is NOT a healthcare bill. It's an open declaration of war on the sick, the poor & the old.

Please for the love of God and country, vote NO!

Thank you,

Mallory King

Voting constituent in NJ's 8th District

--

Mallory King
NJ-08 for Progress
[Facebook](#)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mark Furman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy-Graham Health Care Bill--Opposed!

Dear Senators:

The more I read about this bill, the worse and worse it becomes. It is so arcane that even Senator Cassidy had to have NPR explain its impacts to him. It is already full of loopholes and pork targeting specific states and special interests, such as Senator Johnson putting in a loophole benefiting mainly Wisconsin. I only wonder what other pork and abusive terms are hidden in the bill or will be jammed through in an attempt to bribe other Senators to sign on.

The bill has not been adequately investigated or vetted, there is no CBO analysis, and almost every major health insurance company and agency dealing with health issues has come out against it.

It is high time that the US Senate stop acting in such an irresponsible manner with regards to critical legislation impacting all Americans. Listen to what Senator McCain said about the last such bill that the GOP tried to ram through the Senate without due diligence. Do the right thing and create a bipartisan bill that actually makes the American health care system better. Do not pass this bill that will further destabilize the markets and force millions to lose their coverage either from ACA or Medicaid cutbacks.

Regards,

Mark Furman

[REDACTED]
Morristown, NJ 07960
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Ann Fenster Hensley [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

I do not understand why Republicans in Congress seem to think it's a public good to deprive millions of Americans of access to quality, affordable health insurance.

My family lived in Germany for three years for my husband's job assignment. During that time, our daughter became seriously ill. She was in and out of the hospital for six months. We paid 150 euros per day for her hospitalization, including all tests, all doctor's fees, all procedures: CT scans, eye perimeter tests, fifteen lumbar punctures. Our U.S. insurance company initially refused to pay the balance - under \$5000 - because the bills weren't itemized. They don't charge in Germany for every pill and every test. Having her treated in Germany was saving the insurance company a fortune. I had to get my husband's head of H.R. to instruct the insurance company to pay the bill.

Several years earlier, I had lymphoma in my stomach. Before the doctors figured out what was wrong I had two ERCPs to enlarge my pancreatic duct. For the first procedure, a one night stay at Mt. Sinai and the procedure cost over \$14,000. The problem is not that everybody in the United States wants and deserves coverage. The problem is that care in this country costs more than everywhere else on the planet. And guess what: in many regards, such as maternal and infant mortality, plenty of countries have better outcomes. Doctors need to be able to feel secure that they don't have to order every known test to protect them from liability. Suing doctors and hospitals shouldn't be a method for getting rich.

No one should suffer or die because they can't afford care.

Truly,

Mary Ann Fenster Hensley

[REDACTED]

Waldwick, NJ 07463

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chiara Nappi [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: cn >> Chiara Nappi
Subject: ACA

I want to express my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill. I came here from Italy 41 years ago, I am American, my children and grandchildren are American. All my siblings and relatives in Italy have free medical care. If they are sick, they do not need to worry about who pays for their medical bills. I do have to worry instead. I am a senior, I rely on Medicare. I do not want it to be cut or reduced. Please do not kill ACA and/or Medicare. Medical care is a human right. In the US as in Italy.

Chiara Nappi
[REDACTED]
Princeton, NJ 08540
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pamela Olsen [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please don't deny us our healthcare!

Importance: High

Greetings Good People of the Senate Finance Committee,
I greatly appreciate all the work that you do for our country.
Thank you sincerely.

I am greatly concerned about the possibility of our health care coverage going up in cost, and the coverage decreasing.
As human beings, we all suffer from time to time.
We need to be able to rely on our coverage to keep us well.

Please do not put through the Graham Cassidy / Trumpcare bill.
I know you intend to do what's best for the country.
What's best for the insurance companies / Big Business / The Uber Wealthy is often not what the American People need.

Please listen to the cry being expelled throughout the country.
We need your assistance.
We implore you to refrain from installing the Graham Cassidy Health Care Bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns.

Pamela Olsen [REDACTED] Jersey City / NJ / 07305

Bidding you Peace & Happy Qi,

[REDACTED]

Pamela M. Olsen
MM, LMT, CBCC

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rose Griscom [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Senate Finance Committee,

I implore you NOT to pass this disastrous partisan bill.

It would be far worse than the current ACA for people like me, hard-working patriotic Americans struggling to make ends meet and afford any kind of decent health care coverage.

Even though my premiums are currently high and I have to work more hours and balance bills to pay them, all estimates point to the GC proposal resulting in higher premiums with less coverage.

Without a full accounting to know what the costs will be and how many will lose coverage, it is unwise and unethical and bad for America to proceed.

Like so many, I have a pre-existing condition, and I am deeply concerned that this bill would raise my premiums even more, so that I would be completely unable to pay for health coverage. As a 59-year old self-employed unmarried woman, that is deeply unnerving.

Please do the right thing, and do not let this bill proceed.

Thank you.

Rose Griscom
NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Terri Ryan [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy Bill

My relative relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. They have a pre-existing conditions which would be denied if this bill is passed. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Terri

Fort Lee, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bob Didner [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Why the Graham-Cassidy bill will inevitably lead to reinstatement of the preexisting condition exclusion.

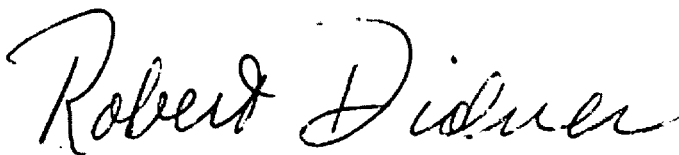
Why Graham – Cassidy will restore preexisting condition exclusions

When the Affordable Care Act was negotiated with insurance carriers (amongst others) the carriers agreed to drop the preexisting condition exclusion because of the mandate requiring almost everyone to have insurance coverage or pay a penalty. This would bring more people, especially younger people into the insured pool, and greatly reduce the potential abuse of people getting policies after learning they have a disease or disorder requiring medical attention.

This bill eliminates the mandate, so governors will either allow the pre-existing condition exclusion, or insurance companies faced with no exclusion and no mandate, will just withdraw from those markets. That's why it's estimated that over 30,000,000 people will lose their existing healthcare coverage compared with the over 20,000,000 CBO estimate for the previous replacement.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,



Robert Didner

[REDACTED]
Morristown, NJ. 07960
[REDACTED]

BTW: I was an officer level executive at a major insurance brokerage and a consultant at the second largest health insurance carrier. Both of my post graduate level degrees in engineering and life science included a great deal of statistics and information science which I used extensively in my professional career.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michael Walters [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Please don't promote this bill that will kill millions of Americans.

Thanks.

Michael Walters
New Jersey

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lauren Kochman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy bill

Hi,

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with pre-existing conditions is my daughter, Madeleine, who is 16 months old and was born with 3 heart abnormalities. These issues require routine check ups involving EKG and ultrasound exams every 6 months to a year. When she is 8 years old, she will need an MRI to more closely diagnose these abnormalities to determine if surgery is necessary. She loves to spin around, wrestle with her big brother, point to trees and snuggle into the best hugs. Madeleine is a warrior! Please join the fight with us. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Lauren Kochman

Maplewood, NJ

Sent from my iPhone. Please excuse brevity or misspellings.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeanne Wilson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Proposed Repeal Bill-Do Not Pass This!

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am writing to you to let you know that passing the current Graham Cassidy healthcare bill would be the worst decision our government has made since January. Allowing our American people...the poor, the sick, the elderly, the children... to potentially lose coverage, or be charged exorbitant premiums because they are unfortunate enough to have an illness, is despicable.

I am a breast cancer survivor. I am healthy, active, work full time and have 4 daughters. To think that I might have to try to pay penalty premiums because I survived or that I might not have coverage should this disease attack again, is frightening to me and to my family. And I thought I was one of the lucky ones!

My mother is a widow. She has had heart problems and breast cancer twice. My sister inherited a genetic, degenerative bone disease from my father. We all celebrate our survival and that we continue to be able to function as friends, family and tax contributing American citizens. Why would you consider a plan to force any of us to be unable to afford or obtain health care?

I implore you, along with millions of other Americans, not to allow this discriminatory, selfish, and morally wrong bill pass. Do not let millions of Americans die by passing this disgraceful legislation.

Thank you,
Jeanne Wilson
Edison, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Verizon [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy healthcare bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. As both a woman and a cancer survivor I know full well the impact taking away money and insurance from those who need it to survive would be catastrophic. As a healthcare provider in an underserved community, my patients could not afford the services my company provides. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Naomi

Springfield, NJ

Dance/Movement Therapy, exploring the Mind/Body interface.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jodi Di Liberto [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing

Public Testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing.

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with a pre-existing condition is that I have Hepatitis C. It's essential that I have access to affordable health care!!! I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Jodi DiLiberto
West Belmar NJ 07719

Jodi DiLiberto
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gia Rosenblum [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham -Cassidy

To Whom it May Concern:

As a sole proprietor, my family relies on the individual market to purchase quality health care. I do not receive a subsidy. I am a poster child for responsible health insurance consumers. I have an HSA plan, I stay within my network. I price-shop for procedures. My daughter has life-threatening anaphylaxis to foods, without the protections of the ACA, she and millions of kids like her would be uninsurable because of their pre-existing conditions. Without stability for the Insurance markets, my already high \$20,000 annual cost for premiums and deductibles will sky-rocket. Without access to affordable healthcare, I will have to close my private psychology practice where I currently treat 35 patients per week.

For all of these reasons and many more, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see bi-partisan efforts to address the weaknesses in the current system, to bring down costs of pharmaceuticals, make healthcare more efficient, get everyone covered, and bring the quality of our care up to the highest standards in the world. That would truly be putting americans first.

Thank you,

Gianine D. Rosenblum
Belle Mead, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Phyllis Searby [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Hearing

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

Sincerely,

P. Searby

Tinton Falls, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tom Montville [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Greetings,

Americans deserve quality, affordable healthcare. Because it lacks important items and leaves it to the states to produce a Balkanized health care system, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Thomas Montville

--

Thomas Montville, Ph.D.

[REDACTED]
North Brunswick, NJ 08902
[REDACTED]

*We must dissent from the indifference.
We must dissent from the apathy.
We must dissent from the fear, the hatred, and the mistrust.
We must dissent from a nation that buried its head in the sand
waiting in vain for the needs of its poor, its elderly, and its sick to
disappear and just blow away ...
We must dissent, because America can do better,
because America has no choice but to do better.
- Justice Thurgood Marshall*

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Stillman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fwd: Don't kill Americans healthcare

I work with special needs students, the plan to scramble and reduce the care that disabled people can receive through Medicaid would sever their lifeline. Don't let the Koch brothers bribery and the terrible ideas of Mitch McConnell harm my vulnerable students chance of a future.

Susan Stillman
Montclair NJ 07043

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Helen Zhou [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:19 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony for Graham-Cassidy hearing

Hello,

I and my family rely on quality, affordable healthcare; and I care about the millions of Americans, especially low-income people, the elderly, those with pre-existing conditions, and those with disabilities, who rely on quality, affordable healthcare to survive and thrive in this country. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Helen Zhou

Belle Mead, New Jersey

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Thomas [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My chronic illness, Rheumatoid Arthritis, could easily keep me from finding insurance, if I need to make a change for any reason. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Jennifer Thomas

Red Bank, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joy Sullivan [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare is clearly as bad as previous proposals-- it 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. There can be NO JUSTIFICATION for giving such broad tax breaks to corporations which have not contributed a dime to the US treasury since they use all available loopholes to avoid any tax, as all other struggling Americans cannot claim every year!

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. It's time they started paying to keep this country healthy, instead of parasitically weakening us more each year!

Joy Sullivan
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Newton, New Jersey 07860

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Matos [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Nancy Matos
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Teaneck, New Jersey 07666

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Suzanne Fossett [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:15 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.

Suzanne Fossett
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Maplewood, New Jersey 07040

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robert Aldridge [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:15 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.

Robert Aldridge
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Rutherford, New Jersey 07070

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Peter Foley [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

It is simple. This bill should never have had a chance. Bring it up for a vote once and for all, and VOTE NO. Kill it for good. The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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

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

Peter Foley
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Oakland, New Jersey 07436

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chuck Graver [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:21 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.

Chuck Graver
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Southampton, New Jersey 08088

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ray Liriano [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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.

Ray Liriano
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Union City, New Jersey 07087

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

Dear Senators:

The newest version of Trumpcare (Graham-Cassidy) would eliminate healthcare for 32 million people. This is unconscionable! . Also, Graham-Cassidy would give a \$20 billion tax break to the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has paid nothing in U.S. taxes. This is unacceptable!

Furthermore, 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 Garza
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Moorestown, New Jersey 8057

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ba Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Ba Smith
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Jersey City, New Jersey 07302

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sharyn Barson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Sharyn Barson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Lambertville , New Jersey 08530

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Louise Orlando [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:23 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.

Louise Orlando

[REDACTED] et
[REDACTED]

Fair Lawn, New Jersey 07410

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mark Schwiebert [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Mark Schwiebert
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Lakewood, New Jersey 08701

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rainer Jurgenstein [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Rainer Jurgenstein

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Toms River NJ, New Jersey 08753

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kimberly Huling [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

The 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.

Kimberly Huling
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Ewing, New Jersey 08628

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: REJECT the Graham-Cassidy bill

All Americans deserve access to affordable health care. REJECT the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Janet Van Syckle

[REDACTED]
Summit, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Jazmene Smith
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Millville, New Jersey 08332

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Sara Lazarus
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Millburn, New Jersey 07041

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ivis Trejo [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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Ivis Trejo
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Union City, New Jersey 07087

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christopher F. Vota [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

This is presented to you in the 59th-minute of the 11th-hour. Please give John McCain the gravitas his opposition to G-C deserves!

Christopher F. Vota
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Eastampton, New Jersey 08060-3305

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cheri Dzubak [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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Cheri Dzubak
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Yardville, New Jersey 08620

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Clancy [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Good Afternoon:

I am writing to urge the committee members and the rest of the Senate to vote "No" on the Graham Cassidy Health Bill. This bill would impact my family, particularly my 20 month old granddaughter, in the most devastating way. Zuma was diagnosed in utero with a rare disease, Tuberos Sclerosis. She and her parents have endured multiple MRIs, EEGs, EKGs, at least a hundred specialist visits and monthly blood draws. Her medicine is \$6,000.00 per month before the addition of her prescription formula. Many children with this disease take multiple prescriptions costing upwards of \$28,000.00 PER MONTH! Nothing I have read tells me how this precious girl, other children with rare diseases and their parents are supposed to see hope for their future when bills of this magnitude are part of their lives.

This bill is Draconian. This bill does not serve ALL of the American people. This bill will reduce this country to third world status once families have dying family members and become homeless as a result of a healthcare industry run amok. This bill solves nothing for the 32 million or more who will be forced to reckon with a hopeless reality. In a fantasy world Senators should be solving problems for all and not using sick people as pawns for partisan political gamesmanship. Your collective brain power is better than this and I hope you will look into the depths of your hearts and souls and quietly ask yourself if this is really what you rose to the stature of Senator to do – I suspect your calling was grander than the destruction of a basic human right. You know what our family has learned is more than a euphemism – "we don't care if it's a boy or girl, as long as they're healthy." Truer words are in your hands now.

My son and his family would be more than willing to meet with your committee and discuss the financial impact that this has on their family. They've only just begun to navigate the world of healthcare. Thank you for reading my emotional plea as I beg all of you to vote "NO".

Nancy Clancy
[REDACTED]

Manasquan, NJ 08736
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Andrea Walker [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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Andrea Walker
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

North Brunswick, New Jersey 08902

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: KAREN KENT [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:38 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

Hello,

I am writing to ask that you do not allow the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill to proceed. I cannot begin to understand why legislators continue to try to craft bills that clearly only benefit a privileged few. The Affordable Care Act was not perfect, yet it was not the failure that people with certain special interests would like the public to believe. Our country does not benefit from people being sick and going into bankruptcy from medical bills.

On a personal note, my children are on Medicaid through the NJ Family Care program and if any cuts are made to those types of programs, my children will lose coverage because we cannot afford to pay any extra money. Also, my husband is employed in a small business. His employer is generous enough to cover his health insurance and part of mine, but I fear that if rates continue to rise, he may decide not to continue offering this to us.

Healthcare is not a luxury item. People are struggling and starving in this country. There are sick people who have to make a choice between going to the doctor or putting food on the table. The only people who would approve the Graham-Cassidy bill are folks who are not in touch with the people they are representing.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Karen Kent

Pennington, NJ 08534

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Philip de Carlo [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:21 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

Philip de Carlo
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Hazlet Twp., New Jersey 07734

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: JERRY BALABANIAN [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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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.

JERRY BALABANIAN
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Totowa, New Jersey 07512-2107

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: John Gaj [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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John Gajda
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Passaic, New Jersey 07055

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Edward Thompson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:45 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GrahamCassidy

I encourage all Senate Finance Committee members to vote against The GOP GrahamCassidy health care bill. This is a shift of money to states that opted out of Medicaid expansion from those states that opted into Medicaid expansion.

Also, people with pre-existing conditions will either lose coverage or have premiums increased substantially.

Edward Thompson
[REDACTED]
Cresskill, NJ 07626
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shreeves, Robin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: do NOT repeal the ACA

My family - everyone in our country actually - relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Because I am self employed, I have the ACA. I do not want it repealed. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Robin Shreeves
Barrington, NJ

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shoshana Silberman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: the attempt to replace the ACA

I AM SO CONCERNED THAT THE SENATE MAY REPEAL THE ACA.
MY GRANDDAUGHTER HAD A CHILDHOOD CANCER. SHE IS NOW TWELVE. WILL HER
PRECONDITION PREVENT HER FROM GETTING HEALTHCARE AT A REASONABLE COST! AS AS
SENIOR I WORRY ABOUT MEDICAID. I ALSO WORRY FOR THOSE LESS FORTUNATE, WHO MAY
BE TAKEN OFF HALTH CARE. WE AS A SOCIETY ARE JUDGED BY HOW WE TREAT OUR MOST
VULNERABLE.

ROSALIND SILBERMAN
LAWRENCEVILLE NJ.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joseph Nicoletto [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:59 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

Joseph Nicoletto
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

New Jersey, New Jersey 08002

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Colleen Tessing <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Colleen Tessing
Subject: No Graham-Cassidy HealthCare

Committee Members:

My name is Colleen Tessing, I am from NJ. I am requesting that this committee and members of the GOP stop pushing the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill through. Instead, I am imploring members of the GOP to **prioritize a bipartisan solution to healthcare. Yes, a bipartisan committee dedicated to the appropriate replacement of ACA.**

It is disheartening to watch the republican party blatantly disregard the needs of the people of our country. This bill does not have the interest of the citizens.

I myself and the many friends and family members I know are prime examples of how this bill will directly negatively impact hard working Americans.

I am a mother, wife, full time working, church attending, tax payer. I am a hard working person, living a typical middle class life in our country. And I need and expect more from my government than to threaten our healthcare and safety (of which we worked hard to gain).

Many of my family and friends have pre existing conditions. What will be done? How are you ensuring that these people will be protected and supported in maintaining healthcare?

Simply stating that this will be left for states to decide is not a valid solution - you are opening people up for significant financial burdens from which many families will not recover. It is unethical and not in the interest of the people of whom you serve.

What about the extra costs involved and how providing powers to the states will change the costs/premiums, copays, deductibles, etc.???

Having asthma, costs more? Pregnancy, costs more? Autism, costs more?

Hard working American families will tank financially. How is this a feasible plan?

Please remove your typical party lines. Work together across the aisle and stop deceiving the concerned citizens! I want clarity from my government.

Thank you for your attention. Please demonstrate that our government is one of concern, service, and ethics. Young people are watching and we care. I will continue this dialogue in my community and look forward to a positive bipartisan dialogue this coming week.

No to Graham-Cassidy.

Respectfully,
Colleen Tessing
NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: John Hyson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for the Record, Re: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators,

As a voting, tax-paying citizen of the United States of America and New Jersey, I would like to voice my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Repeal Bill.

The American people deserve better. You all surely know this. This is so much bigger than a strike in the 'win' column. According to all major reliable sources, this bill will result in a catastrophic loss of healthcare for millions of citizens - your constituents. This is simply unacceptable.

The best and only way to provide our nation with the healthcare we need and deserve is via bipartisan effort. No law of this import and magnitude will stand without across-the-aisle compromise.

People before politics must be your credo today and every day forward. Tens of millions of American lives are at stake. Turn off the lobbyist buzz in your ears, scrap Graham-Cassidy, and start the hard, necessary work you were elected and swore an oath to do. Create and pass a bipartisan bill that America can be proud to call her own - true and lasting healthcare reform for each and every American citizen.

Sincerely,

John H. Hyson

John H. Hyson

[REDACTED]
Maple Shade, NJ 08052
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elizabeth [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

To whom it may concern:

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

Sincerely,

Dr. Elizabeth Gehrig

Lawrenceville, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marg Yelenik [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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Marg Yelenik

[REDACTED]

Manalapan, New Jersey 07726

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jasper Dionisio [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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Jasper Dionisio
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Englewood, New Jersey 07631

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Bill

Hello,

As a concerned American citizen and taxpayer from the state of New Jersey, I am writing to express my disapproval and anger at the proposed Graham/Cassidy bill. It is not a healthcare bill, it is a way for Republicans to be able to say the appealed "Obamacare" to their constituents, with no care or regard for the millions that will lose their healthcare and the millions more whose costs will skyrocket due to the lack of protection against pre-existing conditions. It also disproportionately punishes women by removing coverage for pregnancies and not allowing Planned Parenthood to be a healthcare provider. Women make up over half the population and yet have not been given any input into this, or any of the other proposed "healthcare" bills the Republicans have proposed. This bill is a disgrace and if passed will result in thousands of preventable deaths and a huge cost burden on the middle class.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely
Lisa Preziosi

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beth [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

Please do not pass the Graham/Cassidy bill! A good bill would be formed by bipartisan committee and debate. Not pressured by GOP donors who want their tax break. This bill would adversely effect my family and most people I know. No preexisting.

No essential services blocked.

No Medicaid reductions.

No state control.

No caps.

No tax break for rich.

Please not not pass this bill.

It has no popular support.

Listen to the people.

People, not politics.

I am a hard working, good citizen and this will harm me.

Thank you,

Beth McGuire

[REDACTED]
Mullica Hill NJ 08062
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carlieanne Kaufman Erickson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Keep the ACA

As a family of 3, my daughter, husband, and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I do not believe that being a female is a pre-existing condition, and I find it offensive that women especially are made to suffer under this newest iteration of a GOP repeal bill. The lack of funding and protection for items such as maternity care seems to be in direct disregard to the stance the GOP takes on the definition of conception and life. It would seem the Republican members of the senate have little regard for the protection and health of future generations, with a bill that so greatly would affect their future constituents.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. The only way to truly help the people of this country is to work together. This push and pull with last ditch efforts does nothing to improve the morale nor the health care of the citizens of the United States of America. I hope you can hear my voice, and all the voices that are asking for a smarter, more fully formed, and bipartisan plan.

Sincerely,

Carlieanne Kaufman Erickson

Clifton, New Jersey

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lucinda DeWitt [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:55 PM
To: gchcomments; Menendez, Senator (Menendez); info@corybooker.com
Subject: No ACA Repeal!

To the Members of the United States Senate as you consider changes to the Affordable Care Act,

I'm writing to ask you save the Affordable Care Act (aka "Obamacare"). For me, it's a matter of life and death. Let me tell you why.

Exactly one year ago today, I sold my house in Minneapolis and moved to New Jersey to be near my family and help take care of my aging parents. The Affordable Care Act was crucial in allowing me to make this move. It allowed me to buy health insurance in a new state (despite my many pre-existing conditions) and the Advanced Premium Tax Credits made that insurance affordable. The Graham-Cassidy proposal currently under consideration would very likely take that health insurance away. What help will I be to my parents if I get sick and cannot afford the medical care to get well?

Until I became disabled in 2001 and had to retire on disability, I had no idea how expensive health care is. From 2001 until the implementation of the ACA in 2014, I was spending over \$600/month (over 30% of my income) on health insurance. (Because of my disability I was "allowed" to stay with my employer's plan, but was required to pay the full premium with no assistance from the employer.) After mortgage and utilities I barely had enough left for food. I certainly couldn't save the funds required for a move across the country. And because of my pre-existing conditions, even if I could afford to move I wouldn't have been able to get new insurance in a new state. I felt stuck. With the ACA my premiums (after the Advanced Premium Tax Credits) went down to less than \$175 a month and I was able to save enough to move. Then when I could make the move, I was able to get health insurance in a new state. The repeal proposals, including Graham-Cassidy, would make this type of move more difficult, because they turn over many aspects of health insurance and Medicaid to the individual states rather than keeping things uniform across states.

In addition to making health insurance both affordable and portable, the preventative services provided by the ACA saved the lives of several of my friends. Because the ACA included mammogram and colonoscopy screenings, friends were able to learn about lumps and pre-cancerous polyps early enough to receive treatment. Before the ACA these friends couldn't afford any health insurance (or even basic health care). Without the ACA they most likely would be dead now. The new "repeal and replace" plans would eliminate many of the basic preventative services known to save lives.

Those of us who benefit from the ACA know that it is not perfect. But repealing it and leaving us with plans that do nothing to fix the problems and are only designed to provide tax cuts for the rich is not the solution. Our country cannot be healthy and prosperous if its people are sick and dying from lack of adequate health insurance and medical care or going bankrupt trying to stay well.

PLEASE work to come up with a bipartisan plan to improve on the ACA while maintaining Affordability, Portability, coverage for those with Pre-Existing conditions, and Preventative Care services.

A new plan should also do something to control drug prices. I don't know a single person who hasn't seen a HUGE increase in the cost of their prescription drugs. My migraine medicine went from \$100/dose up to over \$200/dose! These increases are due to the greed of drug companies. Even long-time "generic" drugs are no longer sold at "generic" prices. The drug companies and their lobbyists were allowed too much input into the original ACA. This needs to change in any efforts to fix it.

I apologize for the length of this letter. I am VERY frightened about the possibility of losing my health insurance. It's important that you know how much this means to me.

PLEASE save my health care!

Sincerely,
Lucinda DeWitt

[REDACTED]
Whiting, NJ 08759
[REDACTED]

--
Lucinda DeWitt
[REDACTED]
Whiting, NJ 08759

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maytal, Itai, [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote against Trumpcare

Hi, my name is Itai Maytal from zip code 07646. I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy health care bill being rushed through Congress, and I need you to vote against it. This bill vindictively cuts funding for my state to reward states that did not expand Medicaid. Please don't steal from some Americans to give to other Americans. Thank you.

Sincerely

*Itai Maytal
New Milford, NJ*

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rachel Kennedy [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

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

Sincerely,
Rachel Kennedy
Westfield, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Joseph [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The Graham-Cassidy healthcare proposal would remove too many millions of vulnerable Americans off of healthcare. It would devastate millions of working class families and millions of veterans. This bill does not have the interest of millions of Americans, but favours the super rich giving them billions of dollars in tax breaks.

When the current ACA was proposed, it was reviewed by three different Senate Committees and had many hearings and many hours for consideration. There are life and death matters at stake here and one has to wonder if it is such a great proposal for millions of Americans, what's the rush to shove it through?

I strongly urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy. I beseech you to continue to protect the healthcare of millions of us vulnerable Americans. The wealthy corporations and millionaires and billionaires must be made to pay their fair share in taxes! If they paid their fair share, all of us would have a better future.

Carol Joseph
West Orange, NJ 07052

Carol Joseph

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
West Orange, New Jersey 07052

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joyce Sutton [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:52 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

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

Sincerely, Joyce N Sutton
Farmingdale, NJ 07727

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Claudia Schmidt [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

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

My story is that in 2010 I was diagnosed with breast cancer and subsequently went through a year and a half of chemotherapy, surgeries and reconstruction after a bilateral mastectomy. This experience dramatically impacted my life and I am now very aware of the astronomical costs of healthcare and how it can very seriously negatively impact a family who doesn't have health care benefits. During the 18 months of my chemotherapy and surgeries, the costs amounted to over \$300,000.

I am very lucky that my husband has benefits through his job which covered 95% of the costs. However, he is now over 50 years old and in jeopardy of being downsized from his corporate job. If that were to happen, there is a possibility that I would not be able to get health care due to my pre-existing condition. If my cancer were ever to return, the costs would be astronomical and would decimate my family.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, and not repeal it. There are too many other women and families with pre-existing conditions that could wipe out their families savings and destroy their lives without health care.

Please work to ensure that we improve the ACA and not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Claudia Schmidt
Clinton, New Jersey 08809

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Zakian, Virginia A. [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable Care Act

I am STONGLY opposed to the current bill to repeal and replace ACA. Under this bill, 32 Million Americans could lose coverage and every state will have diminished funding. The bill also introduces radical changes to Medicaid. It is shocking to me that the Senate could consider passing a bill that affects all Americans and deals with a huge fraction of the US budget with virtually no discussion. It is appalling what politicians will do when power and money are on the line. If you think this is a good bill, get rid of the outstanding insurance for Legislators and their staff and families and make do with what most Americans have to deal with. Stand up for the American people. Have some courage. Have some intelligence. Health care is not a privledge, especially not in the richest nation in the world.

Virginia A. Zakian

Harry C. Wiess Professor in the Life Sciences

Department of Molecular Biology

Lewis Thomas Labs

Princeton University

Princeton NJ 08544-1014

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alison Arne [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:40 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy Graham

To the members of the Senate Finance Committee before you hold one of two short hearings on a piece of legislation that impacts every American,

I've spent the last 10 months hoping for a bipartisan approach to healthcare. My family has spent the last 10 months stressed over the GOP antics of crafting legislation in secret and racing to pass a bill that is unpopular because it's cruel. You're not going to find a story about myself trying to beat cancer or my child struggling with a chronic condition.

Who I am is a healthy, single mother of a relatively healthy 5 year old. She wears glasses and has had eye surgery. A surgery I wouldn't have been able to afford without insurance coverage through Medicaid expansion. But thankfully today we are healthy. I, like many Americans can't predict the future.

I feel as though the AHCA, BCRA, Skinny Repeal and Cassidy Graham have added 10 years to my life. I do not worry just for my family's future. I am a preschool Director and the majority of my families rely on Medicaid. Many receive special services and need those services. I worry about my kids with asthma. I've had foster children come through my school who have had necessary, major surgeries funded by Medicaid. I see the age tax and wonder why politicians have an ax to grind against Baby Boomers. I am amazed at citizens I've recently met who are managing to keep it together while politicians try over and over again to pull the care they or their loved ones desperately need for chemo, for inhalers, for reoccurring hospital visits and stays, for addiction recovery, insulin you name it.

You've oversimplified an extraordinarily complex system to satisfy a campaign promise you never took time to research below the surface. The defunding of Planned Parenthood won't end abortion. It will limit safe access to abortion services that should be decided between a woman and her doctor. We have a county in South Jersey where cases of breast cancer in Black women have risen 184%! Why?! We don't know. There's no PP and very limited CHCs. These women deserve better. They deserve advocates. They deserve answers. But you've simplified healthcare to Obamacare bad. Well, Obamacare was great for millions and could use improvement for others. But instead of looking at ways that truly expand affordable coverage or universal healthcare you have given us bill after bill that provides less coverage with the great probability of higher costs.

I urge you to take the time to work with your Democratic colleagues and go one step further and listen to experts, not corporations. I urge you to take your role as public servants seriously. We demand better because we deserve better.

Alison Arne
Buena, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Emily Hirsch [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. As a young adult, this bill is atrocious. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Emily Hirsch

Hoboken, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GRAHAM CASSIDY

My name is Claire Schroder Hurley and I am a 66 year old retired and disabled grandmother. I spent 22 years as a social worker at Hudson County Division of Social Services in Hudson County NJ. I worked primarily with Medicaid waiver programs such as the Community Care Assistance Program, AIDS Community Care Assistance Program and Traumatic Brain Injury Program. I was also involved in Medicaid nursing home placement. I saw everyday for 22 years what happens to people and their families when affordable health care is not available. I have seen people choose medicine over food and not eat for entire days. I saw AIDS patients dying because affordable medicines were not available to them. I have seen the elderly and disabled lying in their own feces because no home healthcare was available to them. I take 14 different medicines every day. I have serious heart disease, diabetes, COPD, Rheumatoid Arthritis and much more plus I suffer from severe depression. I AM LUCKY. Most of my medicines cost just \$5 for a three month supply. I can go to any doctor in any specialty and pay just a \$10 co-pay. I have no lifetime limits for my mental health care. All my pre-existing conditions are covered. The majority of Americans are not so lucky. Please do not pass this horrible bill that will affect so many and take away so much. We especially cannot touch Medicaid. Thank you

Claire Schroder Hurley
[REDACTED]
Bayonne NJ 07002

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kristin Calman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham-Cassidy Bill

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

Sincerely,

Kristin Calman

Ringwood, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jo Ann McGreevy [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:44 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.

It is very difficult for average Americans like myself to understand the enormity of the unjust healthcare proposals that the Trump administration wants to enact. Constant cuts to the care for the average American who are PAYING THEIR FAIR SHARE OF TAXES and yet GIVING CORPORATIONS BILLIONS OF DOLLARS MORE AND NOT PAYING THEIR TAXES!
This is something that MUST BE STOPPED!

Jo Ann McGreevy
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

North Bergen, New Jersey 07047

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jose D. Alfaro [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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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.

Jose D. Alfaro

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
maywood, New Jersey 07607

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy Corwin [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please protect reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The Graham-Cassidy bill would repeal the ACA and "replace" it with a legal structure which allow state to allow "insurance policies" which would essentially make proper care of serious pre-existing conditions impossible - annual caps, lifetime caps, exclusions of basic health care regardless of prior health issues, and very likely much higher premiums without subsidies to buyers or to issuers. None of the national health care organizations, e.g. the American Medical Society, have good things to say about this bill. Without time for CBO scoring, the other estimates of how many Americans would lose insurance is very high - 25-30 million!

It is simple selfish and cruel to raise costs to the working poor, the elderly, and the disabled while offering a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry,

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.

Amy Corwin
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Highland Park, New Jersey 08904

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Madeleine Lee [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.

Madeleine Lee
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Westfield, New Jersey 07090

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kelsi Welter [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Testimony for Graham-Cassidy Hearing

I and my family rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with pre-existing conditions/lifetime caps relates to both myself and my son.

I had surgery for a non-cancerous brain cyst when I was 26. This was covered by insurance, and would have been disastrous to my life since then if it had not been. At over \$300,000, I would never have been able to pay for the procedure. I have not had any recurrence of illness in the 12 years since, but a law that allows insurance companies to consider pre-existing conditions and/or lifetime caps might not permit me to have normal health insurance.

My son was born with a congenital kidney defect, and required surgery to correct it when he was 2. He has had to have regular scans, appointments, and tests since he was born to ensure that he was healthy - and again, with a pre-existing condition, he could be denied coverage under the Graham-Cassidy bill, which would, again, be catastrophic to my family.

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

Sincerely,

Kelsi Welter

Englewood, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Timothy Robinson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Timothy Robinson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Merchantville , New Jersey 08109

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dorothy Jackson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Dorothy Jackson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Princeton Junction, New Jersey 08550

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bruce Revesz [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. 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 Revesz
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

CEDAR GROVE, New Jersey 07009

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rebecca Davis [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

My family and friends rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. At the moment, I receive health insurance through my job but I work in a field (publishing) in which there are periodic waves of layoffs. Before the ACA existed, I was laid off, and the price for me, as a widow, to buy health insurance as an individual for my two children and myself was astronomical plus the coverage was not as good as what I received through work. Many of the authors, illustrators, designers, and editors I know freelance for all or part of their careers, and many of them, dear friends and colleagues, rely now on the ACA; some of them have pre-existing conditions, which means their lives could be endangered if this bill passes.

This bill would be a human disaster.

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

Sincerely,

Rebecca Davis

Cranford, NJ

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Feldman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

To whom it may concern,

Please oppose this murderous bill. It is craven and cruel, and I urge you to reject it.

Sincerely,

Susan Margaret Feldman
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gina Fiorillo [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing Testimony

Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
September 25, 2017
Gina Fiorillo

[REDACTED] Milltown NJ 08850

Finance Committee & members of Congress,

I needed to write to you today to express my extreme opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Bill. While I believe myself to be open-minded, and willing to hear different opinions, I can find almost nothing in this bill that would improve our current system of healthcare for this country. Instead, I believe it to be an extremely partisan and combative bill that only has one purpose - to allow Republican legislators to say the repealed Obamacare. We had state managed healthcare, and it did not work. This bill redistributes money to states that purposely did not choose to get on board with the medicare expansion. And if anyone has ever looked at different states department of motor vehicles, you can see how when 50 states need to all reinvent the wheel there is huge disparity and lack of continuity. We live in a world today where Americans migrate from state to state, switch jobs more frequently - all things that mean continuity of care will be even more challenging than today.

This also does nothing to address the costs of medical care. For 15 years I have watched my premiums increase between 10 and 20% annually - long before the ACA. Managed care company stocks have risen 300% since the ACA began, while other stocks have only increase 156% (Sommer, New York Times, March 18, 2017) and this August CNBC announced that the top insurers made \$6 billion. Yet we are to believe that it's our problem.

4 years ago I was diagnosed with relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis. My daughter was 3 at the time and I was lucky to be employed with good benefits. But my prescription's "true" cost is nearly \$17,000 a month. I need frequent MRI's to monitor my brain. I have been on health insurance since I was 21 years old and had my first job. Under the ACA, I don't worry about changing jobs to do better for my family, but that's only because I can be sure that my pre-existing condition won't keep me off insurance or raise my rates. And I don't have it nearly as bad as many others, but if you truly want to fix healthcare, this does not address a single thing that is wrong with the system. And to put out a bill that blatantly looks like a partisan attempt to just "slam" the other side, is shameful. Please, do what you are supposed to do. Represent the people, find ways to improve society. This is not a contest, because the way you are acting will only ensure that citizens lose.

Thank you.
Gina Fiorillo

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Helen Hand [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:05 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 Hand
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wayne, New Jersey 07470

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ruth B. Goldston, Ph.D. [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy

I write to express my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill which seeks to repeal ACA and replace it with a cruel, unfair, ill-thought-out law that will deprive millions of people of quality, affordable healthcare.

My 5-year-old grandson was born with a cleft palate and a cleft lip. As an infant, he received excellent care at one of the most respected centers in the world for this problem. Unfortunately, he will need a lot more surgery as he gets older. Clearly this is a "pre-existing condition." If Graham-Cassidy were to pass, he could be denied insurance coverage because of it. The expenses for his parents for his continued care would likely be astronomical. And later in life, when he's on his own, he would have to assume the heavy burden of paying for all his medical care out-of-pocket.

I worry even more about the millions of people who have little money and would be one diagnosis or car accident away from financial ruin if this bill is enacted. Already too many people have become bankrupt because of medical expenses.

Every so-called "reason" I've heard for supporting this bill is extremely lame. I doubt any constituents are looking forward to having a much less stable and effective healthcare system that will deliver poorer care at a higher cost for most of them.

Of course, as always, if you're really, really wealthy, it won't affect you negatively at all because you can pay for anything out of your own deep pockets. And, you'll have to pay less taxes so you'll have even more money. Which, according to trickle-down theory, will of course be invested in creating more jobs for the growing number of people who will by then be ill and living in shacks or on the street. There's no evidence that trickle-down works that way at all, in fact, all it seems to have done in 35 years is make the rich richer and the poor poorer.

The Finance committee needs to vote down this travesty of a bill, and work hard, in a bipartisan way, to improve healthcare for all under ACA.

--
Ruth B. Goldston, Ph.D.

[REDACTED]
Princeton, NJ 08540
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rhoda Ondov [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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.

Rhoda Ondov
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Whitehouse Station, New Jersey 08889

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: unni wyller [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

unni wyller
[REDACTED]

Monroe, New Jersey 08831

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: I Ulrich [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.

I Ulrich
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

stockton, New Jersey 08559

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Senate health care bill

We are so dismayed at what the Senate majority is trying to do with health care. There is no question our current system needs to be examined and improved. However, a quick fix? No way. This will bring turmoil and confusion to the country. At a time when we need stability, I am shocked at Mitch McConnell's unwillingness to be analytical and sensible. I am a registered Republican. What is going on is abhorrent to me. Where are the compromisers? Where are the leaders with common sense?

Please do not pass this legislation!

Leda Tepp

[REDACTED]
Manalapan, NJ 07726

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carlette Southern-robert [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition To The Graham-Cassidy Bill And Request For Additional Hearings

September 22, 2017

To The Honorable Members Of The Senate Finance Committee:

I respectfully request that additional hearings be provided by the Senate Finance Committee and other pertinent committees on the proposed Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill prior to vote. It is a travesty and violation of the legislative process and total disregard for the citizens of the United States to have a matter of this grave importance railroaded through the U.S. Senate.

Please consider your oath to the U.S. constitution; and, put party politics aside. You owe it to all citizens of this great nation to serve with honor. Stop the crazy runaway train. Hold more hearings and do NOT bring the Graham-Cassidy Bill to a vote until you and we the people understand the full implications of the grave and far reaching consequences of this health care proposal. In addition, please work for bi-partisan agreement on the BEST PLAN, not half-baked debacles put forward because of past campaign promises.

Sincerely,

Carlette Southern-Robert

Citizen Of The Great USA and the

Awesome State Of New Jersey,

Also A (Presently Very Unhappy) Republican

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

Congress can not in good conscience bring a vote on this Bill. I am totally against these changes in the ACA. I can't believe adults would approve of buying something without knowing the real cost.

This can not be rushed. It must be a bipartisan Bill with a CDO score.

Thank you.

Judy Hurley
Montclair, NJ

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Ann Fenster Hensley [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:17 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment for Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal
Attachments: Statement for Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal.docx

Please use the attachment below as my comment for the hearing. The content is identical to what I am including here, but I was told you required it in attachment form

I do not understand why Republicans in Congress seem to think it's a public good to deprive millions of Americans of access to quality, affordable healthcare.

My family lived in Germany for three years during my husband's job assignment. During that time, our daughter became seriously ill. She was in and out of the hospital for six months. We paid 150 euros per day for her hospitalization, including all tests, all doctor's fees, all procedures: CT scans, eye perimeter tests, fifteen lumbar punctures. Our U.S. insurance company initially refused to pay the remainder - under \$5000 for six months of care - because the bill wasn't itemized. Having her treated in Germany was saving the insurance company - and my husband's company, because they were self-insured - a fortune. Because the hospital could not itemize the charges, I had to appeal to the head of H.R. at my husband's company to instruct the insurance company to pay the bill.

Several years earlier, I had lymphoma in my stomach. Before the doctors discovered the correct source of why I was feeling so terrible, my blood work showed I had acute pancreatitis (although I am not a drinker or recreational drug user). I had two ERCPs to enlarge the pancreatic duct. For the first procedure, the one night stay at Mt. Sinai and the procedure cost over \$14,000. The problem is not that everybody in the United States wants and deserves coverage. The problem is that care in this country costs more than everywhere else on the planet. And in many regards, such as maternal and infant mortality, plenty of countries have better outcomes. Doctors need to be able to feel secure that they don't have to order every available test to protect them from liability. Suing doctors and hospitals shouldn't be a method for getting rich.

And no one should suffer or die because they can't afford care.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mary Ann Fenster Hensley
[REDACTED]

Waldwick, NJ 07463
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lonna Murphy [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:55 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: graham-cassidy health bill

I am writing you today to ask for all senators to vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have employee supplied insurance, and my rates have been going up because of state (New Jersey) law. If Graham Cassidy goes through my bills will be much higher. I have several pre-existing conditions. None of them are fatal, but they are all chronic. Each one could possible add to my final total. I have lobular carcinoma in situ. This is not cancer, but it means I'm at higher risk for breast cancer. I had to renew my private life insurance after this diagnosis, and my rates went through the roof. I have Hashimoto's thyroiditis. I take very inexpensive medication for this, and I will be on it for the rest of my life, but it's an auto-immune disease and that puts me at risk of coming down with another one as I age. I am asthmatic, I have a hiatal hernia, and I have moderate osteoarthritis throughout my entire body. I have fantastic bloodwork, and I work out and eat a vegan diet trying to take care of myself as best as I can as I age. This latest version of the health care bill would not care that I'm taking care of myself. It would just see my diagnoses, and it would allow New Jersey to raise my personal rates for a personal insurance policy. This is not what America needs. America needs to have everyone pay for healthcare so that it's cheaper for those who really need it. And we never know when we will need it. Really healthy people have surprise heart attacks. Really healthy people are involved in car accidents all of the time. The point of insurance is to prevent those surprises from decimating a family's income and savings.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,
Lonna M. Murphy, Ph.D.
Verona, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: DK [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:15 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please oppose Graham-Cassidy bill, re:ACA

Please do not allow this bill to move forward. It is another attempt to destroy American lives in the guise of promoting old, useless economic theories tied to a "balanced budget".

As a tax paying NJ citizen, I do not want to see 200,000 plus of my neighbors loose healthcare coverage which will also decrease jobs in the healthcare environment. NJ stands to loose @4 B total dollars, an obscene loss to the state and NJ citizens.

DO NOT ALLOW THIS DANGEROUS BILL OUT OF YOUR COMMITTEE!!!

Dana Kessler Kramer
Princeton, NJ

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eileen Schilling [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I am strongly in opposition to this proposal. It's been put together in secret, it isn't going through regular order - no make up, no debate, no CBO score. This bill would impact 1/5 of our economy and the GOP thinks because they made a promise to the Koch brothers to get rid of it that the American people will stand here and smile while they pull the rug out from under us. NO. We will not. I'm a recent survivor of a skullbase chondrosarcoma. I'm 48. My doctors think I have a good chance to live a long time - and I will have to see specialists and have high cost diagnostic imaging for at least 10 years several times per year because as a slow growing cancer survivor, I can never be declared in remission. I am very concern about coverage for pre-existing conditions, insurance caps, and the ability for insurers to pick and choose what they "want to cover" and hike rates for the rest - making my husband a target to be fired because we are expensively cover because of me. The ACA has brought coverage and relief to millions. It isn't perfect - it is a start. Find bi-partisan solutions to the imperfections in the ACA. Shore up the subsidies and improve them, regulate the insurance industry and make it more affordable. Everyone has health. Everyone. In this day in age, in a country as great, powerful and wealthy as our own, it is an embarassment that we cannot provide our citizens with this benefit as a basic right. Do better. Graham-Cassidy "ain't " better. It's crap. My life and the lives of my family and fellow countrymen depend on you doing better.

Sincerely,

Eileen A. Schilling
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patricia Gonzalez [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:31 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I used Obamacare when I had recently graduated from school and was able to stay on my parents insurance until I was 25. Now that I work as nurse practioner I am so grateful many of my patients that never had insurance are able to receive care. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Patricia Gonzalez
Springfield, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Charlie Neiss [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:36 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment on Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal Hearing

Dear Finance Committee Members,

I am writing in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal on healthcare. This is a politically based action that has been publicly acknowledged to be an attempt to make good on a campaign promise, rather than an effort to improve public policy. Unlike the House, the Senate has a history of being a deliberative body that takes the time necessary to formulate legislation that balances needs and ideologies. The current rush to push through this legislation without full disclosure or debate flies in the face of this history and damages one of the primary checks against the more impulsive actions of the House. The result of passage would be the loss of insurance by millions of people. This is unconscionable.

Whether you believe that healthcare is a basic human right that must be protected or is a commodity to be offered on an unregulated market is a philosophical discussion. That discussion must be had at length. Changes to the current laws should only be made with full knowledge and disclosure.

For the record, I believe that healthcare is a basic human right. The fact that we do not treat it as such calls into question the moral foundation of our country. I acknowledge that not all share my views. The nature of our political system is supposed to be one of compromise. This bill does not provide any form of balance or compromise. The existing law, while flawed, does. It is not socialized medicine. It is regulated insurance. Retain this balance and fix the problems.

Sincerely,

Charles M. Neiss
[REDACTED]
Watchung, NJ 07069

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tracey Lawrence [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject Graham-Cassidy. Set prices on drugs & medical procedures

Finance Committee,

The attempts to repeal & replace Obamacare are futile. Congress needs to set a schedule of standard prices for all drugs, procedures and expenses. Then create a system to pay for them on a sliding scale. Insurance companies should NOT be making medical decisions. The current paradigm is ridiculous & untenable. Until this is addressed, we will continue to have the same useless partisan arguments.

Tracey Lawrence

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Ringwood, 07456

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robert Machover [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:09 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.

Robert Machover
[REDACTED]

New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeffrey Gleason [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:26 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 mom relies on healthcare coverage for pre-existing conditions and I don't want that coverage to be undermined. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Jeffrey Gleason

Princeton, New Jersey

--
Jeffrey L. Gleason [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marisa Brenner [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

Please do not vote to take millions of Americans' healthcare away. Graham-Cassidy will be horrible for Americans.

Thanks,
Marisa Brenner
NJ

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ron Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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Ron Smith
[REDACTED]

Franklin Lakes, New Jersey 07417

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Harry Conrow [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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Harry Conrow
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Haddon Township, New Jersey 08108

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elizabeth Markham [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:46 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Elizabeth Markham

My fiance and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My fiance developed type 1 diabetes at age 2 and relies on affordable diabetic supplies. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Markham

Jersey City 07306

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Burza [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

Barbara Burza
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Jersey City, New Jersey 07310

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ann Borsdorf [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: What kind of country have we become when are priorities are so screwed up?! We have millions for private jet flights and other such unnecessary expenditures, but not enough to give people the basics for a quality of life. I blame republicans and so wil...

Finance Committee,

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

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Ann Borsdorf
[REDACTED]

Pompton plains , New Jersey 07444

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sheila Sideman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

My family rely/relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Because of my pre-existing conditions as well as those of other people, I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Sheila Sideman

Princeton, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: James Pritchett [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:15 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

I am writing to state my strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill that would repeal the ACA. I am a married man working in the technology field. I am also a survivor of heart disease, and my wife is a survivor of breast cancer. Adequate, affordable health care is vital to our lives. I have a job today with good benefits with a nonprofit that is struggling financially. I am a creative person with visions of independent possibilities: new ventures that I could explore. But because of my responsibilities to my family, I cannot strike out on my own without access to health care. The ACA would make health insurance possible for me, even as an entrepreneur or freelance technology consultant. The Graham-Cassidy bill would take that possibility away, making it life-threatening for me to pursue my dreams. I am sure that there are thousands—if not millions—of others in a similar position to me. Think of the creativity and potential that would be stifled by making health care dependent on employment with companies large and stable enough to afford it. Improve the ACA, do not replace it.

James Pritchett
Princeton, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Emily [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:44 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Don't repeal ACA.

I am a disabled woman who relies on affordable healthcare. Because of this I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have several pre-existing conditions that the states could not possibly cover. I would like to see a bi-partisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Emily Jackson,
Monmouth Beach, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Melanie Portilla [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy -- Please do not support

As a mom of four, three of which have unique healthcare concerns, I can not fathom the reasons behind supporting the Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill. Yes, the ACA is not perfect, but trying to repeal and replace it with something like this is shameful. The amount of people that will not be able to afford or will no longer be eligible for services should have been the first thing to halt this process. But instead you continued forward. Providing "access" to services and actually making services "accessible" are two very different things and this bill does not provide that to the average American or their families. My children would be grossly effected - my son has Autism. Medicaid provides services to him we would be unable to receive otherwise. My daughter is Transgender. Her care is covered at this time and is essential to her well being and identity. My youngest has a heart condition, where if not for pre-existing condition protections, he would not have coverage - he is 11 and relies on well care cardiology visits to monitor his heart which is not life threatening but essential to his well-being. All of them would need the continued protections provided on no lifetime caps for coverage. How can you even think to take those things away from our children, our older citizens who rely on their coverage to manage the remaining years of their lives and think that this disgrace of a bill could be an answer. Instead of trying to repeal and replace or put a bandaid on the wound you believe to be the ACA, find a way to work together and come up with a system that will not impact the American people in the ways you are so quick to allow. We are watching - you are elected officials and stand for all of us. If we are forced to have this healthcare bill passed and implemented, I believe the requirement should be added to make all of Congress be forced to have it first as a trial and see how you manage with it for your own families. I bet with that stipulation the support would wain quickly. I urge you to reconsider supporting the bill and voting NO for this bill. Fix ACA and make it work or find something that does like the single payer system.

Melanie Portilla
Sussex, New Jersey

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Andrea Spellman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

Hello,

Both myself and my husband rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have *multiple* pre-existing conditions including but not limited to: epilepsy, asthma, psoriasis, allergies, Reyanud's syndrom and quite a few more. Without access to good healthcare, I would, very simply, not be alive. The extent to which my asthma affected my early years caused my mother to work as a nurse as she would not otherwise have been able to afford my treatment. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the Affordable Care Act, not repeal it. We are a country that should take pride in taking care of citizens who are on the low end of the earning spectrum and this bill does not reflect what I believe to be patriotic American values.

Sincerely,

Andrea Spellman
Lavallette, New Jersey

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: michael ring [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: new bill

This bill would be a disaster for almost everyone, especially those most vulnerable in our society!! It would be a disgrace that the richest country in the world doesn't care about "caring" for its people!! Vote NO!

Mary S. Ring & Mike Ring

[REDACTED]
wall, NJ 07719
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Billie Moore [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: comments regarding health bill - Senate Finance Comm.

We are totally OPPOSED to the Graham-Cassity bill. The Republicans could not have done much worse for those who have preexisting conditions (and who doesn't, over age 30?) or the poor.

Sheneman in the Newark Star Ledger (cartoonist) in his cartoon today shows Trump, Cassity, Graham smirking and saying, "We do not care if people die." Exactly right.

Billie Moore
NJ - Mercer County Democratic Committeewoman for my municipality

Jim Moore
Pennington, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Roberts [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassiday

I am strongly opposed to the Graham-Cassiday health care bill because it would leave the people with less health care coverage, and it would leave the states with huge expenses in the future. In fact, it is a time bomb, with people years in the future suddenly losing coverage and blaming their government at the time, when the culprit would be our Senators and Representatives and President now.

Thank you,
Sarah L Roberts
Belle Mead, NJ 08502-5301

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jonelle Harding [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:46 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.

Jonelle Harding
[REDACTED]
Newark, NJ 07114
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lauren Anderson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote this down!

My son was born with a congenital hear defect known as transposition of the greater arteries. His birth and the surgery that saved him cost \$125,000. He is a thriving nine year old now. I do not want to tell him that his country voted for a law that denies him the care and protection he needs as he goes forward in life. Vote against this nonsense.

Good policy protects, it does not shun. It does not doom children to a life of uncertainty, and possibly death.

Vote wisely, or you will all be voted out of office. And we will elect representatives who defend, in sickness and in health - our society's most valued members - its children.

Lauren Anderson
New Jersey

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kristie Medich [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO

I'm writing to express my opinion on the Graham Cassidy repeal. I do not agree with it or support it and believe that it should not pass. I'm tired of all the political wrangling at the expense of the people of this country. Most politicians, especially the GOP and "the President", have forgotten what it means to represent the people. We will remind them all of that at the polls.

Vote against the Graham Cassidy repeal and leave the ACA alone, it works just fine if it is not sabotaged. Feel free to call me should any of you wish to discuss this further.

Kristie Medich
East Hanover, New Jersey
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sheri Hansen [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

This is not what the people want. This legislation is opposed by medical personnel and hospital administrators alike as well as those who run our nursing homes and Medicare systems.

Stop trying to use this country's resources and programs as an ATM for your donors and others in your corner. Your job is to do the will of the people and the people do not want this. We do not want our hospitals to suffer and we do not want to pit person against person within a false narrative that one group is ruining things for another.

Use bipartisanship to ensure the ACA is being utilized and administered to its greatest potential and get over the fact that you don't like the name. Stop trying to dismantle this country's medical system and do something to create a medical system that is incentivized by putting healthy people on the roles rather than profiteering as a medical care gatekeeper.

We shouldn't have to be having this conversation.

Signed,
Sheri Hansen
Galloway, NJ

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joann Eckstut [REDACTED] on behalf of The Roomworks
<je@theroomworks.com>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:20 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Families all over NJ will be greatly affected by this bill. I live in NJ, a state that will lose massive amounts of money. The majority of people have what are more and more defined as pre-existing conditions. And many are self-employed and just financially stable. This bill will put millions into debt, along with millions of other Americans. Voting for this bill is voting against Americans. Pls kill the bill.

Joann Eckstut

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Corinda Bravo [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:21 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Lenore Smith - Healthcare

Dear Senators,

I am writing on my behalf of my entire family, but most especially my 2.5 year old daughter, Lenore.

Lenore was born on January 8, 2017. She came a day and a half earlier than she was supposed to because of a placental abruption. We were on our way to the University of Pennsylvania where she was scheduled to be born, but we never made it there. Instead, I began bleeding in the parking lot of the Exit 100 rest stop on the Garden State Parkway. I was immediately transported to Jersey Shore University Hospital where the amazing doctors and nurses saved both of our lives. Lenore was immediately air lifted to The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, where she spent first 10 weeks of her life.

You see, Lenore was diagnosed prenatally with Tetralogy of Fallot, a complex congenital heart defect. This is actually the same defect that Jimmy Kimmel's son has. Luckily, we found out about it when I was 20 weeks pregnant, and had a plan in place. The best laid plans, however...

Lenore had her first open heart surgery at 3.5 weeks old. She was not responding well after surgery, however, and came out of the OR on ECMO. In case you are not sure what that is, ECMO is a bypass machine. She came back on life support. The doctors could not figure out why her body was not responding properly. 2 days later she underwent a catheter procedure to get a better idea of what was happening with her heart. It turns out that her heart muscle had pulled away from the patch the surgeons placed over the very large hole in her ventricular wall. The next day, 3 days after her initial surgery, she went back into the OR, where they replaced the patch. This time she came out off of ECMO, but with her chest still open to allow the swelling in her poor tiny heart to go down. I can't even begin to describe how terrible it is to see your newborn baby swollen up to twice her size, attached to a machine that is pumping the blood out of her body, through an external "lung" and then back into her body, or to see your baby's fragile little heart pumping beneath a surgical skin protecting her opened chest.

Even though Lenore was recovering well from her second surgery, she was not ready to go home yet. A week after her surgery, after The doctors began removing some of the wires and IV lines attached to her, her blood pressure tanked. The nurses called a Code Blue and her pod was suddenly swarmed with about 30 doctors and nurses, who resuscitated and re-intubated her. She had gone into septic shock, and almost died in front of my eyes. We spent the next 6 weeks on eggshells trying to stabilize her blood pressure and get the fluid off of her. I couldn't hold my baby for 4 weeks straight.


Finally, finally, at 10 weeks old we were allowed to go home. She was still on a feeding tube and had to learn how to eat again, but we were home.

Why am I telling you all of this? Because my daughter is on Medicaid. Because I spent hours in the hospital on the phone with Medicaid, with my insurance company, and with Blue Cross Blue Shield making sure that there would be no gaps in her coverage between the time she was no longer covered by my insurance and the time that Medicaid's paperwork was filed. Because I spent time away from my ailing baby to sob into the phone asking anyone to help me make sure that she was covered by insurance. Because I saw the final bills from both

the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and Jersey Shore and they totaled close to \$3 million. Because if lifetime caps come back, she and babies like her will have no options. Because my husband and I are contract workers with no employer based insurance, and can only afford insurance thanks to the Affordable Care Act. Because my daughter will need care for the rest of her life. Because there are millions more just like us and our daughter who will be left with nothing if this new Republican bill passes.

Please, I beg you, do not vote for the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill. It is not designed to help families. It will not help those with pre-existing conditions or those who find themselves suddenly ill. We are supposed to be a nation that takes care of it's citizens, not throws them to the wolves. Please support healthcare for all so that no one has to worry about the cost of the life of their baby.

Thank you sincerely,
Corinda Bravo Smith,,
Matthew Smith,
Liam Smith, &
Lenore Smith


Red Bank, NJ
07701

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hersha Evans <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:00 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.

Hersha Evans
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Christiansburg, Virginia 24073

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Arneson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:29 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health insurance - - my story

I used to do Social Security Disability exams before the Affordable Care Act. My story is about how disheartening it is for a doctor to work in a system that cripples and blinds people unnecessarily before offering them any chance of help with getting medical care.

Two cases:

A woman with diabetes hadn't been able to get insurance or to hold a job, but she hadn't been considered disabled enough to qualify for Social Security Disability. When I saw her, though, the lack of treatment for diabetic retinopathy had left her legally blind. It looked as if she would be eligible for lots of expensive support that could have been averted by regular medical care.

A middle aged small businessman who had not been able to find affordable insurance came for a disability exam because he had developed a progressive neurological condition that was making it impossible to work. It looked to me like a variant of Charcot Marie Tooth Disease, but to get the diagnostic tests that would prove the diagnosis, he would need to see a neurologist. Without medical insurance, he would probably not even get past the appointment desk; if he did get an appointment, it wasn't clear how he would be able to pay for it. Without the diagnosis, his application for Social Security Disability was likely to be denied. He was talking about how his family would be spared financial disaster if he just killed himself - - because he did at least have life insurance.

Many, many of the people I examined were not getting vital medical care that could prevent disabling complications - - but they weren't yet disabled enough to qualify for Social Security Disability. Lots of them wanted to work but couldn't hold a job because of intermittent hospitalizations or because employers didn't want to hire someone whose medical costs would raise their group insurance rates.

The Affordable Care Act isn't perfect, but it is giving people a chance to stay off the disability system and still be able to get medical care. It's letting people start small businesses without risking financial ruin if their health goes bad. And it's keeping doctors from quitting in despair over the care that they want to provide, but can't.

Mary Arneson, MD (retired)

[REDACTED]
Minneapolis MN 55410

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Wendy Youshock Wassel [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: (SENDER VALIDATION FAILED --- May not have originated from apparent sender)
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 always worked hard and paid well for My healthcare. I am concerned with the issues about pre existing conditions being not covered. I also am hoping my children can stay on my insurance until they are 26 so they can concentrate on their education

Wendy Youshock Wassel

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kat Martinez [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy - Graham

My name is Kat Martinez and I live in Murray, Utah [REDACTED]

Please vote NO on the Cassidy-Graham healthcare bill. It doesn't have a complete CBO score yet, which is fiscally irresponsible.

I am a small business owner, I run a home child care facility. I have a 3, 5 and 7 year old who are on CHIP. My husband has epilepsy and is studying to be a social worker at UVU. We get our healthcare from the ACA marketplace. If we lose our subsidy we won't be able to afford our monthly insurance. Without insurance, my husbands monthly medication is more than our rent.

Please. Please vote NO. The ACA is flawed, but Cassidy-Graham won't fix anything, it will just hurt my family and millions others.

-Kat Martinez
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jacqi Kernaghan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:47 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 proposed changes will not help states that have high numbers of Medicaid patients. Moving the money around in the form of block grants is not the answer to the issues. Eliminating the regulations of the Affordable Care Act will disadvantage more of my patients and decrease the high quality of care I currently provide.

Sincerely,
Jacqi Kernaghan, MS, PA-C

Jacqi Kernaghan

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Munoz [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect Medicaid

Please do not cut Medicaid. My son is on Maryland model waiver. He gets home nursing so that I can work. His Medicaid pays for what his bcbs doesn't cover. For example, his diapers. Bcbs calls it a convenience item. And I work for Johns Hopkins. Please stop tom price from spending all the money on his private jet and use it instead to help the disabled and ill. This is our responsibility as Americans.

Mary Muñoz

Mary Muñoz
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: K. Bernstein [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:46 PM
To: "\"GCHcomments"@finance.senate.gov
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill will kill children
Attachments: Micah - 6 years, 7 months 7-4-2017 6-57-31 PM-1.JPG

To the Senate Finance Committee;

Attached to this email is a picture of someone I'd like you to meet.

This is Micah. He is six, and he has been in treatment for stage 4, high-risk neuroblastoma for more than five years. And he should already be dead.

Statistically, kids with high-risk (of relapse) neuroblastoma have a 5% chance of living five years past their date of diagnosis, if in that time, they relapse. Micah has relapsed twice.

And now, he has no evidence of disease. But his treatment is far from over. He will be in maintenance therapy for at least two years, likely more, because of the nature of his disease.

The doctors know that there are individual cells lurking in his body, but not enough to see in scans. That's what NED means. His cancer never, ever completely leaves his body.

That means that not only does he have multiple pre-existing conditions that could be life-threatening at any time (thanks to the harshness of pediatric cancer treatments) but that he will be uninsurable if this bill passes. Despite what Senator Cassidy is claiming publicly, this bill is specifically written to allow states and insurers to find ways not to cover kids like Micah.

If the pre-existing conditions clauses change, my husband and I (college graduates with great jobs and savings) will have to go into bankruptcy just to afford the twice-a-year scans that let us know if his cancer has returned. They cost more than \$40,000 each, twice a year. That also means that when Micah's cancer returns, or he develops one of the three most common cancers the treatments cause, or anything else, we will not be able to treat him. And with this bill, we may not even be able to get help from Medicaid for hospice care to let him die without excruciating pain.

That is what this bill does. It sentences kids like Micah to death.

That's not an exaggeration. That is not partisan politics. That is the simple truth.

My family will be homeless and bankrupt before we let our child go without needed treatment for his cancer. After that, he will die, and we will be a far bigger strain on the state and federal governments because all of our savings, all of our resources will be gone.

Please understand that when every medical association, and even the insurers, tell you this bill is awful, it is. This bill, if passed, will be a death sentence for my son. And I promise that should that happen, I will do everything in my power to organize anywhere and everywhere I can to make sure that everyone who votes yes on this bill is voted out of office. My story isn't unique. Forty-three kids are diagnosed with cancer every day. There are thousands and thousands of parents like me, all over the country. There are parents of kids with Type I diabetes, whose life-saving medicine costs \$30,000 each month. There are parents of kids with autism who will lose all physical therapy, all access to the specialists that give their children hope of expanded ability.

Parents of sick kids like me who has aging parents of her own, who will lose their coverage because of the loopholes and sunsets in this bill.

If I already know I will go bankrupt caring for my son, how will I care for my parents, who each have pre-existing conditions?

This bill doesn't serve the American people, it very clearly serves a select few to whom Mr. Cassidy and Mr. Graham feel can help their futures. If they were willing to wait for a CBO score, wait to see the honest costs, both in dollars and lives, that would be abundantly clear.

Your constituents are watching. And more than ever, since we all have to stop working and beg you not to kill our kids every few weeks, it seems, we are voting.

Sincerely,

K. Bernstein

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jacobb Prussman [redacted] n>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: CassidyGraham Bill

Return to normal order and craft a bill that actually provides healthcare to the most Americans. So many people will be hurt by this bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bayouebetsy [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy - This is brief, so pls read

My family and I have been patient, hoping the GOP would come up with a plan that did not replace, but would improve upon the ACA, but the current bill is absolutely unacceptable and we will fight it with our voices and our votes. Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Butler <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I urge you not to vote for Graham-Cassidy. This is just another attempt to steal healthcare from millions of people, to restrict the healthcare from millions of others and to disqualify anyone with a pre existing condition. Rushing this through before a complete analysis can be completed to determine the catastrophic results this would have on your constituents is disgusting and criminal. I urge you to consider those constituents before voting in favor of this, lest you not make it back to ever represent them again.

Sincerely,
Barb Butler
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anne Myers [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Senators, Graham/Cassidy is horrible legislation. It hurts the poor, sick, women, and disabled. It is a pretext to UNinsure MILLIONS of Americans so Republicans can be paid off by the Kochs. The insurance markets will be thrown into chaos.

FIX THE ACA in a bipartisan way.

Anne Myers
[REDACTED]

Annapolis, MD [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: alyssa b [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare is a right.

I want to attempt to appeal to the better nature of people who I sincerely hope originally became civil servants for the right reasons. I have to hope that even though certain Senators will vote yes for this atrocious piece of legislation, at one point, they were working hard to complete their education, raising their children, struggling at times to pay bills, and living as average Americans. This will devastate millions of people. The people that are the backbone of this country. I know that it has to be difficult to vote against the special interests that have funded your current lifestyles and the pressure for you to keep billionaires your priority, but these are people's lives... The same lives that you swore an oath to protect and defend. This isn't about politics anymore. It is about basic human decency and the fact that people who work hard, and just want a small slice of the pie should not relegated to debt or death to protect greedy, insidious billionaires who will never be satisfied and will never have enough. Protect us. Vote no on Cassidy-Graham.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Eli Gelardin [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My Daughter and Medicaid

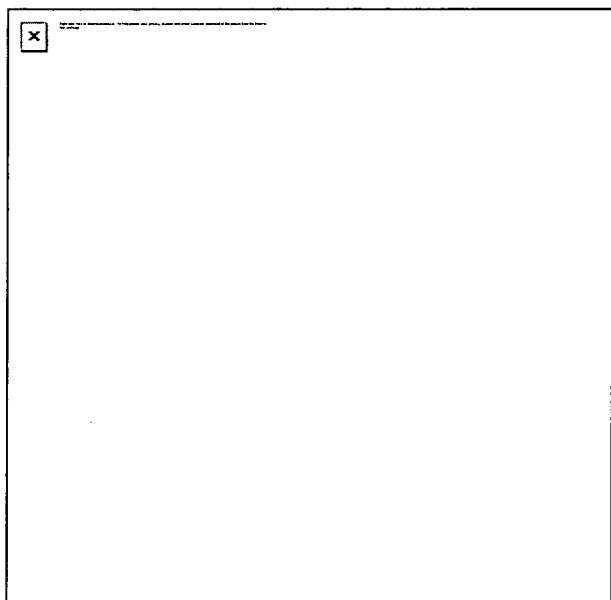
To whom it may concern:

I am asking you to consider those that would be affected by the passage of the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Proposal. My daughter, Olivia, would have been one of them. I have included her story below.

Sincerely,

Eli Gelardin

Olivia Donna Gelardin was exquisite. At almost 5 years old, Livy, as we called her, was delighted to watch sunlight reflect off the window, feel the sand run through her fingers in her garden, splash soapy water in the bath tub with her brother.



She was our first, our dream-come-true baby, our patient teacher.

Livy was born with Schizencephaly, a rare neurodevelopmental disability characterized by global delays in gross and fine motor skills, cognitive functioning and speech.

Initially, her diagnosis made us anxious. My wife and I have physical disabilities and understood how to advocate for our own needs, but our daughter's reality was somewhat unfamiliar ground. Mostly, we feared that her intellectual disability would result in exclusion from participating in play, learning and peer-

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Brooke Belott [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to Graham-Cassidy Bill

The Graham-Cassidy Bill is shameful and damaging to Americans who need access to healthcare and can't afford skyrocketing premiums. In particular, I am very concerned about the possibility of limitations on insurance access or increases of premiums for those with pre-existing conditions.

I'm 36 years old and was diagnosed with Hodgkins Lymphoma this March. I've just finished 6 months of chemotherapy treatment and am grateful that I'm expecting to have a good prognosis. However, if this bill means I will have to pay huge premiums in the future, or possibly not have access to insurance, due to this "pre-existing condition" I will be in major trouble financially.

Cancer doesn't discriminate and can affect any of us -- we need a humane healthcare system that gives access to insurance for all Americans.

relationships. We sought every opportunity to help our little girl grow and thrive. With the support of early intervention, intensive therapeutic supports, various State-funded services, love and support from family and, most of all, Livy's extremely hard work, our little girl blossomed.

For the first three years of Livy's life, we paid out of pocket for all healthcare, private therapy and in-home support service costs beyond what our insurance would pay. The costs exceeded \$35,000 annually. Though we are privileged to be a dual-income household with a mortgage and modest assets, the expenses quickly snowballed.

We slashed our family budget and refinanced our home, but were sliding quickly into debt. Then came a lifeline: Livy reached an age where she qualified for Medicaid services.

Specifically, Livy was eligible for a program called Institutional Deeming, a Home and Community-based services waiver designed for children with developmental disabilities. Kids can qualify irrespective of their parents' income, an especially important rule given that the cost of needed services can easily eclipse health insurance coverage limits.

The Medicaid Institutional Deeming waiver is administered by the California Department of Developmental Services (DDS). According to the agency, "The Waiver services make it possible for consumers to live in the community instead of an Intermediate Care Facility for the developmentally disabled or a State Developmental Center."

This Medicaid-funded program changed our little girl's life. Livy was now covered for weekly physical, occupational and speech therapy, monthly and quarterly visits to doctors (neurology, orthopedic, multiple specialty care and primary care physicians), daily seizure control medications, annual MRI's, ongoing EEGs and quarterly infusions. Medicaid enabled us to employ an in-home care provider who trained to understand our daughter's multiple disabilities and how to administer her medications.

Our family was able to rebalance financially and also continue to pay out of pocket for necessary additional therapies for Livy, such as a special needs aquatic program and a music class. All of the healthcare access made available through Medicaid meant that our daughter could be supported in her development and excel. We saw the impact daily, in the ways she developed physically, cognitively and started to achieve various developmental milestones. She learned how to walk, first using a walker and then on her own. She learned to use adaptive spoons and sippy cups to feed herself and eventually transitioned to standard toddler utensils. She started to communicate, at first by pointing at pictures and then through some basic sign language and vocalizations. Most importantly, our bright and determined child was able to engage in classroom activities with her peers and became known as quite the resident artist.

While non-verbal, Livy established deep friendships and support networks in school, with her medical providers and through her many extracurricular activities. She served as a peer role model to other children and families with disabilities, and was featured in several state and national campaigns for early childhood development. Livy was a powerful young person who had a huge impact on all those around her.

Livy passed away suddenly last December, after experiencing a massive seizure in her sleep, several weeks shy of her fifth birthday. Losing your child is like acquiring a gaping wound that never heals. The only soothing balm has been the multitude of memories we created with Livy. The precious days we spent with her playing in the pool, gardening, traveling, making art projects, singing "The Itsy Bitsy Spider" and snuggling up with a book. The memories keep us going, keep us fighting and advocating in her name for other children and families.

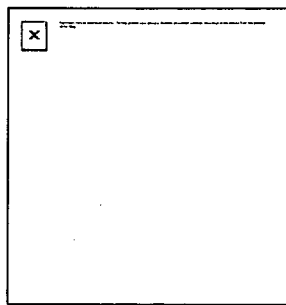
Without Medicaid and all that it allowed my daughter, I don't know what our memories with Livy would look like. I'm convinced the current threat to change and limit Medicaid under the various federal health care proposals (the American Health Care Act, the Better Care Reconciliation Act and their successors) imperils millions of children who rely on this support to access programs and services that are proven to be effective and necessary for their development.


According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, capping Medicaid would restructure Medicaid financing in ways that would cap federal funding through a block grant or per capita limit approach. "Under such proposals," the Foundation says, states "are likely to limit the number of people covered and the scope of benefits available as states use increased flexibility to address less federal funding than under the current financing structure."

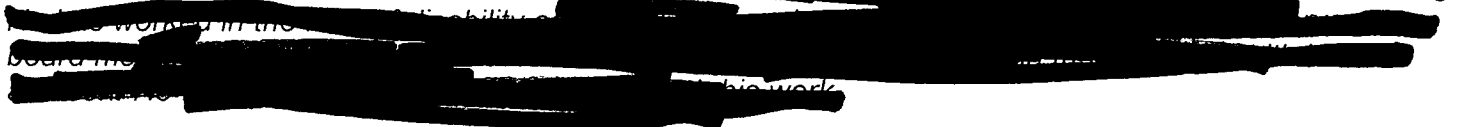
This impact would be felt by an estimated 11.2 million, or 15 percent of all children in the U.S. who have special health care needs and utilize more services than their peers. I shudder to think of what will happen to families who can't pay out of pocket for medical coverage. The impossible choices put to families will be devastating.

Whatever direction our government takes on providing health care to its citizens, Medicaid must be fully funded so that waivers like Institutional Deeming can continue. Regardless of one's position on the current healthcare law, it is important to recognize evidence-based programs and policies that dramatically improve health outcomes for our nation's children.

Article re-published with kind permission of Christina Mills from her blog [Dear Livy: Letters to My Daughter](#).



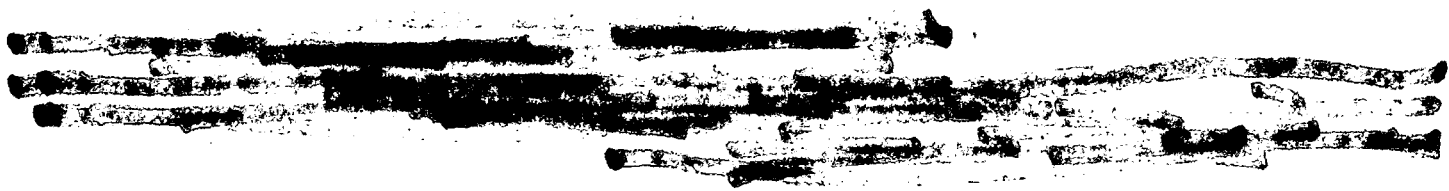
Eli Gelardin g.





<http://www.ccltss.org/my-daughter-and-medicaid/>

Eli Gelardin



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Martin Voss <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Statement

Hello,

My name is Martin Voss. I am a resident of California. I wish to express, in the strongest terms possible, my extreme opposition to the Graham Cassidy bill.

Why does a governing body of this country refuse to be honest and to listen to their constituents? Nobody is asking for health care to be delegated to the states. Nobody is suggesting that "Obamacare" is perfect. What the people want is for our representatives to represent us and our best interests by working to improve upon Obamacare.

Why will our representatives not use data? Why do we, as citizens, have to mobilize three times in nine months in order to save the healthcare of millions of people? To what end are our representatives spending this energy? What a colossal waste of time. What a waste of resources. What a deceitful, craven, morally repugnant display. Shameful. People depend on the government to help them. Healthcare is part of that. Healthcare is a right for people who are citizens of this country.

Please do not pass this bill. Please focus on fixing what is in place. And please, sincerely, stop treating people's lives and well-being with such a callous disregard.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Brian Day [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: SFC hearing on Monday comment

Hello,

I am writing as a concerned citizen regarding the proposed Graham-Cassidy "healthcare" bill. I do not support this bill, or what it stands for. I believe any legislation of this magnitude should be as transparent and readily available for public knowledge as possible. Further, holding a vote on this bill before an official CBO score is released is completely unacceptable.

I strongly consider the current company to keep these points in mind during the upcoming meeting on Monday. While all citizens should be afforded freedom, we must not forget the other core value of what it means to be an American - the common good of *all*.

Both freedom *and* equality are cherished American values. I do not believe this bill affords equal access to equal healthcare for all American citizens.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Dr. Brian Day



Medicare Rights Center
266 West 37th Street, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10018

Center for Medicare Advocacy
1025 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 709
Washington, DC 20036

September 25, 2017

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chairman, Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member, Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

On behalf of the Medicare Rights Center and the Center for Medicare Advocacy, we are writing to submit the attached as a statement for the hearing record. We strongly oppose the recently unveiled substitute to H.R.1628, commonly referred to as the "Graham-Cassidy" bill. Our organizations share a commitment to promoting access to affordable, high-quality health care for older adults, people with disabilities, and their families.

Historically, the Senate has developed health care proposals through transparent means, including public hearings, open comment periods on discussion drafts, multi-stakeholder meetings, and more. While we appreciate the opportunity to submit a formal statement on the bill, it is concerning that this hearing may represent the sole opportunity to assess the impact of the Graham-Cassidy proposal ahead of a Senate vote. We strongly believe that further deliberation, and a full Congressional Budget Office (CBO) score that includes analyses on potential premium and coverage impacts is needed well in advance of a Senate vote on the legislation.

We urge a return to bipartisan cooperation to strengthen the ACA, Medicaid, and Medicare and ensure access to affordable health care for older adults and people with disabilities. If you have questions, please contact Stacy Sanders, Federal Policy Director, at ssanders@medicarerights.org or 202-637-0961 and David Lipschutz, Senior Policy Attorney, at dlipschutz@medicareadvocacy.org or 202-293-5760. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacy Sanders".

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Lipschutz".

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cat Hulbert [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: affordable health care act
Attachments: IMG_6299.JPG; IMG_6301.JPG

Me, two years after cancer. Healthy, hopeful, but still needing to diligently follow-up with my condition. How will I do that if health-care becomes barbaric and refuses pre-existing conditions by the state?

Underneath the happy picture, please look at what I'd look like if pre-existing conditions are abolished.

What heartless people are formulating our new health-care act. Greedy. Thoughtless, Self-serving. But someday one of them is going to become ill and suffer the consequences of their deeds. Or their children, or someone they love.

Please PLEASE stop your unkindness in order to satisfy the Republican agenda.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Walker [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

I do not understand why I have to repeatedly fight my own government for the right to healthcare. The ACA is certainly not perfect but it is better than what we had, and better than the heinous bills that have been floated through Congress this year.

Why don't you start with the building blocks ACA gave you and improve upon it? What is so difficult about working together to find common good for the American people? Isn't that why you are in Congress? Or are you only there for yourself? If that's the case, please take your piles of money and go home. You are doing no good for our country. In this case, it is life or death.

Lisa Walker

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: NOZC [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:18 PM
To: gchcomments; McCain, Senator (McCain); Senator (Flake)
Subject: Graham-Cassidy health care bill negatively affects my care

Over time Per capita caps on Medicaid will dramatically affect disabled folks receiving in home services. For many of us there is a thin line between receiving in home support such as cleaning assistance, bathing and dressing assistance and being forced to live in a nursing home.

"Who cares?" you might think. If people need support they should live a nursing home --- except for many young disabled people like myself who are active in our communities and/or have families of our own, the sacrifices to not be able to live in our own homes is too great.

Also, before the ACA I was unable to buy healthcare at any cost due to being born disabled (with a preexisting condition). For the first time the ACA has opened the door, giving me access to affordable healthcare.

The ACA has given healthcare to many working poor. My best friend works at a day program and uses expanded/subsidized Medicaid through the ACA. She's needed medical tests this past year which have still left her in debt but she wouldn't have even been able to even access this basic and lifesaving medical care without the ACA.

We both live in AZ and have benefited from the ACA.

Please do not pass this bill which hurts so many Americans.

Sincerely,
Naomi Ortiz
Tucson, Arizona

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michelle Teti-Beaudin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:25 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 bad for veterans, the elderly, and the young, let alone anyone with a chronic condition, anyone who is trying to or becomes pregnant, anyone who will experience one of the many many issues that can cause rate hikes or loss of coverage under this bill. This is not government for the people, by the people. It is government for profit, at the expense of the people, and that is not okay.

Michelle Teti-Beaudin

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: James Kostra [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:23 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 does not fix any current problem in the healthcare system and 30 million people will lose coverage.

James Kostra
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on GCH!

Please do not pass the horrendous Graham Cassidy healthcare bill, which will disenfranchise millions of Americans. The Affordable Care Act is not perfect, but it's a whole lot better than the proposed bill, and it's already in place. Please work TOGETHER to fix the ACA's problems to assure affordable healthcare for all!

Sheila M. Sandow
San Mateo, California [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rich [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No on Graham-Cassidy. Please

This is legislation we do not need in our great land.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jonathan Witte/Tanya Sweet [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham Cassidy bill

Improve the ACA, don't tear it up and start over. As Trump has discovered, health care is complex. Let's not look for simple solutions, which simply eliminate the ability for many Americans to obtain health coverage.

Medicaid is a key element to affordability for many people, including some young adults in my family, who found themselves laid off from a job and without coverage. In one case, the lay-off couldn't have come at a worse time, as his wife was pregnant and then delivered prematurely. Their lovely infant required months of neonatal care in the hospital and thank God Medicaid stepped in to cover the baby's care. People should not have to go into bankruptcy to solve their healthcare problems when insurance is not available. They are a hard working young family who would have been dragged under by the financial burden for the rest of their and their children's lives without the ACA and coordinating Medicaid.

We can't go back to the days of pre-existing conditions making health insurance more costly. Income and ability to pay are often in inverse proportion to health status - so to expect the sickest to be able to pay the most is simply unrealistic.

Some other key features I hope you will retain from the ACA include mental health coverage and drug/alcohol treatment. Politicians on all sides seem to agree on the seriousness of the opiate epidemic. Promises to remedy this are futile if people can't get insurance for treatment.

Maternal benefits are even more critical. We really are a hypocritical society if we reject abortion rights but withhold coverage for care at the most critical time in the life of mother and child. Clearly if maternity coverage is not mandated, this will be a damning effect of allowing men to make key decisions on women's health. The same is true for coverage for birth control. If you think pregnancy has no effect on women's health, then you need to take a basic health education class!! No woman would ever come to that conclusion!

I also feel that ACA succeeded when it established set plans with fixed coverages, which insurers could not deviate from. This allowed consumers to purchase the level of coverage they want, while simplifying the purchasing process. No hidden gimmicks or unexpected surprises. This is essential because most people don't readily understand the ins and outs of coverage. This was an essential protection for the American people.

I strongly urge Congress to reject the Graham Cassidy bill!

Tanya Sweet

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Peter Brown [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill is not healthcare, it is politician care

After losing my job at age 61, and paying for COBRA insurance for many months, I signed up for ACA insurance as my state (Arizona) had expanded Medicaid and would include people of my (now very minimal) income. Skin cancer diagnoses (ongoing) and grafts resulted.

Without ACA: I would not have been able to afford the entire set of procedures. Under Graham-Cassidy, Arizona would lose a great deal of money for healthcare, and perhaps would even penalize "pre-existing" conditions. Please don't play political gamesmanship with my health.

As Senator McCain repeatedly points out, Congress had long time to develop a healthcare plan through regular order, rather than by rushing to ineptly fulfill a political promise through meeting a budget reconciliation deadline.

The real deadline would be filled with dead people rather than dead political "promises."

Peter Brown

[REDACTED]
Phoenix [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Teresa Walla [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Hearing

Senate Finance Committee Hearing on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Hearing on September 22, 2017

I would like to make known that I oppose the latest bill to repeal and replace the ACA because of its devastating effects it will have on millions of US citizens. This bill is the worst piece of legislation to be brought forth by the Republican Party in their effort to get rid of anything connected with President Obama.

I feel that it is horrible that our Congressional leaders cannot work together to make the United States better for all of their constituents. Instead, they seem dead set on only making it better for the privileged few. I want our Congressional leaders to work together to find a solution that works for as many people as possible. I know that this can be accomplished. They have worked together in the past. But saying that the ACA legislation is too expensive immediately after approving a 700 Billion dollar Military spending bill is the worst type of hypocrisy that you can have.

My own family has benefited from ACA in that my mother has been able to have affordable primary care for the last 3 years. Previously she had a catastrophic plan only. She couldn't afford anything more than that but knew that she needed some type of insurance. So imagine her relief when she was able to get good insurance that covered doctors' visits, prescriptions and preventative testing for the same price as that catastrophic insurance! She was so relieved to know that she wouldn't be a burden on others if something were to go wrong and that she could make sure that she was handling any health issues upfront by going to preventative testing.

Today she is reading and watching the news nervously for fear of what is going to become of her insurance. And the uncertainty of what will happen next with ACA and her own coverage is an additional level of anxiety that no one should have to deal with. Particularly someone in the United States in the 21st century.

How can we say that we are one of the best countries in the world when we don't provide universal healthcare? It is a joke to think we are better than other countries. But hey we have the best military in the world, so when the bombs go off, we'll have that right?

Please rethink the values that the average United States Citizen is looking for from our Congress. We do want our country to be great again, but for us, that means, Universal Health Care, Education that is within reach for all, and maybe a little less spending on the military.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lynne Heidt <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Heartless health bill

It is beyond me how anyone who cares about the people in this country can support this outrageous bill. Read it and vote NO.

Lynne Heidt

Lynne Heidt
@properties
1821 Benson Avenue
Evanston, IL [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cate Jensen Peña <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare - improve w bipartisan support or GTFO

The Graham-Cassidy proposal is a ridiculous front to the American people. Our elected representatives should be working to IMPROVE as many constituent lives as possible. The goal of healthcare reform should be to MAKE HEALTH CARE BETTER AND MORE AFFORDABLE/ACCESSIBLE FOR MORE PEOPLE. This bill does the opposite and it is completely unclear for whom this bill is beneficial.

Graham-Cassidy would remove coverage for pre-existing conditions, allowing states to allow discrimination and jack up rates. It would be a disaster for women who would lose coverage for the most basic of all biological functions, pregnancy and pre/postnatal care, not to mention postpartum physical and mental care. Plus, it allows women to be charged more than men which I can't believe is even constitutional.

Every major medical society rejects this proposal, major healthcare systems and hospitals are against it, insurance companies are against it. Most Americans are against it. PLEASE VOTE AGAINST IT.

There are flaws with the ACA, no doubt. Please take the time necessary to create real improvement, with bipartisan support, because it's fucking healthcare and everyone should have the same goal. Insurance is complicated and it's not intuitive to pay for unknown probabilities, but hey, successful communities support each other. Healthy Americans means working Americans means economic improvement and better quality of life.

In conclusion, Graham-Cassidy should not see the light of day. Please reject this pitiful excuse of healthcare reform.

Catherine
New York

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elizabeth Delafield [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it will leave millions without insurance, and seriously damage our economy.

There is nothing Christian in trying to take away the care that people need in order to survive.

If you believe this plan is the best thing for America, then you should commit ALL senate members & all U.S. representatives, and their families, to being on this plan, too. If you're not willing to be on the plan, maybe you should consider that a sign that it is a cruel, and inappropriate decision to punish innocent people with.

Thank you,
Elizabeth Delafield

Elizabeth Delafield

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Merilee Shipman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

We all deserve accessible, affordable, and quality healthcare. We all know the ACA is not perfect. Allow for the bipartisan approach to fix ACA. Allow Sen Alexander and Sen Murray to continue with this. Stabilize the market for the parts of the country the ACA does not work. We need the security of the ACA laws in place to guarantee healthcare for everyone. The ACA DOES work for millions- millions that didn't have insurance before.

This bill will result in literally millions struggling to afford care. Every one of us deserve that. Our society should be looking out for the poor, indigent and elderly. The Graham-Cassidy bill strips away the secured assurance they need. If this bill passes, this reflects how we think of people in our country.

Healthcare is extremely complicated. It deserves much more effort than what the GOP is trying to pass. Their approach is unacceptable. I myself am a health professional and see everyday just how complicated it is. I see everyday people worry endlessly about what our government is trying to do with repealing the ACA.

There is much more to say about healthcare. PLEASE ALLOW FOR A BIPARTISAN APPROACH TO FIXING THE ACA.

Thank you,
Merilee Shipman

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sara Finlayson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Good evening. I understand you will be having a hearing on cuts to the Graham Cassidy Bill next week. I have grave concerns about the proposal to eliminate the pre-existing conditions coverage for the disabled population covered under Medicaid. I would have to think most, if not all people in this community have pre-existing conditions, many life threatening.

My son Ethan has disabilities. He did not ask to be born with the challenges he has. While he currently does not receive support under Medicaid, he likely will one day. Among his pre-existing conditions, he has epilepsy and hydrocephalus with shunts. Both conditions could result in death in the absence of medical intervention. If you pass this bill and eliminate the pre-existing conditions clause, or don't adequately fund it, it will be a death sentence to him and others like him. Please consider this when voting on changes to Medicaid coverage.

I am happy to discuss this issue in more detail if you are interested. I can be reached at [REDACTED]

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,
Sara Finlayson

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Brian R. Jones <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill.

Dear fellow Americans,

As Republicans have campaigned on repealing and replacing the ACA for the past several years, they have also not come up with a plan that will not ruin millions of their constituents lives. This, at the very least, helps to illustrate that Republican members of Congress only feel compelled to listen to their wealthy donors and not their fellow citizens who rely on affordable health care.

If the GOP's plan to lure Senator Murkowski to vote "yes" on Graham-Cassidy by letting her keep Alaska's ACA plan, how strong is the GOP's case? All members of Congress who want to pass Graham-Cassidy deserve to get what they give: wildly unreasonable health care costs that threaten their livelihoods, their families, and future generations of Americans.

Sincerely,
Brian R Jones

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nathan Breen [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: A complete failure of both intellect and morals

The facts of this bill have been grossly misrepresented to the public which can only be read as an act of extreme hubris and ignorance or active malice. The fact that the GOP intends to cut millions off from affordable insurance to enrich the already wealthy is appalling as it is unsurprising. That they are too craven to simply state it is repulsive in the extreme. There is no such thing as a good bill affecting so much of the economy and population that will not be debated, scored by the CBO, and which hasn't been meaningfully worked on by anyone. Attempting to push this bill through for political points is simply murder by policy.

Petty Officer Nathan Breen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: EILEEN REED [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:41 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 it will cause so much pain - the facts are clear = people will lose coverage - the most affected are the weakest and need protection the most - shame on you for this political BS

EILEEN REED

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Masingale <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: proposed healthcare bill

I hope that you will reconsider this rushed-through plan. From what I understand, it does not meet any of the criteria we should expect in a health care plan.

I am a 60 year old working woman, I make \$35,000 a year. I could not afford insurance until a plan through the ACA was available. I now have had an affordable health insurance policy for several years.

I have a preexisting condition and according to the terms of your plan, I will not be able to obtain or afford health insurance.

I know people that will die from medical neglect if Medicaid is taken away from them.

Why are you doing this to us? Is it for your donors? America needs help and you are only trying to hurt us.

Please reconsider.

Mary Masingale
Ferry County View
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: TERESA JARZYNSKI [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Healthcare bill

As a 50 year old free-lance healthy person, I am appalled at the current proposal for Repeal & Replace. No matter How much I struggled financially at any point in my life, I always made a point to find a way to cover my monthly health insurance bill.

However, it was only when the ACA came into fruition that I felt fully secure in my healthcare. I knew if I suddenly find myself With a heal issue challenge, I will be ok and it won't break my bank. Up until the I was paying twice as much and avoiding the doctor like a plague.

I take excellent car of myself, no smoking and daily excersize, but tuning 50 I know things can change in a day. The new proposed Healthcare bill scares me literally to death. I will pay much more and receive much less, and my sense of security will disappear.

I BEG, IMPLORE and PRAY that this bill won't pass. PLEASE think of people such as myself and those far worse off and PLEASE decide to work TOGETHER, Dems & Repubs, to simply improve that which is already there. I have no doubt that if what is already there Simply gets improved NO ONE will be complaining, or those that do are not concerned with helping our country, they are just obsessed With destroying anythingObama, as out current president seems to be.

Thank yo for taking the time to read this,

Teresa Jarzynski

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Merrith and Jeff [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham Cassidy Bill is INHUMAN and MALICIOUS

Senators,

I am APPALLED that so many of you, including the man in the White House who claims he is looking out for the middle class, continue to work to repeal the Affordable Care Act and replace it with a thinly veiled attack on women, children and the poor! Are you really trying to kill us all?

Health care is a basic right (see: "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness" in the Declaration of Independence) and allowing the for-profit healthcare industry to define "pre-existing conditions" gives them license to deny coverage or overprice it out of reach of anyone except the very wealthy (such as SENATORS!). In my own family tree over the last 3 generations, we can count the following among your list of "pre-existing conditions" (see image below): Acid Reflux, Asthma, Cancer, Depression, Epilepsy, High Cholesterol, Migraines, Obesity, Pregnancy, Schizophrenia, Sleep Apnea....LIFE is a "pre-existing condition" in your so-called "Health Plan". Most Americans can find ailments in their family from the list below. Don't repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act with this despicable attack upon Americans! Work TOGETHER to improve the Affordable Care Act, and work FOR your constituents, not for the payouts you get from Big Pharma, the Tobacco Industry, the Koch Brothers and others.

Mary-Elizabeth Sabo-Jones



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stephen Johnson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement Record

I would like a statement to be added to the record after Monday's hearing.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Moody <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please uphold affordable care act

Please uphold the continued existing if not improved medical care for all. It is a basic human right.
Lisa Moody

[REDACTED]
Grass valley ca
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nadia Jenefsky <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I do not support the bill in it's current form. Please consider the effects of this bill on individuals with mental health issues. As a mental health professional I am concerned that many of my patients will be affected by the following:

-the decrease in funding, which may end affordability for many individuals who rely on medicaid expansion plans for coverage. Many people with mental health issues are underemployed and therefore often have jobs that do not offer health benefits, and cannot afford to pay for their own plans, as they work part-time or in low paying jobs.

-eliminating the mental health mandate. This is outrageous. We have come so far towards mental health parity. Mental health issues are widely treatable and untreated cost the US economy millions in lost productivity, crisis intervention, social service interventions, hospitalizations etc. Having mental health parity in healthcare makes sense on the individual and on the collective level.

-eliminating maternity care as an essential benefit. Many women who suffer from pre- or post-partum will not be as easily identified and will not receive services to help with very treatable symptoms which affect the mother as well as their infants and families.

Thank you for your consideration.

Nadia Jenefsky

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: S Bianco <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: What the Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill means to me

Being old enough for Medicare, I'm not sure how the fallout from the Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill (GCHB) might affect me. But I know how it will affect my adult daughter who has bipolar disorder - her health insurance might not cover the treatment that manages her mental illness and allows her to live and work. The drugs she takes now were found to be the best help (after several years of her doctor trying other drugs) and she enhances their help with lifestyle choices (like meditation and exercise). She is a financial officer for the local school district and oversees the budget for the federal school lunch program. She is a productive member of society performing an important job and her ability to do so depends on her health insurance covering her maintenance care.

She also had a total knee replacement in 2015 because her left knee joint was bone on bone and so painful she couldn't stand. The surgery was successful and now she can be as active as she wishes and not depend on pain drugs just to stand and walk in her daily life.

Neither of these conditions was the result of her lack of self-care and careless lifestyle. She has done nothing to bring these disabling conditions on herself and goes to great lengths to ameliorate them.

The GCHB does the opposite. It brings disabling conditions on people and goes to great lengths to make them worse. Pre-existing conditions, women's health care needs like mammograms and birth control, mental health care all are important to a huge percent of the population.

I've read the expert reviews of the GCHB and understand what the bill proposes. How can you consider hurting the citizens of the US by passing this bill? I'm dismayed by the quotes from various Senators that deny the true consequences of the GCHB. You know what this bill does and are not accurately representing it in interviews and articles.

Please stand up for US citizens and not for some narrow party or presidential demand to repeal the ACA no matter how. Your job in government is to serve the people. Please do so (and don't fool yourself into asserting that the GCBH is helpful to us).

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jill Silverstein <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

I have a child with autism. We are barely surviving financially and any added healthcare costs could send us off the cliff. Already psychiatrists don't take insurance and we pay out of pocket. Rising costs in co-pays or prescriptions would make his care impossible to maintain.

I work with medically fragile children and lifetime caps in care would have them cut off by two years old. That is unfair. My nana died from breast cancer. I am already afraid of getting it. I don't want to be afraid it will bankrupt my family. And in addition to my life and death and money concerns, I am utterly disgusted by the lack of process. Of this desperate push to get it through with no score, no real debate, and backroom deals for states to get bribes for a yes vote. Alaska (and Hawaii) can keep the ACA but not the rest of America? The states that expanded get punished? The states that give more federally than we get back, by the way.

The hypocrisy is palpable and Republicans putting this through should be literally ashamed.

Listen to the vast majority Americans. Listen to parents of sick kids. Listen to children with elderly parents. Listen to survivors. Listen to us. This new way of governing, obstructing the last president and now breaking all norms and rules to support this one, is breaking us. Please stop.

Thank you

Jill Silverstein
New York, USA

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Vickie Youngblood [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to the GOP proposal

I implore you to vote NO on the healthcare changes!!
Many people, including my daughter, will lose her healthcare.
She can't help it she was born with a disability! WHY will you
punish her for that?

DON'T give the states the chance to cut these people with disabilities
out!!!

We need maternity care -- can you imagine how many MORE babies will
be born with disabilities without free maternity care?

We need care for young children!! Why cut that out - if something is caught early, then that
saves \$\$\$ down the road.

Think about the PEOPLE NOT the PARTY!! Do what is right. VOTE NO!!!!

Vickie Youngblood

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mark Milano [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy comment

As a person battling both cancer and HIV, I can't imagine how I would survive without health insurance. This bill would prevent me from switching plans if I need to, which would lead to a certain, painful death.

Please kill this bill, and work for a bipartisan solution to healthcare!

Mark Milano

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Capitola Anderson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Senate Finance Committee,

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

The changes brought by the Affordable Care Act were necessary for the pursuit of happiness of millions of Americans. Women's health, mental health, and pre-existing conditions must be covered for healthcare to be functional. In order to make this work coverage must be universally accessible (both legally and financially reasonable). If changes need to be made in the system, they need to be made to improve the coverage available to Americans, not to reduce it. That's not how our society became great, and it won't help us remain great.

Susan Anderson
Takoma Park, Maryland.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Janette Marlene [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Bill (Statement: Janette Hernandez)

This bill does nothing to stabilize health insurance markets short term. Funding would be slashed for states that were in favor of ACA and funds would increase for those states who were not. States are not prepared to make so many infrastructural changes in such a small timeframe. The ACA protected those with pre-existing conditions and this bill does not. Not only is this bill completely cruel but it has not been given a CBO score yet. Millions of people are going to lose care and we don't even know the vast results it will have on our country, citizens, and economy.

Why not improve upon the ACA? I admit, it isn't perfect. By why throw the baby out with the bathwater?

I believe this bill is an attempt to erase the achievements of the previous administration out of spite. Even if that means costing lives, costing our citizens more debt, and sending us into a health epidemic.

Please take my concerns into consideration and vote NO on this disastrous bill.

What we need is a bipartisan approach to fixing our healthcare issue. The U.S. spends more per person than any other country in the world and still manage to be one of the unhealthiest countries in the world. We need to fix this.

Janette Hernandez
[REDACTED], Ogden, Utah [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sadie Sullivan-Greiner [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No, no, 1000 times, no!

The Affordable Care Act has done more to help more people in the last 6 years than Congress as a whole has done in the last 16, and you all know it. The 'new' Graham-Cassidy bill would destroy those same people.

These never-ending attempts at repeal of the ACA (and the spurious 'replacements') are nothing but the petulant whining of overgrown children, who want their allowance NOW and refuse to eat their vegetables, too! No? Ah. Then it must be the campaign dollars funding the re-election campaigns. The one thing it is most emphatically NOT is any concern for the health and well-being of their constituents...the vast majority of whom do not fund campaigns.

We, the American people, are watching. And we will remember who tries to kill us and who tries to help us.

Very sincerely
Sadie Sullivan-Greiner

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Culyba [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:33 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 state could lose 11 billion dollars. Pre-existing conditions may not be covered as well. We need better health care. If you received the same health care as the majority of the country, I don't think that you would vote due to the issues I mentioned, as well as the numerous other negative issues I didn't cover. Make America great for everyone - not just the elite.

Susan Culyba

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Medoff [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham Cassidy Bill

There is no good reason to be trying to rush into this proposed health care bill other than the republicans wanting to stick to the campaign promise of replacing Obama care. It is a poor, poor excuse for a concrete health care plan for this country and those who support it should be ashamed of their lack of concern for the American people.

Lisa Medoff

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Smith [mailto:nancy.smith@ny.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Support People with Disabilities!

Children who are born with genetic and in utero strokes need extensive medical care that is not interrupted by changes in medical services because of politics. Please make our society to be a compassionate model. Families of people with disabilities are under stress 24 hours a day. Coping with changing insurance rules and regulations only adds to their on going distress for the welfare of their loved ones. For too many years insurance companies got away with cancelling anyone who made serious claims for chronic health problems. Please take time to properly come up with health insurance changes rather than rush through a bill to satisfy rich people who do not experience the stressful situations of their constituents.

--

Nancy E. Smith MA Ed, TVI

Lighthouse of Manasota
cell phone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mark Breckenridge <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GramCassidy Bill

When Republican congress takes it upon itself to modify 1/6 of the economy and in some States 1/4 of their budget, we need open hearings before a vote on this bill.

Regards,
Mark Breckenridge
Ridgefield, CT [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Adams Rakes <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:34 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 two young children, my wife, and I rely on insurance provided through the marketplace. I don't know how or if we will afford coverage if you pass this bill. If you--anyone who supports this bill--destroy the healthcare that protects my children just so you and your rich friends can have even more money, I will never forget how you attacked my family, and I will work and support work to unseat you and your colleagues for as long as you may remain in the Senate.

Adams Rakes

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maria Lebron [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Good evening

I am writing to you about my concerns regarding the Graham-Cassidy bill proposed as a potential replacement for the ACA.

This a terrible bill which could potentially result in 30M Americans losing their Healthcare coverage. Not only does it drastically cut funding to Medicare, but it removes current protections for those with preexisting conditions and makes it possible for states to exempt insurers from providing minimum essential coverage, like maternity care.

To make matters worse, Republicans are trying to push a vote on a bill that would affect 1/6 of the US economy without any sort of CBO analysis has been performed and without any input from Democrats.

This is beyond troubling and suggest their sole intention is to pass ANY bill, no matter how injurious to the American people, as long as it makes it possible for them to cut taxes for the rich later on.

Please do not pass the Graham-Cassidy bill. The ACA is flawed but has been tremendously beneficial to the American people in so many ways. We should be working on improving it, not repealing/replacing it and certainly not sabotaging it, as seems to be the case right now.

Sincerely,

Maria B Lebron

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kellie James <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Don't gut our health care

Im apposed to gutting the aca as are most of your constituents.
Nothing has changed.
I support medicare for all.
Your hateful agenda only serves your donors.
Remember senator, you work for the tax payers not your self, not your lobbyist and not trump.

Kellie James

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sandy S <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Repeal

I'm a 46 year old wife and mother who almost ten years ago had her right lower lobe of her lung removed due to an adenocarcinoma. (I am cancer free for almost ten years now.) I have all kinds of issues like fibromyalgia, asthma, severe arthritis in my hands, a congenital birth defect of my leg causing an unstable gait where I have broken it before. I also have metabolic disorders like Type II Diabetes, Nonalcoholic steatohepatitis, Hashimoto's Thyroiditis and Hypothyroidism. I live in constant pain and have mobility issues. I'm not obese. I don't drink or smoke. All of these pre-existing conditions started like a snowball turned into an avalanche. If this GC Repeal goes through, my family's insurance premium will increase to the point where I would have to take myself off my family's (employee) insurance policy. If I do that, I will have to decide which one of my specialists to maybe keep. I may not be able to afford any of them that I'm seeing just to maintain my health. When my husband lost his job years ago, due to my pre-existing conditions (before the cancer diagnosis) we had to empty his 401k just to buy our own policy until he got another job with insurance. I still have the certificate of continuing coverage to prove that I never let it lapse. As I get older, I realize that my conditions will probably prevent me from being here to see my daughter become an adult and have any grandchildren, but I would have liked to see her get through high school. If I have to let go of my insurance and the medications that are helping me, I'm not sure I would get there. People with pre-existing conditions like me live in a world of trying to get through life to be here for our families. We didn't ask to have these problems. Mine are genetic and from the environment. I'm asking for you to vote 'no' on this appeal with it gutting pre-existing protections and lifetime caps. We have enough stress in our day to day life to have to be live in constant fear of our healthcare being altered or taken away is just cruel punishment for people who are already being punished by their health..

Sincerely,
Sandra M. Snyder
Bel Air, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mr. Durant <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:35 PM
To: gchcomments

I don't think it's right to punish states that expanded Medicaid. We must take care of the most vulnerable among us.

"Recuerde, recuerde siempre, que todos - usted y yo especialmente - somos descendientes de inmigrantes y revolucionarios." - Franklin D. Roosevelt

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rafael Antonio Cabrero [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for Senate Finance Committee hearing on Graham-Cassidy proposal, 9/25/17

Dear Senators,

My name is Rafael Antonio Cabrero. I am 44 years old and live in Baltimore, Maryland. Since 2014, I have been working independently, and have been unemployed for the past three months. **I am a Medicaid Expansion Recipient.** Thanks to Medicaid Expansion I have been able to keep track of my health problems, especially high blood pressure and obesity. My provider is the superb Kaiser Permanente of Maryland. Through Medicaid Expansion, we caught my high blood pressure early enough to put me in medication. This means I **have saved money to both the United States Government and the general economy.** Instead of thousands of dollars in expenses arising over open heart surgery, through medication and diet changes my blood pressure is normal, I'm on my way to get to my healthy weight through Kaiser Permanente's Weight Management Advisers on making healthier eating choices and workouts.

We caught my problem early, meaning that I'm reducing costs throughout the health care system. Imagine myself, along with 32 other million Americans who are unable to pay for their health plan, which means that we are living on the edge, not knowing if some ailment hits us until it is too late and we are on debt peonage with a health plan for the rest of your life because instead of having that ounce of prevention, we now have to pay for an expensive pound of flesh.

Graham-Cassidy Bill brings back preexisting conditions through the back door, meaning that as an individual, without Medicaid Advantage, my premiums would rise to the point I would not be able to afford health insurance. The plan would punish states like my own State of Maryland, that did their homework and have done the humane, politically, and economically sound thing, will be punished. This is unacceptable! Don't Republicans complain over freeloaders. So while states like Maryland, who have done their jobs, states who have refused to do the right thing are rewarded. That is un-American and an a sign of hypocrisy of the Majority Party.

The Affordable Care Act needs repairs, but you don't shock a patient that needs an aspirin for a migraine. Why not let "Regular Order", as pleaded by Senator McCain when the Better Care Reconciliation Act was defeated take place and come up with a sensible, though out bill to fix the problems with the Affordable Care Act and truly lead to universal health care.

We The People cannot stand all this uncertainty. We need to **fix the Affordable Care Act, not kill it!** I pray you the right and humane thing. I, along the 32 million who will be negatively affected by this mean-spirited boondoggle are watching and hope that there is a shred of common human decency among you.

Humbly Yours,

Rafael Antonio Cabrero

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: watkins.nd [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: aslavitt@finance.senate.gov
Subject: Health Care

I was born with spina bifida. I had surgery as a baby, and recovered well - a lot of people with spina bifida can't walk, and I am relatively lucky. But when I was 19, I developed orthopedic defects in my right foot, to the point of widespread bone separation and joint dislocation. I waited two years to have surgery before the ACA. During that time, I was hospitalized with multiple infections and MRSA. When the ACA passed, I remember crying in my car on the way to work, because the elimination of pre-existing condition clauses meant I could finally have the surgery I needed.

Four surgeries later, I'm still suffering. I had one this May that wasn't as successful as my surgeon hoped it would be. A very likely reason for my continued problems is the fact that I had to wait so long for the first one. I will, in all likelihood, be in chronic pain for the rest of my life. I've had one toe amputated due to a bone infection, my other toes are still dislocated, and nothing has been able to solve it.

I've come to terms with my chronic pain, but I'm 32. People think they will be young and healthy forever, but they won't. And next year, if this bill passes, I won't be able to afford health care. I work two jobs, as an editor and a teacher, but both are part-time. I work hard, and I hurt every day of my life. I won't even be able to afford my nerve pain medicine, since it's \$400 a month without insurance. Everyone is someone who could be sick at any time. Stop gambling with our lives, and remember who you work for. Stop playing Monopoly with your constituents and do your jobs, because if you don't, we are sure as hell going to remember it.

Nicole Watkins
Alabama

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tim Holt <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No trumpcare

I'm at to urge you to vote against the Graham-Cassidy ACA repeal plan. Any healthcare plan that eliminates Medicaid expansion, protections for those with pre-existing conditions, and hasn't been scored by the CBO is unacceptable. The American people want a bipartisan approach to repairing the ACA, not a repeal of it.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dianne Lewandowski [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Why wouldn't you want the public to ask questions? We demand a bill that continues to provide the same care as the current ACA, and not put it in the hands of states who are oftentimes biased, bigoted, and corrupt. This is a national issue and all of you should be ashamed of yourselves for hiding behind your desks with a lie set to explode. Allow public comment.

Especially Ron Johnson.

Dianne Lewandowski

[REDACTED], Oconto, WI [REDACTED]

This email has been checked for viruses by AVG.
<http://www.avg.com>

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jill Watson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Undemocratic and irresponsible legislating

Please stop trying to destroy Americans' ability to access healthcare simply so you can say you undid President Obama's signature achievement.

Signed, a hardworking, patriotic American who votes and expects competence and honesty from our elected officials

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jack Quirk [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy

Dear Finance Committee members:

We are writing to you to express our most emphatic objection to the Graham/Cassidy bill. Even attempting to pass a bill of this magnitude, with such sweeping and potentially disastrous consequences, without a full analysis from the CBO, is an outrage. Such an action will introduce incalculable anxiety into the country--and particularly among those least able to tolerate further anxiety. This measure has nothing to do with improving either access to healthcare insurance or the American healthcare system. It is, rather, about catering to the craven demands of the richest and least affected among us under the guise of fulfilling a supposed campaign promise to which fully 75% of the American people now object. That anyone would even consider acting in that manner purely for the sake of fulfilling a foolhardy campaign promise (suggesting that the voters made you do it) is particularly galling.

This measure, if enacted, will devastate American families in every state, yet Congressional leadership is trying to hide the substance of the measure and its foreseeable harmful consequences from the American people. This is a shameful course--and one for which, be assured, the legislative perpetrators will be held to account.

You surely know that the Medicaid chiefs of the several 50 states could not agree on the day of the week, but less the time of day, but all fifty of them have come out in opposition to the passage of this measure. This is as reflected in the statement released by the National Association of Medicaid Directors on September 21, 2017.

Best regards,

Jack & Cheryl Quirk
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Casey Uhelski [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:37 PM
To: gchcomments

I'm so sick of this. I feel like I've said this and been ignored 1,000 times to my representatives already. This and all the previous bills and attempts to repeal the ACA when it helps me and millions of Americans is absolutely appalling.

There is not an ounce of humanity the Graham-Cassidy bill. It wouldn't even be worth paying for health insurance even if I would be able to afford it if this passed. You'd be paying for the pleasure of owning a plastic insurance card that effectively covers nothing that people need it to cover. Americans shouldn't have to be scared over what will happen to them if they get in a car accident, need major surgery to save their lives, or can't afford prescriptions they need to live.

The GOP threatens that the alternative is socialized medicine when that is literally what we've been asking for as a first world country. I'm proud my taxes help others be able to get health insurance through the ACA. I want my taxes want to support others who are worse off than me because it benefits the entire country to do so.

Casey Uhelski
Constituent from TN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joyce Shiffrin [mailto:joyce.shiffrin@ny.gov] [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: HOW MY MEDICAID HELPED ME (A LOT)!!!

DEAR SIR/MADAM:

MY NAME IS JOYCE SHIFFRIN, AND I WILL EXPLAIN THE PURPOSE OF MY SENDING YOU THIS E-MAIL: I JUST WANT TO COMMENT THAT I HAVE BEEN A MEDICAID RECIPIENT FOR OVER 20 YEARS. IN MY 20 YEARS I HAVE BEEN A MEDICAID RECIPIENT, I HAVE NOT ONLY BEEN ABLE TO SEE DOCTORS AS AN ADULT BUT ALSO DENTISTS AS WELL AS SPECIALISTS FOR BOTH MEDICAL AND DENTAL. CASE IN POINT: FOUR YEARS AGO, IN OCTOBER 2013, I WAS DIAGNOSED WITH STAGE 1 BREAST CANCER. I HAD SURGERY ON OCTOBER 25, 2013 TO REMOVE THE LESS THAN ONE-INCH TUMOR FROM MY LEFT BREAST. LESS THAN SIX MONTHS LATER, FROM MARCH 2014-APRIL 2014, I HAD RADIATION TREATMENT ON MY LEFT BREAST TO DESTROY ANY REMNANTS OF THE REMOVED TUMOR FROM MY LEFT BREAST. THE POINT I AM MAKING IS THAT WITHOUT MY MEDICAID, I WOULD HAVE LIKELY NOT BEEN ABLE TO PAY FOR THE MORE THAN \$75,000 IT COST MEDICAID FOR MY BREAST CANCER SURGERY AND OVER A MONTH RADIATION COMBINED. SO I AM THEREFORE BEGGING AND PLEADING WITH YOU FROM THE VERY, VERY, VERY BOTTOM OF MY HEART TO NOT EVER PASS ANY OF "PRESIDENT" DONALD TRUMP'S EVIL, HEARTLESS AND CRUEL "HEALTHCARE" POLICIES. WHETHER TRUMPCARE OR THE GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL, IT IS ALL ONE AND THE SAME. BECAUSE IT IS TRULY ONLY THE DEMOCRATS WHO CARE ABOUT WOMEN, CHILDREN, MINORITIES, LGBTQ PEOPLE, ANIMALS, THE ENVIRONMENT, MINORITIES, SENIORS, THE DISABLED AND OF COURSE, POOR/MIDDLE CLASS PEOPLE. ALL REPUBLICANS WANT TO DO IS TO FORCE THEIR CONSTITUENTS TO ACCEPT WHATEVER BILLS THEY WANT BECAUSE THEY TRULY DON'T CARE ABOUT THE LIVES, LET ALONE FEELINGS, OF THEIR CONSTITUENTS. THEREFORE, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART DO ALL THAT YOU CAN TO KEEP MEDICAID, MEDICARE, OBAMACARE AND ALL OTHER PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCES AS THESE INSURANCES WERE MEANT TO STAY FOR ALL TIMES!!!

THANK YOU,

JOYCE SHIFFRIN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lieb <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: repeal/replace death sentence

How can you justify causing so many to be thrown off health insurance because they have pre-existing conditions, old, young children?

If this is something you believe is great for the USA people.. Will government workers (including all congress up to president) be forced to use it?

If they won't agree to having themselves and family members subjected to using said insurance, then the very people they WORK FOR should NOT HAVE TO USE IT!! Congress and the president seem to have forgotten whom they actual WORK FOR and it is NOT THEMSELVES.

Each and every member of the government work for the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA CITIZENS and we entrust you to do the job as if you are deciding on what you and your own families would have to live with.

Enough of this career and president first and the AMERICAN CITIZENS dead last!!

WE THE PEOPLE DESERVE BETTER FROM THOSE WE ENTRUST WITH OUR VERY LIVES. GROW BALLS AND STOP THE MADNESS THAT HAS BEEN GOING ON SINCE JAN 20,2017!!!!

Tracy Lieb

a once republican who is now going to switch parties and going independent since the two main parties can't do the job, it is time the 3rd party be given the chance. Two main parties have screwed the AMERICAN people enough, 3rd party couldn't do ANY worse!!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Andy Conrad <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham - Cassidy Bill

An Open Letter to the US Senate

I am writing in response to yet another ill thought out piece of legislation designed to replace/repeal the Affordable Care Act.

As the husband of a cancer survivor the Graham - Cassidy Bill would result in my wife and I not being able to afford health insurance. I find the repeated efforts of Congress to replace the Affordable Care Act without a suitable replacement abhorrent. The legislative efforts that would deprive my family and millions others like me of the ability to pay for health care have thrown this nation into chaos. I hold each and every member of the Senate personally responsible for this vote. This bill is not in the best interest of the American people.

Andrew T. Conrad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Brigid LaBonge <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stop

Healthcare is a right to care for the entire population. A healthy nation is a strong nation. Medicaid in 50 states says NO!!!!

iPhone message from:

Brigid LaBonge Design
Los Angeles
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Colleen Beaty <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill: I oppose this bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am extremely concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate, so I am writing to voice my opposition to this bill.

Among the many, many, many problems with this bill, I am very concerned that this bill allows insurance companies to drop coverage for people like me with pre-existing conditions, or to skyrocket their premiums beyond what most people could afford. I have several chronic illnesses that put me at risk to lose my coverage, as do both my mother and father who are heavily reliant on medical intervention for their conditions.

And frankly, just like previous healthcare bills this year, the bill seems to indicate that just being a woman is a pre-existing condition. This kind of misogynistic legislation has no place in our society! The law and healthcare should treat men and women equally.

I also find it deeply troubling that this bill significantly cuts the Medicaid expansion provided by the ACA. Many states already rejected the federal funding they would have been provided under the expansion, and now this bill wants to take away money from the states that did accept it (mostly Democratic states) and give it to those states who didn't want the expansion to begin with. This is clearly a malicious, partisan punishment for participating in the ACA Medicaid expansion and frankly, for being Democrat-heavy states. Moreover, on a more personal note, I worry what would happen to many of my friends are reliant on the Medicaid expansion for their healthcare coverage.

I could go on about the problems with the Graham-Cassidy bill, but the above are my primary concerns.

Again, I completely OPPOSE the Graham-Cassidy bill and I urge you to do the same in Senate hearings.

Kind regards,
Colleen Beaty
Greenbelt, MD

Colleen Beaty
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: April Lawton <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH Statement

I continue to struggle to understand how this bill benefits anyone. I understand how the backroom agreements benefit certain politicians, but the actual bill isn't supported by people within the industry and I HIGHLY doubt the contents of the bill are supported by the majority of Americans. Who wants their insurance removed? Who WANTS to be rejected from insurance because of pre-existing conditions? This bill is not better than the ACA. We need bipartisan work to improve current law, not start from scratch. I feel that the hard-earned money I contribute to the workings of my government is being wasted in this process. I don't care if Betsy Devos pays for her own transportation. I don't care if Trump donates his salary or pockets it. I care that my elected officials are working smart with the money, time, and privilege they have been given. This entire process of attempting to repeal and replace the ACA, from the start to now, appears wasteful. I reject the entirety of the GCH and request that the entirety of the government work together to improve on current law in a smart and efficient manner.

Thank you.

April Lawton
Omaha, NE [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tim Jenkins [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

To the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my profound concern regarding the potential passage of the Graham Cassidy Bill. This bill appears to be motivated solely by political aspirations to repeal and replace the ACA without regard to the possible consequences affecting millions of Americans. This bill has yet to be scored by the CBO and its true effect has not been adequately assessed to evaluate the true cost of this legislation.

Forcing the vote on this bill which affects 20 percent of our economy without discussion, public hearings or amendments is a gross abandonment of legislative responsibilities.

Recent information indicates that Alaska may be exempted from this law if the Senator from Alaska votes to impose this unfair law on the remaining states. This is only an indication of the desperation exhibited by Republican Senators whose concern is only political and ignores the plight of uninsured citizens.

Please do not allow this horrible piece of legislation become law. Help protect Americans who need health care.

Sincerely,
Tim Jenkins
Fisherville, Ky

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judy Copetas [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

It is difficult to express my frustration and disappointment with yet another last minute, hardly examined health care bill meant to fulfill a campaign promise to repeal ObamaCare that does not literally nothing to improve the system. In fact, it makes it worse. It's one of the worst examples of money (donors) pressuring bills that are not in service of constituents. I am watching. I have friends watching. We will remember who showed courage, who did their job and who bowed to pressure from their party or from their donors.

Judy Copetas

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Diana Onken [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose Graham-Cassidy

Hi -

I urge you to oppose any attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The Graham-Cassidy bill will return us to the bad old days of pre-existing conditions not being covered or coverage being so high that average Americans can't afford it. Also, it would result in tens of millions of people losing care.

Other developed countries have figured out how to provide health care for their citizens. Why can't we?

Thank you.

Diana Onken

[REDACTED]
Mahomet, IL [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathi Hansen [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

- Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal
- September 25, 2017

To the Senate Finance Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to submit these comments related to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal.

In Wisconsin, Medicaid pays for the Forward Health Card and programs like Family Care and IRIS, which help people with disabilities live as independently as possible in the community.

I am co-guardian for my 52-year-old sister Barb, who has Down syndrome and mild Alzheimer's disease, as well as moderate to severe arthritis. She needs to see her doctors regularly. Barb participates in a day services program and other community activities. The funding she gets through Medicaid helps pay for her room, board, and care in an Adult Family Home (AFH), which is critical in allowing her to stay in the community where she has lived her entire life. Because she can live in an AFH, she is able to have a full, high quality life and be as independent as possible, while still being safe and getting help with the things she cannot do for herself.

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal includes cuts to Medicaid and changes the way states receive Medicaid funding. Home and community based services (HCBS) are vital for people with disabilities; like my sister, they rely on these services to live and participate in their communities. HCBS are especially at risk because they are optional and could be completely eliminated under the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal. My sister Barb would be faced with leaving her lifelong community or moving to an institution like a nursing home, either of which would negatively impact her quality of life.

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal also would allow states to roll back the 10 essential health benefits that are currently required to be a part of all insurance plans, and insurers would be permitted to charge higher premiums to people with pre-existing conditions.

Both of those provisions would be devastating for someone like me--a breast cancer survivor who endured multiple surgeries, 8 rounds of chemotherapy, and is now living with heart damage caused by that chemotherapy. I am taking ongoing oral treatment to reduce my risk of cancer recurrence. I am not old enough to qualify for Medicare, so I purchase health insurance through the individual marketplace. There are no guarantees that insurers in my state, Wisconsin, would offer affordable, comprehensive insurance that covers my current and potential tests, treatments, and medications.

Submitted by:
Kathryn Hansen

[REDACTED]
Wrightstown, WI [REDACTED]

--

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lena Brown [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Vote Against the heinous Graham Cassidy Bill

To Whom it May Concern:

I am utterly horrified at the brazen immorality of the Senators who choose to advance this bill. I can think of nothing more shockingly cruel than to abuse the helpless and innocent amongst us. While these selfsame senators will happily deprive a woman of the right to choose because "abortion is murder," they will with the very same breath strip life-saving care from sick children, the elderly, and disabled adults. Moreover, they will not allow women to be covered for maternity care. Instead, they will pursue their biased, illogical loathing of Obama and take healthcare from 32 million Americans.

If Todd Young, my senator, or the rest of your craven, ill-begotten fiends had the courage of your convictions, you would look my breast-cancer survivor mother in the eye and tell her she deserves to pay more because she had cancer.

To compound your ungodly actions, you choose to conduct your business during the most sacred days the so called "High Holidays" of Judaism. Rather than repenting of your sin and striving to atone for your evil doing, you perpetrate a bill that is reminiscent of Nazi Germany.

History has its eyes on you and so does God. You are being judged for your wickedness.

Dr. Lena Brown
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stacy Klein <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Because of Obamacare, my 4 year old son has Medicaid as his secondary insurance. Ori has Down syndrome, autism, sensory processing disorder and feeding difficulties which require a lot of intervention and medical services. For instance, we attended a day program for 5 weeks so he could learn to eat food. With just our insurance through work, it would have cost us 40K. We have to go back for at least another 5 weeks in a few months. So what happens to Ori when this bill gets passed? How can he get the services needed to help him grow? How does this make America great?

Stacy T. Klein
[REDACTED]

Here's Ori, my light

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tarik S. Khan, RN, CRNP [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because this bill places my patients' health at risk.

If this bill passes, affordable health care will be ripped away from hundreds of patients at our nurse-run health center, and from millions of Americans. Trumpcare would mean a return to some of the worst abuses of insurance companies: denying patients coverage due to pre-existing conditions, lifetime limits on benefits leading our sickest (insured) Americans to go bankrupt, older adults being charged up to five times more for care, and elimination of the most essential health benefits like maternity care, mental health services and substance abuse treatment. Trumpcare would cruelly block grant and cap Medicaid, throwing millions of Americans off their insurance, and rationing care to those who survive.

Please work to strengthen ACA, and reject this bill.

Tarik S Khan RN, MSN, FNP-BC

Tarik S. Khan, RN, CRNP

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Theresa Hill [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:29 PM
To: gchcomments

Please do not pass this bill.
Thanks

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judith Stern [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden, and Senator Toomey -

I am writing to express my profound concern about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate. I strongly believe that healthcare should be available to ALL. Every developed country in the world offers healthcare to it's citizens. I am 64 years old. I have NEVER felt as disheartened about my government as I do now - so blatantly pro-business, so callous, so devious, so partisan, so deaf to the needs of most Americans who you claim to represent.

Please do not do this. Your JOB is make decisions that benefit ALL of us - not to ensure your re-election via the support of the wealthy. Honestly - I am ashamed to be an American right now and i know that many share my view. Make a morally correct decision.

Judith Stern

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patrica Mark <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because my husband and I are both type 1 diabetics. Type 1 diabetes is an expensive auto-immune disorder.

I have been type 1 for 29 years and my husband for 12 years. I have two healthy daughters and am training for my first marathon. All these things are possible because I have the means to manage this disease. Do not take this away from us.

Patrica Mark . . .

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Thomas E. C. Barclay [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

I am utterly opposed to this ridiculous, under thought out bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kara Richard <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Concern Over Graham Cassidy Health Care Repeal

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing today to express deep reservations regarding the current health care amendment to the appropriations bill.

The measures in the bill do nothing to address concerns regarding affordability of coverage for those who are grappling with the issue, and severely penalize anyone who is not a healthy cisgender male through backdoor cuts to existing provisions that protect female health care and those with pre-existing conditions.

Additionally, for a group of senators concerned about the financial impact of the current legislation, rushing to a vote before the Congressional Budget Office releases a score is reckless and deeply hypocritical of their stated beliefs. If they were truly worried about any financial impact and not the imposed deadline of September 30, they would be content to find out the true "savings" of their legislation.

For these reasons, and many others, I urge all senators to vote against the amendment that would cause great, real life harm to 32 million Americans.

Sincerely,

Kara Richard

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Crowe <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Genetic Depression

To whom it may concern,

I don't have a story about cancer or accidents, but medicaid and the ACA have been instrumental to my life. Both of my parents are severely, chronically depressed, and spent most of my childhood in suicidal fugue states. They were also too poor for health insurance. Without medicaid and the antidepressants my mother was able to receive on it, she would be dead. This isn't a hyperbole— drug treatments are some of the only effective tools for people who are as foregone as my parents were. It gives them just enough of a foothold on reality to try and build real lives, which they eventually were able to do.

Before the ACA, insurance companies had no incentive to include mental health services and prescription drugs onto low cost plans, so they rarely did. Seeing a therapist could count as a pre-existing condition and allow companies to deny coverage altogether. As someone who is now facing the same demons as my parents once almost died from, the medications I take in order to not live in constant emotional anguish and suicidal psychosis would cost around \$500 a month without insurance coverage. As of right now they cost me \$9 a month. The only way I'm able to even afford the insurance is because of the tax subsidies.

This is an example of just one small part of healthcare and the role it plays in people's lives. Every single part of medicaid and the ACA has literally saved people from death. The answer is to go forward towards single payer like every other developed nation on Earth, not backwards to some fictional world where insurance companies were in fair competition and not a horrible, exploitative racket. There are a lot of people who were never even able to get the help I get, or that my mother gets. They deserve peaceful hearts.

Thank you,

Sarah Crowe

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michele mcbride <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do Not Pass Graham Cassidy

Do not pass this abomination of a bill. My mother and step mother have no other coverage but Medicaid and will literally die without their benefits.

Why do Republicans want to kill us?

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pat Keller [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

As a PA Republican (and former Oregonian), I am writing today to urge you to vote against the Graham-Cassidy bill to gut the ACA. This is an irresponsible bill that would not be in the best interests of Pennsylvanians, nor in the best interests of most Americans. In particular, I believe it is paramount to protect those with pre-existing conditions, so that a serious diagnosis doesn't leave entire families bankrupt, or individuals without adequate medical care. This bill would critically undermine or eliminate those protections.

It would also leave millions of Americans without affordable health insurance, esp. the elderly, children and low-income individuals who rely on Medicaid. This bill is worse than the previous version that failed to pass, and even less deserving of your vote.

Voting for this bill before the details have been analyzed by the CBO is also unconscionable.

The ACA is not perfect. But the American people deserve a bipartisan solution to whatever shortcomings exist, not a wholesale change that shortchanges so many.

I urge you to VOTE NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill. Thank you.

Pat Keller
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carrie Stollings <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham Cassidy

It is appalling that the American people are being given a death sentence. We have voiced our fears loud and long, we have rallied, we have pleaded - and yet, to paraphrase a now infamous saying, you persisted. Enough. We deserve the right to affordable, accessible care. Stop this travesty. Our lives depend on it.

Carrie Stollings
Charleston WV

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joyce Marie Anderson <j[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Senator (Flake); senator@mccain.gov
Subject: Protect affordable health care for all Americans!

Graham-Cassidy is a disaster for people like me, and I'm only a small part of who would suffer if Obamacare is repealed.

I have MS and depression and am 62. There's not a chance of my being able to purchase insurance without the ACA, and I need healthcare. I do not work. And frankly, with my health problems it is unlikely that I could find, or keep a job that offers insurance at any price.

My husband has had cancer 3 times and has polycystic kidney disease. He can't even buy life insurance!

Currently we receive Social Security (not disability) which we applied for immediately at age 62 because we do not enjoy good health. Our current health insurance costs 1/2 of our SS income. We pay 840 per person, per month. And are lucky that we have insurance and can still pay for it. Graham-Cassidy would bankrupt us, kill us, or both.

Please consider these things as you review the bill. Many are needier and sicker than I. My husband and I began working at age 14 and did not stop until we were 60. It seems that we should get a fair shake.

Thank you,
Joyce Anderson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeff Hague [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy is not the answer

Please do not support this destructive bill. Over half a million people here in AZ will lose healthcare coverage. Veterans who depend on Medicaid will lose coverage. This bill simply kills the ACA but does NOTHING to address healthcare.

Jeff Hague

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lindsay Llewellyn [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Hello:

I am writing to express my extreme disapproval of the Graham-Cassidy Bill. Once again, Republicans are trying to shirk their responsibility of transparency and process by ramming through a bill without hearings, amendments, or a full CBO score. This bill will raise premiums, kick millions of people off of their insurance plans, and take away federal funding from the states smart enough to actually expand Medicaid. This bill is a monstrosity.

I appreciate your time.

Sincerely,
Lindsay Llewellyn

[REDACTED]
Indianapolis, IN [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ashweena Gonuguntla [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

To Whom it May Concern,

I would like to go on the record that I oppose the Graham Cassidy Bill.

As a pediatrician in Flint, Michigan, funding to Medicaid and services for maternal and neonatal health care is extremely important.

Preserving a strong Medicaid program is essential to ensuring that all children have coverage and access to care, but Medicaid faces serious financial threats that can endanger the health of children. Children on Medicaid make up more than 30% of a pediatrician's patient population on average, but Medicaid pays only 70% of what is paid to treat a Medicare enrollee. Without consistent payments, fewer physicians may be able to participate in Medicaid, limiting the number of pediatricians who are able to treat children, increasing wait times for appointments, or forcing families to travel long distances to seek care.

Sincerely,
Ashweena Gonuguntla, MD

"We are all connected; To each other, biologically. To the earth, chemically. To the rest of the universe atomically."
~Neil deGrasse Tyson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mark Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Upcoming vote...
Attachments: IMG_2360.JPG; ATT00001.txt

Please, I implore you, to vote AGAINST this heartless bill, and allow those of us with multiple pre existing conditions, to live and enjoy our old age!

Without a doubt, the problems with the ACA were created by the GOP's rhetoric over years, promising to sabotage the ACA, thereby making more and more insurance providers pull out.

With less and less competition, costs went up, even as the overall cost of healthcare, was going up anyway.

Had it been given a better chance, the cost of healthcare would have still gone up, but not nearly as much!

The States who were "hurt" by the ACA were disadvantaged ONLY because of their choice not to participate in the subsidies.

The ACA is the best bill to pass through Congress in the last 100 years!

Please, forget that the black guy did it, and put country over politics...
Our lives depend on it... literally!

Let the ACA stand, and stop trying to make it fail. Participate in good, vs evil.

Make it better!

Thank you,
Mark Johnson

(A 62 year old with over 50 fractures)...

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joan Parosa [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH BILL

Do NOT pass this bill. It is a travesty and it is cruel to a huge number of people who depend on the Affordable Care Act.
Do the right thing and vote no.

Sincerely,
Joan Parosa

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: sue sanders <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: wyden@wyden.net; Senator, noreply (Merkley)
Subject: Please vote NO to Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Members of the Finance Committee:

I'm writing to submit my testimony for the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Eight years ago, my husband and I moved to Oregon. We tried to buy health insurance. I was able to do so, but, because of preexisting conditions, my husband was turned down. He eventually found a "skinny" plan. It was horrible, denying many basic needs and capping his policy. Thanks to the ACA, we were able to purchase insurance without having to worry about preexisting conditions. Yes, the ACA is not perfect. Our premiums are high and we make too much to qualify for subsidies. But we have excellent insurance and can see doctors without worrying about losing our house.

Please fix the ACA instead of repealing it and replacing it with the Graham-Cassidy bill. If you "break" the ACA, you will own this. If you take away health care from millions of Americans and their children, it will be on you.

Thank you,
Sue Sanders

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathleen Moore <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: OPPOSED to this healthcare bill

Stop trying to steal affordable healthcare! The way to make America great again is to look after the health of ALL of us!

Medicare for all!

Stop passing the buck to the states where you know full well that the likelihood of catastrophic premium increases will harm the poor, people who are older, and people who have pre-existing conditions.

Kathleen Moore
Marshfield, Vermont

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Importance: High

I cannot stress how important it is the the Graham-Cassidy Bill be defeated. This is neither an adequate nor humane solution. Untold multitudes of people will suffer needlessly if it is passed.

Frederic H. Kelley

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Claudia Roeder <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Senate Finance Committee: Comments on Graham-Cassiday Bill

I request the following comment entered into the Senate Finance Committee record, please.

Regards,
Claudia Roeder

Associated Press in Colorado Springs

Monday 26 June 2017 07.49 EDT Last modified on Tuesday 18 July 2017 12.59 EDT

At a weekend donor retreat attended by at least 18 elected officials, the Koch brothers warned that time is running out to push their agenda, most notably healthcare and tax reform, through Congress.

Trump wants 'heart' as Republicans seek to deliver Senate healthcare bill

One Texas-based donor warned Republican lawmakers that his “Dallas piggy bank” was now closed, until he saw legislative progress.

“Get Obamacare repealed and replaced, get tax reform passed,” said Doug Deason. “Get it done and we’ll open it back up.”

Nonetheless, Koch officials said that the network’s midterm budget for policy and politics is between \$300m and \$400m.

The Senate will this week seek to pass its version of healthcare reform – at present it does not have enough Republican support to overcome blanket Democratic opposition.

“There is urgency,” said Tim Phillips, who leads Koch network’s political arm, Americans for Prosperity, at the industrialist brothers’ retreat in Colorado Springs. “We believe we have a window of about 12 months to get as much of it accomplished as possible before the 2018 elections grind policy to a halt.”

The window for action may be even smaller, some Koch allies warned at the weekend retreat that drew roughly 400 participants to the heart of the Rocky Mountains. The price for admission for most was a pledge to give at least \$100,000 this year to the Kochs’ broad policy and political network.

There were also at least 18 elected officials on hand. Some hosted private policy discussions with donors while others simply mingled.

In between meetings, Dave Brat, a Virginia Republican representative, predicted dire consequences in next year's midterm elections should his party fail to deliver on its repeated promises.

"If we don't get healthcare, none of us are coming back," he said in a brief interview. "We said for seven years you're gonna repeal Obamacare. It's nowhere near repealed."

It's the same for tax reform, Brat said: "We don't get taxes through, we're all going home. Pack the bags."

There was a sense of deep frustration from conservative officials and donors alike, decrying the pace of progress in Washington with Republicans controlling both chambers of Congress and the White House for the first time in a decade.

Deason has already informed a handful of congressional Republicans that the "Dallas piggy bank" is closed until he sees more action. He said he was recently approached by congressmen Mark Meadows of North Carolina and Jim Jordan of Ohio about hosting a fundraiser.

"I said, 'No I'm not going to because we're closing the checkbook until you get some things done,'" Deason said, noting he's encouraged nearly two dozen major Texas donors to follow his lead.

While some donors threatened to withhold campaign cash, Koch's team outlined a broader strategy to help shape the debate. Already, Americans For Prosperity claims a paid staff of more than 400 full-time activists in 36 states.

The group is actively lobbying Senate Republicans to change their current healthcare proposal, which it views as insufficiently conservative.

"We are not committed to the Senate bill in its current form, but there is still time to make changes and we're actively working to improve it," Phillips said.

At the same time, Koch's allies are aggressively pushing forward on the taxes. The network is running what it describes as "a first wave" of digital ads calling on more than 50 House and Senate Republicans in both parties to overhaul the nation's tax code.

Later in the summer, Phillips said, Americans for Prosperity will begin hosting rallies and other events to generate momentum for a tax overhaul in all 36 states where they have full-time operations.

Analysis 'They're sentencing me to death': Medicaid recipients on the Republican healthcare plan

The Guardian interviewed people from across the country who have relied on the coverage for life-sav

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Josh Holmen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

I just wanted to share my opinion that Graham-Cassidy will harm, bankrupt and allow people to die due to lack of insurance.

We had a premature son born at 29 weeks, we spent 3 months in the NICU and incurred a million plus in medical bills. That's not possible without insurance, and it's not possible with bullshit lifetime limits.

Fix the ACA, don't harm the country by passing a terrible bill just because Republicans and trump want to punish President Obama.

You all work for the American people, not for trump and not for the Republican party.

This is not a game, this is peoples' lives and livelihoods.

Thanks,
Josh Holmen

[REDACTED]
Minnetrista MN [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Veronica Parker Zielinski [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

Please don't allow this horrendous bill. Healthcare is a right- there can be no quality of life without it. We need our representatives to REPRESENT us.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amanda Fogarty <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because block grants to the states won't be enough money to cover the people who have been covered under the medicare expansion here in Pennsylvania. Not only that, but with Pennsylvania's recent budget issues and the credit rating being downgraded, the state is in no way able to help these people. This bill will lead to loss of insurance, loss of treatment, and loss of life.

Earning less than others should not be a death sentence in this country. There are bi-partisan ways you can work to fix this, I encourage you to try them.

Amanda Fogarty
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Davis [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because ...it punishes people with preexisting conditions, and has some of the worst language of all repeal and replace proposals! Improve ACA don't take healthcare from 30 million Americans.

Karen Davis

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beth Hoer <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No Graham Cassidy

My family is impacted by diabetes and high blood pressure, and we are at risk for colorectal, breast and skin cancer. We need essential health benefits which include screenings.

Do the right thing, please.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sharon Vaughn <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: (SENDER VALIDATION FAILED --- May not have originated from apparent sender)
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 daughter has a low-paying job and has Medicaid. If she loses it she will have no way to pay for doctor visits or medication.

I also care about other family members, friends and neighbors and their healthcare. Our representatives should care too.

It's clear that the majority of Americans want their representatives to fix the problems with the ACA rather than repeal it.

It's also very clear that the essential benefits of the ACA lead to healthier citizens because we can visit the doctor and receive the care we need to prevent more expensive diseases. Only people who don't have to worry about healthcare could consider taking it away from their fellow citizens.

I am begging, once again, to have mercy on your less fortunate citizens and reject Graham-Cassidy.

Sharon Vaughn
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Matthew Zangwill [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO

Senators,

The GCHJ is an abomination. It is inhumane in its indifference to the sick, poor and disadvantaged and is not representative of American ideals and principles. Americans overwhelmingly, in numbers rarely seen, are against this proposed legislation.

Vote NO.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Deb Cavrak [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: heartless

I'm asthmatic and support for Autism Connection of PA. I disgusted by the GOPs newest effort repealing our healthcare system.

I thought our politicians were supposed to support the people. What about our voices and needs?

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Martha Cornell [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because the cuts to Medicaid, loss of coverage for people with pre-existing conditions, and the elimination of the requirement for ALL health plans to include Essential Health Benefits will hurt Americans of all walks of life. Please do not proceed with this bill. Please work to fix the ACA, not obliterate it. Pennsylvanians deserve health care coverage that works for everyone, not just the well-employed and well-off. This bill is cruel and unnecessary. Please return to regular order and work to repair the ACA. Vote no on Graham-Cassidy.

Thank you.

Martha Cornell

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mindy [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Mindy Suurs
Subject: REPUBLICAN HEALTH CARE BILL

Here is my opinion on the latest Republican offering for Healthcare for Americans:

IT IS AWFUL. Stupid. Terrible. And ridiculous. Such an incredible waste of everybody's time and money to even consider this trash. It is beneath contempt. All who are involved in this unconscionable effort should be so ashamed to be associated with it (but they somehow won't be.) To think that this should be a STATE issue is INSANE. Can you imagine 50 different rules and underwriting guidelines? This is no guarantee of ANYTHING, and when it comes to health, PEOPLE WANT GUARANTEES. And in my humble opinion, they DESERVE it.

STOP WASTING EVERYONE'S TIME AND MONEY AND JUST GO WITH SOME KIND OF SINGLE PAYER ALREADY.

Its OBVIOUS it's the only possible way to cover all Americans cradle to grave.

Sincerely,

--

Mindy Suurs

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rachel Shipley [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy will ruin our small business

My husband and I are small business owners.

We were able to take the risk to do this in large part because we were able to afford to pay for health insurance thanks to the ACA.

We receive no subsidies. The costs have been stable and and manageable to us.

If Graham-Cassidy passes, we are very unlikely to be able to afford health insurance.

Healthcare expenditures are nearly 20% of GDP. That doesn't take into account all the knock-on and downstream impacts of healthcare expenditures- the nurse that can afford a new car or groceries because they have a job. The medical device manufacturer that buys steel, plastic, and more for the making of their products.

Graham-Cassidy will kick the legs out from under at least 20% of the economy. That will be the end of our current economic prosperity and stability. 2008 will look like small potatoes.

When at least 10% of the population loses their health care right away, how will that impact productivity? Spending? Industry?

People will loose jobs, their businesses, and their homes. It will feel like they've lost everything. But they won't have- not until they watch a loved one suffer and die from an easily treatable disease or condition whose medicine is out of their financial reach. Not until they themselves are in an accident, and wake up in a hospital to find out they'll live, but their family will be bankrupt.

Graham-Cassidy makes no economic sense. None.

Graham-Cassidy is perversely cruel, with the only end goal of increasing the suffering of millions and while enriching a select few and then calling it "states rights."

If Republicans pass this, there will be no sharing the blame with anyone else. Republicans alone will be responsible for the coming and severe economic downturn. Republicans alone will be responsible for millions losing their health insurance and dying.

This is a terrible bill. Please have the courage to put country over party and vote no.

--
Rachel Shipley
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Donna Long [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:44 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 becausealmost everyone in our country has some kind of pre-existing condition according to insurance companies. Yes, they will have to provide insurance (supposedly) but Insurance companies can price it so high that the majority of Americans, especially older Americans, will never be able to afford insurance. Please vote NO. Listen to your Constituents!!!! We are the people you are supposed to be working for. We are who pay your salary.

Thank you
Donna Long

Donna Long

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Wendy Wittenbrook <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

I am vehemently opposed to the Cassidy-Graham bill. It is a terrible bill!!

Wendy Wittenbrook
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: darlene pitts [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Attachments: 20170617_210149.jpg; 20170805_165143.jpg

Please take in consideration the healthcare of any and all of these children and adults with disabilities before you make any type of decision on this bill. This is my daughter and my grandson. They matter as much as anyones child and without help they would not be here today. Please consider everyone before a decision is made.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Comcast <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Dear Committee: This bill is a travesty. I have worked all my life since I was in 7th grade. I am a lawyer, but living in Salt Lake City means I do not make a NY- or LA-level salary. We are certainly comfortable, but my husband is a few weeks away from an Alzheimer's diagnosis. If that happens, at some point he will need nursing home care. I am nearly 61. I can't work forever. Without Medicaid, we will go bankrupt. That is the reality. Is that what you want and think is good? I would sincerely appreciate an answer, and most importantly, for you to stop this bill. Thank you and hoping to receive a response, Tacy Hartman

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chrisse Roccaro [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Don't destroy ACA

I know from personal experience how valuable and important the ACA is. Although I don't live in your state, your position in the National governance of our country means you represent me as well as all Americans

Your unconscionable bill is going to devastate 32 million American lives. Please don't. How do you sleep at night knowing that your revenge plays will cripple American health even as our tax dollars pay for your own insurance?

Christian much? Guess not.

Christine Roccaro
Portland Or

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: The Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:25 PM
To: gchcomments

Please do not discontinue my daughter is an adult with Autism and this is her only means of insurance she is 26.

Sent from my OnePlus 3

Title Of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Date of the Hearing: September 25th, 2017

Full Name: Elizabeth Nicole Christian

Address: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Chicago, IL [REDACTED]

Dear Committee,

I am concerned about the new health bill. It does not protect against pre-existing conditions or against insurance caps. Both of these things fundamentally goes against what insurance is. Insurance is not supposed to punish people for using it. Everyone is supposed to be in the pool and then those that are sick use it. By having these conditions and pricing people out of insurance the government ends up discouraging using the insurance which makes it to where there are less individuals in the pool, and therefore less people paying into the pool. I don't understand how this is difficult to understand. Please make insurance affordable for all, discriminating against no one, and where citizens of America do not go broke by from going to see a doctor.

I realized something this week at work. I came down with a really bad cold where I had a terrible scratchy throat and high fever for most of the week. Now I never take off work. I left last year with 9 of my 14 sick days unused. But this cold was killing me. And I could only take one day off and still needed to go back to work before I was well because going to see an actual doctor to find out if I need medication to recover because it would cost me more than I make in a day, and probably more than I make in a week. This is wrong. How can citizens in countries with GDPs much lower than ours go to the doctors for colds or when they need one, but we cannot?

Please do not repeal Affordable Care Act and instead think of Americans and fix Affordable Care Act.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Christian

Ginger Zarske

Hayes, VA

Senate Committee on Finance
Attn. Editorial and Document Section
Rm. SD-219
Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510-6200

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

Senator Hatch and members of the Senate Finance Committee:

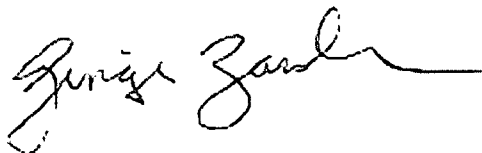
I am writing to give my perspectives on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill.

First, let me say that you are being churlish and childish in your commitment to repeal the ACA. President Obama knew it wasn't perfect. He worked hard to appease everyone, including the Health Care industry, and he always said that any improvements would be welcomed. You should be working to negotiate with the Health Care industry and the states to create a better, more robust plan. Instead, you are systematically breaking it up and creating nothing but chaos.

It is your fault that insurance carriers are pulling out of states. It is your fault that some states refuse to expand Medicaid so that low income families and children can have a decent shot at a life, and it will be your fault when thousands of people die because they didn't have adequate health care.

I hope you can't sleep,

Sincerely,



Ginger Zarske

Senate Committee on Finance
Attn. Editorial and Document Section
Rm. SD-219
Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC [REDACTED]

RE: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal
Date: Monday, September 25, 2017
Time: 02:00 PM
Location: 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Dear Senators:

Please do not support the Graham-Cassidy measure to repeal the ACA. Both my husband and I have pre-existing conditions and when he lost his job last year, had to get insurance through the ACA. Without it, we would not have had insurance, which means our health would be far worse than it is and we would have missed work.

Do not repeal the ACA. Improve it. Taking healthcare from millions of Americans does not help our country. It will create many other problems, many of them costly for the government and private citizens.

Thank you,
Tara McClellan McAndrew
[REDACTED]
Springfield, IL [REDACTED]

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

Date of Hearing: September 25, 2017

FROM: Kate Juhl (concerned citizen), 10749 Brewer House Road, Rockville, MD [REDACTED]

As an American citizen, worker and mother, I am incredibly concerned about the Graham-Cassidy bill to replace the Affordable Care Act. This bill is ill-conceived and Republicans in congress are attempting to rush it through without adequate hearings or chances for the public to respond. ***If passed, this proposal will sicken and even kill Americans.*** I am vehemently opposed to the bill because shifting power and money to the states will have devastating outcomes for:

- People with pre-existing conditions
- Women, especially women like me, who hope to become pregnant in the near future
- People with disabilities
- Lower-income Americans
- Older Americans

I work as a career advisor at a large research university. In my role, I help students find internships and jobs after graduation. Prior to the Affordable Care Act, graduating students struggled to have health coverage while looking for that first job after college. Many of them went without coverage with devastating consequences. By allowing young people to stay on their parents' plan until age 26, college graduates were given more breathing room to find an employer offering health benefits. Though Graham-Cassidy claims it will continue this provision, I am more concerned about how many employers will drop health coverage for their employees if it is not a requirement. They are most likely to drop coverage on their most entry-level workers, which would be the very students I work with day in and day out. Even if they keep coverage, employers could cut plans for workers with pre-existing conditions.

As a woman, this bill is devastating. In my twenties, Planned Parenthood provided my healthcare. I routinely saw Planned Parenthood for birth control and yearly well woman exams. This was before the Affordable Care Act provided free birth control, so I was lucky to be able to get birth control through Planned Parenthood at a reduced rate.

Now, as a mother of a young boy, I am terrified of the consequences this bill. I would like to have another baby soon. Would pregnancy become a pre-existing condition? Will my employer cut my health benefits? What if my son develops an illness? What about my best friend in New York? She has a beautiful six month old baby and neither her employer nor her husband's employer offer health insurance. The Affordable Care Act has literally been a lifesaver for her family.

The Affordable Care Act perhaps isn't perfect, but for many millions of Americans, it has made the difference between sickness and health and, in some cases, life and death. Please vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill. It is shameful our country would even consider this type of legislation, particularly in such a short amount of time without even a score from the Congressional Budget Office.

Please vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill to ensure all Americans are able to have access to quality, affordable health insurance.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,
Kate Juhl

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

Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017

Hanna Floss

[REDACTED]
Bellevue, WA [REDACTED]

I have two children aged 21 & 23 who were both diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes in 2013. They are currently covered on our COBRA insurance as my husband switched jobs. It is good coverage and pays nearly all their prescription drug costs (daily insulin injections) and supplies (blood glucose monitoring test strips, Dexcom Continuous Glucose Monitoring devices, and injection needles). When we receive our explanation of benefits, I am always astounded at the cost of these supplies and medication. We feel very fortunate to have this good health insurance coverage and that the ACA allows my children to stay on our plan until the age of 26.

My kids will hit that age of 26 soon, and I worry about how they will be able to afford or even be able to obtain good health coverage with their pre-existing condition. When you have insurance companies coming out to say,

“The bill contains provisions that would allow states to waive key consumer protections, as well as undermine safeguards for those with pre-existing medical conditions,” the Blue Cross association said in a statement. “The legislation reduces funding for many states significantly and would increase uncertainty in the marketplace, making coverage more expensive and jeopardizing Americans’ choice of health plans.”*

I think there is a problem.

Please do not support the Graham Cassidy bill. My childrens’ lives depend upon it.

Kind regards,

Hanna Floss

Source: <http://fortune.com/2017/09/20/blue-cross-americas-health-insurance-plans-republican-health-care-bill/>



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Mark Procopio
Executive Director
mprocopio@freestate-justice.org

September 22, 2017

Honorable Ben Cardin
United States Senate
Washington, DC

Dear Senator Cardin:

FreeState Justice advocates on behalf of the more than 180,000 Marylanders who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and gender non-conforming (LGBTQ). We are grateful to you and Senator Van Hollen for strongly opposing the disastrous new Senate proposal to gut the Affordable Care Act and deny health care to hundreds of thousands of Marylanders and millions of Americans, many of whom identify as LGBTQ.

LGBTQ people in Maryland, and across the country, are much more likely to live on low- or limited- incomes, so our community relies on program like Medicaid which this proposal would decimate.

Instead of trying to weaken health care coverage, we should work together to strengthen the Affordable Care Act in order to achieve our common goal of quality, affordable health care for all Marylanders.

Thank you so much for all your critical leadership over the years on health care coverage and public health issues and we look forward to working with you to achieve our common goal of quality, affordable health care for all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark A. Procopio'.

Mark Procopio

STAFF

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Ebony Thompson, Esq.

Venable LLP

Sam Williamson

*University of Maryland Francis King
Carey School of Law*

September 22, 2017

Honorable Ben Cardin
United States Senate
Washington, DC

Dear Senator Cardin:

The Women's Law Center, commends you and Senator Chris Van Hollen for strongly opposing the disastrous new Senate proposal to gut the Affordable Care Act and deny health care to hundreds of thousands of Marylanders and millions of Americans. The Women's Law Center is a nonprofit agency that for the past 45 years has served as the Leading voice in Maryland in the fight for fairness and equity for women and children. We hope that reason prevails and support any and all efforts to defeat the Graham-Cassidy Bill. Their bill would be disastrous for women and children in particular. Instead of this calamity, we should be strengthening the Affordable Care Act to provide more and better medical care to Americans.

Defunding Medicaid would be devastating for children and women living in poverty. Amy Friedrich-Karnik, senior federal policy adviser at the Center for Reproductive Rights, pointed to a statistic from progressive think tank the Century Foundation that estimates 13 million women will lose access to maternity care services if the ACA is repealed. She further explains that the bill also blocks Medicaid patients from using Planned Parenthood, which bars access to essential preventative care like birth control, cancer screenings, and STD testing and treatment. The bill would also bar those with pre-existing conditions from obtaining coverage, even for those seeking private insurance.

According to the Center for American Progress, in 2017, 6.5 million women and girls enrolled in health care coverage through the ACA marketplace, with the majority receiving financial assistance. Without such assistance, many women would not be able to afford the health coverage and care they need, jeopardizing their health and financial security.

The result of the Graham-Cassidy bill would result in unimaginable detriment for women and children immediately and into the future. We support your continued fight to save the Affordable Care Act and defeat this horrible bill.

Sincerely,



Laure Ruth, Esq.
Legal Director

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dora Pereda [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please don't repeal ACA

Please don't repeal ACA. Work with democrats to make it work. Millions of lives depend on it. Your cooperation on this matter will be highly appreciated.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Vanna Cleary [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:58 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 have had cancer, and am also dealing with several other chronic, life-threatening pre-existing conditions. I will not be able to afford health insurance under this bill, even if I could get someone to offer me a policy. This bill is a death sentence for me, and for others like me. This bill will kill people.

Vanna Cleary

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kevin Knight <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassiday

I am writing to express my opposition to the Graham/Cassiday Amendment. Congress has had every opportunity to make the health markets better but refuses to because of partisan politics. Now, this last ditch effort is being rushed through without a complete CBO score. It is unconscionable to allow this to pass. I have a pre-existing condition and my family would be devastated by this bill.

Also, it is a ridiculous notion that this is the only other option outside of single payer. The evidence is overwhelming that the American people have not supported any other of the repeal proposals and will not support this one. If the concern is to avoid single payer, this bill ought not to pass. My prediction is that the GOP will pay a heavy political price should Graham/Cassiday pass and then single payer will be very much an option.

--

Kevin D. Knight
Pastor, Dothan First Church of the Nazarene

[REDACTED]
Dothan, AL [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shannon Wiltsey Stirman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy Graham bill

From what I have read this bill will make insurance unaffordable for millions of people. That alone is a concern. But the failure to hold meaningful hearings, accept bipartisan amendments, or wait for a CBO score suggest that the Senate neither respects the process or the ability of constituents to have a voice in the formation of policy that will impact everyone, regardless of where they get their insurance.

This is too significant to push through without giving Americans the opportunity to understand how it will affect them and allowing them time to make their needs and preferences regarding this bill known to their senators.

Shannon Wiltsey Stirman

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sharon Goel [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham Cassidy healthcare bill

To whom it may concern:

Healthcare is a HUGE part is the American economy and it impacts everyone.

I oppose the Graham Cassidy healthcare bill.

Extend & fund ACA or move to a single-payer model please.

Thank you.

Sharon Goel, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

'You run your business, and leave the IT to us!'

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judith Cardinal <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: REPEAL AND REPLACE

DO NOT REPEAL AND REPLACE ACA, FIX IT!!!

REPEAL AND REPLACE THE REPUG MAFIA!!!!

YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT AMERICANS, YOU'RE A DEATH



SQUAD!!!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Wendy Latzgo <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: (SENDER VALIDATION FAILED --- May not have originated from apparent sender)
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 will result in older Americans like myself having to pay over \$14000 a year to buy healthcare coverage on the marketplace. I am currently in serious danger of losing my full-time status and my current coverage. There is no way I could ever afford premiums that high.

Besides myself, more than 32 million people would lose their health insurance. This is a LIFE & DEATH matter. Parents will have to watch their children die. How could this ever happen in the richest country in the world?

Most of the people I know have pre-existing conditions. This bill would result in insurance for those people going up exponentially and cause countless deaths and personal bankruptcies.

i am also greatly concerned about cutbacks to Medicaid for the handicapped and low- income people. This bill is heartless in its lack of compassion for the most vulnerable members of our community.

Furthermore, I am greatly concerned at the proposed cutbacks to women's health services which will result in an enormous rise in the numbers of unwanted pregnancies that will result in major increases in poverty and crime in the future.

What is the motivation for all this? Certainly not to provide high quality Healthcare to all Americans. It seems that it is to get something, anything through Congress to make good on election promises and make ultra-wealthy donors like the Koch brothers happy. This will come back to haunt the Republican Party for a very long time!

Wendy Latzgo

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sally Meek <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

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

Sally Meek

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robin Kersey [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

This bill is an insult to hard working families, retired people, and anyone with an illness like asthma, high blood pressure, diabetes, or any condition that requires ongoing or long term treatment.

My parents were huge tea party advocates and have hosted Republican fund raising and campaign efforts.

If this bill passes, every member of my family will not only vote against, but actively campaign against anyone who votes for it.

It IS that bad.

Robin Kersey

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linsey & Noel Rippy [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

To Whom It May Concern

My name is Linsey Rippy and I live in Blaine, Minnesota. I have two daughters who are 8 and 11 years old. Both girls have had heart transplants, and both have suffered brain damage, physical/developmental delays, and global developmental disability as a result of their hearts being so sick. One of my daughters has a sensory processing disorder and the other is on Coumadin therapy after a blood clot to the lung last year nearly ended her life.

This proposed legislation for the Graham-Cassidy bill is nothing short of a death sentence for my family. Did you know that the number one birth defect is a congenital heart defect, and it affects 1 in every 100 births? Did you know that CHDs kill more children yearly than all forms of pediatric cancer combined? Children like mine, under the proposed legislature, would hit their lifetime cap in less than one year. IF they managed to get past that year, they'd not be long before they would either not have coverage due to reaching that max, or they'd be denied coverage elsewhere due to a pre-existing condition.

My husband works 14+ hours a day to keep our family afloat. We pay taxes, we live within our means, and we are responsible citizens who give back when we can and work hard every single day.

My children's medication alone costs nearly \$3000.00 per month, per child. They go to the doctor at least once every three months, and have many other therapies and services in between said doctor visits. Because of their medical insurance, the care of the doctors at Mayo Clinic, and their fantastic special education team at school, they are thriving and living a good life.

My children deserve to LIVE.

Please consider the millions of people like my children, and say NO to this devastating excuse for a healthcare bill. I shouldn't have to worry that my country doesn't care about my children, that in America a child cannot live for lack of health care. It's a travesty. Without the ACA my children might not even be alive today, and it makes me so angry that folks like you-who have no worries about where your healthcare is going to come from, since the government pays for it-are making decisions for whether my children are worth keeping alive. This is NOT American, it's not what is right, and it certainly isn't what Jesus would do.

If you truly are representatives of the people, listen to our cries. This is an outrage and it must not pass.

Sincerely

Linsey Rippy
Blaine MN

www.caringbridge.org/visit/madisonrippy -and-
www.caringbridge.org/visit/sydneyrippy

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Audrey Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to the Graham Cassidy Bill from a Georgia Resident

Hello,

My name is Audrey Smith. I am a resident of Georgia and a senior in college. Access to healthcare is an issue that is deeply important to me. Even though my family is lucky enough to have employer based insurance, and I am able to stay on my parents' plan until I am 26, I know not everyone has that luxury and rely on market place insurance provided by the Affordable Care Act. While the ACA is not a perfect solution, I believe its the best we have now. Repealing it and replacing it with the Graham Cassidy bill would be incredibly detrimental to low income folks.

I urge you not to pass this piece of legislation.

Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Marshall [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to you today, as an American citizen, to give my opinion of the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

As the mother of a son who is autistic, I am concerned about how this passage will effect my son's ability to receive services in the future.

In particular:

This bill still contains provisions to deconstruct, cap, and cut Medicaid;

- Still allows for waivers to eliminate the essential health care benefits;
- Still allows for waivers to disregard the prohibition to discriminate against pre-existing conditions;
- Still eliminates the incentive to provide home and community-based services;

All of which will affect needed services for individuals with autism and their families!

With appropriate supports and services, my son (and many on the autism spectrum) has a chance at becoming an independent, contributing member of society. If these supports are cut, I fear he/they will become a burden on society.

Please invest in our kids and kill this bill.

Thank you for your time,
Lisa

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Peter Ferguson [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fix taxes and leave healthcare alone

To whom it may concern:

I have never been more disappointed to call myself a conservative.
We have a clear and easy win in tax reform but you cannot get clear of a change in healthcare that would hurt millions of people. Get back to work on the things that matter and leave peoples health alone.

Yours truly

Peter G Ferguson

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kelly Chesebrough [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

I am writing to ask you to vote no on the proposed healthcare bill. I am a 40 year old mom of 4 boys (ages 8, 10, 13, 14) from Indiana. I have stage 4 colon cancer. I am extremely worried about what this new bill could do to my health insurance. If pre-existing conditions are not protected many people will die or go bankrupt. I know you say they have to allow access to insurance but if insanely expensive surcharges are added then it doesn't matter if there is access. My treatments are tens of thousands per month! And that does not include necessary blood work, scans and medicines to fight side effects. I have also already had 4 expensive surgeries and could face more in the future. If lifetime limits are resumed this would also negatively affect myself and many others. I know some say other people should not have to help pay for the healthcare of sick people. Cancer does not discriminate! It can strike anyone at any time! I was totally healthy, until I wasn't. I am angry that on top of dealing with all that goes along with a stage 4 cancer diagnosis including the thought of leaving my 4 children without a mom, that now I have to worry about being able to have insurance in the future. I also worry about pre-existing conditions for my husband who has had precancerous skin spots and my son with asthma. And I worry about access to mental health services because my family is likely to need them in the event of my death. There are thousands of stories just like mine across our country.

Please, please, please continue to work in a bipartisan way to figure out another solution. It is not fair to millions of Americans for this to be rushed through just to get a political "win". There has to be a better solution that does not risk the lives of so many.

Thank you!

Kelly Chesebrough

[REDACTED]
Fishers, IN [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Balkanization of the U.S.A.

This is the real effect of the various pork that is being doled out by the despicable deals with individual states to get your votes.

It is time to remember that we are one country, one people.

The majority party has shown over the past 6-8 years and especially right now that the interest of their organization is paramount over the general welfare of the people. Yes, that is in the constitution, in case you haven't read past the 2nd amendment.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judy Adair [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: TO THE UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE:

TO THE UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE:

Please slow down this hearing and return to the regular order of business in the Senate.

One hearing prior to a vote does not allow for two weeks of comments on the bill. There is no CBO score on this drastic measure.

One sixth of the American economy will be affected -- not to mention the millions of American's healthcare.

We deserve a thoughtful and deliberative process as well as the best coverage available for the most people. Graham Cassidy does not achieve this goal.

Please pause and think. Are the American people being well-served by this rush to fulfill a campaign promise?

You know it is not.

Sincerely,

JG Adair
Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maura Keefe [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: please accept my comments on Graham-Cassidy bill - vote no

To the honorable members of the Senate,

Please accept my thanks for your continued efforts to address health care concerns and costs in the United States. You understand that every person deserves quality medicare at affordable prices.

Unfortunately, the Graham Cassidy Bill does not solve problems; it only offers new ones. I have grave concerns over the lack of oversight of a federal system. This is not a states' rights issue. It's an issue for all citizens.

Further, the bill does not contain sufficient protections for people with pre-existing conditions.

I understand that this is a priority for members of the leadership, but it is not something that should be rammed through the Senate without proper debate and fiscal evaluation by the Congressional Budget Office.

I appreciate your service and leadership. And look forward to your defeating this hasty and ill-thought out proposed legislation.

Cordially,

Maura Keefe, PhD

[REDACTED]
Hyattsville, MD [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Brouillette [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

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

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tina Vuk [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

As a survivor of triple negative breast cancer I oppose the repeal of ACA.

But more importantly...why is a bill being considered without a CBO score.

I listened to a doctor from NYU and they went over people's complaints about the ACA. None of them were valid when broken down and explained.

Plus, it's just unAmerican repeal something the the majority of people want and need because of party.

Please don't.
Tina

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elaine Vaughan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No! On Gramh Cassidy

Please please don't approve this new bill! Please fix the existing bill.

Wait for the joint committee to come up with improvements.

Thank you!

Elaine Vaughan

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lindsay Fernandez Salvador <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments about Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Finance Committee of the U.S. Senate,

My name is Lindsay Fernandez-Salvador. I am an Oregonian and a constituent of Senator Ron Weyden and Senator Jeff Merkley. I am writing to express my complete opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill that is being discussed at the hearing in Washington D.C. Here are my reasons why I am opposed and what I think about the way this process has been conducted:

1. My son was born premature due to no fault of my own or his. I had an asymptomatic placental abruption which resulted in an emergency C-Section and extended hospital stay. My son was in the NICU for a month and experienced many high cost illnesses and procedures. My final bill for this stay was over \$300,000. I was on Medicaid at the time, and this is the only reason today that my husband and I aren't bankrupt. If this bill passes, people like me and my son will be bankrupted by the cuts to Medicaid.
2. My son was permanently damaged by his birth and he is now deaf. He has a lifetime need to constantly replace expensive hearing aid and cochlear implant technology. His first implant cost over \$75000 at age 5. If this bill passes, insurance agencies can put lifetime caps back on my son. This means he may cap out and not be able to get replacement cochlear implants. Imagine hearing your whole life with an amazing technology and then not be able to hear one day because you can't afford it. It's cruel.
3. I appreciated Senator John McCain's call to regular order. This is not regular order. The republicans who are voting yes on this bill that affects 1/6 of the economy without proper committees, debate, and public interest are committing governing malpractice. There is no other way of putting it. John McCain – vote NO! Your friendship with Lindsey Graham will not save you from the guilt knowing what this will do to millions of people like my son.

I urge all senators to vote no on this bill. For those that don't vote no, I will be sending money and campaigning against you until I die. And I'm healthy and young, so let's hope you can do the math!

Sincerely,

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Garrett and Anntoinnette Backus [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My Comments on Graham-Cassidy

To Whom it May Concern:

I sit here at my desk today asking myself: why do I need to write into the record what is blatantly obvious to anyone who isn't a complete idiot? It is clear: Graham-Cassidy is bad for Americans—bad for our children; our veterans; our elderly, and especially bad for women. Why must we accept this disaster of a health care bill offered by the GOP, whose main agenda seems to be harming women and children, borne of their hatred for our former President.

We know that women of child-bearing age will be the ones who suffer the most. Predicted premiums up to \$14,000 must be a sick joke; but they aren't under Graham-Cassidy. And I ask why? Why is this acceptable in 2017 in the United States of America? It shouldn't be. We are a first world country; we treat women like third world citizens. Unacceptable.

I have elderly parents: in their mid-70's. They worked all of their lives until retirement 10 years ago. Reviewing available information, the premiums for their health insurance coverage would increase to such an extent they would be forced to decide whether to make their house payments or pay for their health care. As it is, they can barely afford their insurance now; needed prescriptions are already beyond their budget. What they would face in the coming years because of Graham-Cassidy—unacceptable.

The GOP touts their party as pro-life. And yet, this bill is the antithesis of pro-life: people will die if this bill is signed into law. Real people: children with cancer; mothers in child-birth; men who worked in the coal mines now afflicted with Black Lung Disease; adults with drug addictions; members of Congress diagnosed with brain cancer. People will die because they can't afford their premiums and can't seek treatment—unacceptable.

The GOP seems hell-bent on killing the ACA. Why? Because the law was created and signed by President, Mr. Barack Obama, a man whose legacy they want to destroy. In doing so, they have chosen to destroy the lives of many Americans in the process. We can not stand by and allow this to happen. Repeal and replacement of ACA—unacceptable.

Save the Affordable Care Act. We need bi-partisan support in Congress to fix the ACA—to make it work for all Americans. That to me is the only acceptable answer.

Regards,

Anntoinnette Silva Backus
Stockton, CA [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lise Pearlman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Personal family coverage

I have one question for every Senator poised to support the Graham-Cassidy bill: Assuming each state moves forward in the way you expect them to do, would you want anyone In your family to have the resulting insurance plan be their only option? Clearly, that is not your personal problem. The government provides you with coverage unavailable to the vast majority of us..

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Megan Stageman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: medical care

To Whom It May Concern:

Please do not repeal the Affordable Care Act without having something to replace it with. Please, take you time to create something beneficial to all Americans. This can be done right without spite and "fulfilling promises". Try and be empathetic to what the average person goes through in terms of health care and not just to line pockets of insurance companies. This is important.

Thank you for your time,
Megan Stageman
Bozeman, MT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Fran Hadley <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Trumpcare - Grahan-Cassidy

Please do not abandon the ACA. The Graham Cassidy bill is unconscionable and will take healthcare away from millions of Americans. Healthcare is a right not a privilege. Please do the right thing for Americans and don't allow this to become law!

Sincerely

Fran Hadley

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Claudia Sherman [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Do you realize the effect the Graham Cassidy Bill would have on people with disabilities who rely on Medicaid for the services that enable them to live and participate in the community? It would be devastating! My daughter, who was born with developmental disabilities, is currently living under the auspices of an agency in Nebraska that is teaching her to live on her own. Other agencies that support her are helping her find a job. It is unethical to remove these supports from her and others with disabilities!

And allowing states to waive protections for people with pre-existing conditions is allowing states to waive protections for everyone with a disability! To add to that, my family has lost my mother, my youngest sister, and an aunt from cancer. Our family carries the BRCA1 breast cancer/ovarian cancer gene mutation. My daughter has the gene and had breast cancer in 2013. She is still surviving thanks to good medical care. Do you really have the heart to take that away from her?

PLEASE oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill and any other bills that cut, cap, or block grants to Medicaid. PLEASE!

Thank you,
Claudia Sherman
Omaha, NE

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: RDC [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham-Cassidy Bill is the worst healthcare proposal to date.

Our 23-year-old son, who is covered under my insurance because of the affordable care act, recently expressed some concerns to his father and I. He has a condition going on with his leg/bone that at this point is showing no signs of cancer but we won't know for sure until he has surgery October 4. He is under my insurance coverage, but for how long??...he now will have a pre-existing condition, simply orthopedic or something more serious, and four days before his surgery it is very scary that our leaders in Washington are not leading in the development and compromise of proactive and positive change for the citizens of this country. 23 to over 30 million loss of coverage due to higher premiums-limitations???? Millions of US citizens being threatened by a United States president.....what has happen to our countries leadership?

My husband and I have worked all our lives paid into the system all our lives and now are in a dark hole, too young for options but too old to continue in this environment as we don't know what's going to happen to us..... employers limit or remove coverage-raising premium so high that we cant afford-threatening Medicare Medicaid Social Security ...we don't know what our future is going to look like. My husband, maintaining his health- controlling his medical issues proactively having insurance, would be paying over \$2000 prescriptions a month(why are we not we talking about the sky rocket costs oh that's right blood money in pockets) if he was not covered.....he's a hard worker good an honest man. My beautiful 32 year old daughter-in-law juvenile diabetic, my beautiful 30 year old daughter asthma pre-existing medical conditions and my beautiful 28 year old daughter medical conditions looking for a job how will she be covered with pre-existing conditions?.....due to confidentiality I can't even begin to tell you my medical nightmare..... but I'm old and I'll die what about all these beautiful young people that are learning this country doesn't have their backs???

These are not stories of "freebies"and "giveaways" these are the citizens making this country great-building this country even stronger---let's talk about those stories..... even with the ability to be strong and make change there's nothing going on but traitorous egos & financial agendas that are leading this nation down a destructive path.

No one is caring about the nation, only hyper focused on undoing a black man's leadership.... let's be honest bottom line.....shame shame shame.....

Won't somebody please fix the affordable care act, how about Medicare for all and negotiating with pharmaceutical companies or another creative solution, instead of tearing down.....ramifications of this, from jobs/healthcare to mortality, is frightening.....This is so un-American I can't even comprehend the depth of deception and treason in the Republican leadership.

This new act racism and elitist posturing deliberately targets states that expanded Medicaid for the most cuts-- and then gives that money to states that did not expand Medicaid. Please don't steal from your own constituents. Those who voted for this president are now getting paid, example Southern states will be able to siphon "block money" to other agenda items rather than healthcare.... The public is seeing nothing but a shell game from both our president and his court jesters, I'm so disappointed.

This latest attempt at smashing instead of correcting will be nothing but an "abortion" of those with pre-existing conditions, Medicaid, Medicare, middle income, lower income, special-needs, men and women proactive care and testing, the list goes on and on and on. Just keep abortion totally unrestricted so you can start at the beginning instead of the back-endwhy your at it why don't you trash the constitution except the two that protect unlimited guns and unlimited hate speech(and my ability to write this letter) also tell us how many kids we can have-if we go to local schools or universities-what religion we should practice & hurt us if we don't believe- if we go in the coal mines the fields drink dirty water eat poisonous food breath dirty air(so top 1% 400 families stuff their pockets with blood coated money) this is ridiculous!

I am not speaking as a Republican

I am not speaking as a Democrat

I am a resident of the United States

I am sick of the way this treasonous administration has turn Honor into a nonexistent, yet once amazing, attribute of our country.....My eyes lift to the sky as I pray for support & forgiveness because Washington is not listening....hate, ignorance & violence and now importantly greed, why would you not want a healthy nation?, has taken over..... out of the darkness I seek the light.....LOVE

Mrs. Rita Darragh-Connors

[REDACTED]
Quakertown, PA [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

please excuse any typos emails will be sent, using microphone, from my mobile device

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RDC 2017

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mandras, Catherine <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH comments

Dear Senator's

As an American I am so disheartened to see that once again a so called replacement healthcare bill is trying to be rammed through and passed into law, without a CBO score, proper debate or input from Democrats. The passing of the Graham Cassidy bill would literally kill people. I am stunned that anyone is supporting it. I, along with every medical group, Dr.'s, nurses, patient advocates, Governor's, senior citizens and pediatric groups and almost anyone else who is not operating with the corporate interest in mind beg you all to vote NO. REAL LIVES ARE AT STAKE.

Sincerely,

Catherine Mandras

Catherine Mandras
Transitional Employment Unlimited

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

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lori Feldman [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not pass graham Cassidy bill

Its impact will be devastating. Please. please. Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lindsay Guetschow [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Comment

To whom it may concern,

Once again I am horrified that the Graham Cassidy bill would be pushed to a vote without a bipartisan working group and a CBO score so all Americans will know the truth that this bill will strip them of coverage from millions of Americans.

Why do you feel the need to wage a war on women? As a woman, I am so disappointed. Stipping away prenatal and maternity care. Where do you think you all came from?

Get back to work working a bipartisan bill that would fix the pieces of Obamacare that need help and keep the pieces that so many American's need.

--
Lindsay Guetschow

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marilyn Hendricks [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:40 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 many people are at risk for severe disability and death if they don't have health insurance. I am one of those people. I can't afford health insurance. I had surgery on my toe in February, but it didn't work out. I needed the surgery, because I had end-stage arthritis in my toe, the second most common foot problem in women. Unfortunately, the surgery did not work. My joint in my toe didn't fuse. So I am left with a screw which is keeping my toe attached to my foot. I am in dire pain. I walk with a "boot" and use a cane. My doctor is pushing my insurance (medicaid) to give me a bone growth stimulator so I won't need a bone transplant from my heel to fuse my joints. This transplant surgery is much more severe than the original surgery.

Additionally, I have arthritis in every joint. I also have severe digestive problems. Because of all of my medical problems, I suffer from depression and anxiety. But fortunately, because of expanded medicaid, I am hopeful that medical intervention will be able to get me back to a point where I will be able to update my skills and start a business. I don't think I'll be hired at my age.

Many people have gained hope through the ACA and Expanded Medicaid. I want to be a productive, working citizen instead of a handicapped one, laying in bed and suffering from extreme pain and fearful of an early death.

Please vote no on Graham-Cassidy. Over a million people or more will be grateful to you.

Marilyn Hendricks

Marilyn Hendricks
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Prudence Brighton <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please enter this statement into the Senate record on Graham-Cassidy

September 21, 2017

To the United States Senate:

I urge you to act responsibly and defeat the Graham-Cassidy health care bill. I have seen the struggle with health care bills first-hand, and this would cause havoc to many Americans.

My brother, 65, is a Type 1 diabetic who received the diagnosis at age 10. I was a teenager so I have distinct memories of my parents' concern that he might not be insurable as he grew up. As an adult, he worked for companies that provided insurance, but when he was 35, he was laid off. Then he went into business for himself.

That is when the cost of insuring a diabetic became scarily evident. Even though my brother found a group plan, he paid more than \$15,000 a year. Once he found the costs so high that he and his wife held their breaths and went off insurance for several months. Then there was a delay in getting insurance again because of his preexisting condition.

Like most diabetics, my brother has had health scares throughout his life. He has been hospitalized many, many times. He was nearly killed in an auto accident 15 years ago and was airlifted from New Hampshire to a Boston hospital. If there were lifetime caps on his insurance, he would have exceeded them long ago.

I have to admit that he railed against ObamaCare when it became law. However, he signed up for it and was very glad he did. He never regretted that choice. He is now on Medicare.

The bill before you would harm many people like my brother. It pays lip service to preexisting conditions by letting states decide whether to require it. All Americans deserve the same coverage, and no American should

incur a penalty penalized based on where he or she lives. This is not a states' rights issue. It is a human rights issue.

Please defeat Graham-Cassidy and pledge to work on a bi-partisan basis to give all Americans excellent and equal health care coverage.

Thank you for your consideration,

Prudence Brighton

[REDACTED]

Lowell, MA [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Smith [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy bill

As an American citizen, I requesting that this bill go through regular order. We demand hearings on how bad this bill will be. We have to have a CBO score as well.

-Jennifer

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Andrea Sweet [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do NOT approve the Graham-Cassidy bill!

Dear senators,

I am a single woman in my late 50's who will soon need to leave my position as a social worker in order to care for my 84-year-old mother. Under the ACA, I would have been eligible for health insurance through the healthcare exchange despite my pre-existing conditions of osteoporosis and hypothyroidism. Although Senators Graham and Cassidy assure us that the state governments would protect their citizens with pre-existing conditions, I do not share their faith in our elected officials. It is heartbreaking to have to choose between caring for my mother at home (which is her wish), or staying at my job so I won't lose healthcare. I realize my plight is pretty insignificant compared to many others, but if the ACA is repealed and replaced with the current healthcare bill, it will deeply affect my mother's and my quality of life.

Opioid abuse is an epidemic across the country. As a social worker, I provide substance abuse treatment and mental health therapy to young pregnant women who suffer from substance use disorder. The ACA guarantees parity for behavioral health disorders, but it is my understanding that the new healthcare bill has no such provisions. Can you imagine the cost- to the families and society- if these women aren't easily able to obtain adequate health coverage for all of their health needs? Research has been clear that substance-exposed newborns whose mothers did not receive treatment experience significantly more short- and long-term health complications including neonatal abstinence syndrome. The tremendous financial cost to care for these infants in Neonatal Intensive Care Units, potentially for months, is nothing compared to the suffering these babies experience.

The ACA wasn't perfect, but it was a huge step in a more humane direction. If people aren't concerned about the human cost, perhaps they will be about the financial cost that these changes could ultimately create.

Andrea N. Sweet, MSW, LGSW, CAC-AD
Mental Health Program Supervisor

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beth Demas [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:20 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

The affordable care act provided assurance that persons with preexisting conditions, such as my diabetic husband, can have continuous health care he can afford.

Please don't repeal and replace it with the Graham-Cassidy plan.

Medicare for all is the only major change for the better. Please improve the ACA.

Thank you.

Beth Demas

--

Sent from Gmail Mobile

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: leone simkins [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable Care Act

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA and not repeal it. I am certain if the White House was made up of women and not men, this would be done quickly, easily and thoughtfully. Of course I am also aware of the Kochs pay out which we considered criminal.

My mother went into a nursing home, as many moms and dads and she paid her way and never received medicare. If she had lived longer and there was no medicare for her after her money ran out, where would she go? If I was to take care of her which was a 24 hours job, I would have had to quit my job. By doing that I would have no income and no way to pay taxed of course or provide for myself. Would I then get some entitlements myself or then the two of us become homeless?

You have clearly not thought through all of this. We all get one life to live, just one. Will you have been a good soul, done well, been honorable when your last days are here.

I hope we all can say "well done",

Leone Simkins

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dawn Bradshaw [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy proposal

The Graham-Cassidy proposal is not good for the American people. I urge congress to listen to the myriad of non-partisan experts who oppose this plan. Do what is right for the American people and vote against the Graham-Cassidy proposal.

Dawn Bradshaw

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bruce Morrow <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:15 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Bad Bill

Knowing my state of Georgia, I will have to move to another state to afford insurance for my preexisting condition. How is that fair? What about those who can't afford care? Answer: they die. Public service? Hardly.

Bad bill.

Bruce W Morrow
President and Creative Director

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gene Wyrick [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for the Record Re :Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senate Finance Comity

Graham-Cassidy, GOP Death-Care bill is a danger to US citizens. The GOP is willing to risk the lives of the poor and middle class to fund tax cuts for the ultra wealthy.

Thank you for protecting Americans from the Republicans.

Kind Regards,

Gene Wyrick

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:18 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with foster care adoption is dependent on Medicaid for my child to receive the care he requires. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it

Holly Bandel
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Helen [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:18 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

I would like to address the current Cassidy Graham bill on the floor for a vote.

It is Congress's job to do the best to protect the American people. This bill does the complete opposite. I am disgusted that any of my Congressmen or Senators would even consider voting for this heinous version of healthcare, just to get rid of legislation that has Obama's name on it. Do your job, which is not to line your pockets and revenge Obama legislation, it is to do the best for your constituents. Be on the right side of history and focus on a bipartisan effort to work on making the ACA even better.

The Republicans are becoming an embarrassment to their party. I plan on changing parties because I am disgusted to be aligned with a party that has supported a Racist, bigoted, and mysogonist President and his horrendous agenda.

I personally will work to vote out and person who votes for this bill, as will millions of others.

Thank you,
Helen Hollenbeck

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Erica Spangler [REDACTED] <>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:19 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

Erica Spangler

19083
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jerome Dayton [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:12 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

It is simply unconscionable that the richest nation on earth won't provide universal healthcare for it's hard working population. It's time to abandon Republican efforts to throw vast segments of the population to the healthcare wolves. Instead of repealing ACA, let's do a bi-partisan effort to fix it.

Jerome Dayton

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Valerie Moavero [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:17 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

As a breast cancer survivor now labeled with having a pre-existing condition, I could not afford the premium increases to maintain health insurance. I have used the ACA and it has provided me with good premiums & the necessary care I need. As an Independent who has voted both sides as I believe in voting for the right person for the job, I want to see both parties come together for once and just fix the ACA!

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: J [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:17 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no

Dear Representatives

The Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Repeal Bill appears to be backed by the extreme wealthy and their lobbyist. It leaves millions without health care. The insurance industry and the medical businesses that reap billions from the United States Government and its citizens must be reigned in.

I encourage you to not pass this destructive bill. I encourage you to reform the medical and pharmaceutical industries. When hospitals and insurance CEOs are making record salaries, when the businesses are making record profits, the American people suffer.

This bill does not meet the needs of the American people. Please do not vote to pass this bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sharon [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:16 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Please reconsider implementing the Graham-Cassidy bill. This bill is designed to create burden and detriment especially to the elderly.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Keith McDermott [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:16 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Bill

Dear Whom it may Concern,

I am sending this email to urge you to vote NO to the Graham Cassidy Bill. This bill strips US citizens of the protections offered to them by Affordable Care Act. The changes to the ACA give insurance companies the control they want to maximize profits by providing less coverage. The issues are

1. lifetime maximums on coverage
2. denying coverage to sick persons (including indirect denial via the ability to charge higher premiums to those who may have an illness)
3. no regulation of \$ spent on actual health care services should be >85%
4. allowing individuals to not have insurance which will bring back the problems of using high cost emergency room services to treat non-critical issues
5. allowing insurance company to under-insure people

In addition, having 50 different state ways to manage health care will be inefficient and will ultimately result in higher costs, confusion, and chaos for states, individuals, and insurance companies.

Regards
Keith McDermott

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathy Gallin [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:13 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Request to provide Comment to Senate Finance Committee

Please allow this e-mail to serve as our formal Request to Provide Comment to the Senate Finance Committee at the hearing on Monday, September 25th, 2017 regarding the Graham-Cassidy legislation to Repeal and Replace the Affordable Care Act.

Thank you for the consideration.

Kathy E. Gallin
Director of Legislative Affairs
Signature HealthCARE Consulting Services, LLC

Signature
Legislative Affairs

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Twitter [REDACTED]
Contact:
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michelle Mattocks [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:14 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Dear Senators,

I ask that you please carefully consider what repealing Obamacare (and or purposefully and willfully allow it to fail) would do to people like me and my family. My husband had stage 4 melanoma over 20 years ago when he was just 27 years old. By the grace of God he received the right care and through experimental drugs has been in remission ever since. It came with lasting repercussions though. Unfortunately he had to have all lymphnodes removed in his groin area and deals with severe lymphodema in his leg which caused him to leave his job last year in retail. We've gone from a two income family making about \$140k a year to being on one income. We went from not having to worry about how to pay for healthcare to being on Obamacare because my employer's "affordable" plan would cost my family \$1100 a month. \$1100 a month is a mortgage payment! But in 30 years I won't have a beautiful house to retire in, instead I might very well be saddled with a lifetime cap for my trouble. I worry about whether we will have long term healthcare for my husband if he is approved for disability. For 20 years he dealt with the side effects of his cancer. He NEVER complained. He worked. So many people told him, "you should stop working, working is making your leg swelling worse." That's not who he is. He wore compression socks everyday to work to try and control the swelling. There were nights he would come home and the socks had cut into his leg because of the swelling. He wouldn't stop working. That's not who he is. He has to wear two different size shoes because of the swelling in his foot. I am the only reason he stopped working. I couldn't stand to see the man I love in pain every waking minute of everyday. I couldn't in good conscience send him to work knowing what pain he'd be in when he came home. He sees a pain management doctor because for 20 years he's been on narcotics for his pain. I know Obamacare is not perfect but can we at least start from the premise that everybody regardless of where they are in life deserves healthcare? We would think it cruel to take healthcare away from an infant or a senior citizen. Why do we in our middle years deserve any less consideration? Please. Remember that there are human people behind the decisions you are making. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely Michelle Mattocks
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:13 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Senate Finance Committee Graham Cassidy Bill

Importance: High

GCHcomments@finance.senate.gov

Regarding Senate Finance Committee Graham-Cassidy (Committee hearing scheduled for Sept 25, 2017)

Esteemed Senate Committee (s) Members:

Please vote NO on the repeal and replace bill aka Graham-Cassidy Bill.

This email is to register my opinion that to repeal of Obama Care aka ACA without a replacement that insures MORE citizens and stimulates higher quality care, and health maintenance for everyone including but not limited to rural citizens like farmers, miners, ski instructors, dairy queen ice creme servers ; and in urban communities settlers such as data entry workers; teachers, doctors, janitors, and line-cooks, nurses; the young & old alike.

To be sure a public option like Medicare ---requiring only 8% administrative overhead --would be the most effective way to provide insurance and regulate the rising costs to the public. We need to take care of our own people, our citizens first.

Sincerely,

"nico" Niccolo Werner Casewit AIA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pamela Powers [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:12 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stop trying to do away with OBAMACARE!

If it weren't for the name, you'd be handling it differently. Stop being a hooligan to indulge the president's need to eradicate anything with Mr Obama's name on it. He will go down in history as one of our great presidents, and history will not be so kind to you. Trump is a child with these deep seated childish needs to undo everything Mr. Obama did. McConnell and Ryan are bad enough, but this is ridiculous....you'll cut off your nose to spite your face? You'll take healthcare sway which already is a burden on the public because of the egregious fees that are not charged all over the world, that aren't in relation to the wholesale costs involved, and take away their way to pay for it. I worked for an insurance company in the 70's which paid health claims, before the Reagan era that started crushing unions; I know the costs involved.

Be adults. Just give up on this. When the Democrats are reinstated all you've tried to destroy of Mr. Obama's legacy will be reinstated.....for the good of the people.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: delena1990 [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:11 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare Legislation

Dear Senators,

The bill before you has the ability to undermine the healthcare needs of millions of Americans, including me. I am a two time liver transplant recipient because of a disease with no known cause or cure (it is rare and is abbreviated PSC). I am currently waiting for a third liver transplant. At this time, I am on my employer's healthcare plan, and I have amazing benefits. Before pre-existing conditions were covered, I would have been dead by now.

As I wait for my new transplant, I have decided that once it is done, I would like to become a nurse. I am lucky that I have money available to make that dream come true, but only if I can purchase affordable coverage on the open market to cover me during the time I am in school. Without coverage, particularly coverage for the prescriptions I need to keep my new liver from rejecting, I will be unable to pursue this dream to help others.

Additionally, before the ACA, I watched as friends with my disease died from lack of affordable coverage. If left untreated, my disease can turn into a deadly form of cancer. Having made most of the decisions in my life for the last 20 years around the kind of healthcare coverage I can attain, I feel that passing this bill would be an act of malice towards so many Americans like myself. I consider myself upper middle class and have more leeway in what I can afford. I have a friend who is on disability who is not so lucky and she is having to stay in an abusive relationship to maintain coverage because she is too well off for medicade and Medicare does not adequately cover her costs - but her husband has an employer provided plan.

Please, do not rush this bill through for the sake of checking a political box that you repealed the work of a President you didn't like. Please consider the millions of us who rely on the current law, and find ways to add more insured to the rolls rather than making the poorest of us die or become poorer due to lack of insurance.

I am eagerly awaiting the 2018 elections and will vote based on how this is handled.

Sincerely,
Denise Boyd

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S7 edge, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nathan Katz [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:02 PM
To: gchcomments

I am very much in favor of replacing ACA with Graham-Cassidy.

Nathan Katz

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Hachtel [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senators:

Please do not approve this bill. We don't know full repercussions and have the analysis we need.

I have a pre-existing condition for which my medications would cost \$3000.00 a month without insurance coverage!

My 'adopted' daughter - a former Sudanese refugee, now a citizen of the US - and her 8-year-old daughter depend on medicaid for health coverage as she is completing her education to be able to get a job above minimum wage.

Please do not vote for this bill which will hurt so many of us - our health.

Thank you,

Linda Hachtel

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Caroline Melton [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:23 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing as a concerned citizen in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy ACA repeal bill. As the spouse of someone with a pre-existing condition, I know firsthand the effect pre-ACA health policies had on working families.

My husband was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes at the age of 10. Because of this, he must take insulin and wear two medical devices for the rest of his life in order to stay alive. Though we are fortunate to now have employer insurance to cover the costs of these essential medical needs, in the first years of our marriage, when the ACA was not in place, we struggled to make ends meet.

Despite the fact that my husband and I were both employed at a state university, the insurance options available to him did not adequately cover the costs of his medical needs which exceed \$23,500 a year, excluding doctor's visits. He tried multiple times to get coverage outside of his workplace, but was repeatedly denied due to his pre-existing condition, a condition he got as a child, through no fault of his own.

Since his coverage was not sufficient, he was forced to choose between paying the rent and getting the routine blood tests his doctor recommended. We took out a credit card solely for the purpose of buying medical supplies with the points earned. Not only was all of this incredibly stressful and detrimental to his health, it was also simply unfair.

No one should be penalized for having a health condition. When the ACA was passed, my husband and I breathed a sigh of relief that we would no longer have to worry about not being able to get coverage should he lose his job. We also knew that there were countless families who were worse off that would now have coverage thanks to the protections of the ACA.

Thank you,

Louis Self

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tag Tanalski [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:22 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

This bill is a cruel bill, and I totally oppose it. Shame on those lawmakers that do you support it! You should be voted out of office, and probably will be.

Tag Tanalski

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Regina d'Amato [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:22 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 is an atrocity that will destroy the lives of millions that desperately need affordable healthcare.

I have personally experienced financial ruin due to health issues that required outrageous sums of money for care. This is not acceptable.

Please support universal healthcare. Why? Because it's the moral thing to do.

Regina d'Amato

19018
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:22 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Mental Health

When considering mental health issues one must understand it is not just mental illness we are concerned with, but also mental health. All individuals, families and communities must address the mental health of their members just to navigate the issues of everyday life. A sick community is a sick nation. Consider all the recent news stories of the struggles of individuals who were not treated in a timely manner; the result was death and anguish for many. We have to bring mental health services to each community. Hospital care is an important part of the care continuum of care, but a smaller part compared to on-going community mental health services provides.

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Conniedgar [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:21 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare repeal comment

>
> I am a single 62-year-old woman. Healthcare is vital to my well-being. We all need more healthcare not less. If coverage is denied for pre-existing conditions it will be catastrophic for many Americans. Please do not repeal the affordable care act.
>
> Connie

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robert Haney [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:21 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

First of all this is not a health bill. It is just designed to fulfill campaign promises. Please consider working in a bipartisan patriotic way to make access to healthcare more universal, rather than working to restrict healthcare for sick people. The Graham Cassidy bill is bad legislation because it takes away access to healthcare for the most vulnerable in our society, those who are poor and those who have pre-existing conditions. Throw this bill in the trash!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Paula James [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:21 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

This bill would deprive millions of people of adequate health care simply to provide Republicans with a talking point in next year's election. I oppose this bill and urge all of our Representatives and Senators to do the same. Work with Democrats to improve what we have, not decimate it.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: ronda oconnor [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:19 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Trumpcare

Please vote no on the Trumpcare bill. This bill will harm the elderly, the poor, and children. This bill was just written in a hurry so the republicans could get something passed by the Sept. 30 deadline. There were no committees, amendments, or there was not any kind bipartismship for this bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Matt Carson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for the record re: Graham-Cassidy Bill

The Graham-Cassidy Bill is terrible and shouldn't be voted upon, much less passed. It is meeting with universal condemnation from every organization that knows anything about health care. Just give up on it already and focus on improving the Affordable Care Act. ACA helps millions of Americans and can help millions more if you chumps will just admit it and work positively across party lines to repair its defects.

Thank you,
Matt Carson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Doris Michale <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:00 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: coverages

Please allow pre-existing conditions and disabilities be covered for health care.
Doris and Rick Michale

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Paul Achter [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:59 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: don't take away health care

Graham-Cassidy is the third attempt at taking health care away from millions of Americans. Please vote it down.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Claudia [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:58 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re: ACA

Good Saturday Morning!

I would like a response to this question.

How can one believe that you care about your constituents when your voicemail is full, no effort to clear it and receive more messages.

I have family who need the ACA, making cuts to Their are to give big tax breaks to your handlers is cruel. Perhaps Russian way of life is what you are aiming for with our new Russian president.

I ha don't lost all respect for elected officials whose only interest is greed. Shame on you all and I really have no idea how you continue on your path of life with no conscience no regrets.

You do not work for the people.

Vote no on Graham Cassidy bill for the sake of my family and all family's you plan to harm.

Claudia Morrison

33903

Sent from my iPhone

> On Sep 22, 2017, at 5:39 PM, Claudia [REDACTED] wrote:

>

> Members of my family depend on the ACA for their Healthcare.

> I implore you to work on fixing the ACA and think about all those who will be hurt by the Lindsay Graham bill that you are trying to pass.

> All lives matter.

> Thank you

> Claudia Morrison

> 33903

>

> Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Evan Oxhorn [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:56 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject Graham-Cassidy

My family are generally healthy people who eat well and regularly exercise. Nonetheless, many of us would be threatened with the inability to afford medical care if Graham-Cassidy passed. From my uncle's childhood fight with Hodgkin's Lymphoma to my mother's mental health, Graham-Cassidy would be a disaster for my family.

Please do not pass it. Please do not punish innocent Americans.

--
Evan Oxhorn

[REDACTED]

Graham-Cassidy removes the protections the ACA provided to those with pre-existing conditions. Under this bill, states could waive the ACA's prohibition against considering someone's health status to vary their premiums. This would leave those with pre-existing conditions at the whims of the state and insurance companies. Furthermore, states would not have to prove that they could provide adequate coverage before receiving the waiver. To say that this does not put sick people at a disadvantage is simply a lie.

Health care should be a right of all Americans. None of us can know when illness will strike. It is unjust and unAmerican to penalize the sick and remove the protections that have been put in place for them through the ACA. Congress should work to improve the ACA rather than dismantling it and putting people's health and well-being at risk.

Thank you,
Caroline Melton
22903

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:14 PM
To: gchcomments

My husband Robert and I are disabled on SS with pre-existing conditions. I've been emailing, writing, and calling for months.

Karan Henley Haugh

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karin Paeffgen [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:02 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

Health Care is a human right! 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.

Thanks,
Karin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patricia Brelvi [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not move forward with your heartless "health care" bill

Every version you have come up with to date of a replacement for ACA has been needlessly cruel and will cause a lot of suffering if enacted. This latest version is by far the worst (Graham Cassidy). Your attempts to repeal and replace the ACA have failed repeatedly because the majority of Americans do not want what you have hastily crafted in secret. Please abort this mass of necrotic protoplasm as soon as possible. Thank you for your consideration. Signed: Concerned.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cathy Ladman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

I and everyone I know is against this bill. It is cruel, and that's the best thing I can say about it.

Please help to squash this.

Thank you,

Cathy Ladman

Sent from this thing I can't stop looking at.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mara Zlotoff [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

This bill is un-American in every respect. It jeopardizes the health and financial stability of millions of Americans. It should be killed.

Mara Zlotoff

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: MARK LEVEY [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:07 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I am writing to urge the senate to reject the Graham Cassidy bill. My son, who was adopted at birth, has had emotional issues from early childhood. He is medicated and sees a psychiatrist. Before the Affordable Care Act we were very worried about his ability to retain adequate health care. He has had trouble holding a job, and when he was between jobs or unemployed nobody would insure him. With the Affordable Health Care act he has been able to get affordable health care and thus continue to maintain his necessary medical care and thereby continue to function as a productive member of society. Under Graham Cassidy his preexisting condition status would skyrocket his premiums and he could well be in dire straits. Please improve the Affordable Care Act, do not take away its protections. Thank you.
Mark Levey

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dee Garza [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:06 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: This healthcare bill

I strongly oppose this bill that will hurt millions. Please vote against it.

iPhone. iTypos. iApologize

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: DawnRene [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:01 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Non-Health Bill

Dear Senators:

I cannot even begin to tell you how disappointed I am in your latest effort to repeal the ACA. Honestly, you are not helping matters, but, are out to destroy America with your repeal fervor. We ARE America ~ you want to make America great then you need to start thinking outside of YOUR box and see what box we are living in. While YOU might be getting richer and richer thanks to your own laws and policy ~ the rest of us out here working for our families are getting poorer due to your incompetence and lack of understanding that not everyone is provided what you have in your life. The fact that I pay taxes for your living standard just makes me angry.

Graham Cassidy is a slap in the face of every American who is faced with trying to make it in this country. It is ethnic cleansing at its worst. And, shame on each and every one of you who vote for it. If you can come out into the REAL America and look the dying child in the eye and tell their mother that they are not worth your time and your compassion then I dare you to try it. You are sentencing people to death with your hatred of health care ~ the fact that our first black President had more love and understanding than all of you put together says something about YOU.... While you all may love to sit back there in your cushy offices and come up with ways to save money for your own purses ~ there are people dying out here with illnesses that they cannot afford to do anything about. I HAVE insurance and one simple five minute accident cost me over \$26,000.00 of my retirement, savings, and borrowing. How can people expect to live when the cost of health care is through the roof and the pharmaceutical industry is bankrupting us with every pill?

You give us dirty, poisoned water, food that is genetically modified and has absolutely no nutritional value and you expect us to be well? You let the food industry poison America with sugar, fake vitamins, lie after lie and expect us to be well??? Sorry to tell you, but most Americans eat the way they do because it is cheap. They don't have the money or access to fresh and vibrant organic food....and, in part, that is because you all just keep giving the tax breaks to the ones who are poisoning us, ruining our land and water, and forgetting that we are the ones that keep this country running ~ you can have a queen bee, but without the workers you don't have a hive.

It is bad enough that Syria and the United states of America are the ONLY two countries who deny climate change, but now we are going to go backward to become a third world country because you cannot dig deep into your hearts to give people access to the health care that they need? Wow.....America has fallen into a pit and will never get back out at this rate.

Here is something that I want you to think about ~ you proclaim to be Christian and Religious: That has been your platform.....and, in declaring that, you have basically accepted that when you stand before your God you will be judged on what you did or did not do for every person in America. You have to answer to God for your actions and carry the weight of every person you harmed in your life to that judgment day. You chose politics ~ and, you could have stood there with nothing but rewards.....and, you chose to stand there with nothing but the weight of your failing.

D. Rene

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jonathan Hodgson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Please, instead of continuing to try to repeal the ACA, give some thought to strengthening the support for the ACA.

The mandate that everybody buy health insurance is a sine qua non for any sensible health care act.

Yours,
Jonathan Hodgson

Sent from [TypeApp](#)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lara Bollinger [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA Repeal - STRONG Opposition

Aloha,

I'm writing today to lend my voice in STRONG OPPOSITION of the Graham-Cassidy Plan. I believe this plan would doom millions of Americans with preexisting health conditions to increased rates that would likely result in insurance being unaffordable. It could spell death to many who cannot afford medications and care. Women are particularly discriminated against in this plan as being pregnant is a preexisting condition. As a woman in my childbearing years, I know very few people who do not have preexisting conditions based on the definition used by this bill. Essentially, everyone I know will be uninsured under this plan. This will not "make America great again" or anything close to that. This will return us to a darker age when we fight for basic care and people die from preventable diseases for lack of insurance. Please, I urge you, do NOT pass this bill. It will only bring harm to our country.

Thank you for choosing to do the right thing.

Lara Bollinger
Washington, DC
Haleiwa, HI

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: andrea shapiro <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:21 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy

Dear Senators,

My family members, adult children ,rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill which does not protect treatment for pre-existing conditions, I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Andrea Shapiro
[town, state]

--
ART

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sue Ashman [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:23 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care bill

Please do not vote for the current healthcare bill. There is nothing about it that is advantageous for the American people. I am a lifelong Republican and I'm disgusted with the ridiculous and dangerous direction of this bill.
Thank you.
Susan Ashman

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: rberry20 [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:03 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill is cruel

I am against this bill.

I'm lucky enough to have access to health insurance because I am an officer in the US Army reserves and can purchase Tricare Reseve Select. But everyone in this country should be able to have health insurance.

Healthcare is a universal human right...that the United States signed onto in 1948.

Article 25 says: Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

Healthcare should not be a for profit business.

The Graham Cassidy bill is a travesty that will hurt too many people in this country only to benefit rich people. It should not be brought to a vote.

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mara Gerstein [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:03 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Save the ACA

Please don't destroy our public healthcare system. A great nation takes care of its vulnerable citizens. It doesn't continue to line the pockets of its most fortunate citizens. Think of all the lives you will ruin if you take public healthcare away. And all the political careers!!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ellen Lewis [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

I strongly oppose this bill. The ACA has provided enormous improvements in access and use of healthcare. This has resulted in improved health, which not only is morally imperative, but saves money in the larger communities, due to less E.R. and critical care expenditures. While I support single payer as the goal for improving this process, I am shocked to see one more draconian effort to repeal the ACA. By all readings, the Graham-Cassidy bill will remove millions from coverage, and cause a great deal of unnecessary illness and deaths, while it moves moneys from the poor and vulnerable into the hands of those most wealthy and least needy.

Anyone who supports this, even under the agenda of "states' rights," should notice how it hurts their constituents. Please oppose this reckless and cruel bill.

Sincerely,
Ellen Lewis, M. D.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Kurlander [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

I rely on the affordability of healthcare. I oppose the Graham Cassidy bill. My story is I am a senior citizen and premiums are very important to me. I want to see a bipartisan congressional effort to improve ACA and not repeal it. I feel it is a dangerous move for our country especially when we have no transparency of what is in the bill.

Susan Kurlander

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mark Polit [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Comment
Attachments: G. Polit.JPG

My son was born with a severe intellectual disability and autism. The cuts to Medicaid proposed in Graham Cassidy would starve services for people like him. There are no "efficiencies" short of cutting services that could possibly make up for the reduction in federal Medicaid funds.

My son is a wonderful person (photo attached). People love him for his innocence and good humor. But he is very vulnerable, and I am getting old, so not able to care for him like I used to. So he needs developmental services to live safely and to have a decent life with some dignity.

Graham Cassidy poses a clear danger to him and people like him. Year after year, the shortfall in Medicaid funding under this bill will increasingly force states to cut back on developmental services for people like my son. Please reject this terrible bill.

Sincerely,
Mark Polit
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Claudia [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

Members of my family depend on the ACA for their Healthcare.

I implore you to work on fixing the ACA and think about all those who will be hurt by the Lindsay Graham bill that you are trying to pass.

All lives matter.

Thank you

Claudia Morrison

33903

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karyn Casl <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill and Health Care--OPPOSED

Hello,

My name is Karyn Casl-Akhavan, and I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill, which will leave over 30 million Americans without insurance. That the GOP thinks pushing this incredibly destructive bill through Congress without hearings, a proper CBO score or committee markup, is appalling. People will die. People I know and love will be personally be deeply affected. The ACA needs bipartisan help--this is definitely NOT that.

Thank you for your time.

Karyn Casl-Akhavan

--

Karyn Casl

[REDACTED] *mobile*

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rosemary Oliveira <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy

To whom it may concern:

My nephew relied on healthcare through Medicaid last year when he had a medical emergency while he was unemployed. Without Medicaid and health care he may have died, and his parents, because they would have done whatever they could to save his life, would have most likely gone bankrupt.

Why you think something that will deny health care access to millions of Americans is a good thing is beyond me. Is getting a win so important? Do you think people ask to get so sick? What difference does it make if the health is there, but you can't afford the insurance? Doesn't everyone deserve as good healthcare as you have?

If you really want to help Americans, work to make the system better for everyone. There needs to be a BIPARTISAN EFFORT to improve healthcare in America. Repealing the ACA and 'replacing' it with horse manure is not the way!

What are you afraid of?

R. Oliveira
American

Rosemary Oliveira
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lianne Fuino Estefan [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for the record re: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

The Graham-Cassidy Bill would be devastating to the health care of millions of Americans, including women, children, individuals with pre-existing conditions, and individuals on Medicaid. It does nothing to help the citizens of this country -- and this is evidenced by the proposed deal to Senator Murkowski for Alaska to keep the provisions of the ACA for her state if she votes for the bill. That is just ridiculous. The vast majority of the American people want a bipartisan solution that fixes the problems of the ACA, stabilizes the markets, and keeps individuals insured.

Lianne Estefan

--

Lianne Fuino Estefan, PhD, MPH

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Brubakken [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments regarding bill

I recently retired after a 43 year career as a registered nurse. The last 16 years I worked in the community with the chronically ill. Many of them had not had the privilege of having health care for years because their employers did not offer it and/or they could not afford it. Their illnesses were diagnosed and treated at a later stage than they would have been had they been able to access health care earlier. Some of them were diagnosed when they went to the ER because they were so ill; some were finally able to access care when they obtained coverage through the Affordable Care Act.

Health is very important for every United States citizen and the ability to access and afford care to prevent illness and maintain chronic illnesses impacts each of us. This is much too important and too complex a topic to be decided without any further public discussion or scrutiny.

Do not vote for the Graham Cassidy bill.

Karen Brubakken MS, RN, ACNS-BC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: aj atwood [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Senate Finance Committee Graham-Cassidy Bill hearing

Disastrous, uncaring, hurtful most disgusting attempt yet to cause harm to fellow citizens. How could anyone think this poor excuse to find money for tax cuts for the rich a good thing. GOP=Greed Over People.
A.J. Atwood

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chris MacIntyre [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:37 PM
To: gchcomments

I am just one of the millions set to lose critically affordable health care if this latest bill passes. We own our own business. Before the ACA we had no health insurance. My husband has diabetes and was just recently diagnosed with gastroparesis, a crippling disease that requires periodic hospital treatment for survival. Our son has Hodgkins Lymphoma and at present is in remission. All of these conditions require constant medical attention for survival. They are also all "preexisting" conditions.

We have worked our whole lives. We pay taxes and are providing a service to our community with our business. We patron our community businesses as well, providing them with income so the cycle may continue. If we lose something as basic as affordable health care this all comes to a screeching halt as we either, go broke, or die. Either way many people lose.

The ACA may have some issues. However, throwing the baby out with the bathwater is never the answer. You represent the people. That includes every citizen in this country. Please start by stopping the threats of taking away our right to live!

Lisa MacIntyre

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Catherine Yuracka [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Save ACA

Destroying the ACA...as in need of repair as it may be...and losing the protections against lifetime caps, being denied or having premiums so high I can't afford them because of pre-existing conditions or my age (63) would have a devastating effect on my family. I was systematically raped at the age of 6 by a Catholic priest and did not get help until my early 20s, because I correctly assumed that my staunchly Catholic and physically abusive parents would literally beat me to death for "lying about the good Father" had I spoken out. By the time I was a young adult in the workforce with employer provided healthcare, I was able to get diagnosis and treatment for severe acute and chronic depression, severe acute and chronic anxiety, severe acute and chronic insomnia, ADD and PTSD, all of which doctors have told me were due to biochemical mis-development of my brain due to extreme trauma at an early age. Once properly diagnosed, I was able to work with a psychiatrist to get an appropriate medication regimen to counterbalance the biophysical problems of a body whose sympathetic nervous system over-produced adrenaline, cortisol and norepinephrine ("fight or flight" hormones) and whose parasympathetic nervous system underproduced acetylcholine and certain peptides necessary to calm this fight or flight response. Once my body chemistry was under control, I worked with a psychologist using the modalities of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) to undue the psychological damage done. Because I was able to get the medical health care I needed, I was a productive member of society having a rewarding career, a stable marriage (going on 40 years now), and was a mentally stable and emotionally available mother and grandmother. When the BCRA was scored by the CBO, I found out through AARP that there was a very real possibility that my health care premiums, based on my particular pre-existing conditions and my age, could be increased by 872%!!! That would bring my annual premiums to over \$38,000. (This is for my insurance alone, not counting my husband's premium increase.) There is no way we could afford insurance under that plan, and there is no way I could afford an internist, psychiatrist, psychologist (even only seeing them biannually) and my medications without insurance. Without the medications and occasional medical management and supervision needed, I would become a burden to both my family and society in a very short period of time. (Most of the medications I take to manage my medical condition would completely titter out of my system in a matter of 4-6 weeks.) We do not have guns in our household because, on medication, it seems a foolhardy and irresponsible thing to have firearms in the same household as a person managing severe mental illness. But 4-6 weeks off medication, my frontal lobe...which is responsible for cognitive reasoning...won't be functioning properly, and with no criminal record in Texas I would be able to walk into my local Walmart and walk out with a firearm. I hope you find that as discomfoting as I do.

Everything I have been able to find out about this bill through extensive research says it has every potential to be even more severe than the BCRA. And everything I have been able to find out about why the GOP would do something so unconscionable and morally bankrupt has to do with the fact that the Koch brothers were willing to invest \$400 million in the GOP to legislate their agenda, and have now put the breaks on donations until the repeal of the ACA and tax breaks for the uber rich become law.

I do not want to suffer from the ravages of mental illness again. I do not want to become a suicide statistic. But most importantly, I do not want to cause injury or death to someone else because I can no longer reason properly. But my problems with the Graham/Cassidy bill seem inconsequential when I lift my gaze from myself and my own worries to see the disabled, those fighting cancer, those whose children were born prematurely and would have hit lifetime caps before they ever left the NICU, or who suffer serious childhood diseases or disabilities. Causing this much death and destruction instead of working with the Problem Solvers Caucus on a bipartisan fix for the ACA is not just bad politics that will ensure the end to many a political career and the GOP as a functional political party...it is an abomination before God. For the life of me, I don't understand how any of you could do this and still profess to be "Christian", either publicly or in the privacy of your own souls.

I beg you, please, DO NOT DO THIS! The American public will never forgive you for it! But more importantly, neither will that Judeo-Christian God you profess to believe in.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gloria Jacobs <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Another voice for NO ACA repeal

I'm writing to add my voice to a growing chorus of NOs. As a self-employed person, buying affordable and decent health insurance is hard enough right now. The Graham-Cassidy Bill to repeal the ACA (aka Obamacare) would absolutely destroy it.

This not how public policy should be created. I'm normally a fairly apolitical person, but this is insane...nuts...unreasonable...cruel. I've got lots of adjectives to choose from.

The way that health insurance becomes affordable is by having large pools of people: both young and old, both healthy and sick. Otherwise the numbers, financially, do not pencil out. They never have and they never will. It's essential for the CBO to score this bill because that's where the data is and every scoring of every attempt to repeal the ACA has demonstrated that.

Me and my household vote NO, again.

—gloria

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kristen Anderson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy bill

My name is Kristen Ann Lee. I was shot when I was fourteen years old when 2 cars were shooting at one another. That led to a horrible battle with pain medications that would later turn into full blown heroin addiction. I struggled for many years. I was able to get on Medicaid because of the expansion, and I qualified for services. I got clean, and I have a law degree now. I graduated from the University of Toledo School of Law in 2015. I have hepatitis C, and my daughter got it during birth. The bill would make our premiums unaffordable. We now have insurance through my husband's employer. Please don't let this bill become law. You are effectively giving my child and I a death sentence. Thank you, Kristen Lee
BSW; JD

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Martina Silas [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

There is no valid reason to kick millions of vulnerable people off their health care.

I don't care what was promised to rich donors. At some point you have to take the wider view, to do the right and moral thing & be on the right side of history. Please vote NO!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Heinze-Mitchell [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:30 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Nill

Please consider the people who will be affected by the passage of this latest version of "Health Care"
Vote NO

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Don't Take My Health Coverage!

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

My husband and I owned a family-run business for 28 years. We had to close it in the summer of 2012. My husband is a retired firefighter and for years we were covered by his insurance. After we realized that we had to close our business, we did not have enough money to continue with his insurance. We were without insurance for 4 years! It is a blessing that we receive a subsidy from the state of Texas to help us with our insurance. Our coverage is over \$1,000 without the credit, and it is only \$160 with the credit.

My husband has gout, high blood pressure, and problems with his knees. He had heart surgery in December and I'm praying that he will not have to have any other heart surgeries. I have asthma and cysts that have been surgically removed. Another cyst has appeared on my liver. I also have brittle bones and periodically, I have to wear boot casts or have a cast placed on my feet. We are both in need of orthopedic surgery at this time. My husband is disabled due to the condition of his knees.

My brother and sister also have Affordable Healthcare. She had knee replacements and just found out that she will need a bone marrow biopsy within the next few weeks. She also has problems with her kidneys and she is disabled. My brother had foot surgery and he just found out that he has a cyst on his kidney.

Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, all of us are insured! If the Graham-Cassidy bill passes, we will be doomed! It doesn't provide the same protections of those with pre-existing conditions as Obamacare. My insurer might not turn me away, but what if my state doesn't continue other protections? What if I don't get the coverage that I have now? What if I can't afford my premium? With the Graham-Cassidy bill, I may as well start preparing my funeral!

Please don't let this happen to me, my family, or anyone in America who needs decent healthcare. Come on! We're depending on you! Protect us! USA stands for United States of America, not Uninsured States of America!

Sincerely,

Billye J. Moutra

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pamela K. Johnson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote NO on repealing Obamacare

America needs to get/stay/be healthy.
And the Graham-Cassidy bill is not the answer!
Thank you.
P

pamela k. johnson
writer . editor . filmmaker
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eileen Deignan [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Beth_Pearson@markey.senate.gov; Hurt, Nikki (Markey)
Subject: A letter in Opposition of the Graham- Cassidy bill

Dear Members of the United States 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 Affordable Care Act (ACA). This bill is no better and in fact likely more devastating to the health of Americans than ACA repeal efforts that came before. My home state, Massachusetts, 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. Already I take care of many people who are stretched to their limits with health care bill. By overturning protections for patients with pre-existing conditions and by slashing coverage of essential health benefits, this bill would leave too many patients between the cracks – especially the most vulnerable such as children and the elderly.

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,
Eileen Deignan M.D.*

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy Strongin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GrahamCassidy Healthcare Bill

I hope you can see fit to vote no on the GrahamCassidy healthcare bill. The majority of Americans have pre-existing conditions. Taking this away will be an extreme hardship for so many. Why can't the Republicans and Democrats work together to come up with a bill that will benefit Americans instead of insisting on repealing what they have now with less coverage and larger fees? We are the only western country that does not provide health care for it's citizens and this proposed bill will be taking us in the wrong direction

Sincerely,
Amy Strongin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jane Jackson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care bill must include requirement to cover pre-existing conditions

My husband was laid-off in March of 2015, (after training the employees in India who took over his job.) He found another job (which paid about 40% less) with a temporary agency placing him in a contract job before his severance package expired. The temp agency offered insurance less expensive than the cobra coverage, so we went with that. After 5 months with the temp agency, the contract employer offered him a permanent position with the company. Their policy is that insurance takes effect on the 1st of the month following 30 days of employment. We didn't even think about looking for coverage in the market place or negotiating an earlier insurance effective date, because we assumed (incorrectly) that there would be cobra coverage in the interim. Turns out, the temp agency contract did state that insurance coverage was only in effect when working the assigned job – no cobra. His start date with his permanent position was 11/2. On 12/1, I was hospitalized for a pneumonia that I couldn't shake with traditional treatment. I was only there 3 days, but the cost was a financial burden that we are still paying off on monthly payments. On January 15th, (after new employer insurance was effective Jan. 1) I was again hospitalized and had a surgical procedure to determine what was causing the continuing pneumonia. I continued on oxygen therapy for several more months and was on expensive medication. The Jan. 4th billing for the at home oxygen was initially rejected as a continuing treatment before coverage was in effect, but I disputed that they could not reject for a pre-existing condition and they paid it, (well, applied it to my deductible.) If the pre-existing coverage rule had not been in place, a small mistake in overlooking the fine print of the temp agency's contract would have bankrupted us with all the medical expenses from this acute illness. As it is, we are still paying for that mistake every month.

Thank you,
Jane Jackson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lucas Riggle <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Upcoming Medicaid Cuts...

My name is Lucas Riggle. My family and I live in Eastover, North Carolina.

I am writing to let you know that we as a family care deeply about the health care and support available for people with autism, as well as those who depend on Medicaid due to financial issues.

My family consist of my wife and myself, as well as our 3 year old and 15 month old sons. My 3 year old son William has recently been diagnosed with autism.

Our 15 month old, Grayson, was born at Duke University Hospital. He was born with a lymphatic cyst in his chest. He stayed in the NICU at Duke for nearly 2 weeks before we could bring him home.

Both of our boys health care would not have been, nor be possible without the help of Medicaid.

I am writing to ask that the Graham-Cassidy Bill is opposed, and that any cuts to Medicaid be opposed.

Too many people rely on the help that is offered from Medicaid. We hope that there will be more work in a bipartisan way to improve access to health care for everyone that cannot do it all on there own.

Thank you,

Lucas Riggle

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gabrielle Klein [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Barbosa, Grant (Harris); Thompson, Megan (Feinstein)
Subject: Why I oppose Graham Cassidy

As someone with two pre-existing conditions, I would be priced out of the individual insurer market. Many people, myself included, work today as independent contractors and are not offered an employer based insurance plan. The protections offered in employer based insurance are not extended to those in the individual market. The Affordable Care Act put in place many regulations to try and level that playing field so that those who had to purchase insurance in the individual market were protected from the price gouging and the denial of coverage that occurred on a regular basis prior to the passage of the Affordable Care Act. Graham Cassidy repeals many of those protections throwing those of us in the individual market to the wolves. The Affordable Care Act is not perfect by any means. There are many things that need fixing in the current law, but there have been scores of papers and studies over the past years showing how these fixes can be implemented rather easily. Rather than repealing the current law and starting from scratch, again, your attention would be better served in trying to repair the FIXABLE problems with the current law we have. Stop playing politics with people's lives.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Klein

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Riad Cachecho [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:02 PM
To: Beth_Pearson@markey.senate.gov; gchcomments; Hurt, Nikki (Markey)
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.

Riad Cachecho, MD, MBA, FACS

--

Warmest regards,
Riad Cachecho, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dawn Callahan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No on Graham Cassidy Bill

I urge you to vote NO on the Graham Cassidy bill.

Dawn Callahan
[REDACTED]
San Diego CA 92127
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Savannah Roberson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

Dear members of the Finance Committee,

I'm writing to ask you to please vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill. I'm a self-employed mother with a pre-existing condition and the ACA has helped me and many like me be able to get health coverage. I'm very concerned that this bill has not had public hearings or debate and is being rushed to the floor with **no CBO score**. Democracy should be a process where all facts and all voices are heard.

I believe a bipartisan effort that has public input and careful scrutiny can fix the existing issues with the ACA without putting American's lives in jeopardy.

Warmly,

Savannah Mayfield, LMT, CEC

[REDACTED]
Office [REDACTED]

“The hilltop hour would not be half so wonderful if there were no dark valleys to traverse.” - Helen Keller

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: m d [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare Bill

Dear Sirs:

My name is Marcia Darby. I know little about politics, but I know that every change to healthcare accessibility scares me to death. In May of 2010 I was diagnosed with Chronic Myeloid Leukemia.

<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/chronic-myeloid-leukemia/about/what-is-cml.html> Chronic myeloid leukemia (CML), also known as

What Is Chronic Myeloid Leukemia? | Leukemia Types

www.cancer.org

Chronic myeloid leukemia is a type of cancer that starts in the blood-forming cells of the bone marrow. Learn more about chronic myeloid leukemia here.

chronic myelogenous leukemia, is a type of cancer that starts in certain blood-forming cells of the bone marrow. In CML, a genetic change takes place in an early (immature) version of myeloid cells - the cells that make red blood cells, platelets, and most types of white blood cells (except lymphocytes). This change forms an abnormal gene called *BCR-ABL*, which turns the cell into a CML cell. The leukemia cells grow and divide, building up in the bone marrow and spilling over into the blood. In time, the cells can also settle in other parts of the body, including the spleen. CML is a fairly slow growing leukemia, but it can also change into a fast-growing acute leukemia that is hard to treat.

This is a very rare form of cancer. The approved medicine for treatment of this illness was only approved by the FDA in 2001. Because of the rarity, the medicine is exceptionally expensive. Without my insurance coverage, I would be paying over \$17,000 per MONTH out of pocket. I am a 53 year old public school teacher in the state of Louisiana. I have a 7 year old granddaughter. She doesn't even know I have cancer. I would like to continue teaching. I also would like the chance to watch my granddaughter grow up and have a family of her own. Thankfully, I currently have good healthcare insurance and can afford a copay. If my coverage is not guaranteed, I die. It's that simple.

Please guarantee that pre-existing conditions continue to be covered and that people who are ill are **not punished** monetarily with ridiculous premium rates simply because we are ill. I certainly did not ask for cancer, nor did I do anything in my life to cause this illness.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,
Marcia S Darby

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beth Bennett [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fwd:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Beth Bennett [REDACTED]
Date: September 22, 2017 at 2:49:14 PM EDT
To: Gchcomments@finance.sentate.gov

I am writing to the Finance Committee in regards to the Graham-Cassidy bill your committee is holding a hearing on on Monday, September 25, 2017.

I will be blunt: the Graham-Cassidy bill is one of the most dangerous pieces of legislation that has ever been put forth before the United States Senate. The bill proposes sweeping changes to the American healthcare system, which accounts for 1/6 of the US economy, with no CBO, with no debate, with no opportunity to propose amendments, and a lone "hearing" by this committee.

What's worse, Sen. Hatch has elected to allow no witnesses to come before this committee save for the bill's authors, Sens. Cassidy and Graham. This is equivalent to trying a murderer and allowing only the accused to present evidence. You have silenced the voices of every patient advocacy group, doctors, insurers themselves, all 50 state Medicaid directors, and those who stand to lose the most: American citizens. This is a bastardization of democracy that I never imagined I would witness in my lifetime.

While there is no CBO score, independent and non-partisan groups, including AARP, have analyzed the bill's language and estimate that passing this bill would lead to approximately 32 million Americans losing their health insurance. It cuts an eye-watering \$1.5 trillion from Medicaid funding all the while planting a ticking time bomb that is set to go off in 2026 at which point all Medicaid funding ends.

The bill's Medicaid cuts are so damaging that in attempt to win support from some of the states who stand to lose the most there was an offer to exempt Alaska entirely from the effects. How perverse.

One of the crowning achievements of the Affordable Care Act was it's guarantee of covering pre-existing conditions. No longer could babies be born with birth defects and live their lives under crippling debt simply to survive. No longer does a cancer survivor have to fear losing their job, and their insurance, after staring own death. Graham-Cassidy ends that protection. It allows states to discriminate against individuals simply because they got sick.

I'm 53 and only 4 yrs out from breast cancer. How do you expect me to cover a premium increase of nearly \$29,000?

Even supporters of the bill, such as Sen. Grassley, have admitted that it's bad policy and that this is merely a partisan exercise. As we've seen, this entire process is aimed at pleasing Republican donors who have attached significant amounts of re-election money to the passage of this bill.

I feel ashamed that I even have to write this letter; that I have to spend time justifying why my fellow Americans should have healthcare. Instead of holding this sham hearing in an attempt that merely serves as a fig leaf to Senator McCain, the committee should immediately call for a return to regular order and work towards a bipartisan solution instead of considering a bill that is disliked by 76% of Americans.

I sincerely hope that in your heart of hearts you recognize just how close you are to making a mistake that will literally make millions of Americans' lives worse. There is still time to make the right choice.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Bennett

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Liz Zeidan [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GrahamCassidy Bill

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing about the proposed GrahamCassidy Bill. I ask that Congress not hold a vote on this bill till it has been thoroughly looked at and scored by the CBO for the impact it will have on the lives of Americans. From what I understand on the bill, it will not bring healthcare to more Americans it will cause more than a predicted 30 million Americans to lose or be pushed out of their existing coverage.

How can you push something through that is going to hurt so many. Are you wanting to put people in the position again to choose whether to eat or get healthcare? Not only will people be without healthcare but you still want to tax us for it. More taxes on something we won't be able to afford anyway?

You were elected to represent and protect us, the American people, how can you disregard us just to prove the point that you can now do away with the ACA?

Yes, there are many flaws with ACA, but it was a life saver for my family. My children are all grown and off on their own trying to make lives out here in California where the cost of living is much higher than the rest of the United States. My son was never able to get health insurance until a couple of years ago as he was living paycheck to paycheck. My husband and I were not able financially to help him with medical costs, so he went without seeing a doctor for many years. When he joined through the ACA he found out he had high blood pressure at 28. Because of ACA he was able to be diagnosed early enough and have proper treatment without becoming homeless.

I am very concerned with the language in the bill that allows for loosening the protections of pre-existing conditions. I am concerned that the monies for Medicaid will be reduced so drastically, making costs for seniors and the disabled to skyrocket.

My husband is near retirement age and this will impact us greatly.

Please do not pass this Bill. I ask that all of our Senate and Congress take the time to work together to find a better solution that will benefit ALL Americans, not just the rich.

Best Regards, Liz Zeidan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David Cramer [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

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.

***I SUPPORT UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE FOR ALL OF OUR CITIZENS
MAKE THE ACA BETTER, DO NOT REPEAL IT.***

David I. Cramer, D.O., F.A.C

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ron Canal [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do NOT PASS THIS HEALTH CARE BILL

Hello, I am imploring you NOT to pass the healthcare bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Terry Pensele [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stop messing with the ACA.

Dear Political Idiots

Defunding or removing the pre-existing condition, or letting states decide who to cover or not to cover is just insane. The ACA is bad, but the for-profit health care system is the problem. Health insurance companies, Big Pharma, and health care administrator 7-figure salaries are to blame. Cast off the parasites, and support Medicare for ALL. It's cheaper, easier, and humane. I would hate for anyone to be throw people off health care, or force them to pay outrageous premiums to be able to keep their healthcare. I'd be worried about Black Ops people coming to my house, and dragging me out in the street because they can't get or afford medical care. We don't provide mental services to these people, and they are part of the NRA. I'm sure a few are not playing with a full deck. Denying health care to these people is like a death sentence.

But maybe we should just increase the defense budget for equipment the Pentagon does not want, or give more tax breaks to the billionaires. And let's not forget the hundred billion dollar trade deficits we incur annually, while our jobs are shipped overseas to China, SW Asia, India, Mexico, Philippines, etc. The UK system works, and our U.S government spends more per person then the UK, and we are not all covered.

Cast off the parasites on the health care system, and fund ACA until we have Medicare for ALL!!!!

Sincerely,

Terry Pensele
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robin Pettit [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Dear Finance Committee,

Please do not recommend this bill to be voted on. It is one of the worst healthcare bills so far. Almost every healthcare organization out there has come out against this as well as consumer organizations and the AARP. This bill does not protect people with pre-existing conditions from being priced out of the market. It guts medicaid.

I implore you to not approve this bill. It also doesn't pass the Jimmy Kimmell test and Senator Cassidy said it did but when you actually look at it, it doesn't. This bill is based on deceit. Please have a conscience and vote it down in committee. The way this bill was brought forward also did not and does not follow regular order.

Robin Pettit
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rachel Taube <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy Graham Healthcare Bill

To whom it may concern:

I am Rachel Taube. I am a student nurse graduating with my RN in December. This bill is not a healthcare bill. It does not provide for our country a sound plan that promotes health. This is a restructuring of the economy that will result in upwards of 30 million people losing coverage. This bill will harm patients who I care for. My job as a nurse is patient advocacy. This bill will put money in the pockets of those who need it the least. This is cruel and disturbing. Do not consider it for a second. DO NO HARM. This needs to stop. The GOP is hellbent on invalidating Obama's legacy and the public does not need to pay the price. Corporations profiting off of people being sick is not normal nor modern or innovative. Move forward. I implore you to evaluate the repercussions of this bill passing. This bill does not protect those with preexisting conditions. This bill will make my job harder and make patients present with worse illnesses and therefore decrease the possibility of positive outcomes. My patients and our county are counting on you to end the chance of these types of bills passing.

Best,

Rachel Taube

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Jo Maggio [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the senate because giving states the power to allow insurance companies to charge more for those with pre existing conditions and bring back lifetime caps and get rid of essential benefits, is the exact opposite of what the majority of Pennsylvanians want. The disability community of which I am a part of as a mother of a child with autism (a club nobody willingly signs up for) is rightfully concerned that this bill will have devastating consequences. States will be forced to raise taxes and pick and choose who is eligible for Medicaid. That isn't ethical or fair or just. We are the richest country in the world and we should take care of those who can't take of themselves first and foremost. Please vote no on this unethical healthcare legislation.

Mary Jo Maggio

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pittas, Anastassios [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Beth_Pearson@markey.senate.gov; Hurt, Nikki (Markey)
Subject: Opposing Graham-Cassidy ACA repeal

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

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

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

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

PLEASE, restore sanity in the US Government.

Anastassios G. Pittas, MD, MS

Professor of Medicine · Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism [REDACTED]

The information in this e-mail is intended only for the person to whom it is addressed. If you believe this e-mail was sent to you in error and the e-mail contains patient information, please contact the [REDACTED]. If the e-mail was sent to you in error but does not contain patient information, contact the sender and properly dispose of the e-mail.

Please consider the environment and the security of the information contained within or attached to this e-mail before printing or saving to an insecure location.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chris Layman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA and non-empathy based reasons to keep it

I'm a teacher, and I like my career. I had a massive wisdom tooth problem a few years back and without the ACA it would have exceeded 28,000 dollars to keep my jaw from becoming paralyzed and being on disability for the rest of my life. I was seen as an investment; I'm fine with that because I can still speak and smile. Better to have me paying taxes into a system than taking tax money out for the next 50 years, it just makes good sense.

A large part of my teaching style is getting children to learn life skills, not just memorization of facts and figures. Empathy is sorely lacking these days in our political process and I'm not going to bother trying to get my electors to understand that. You'll have read millions of stories about how the ACA saved people's lives and livelihoods, mind included.

I included some simple observations from a History teacher.

1: If you make it more difficult for people to have insurance who don't have jobs, then people who have it through their job are MUCH less likely to try to make it on their own and start a business, or change jobs, or try new careers. You will flat-line the economy by removing the ACA.

2: I have heard about non-existent "Death Panels" for about the last 8 years. This will literally create them by allowing for insurance companies to assess how much medical care someone will cost and then deny them as a bad investment. Do you REALLY want to be the party of Death Panels?

3: Tourism is already down to the U.S. for 2017. It will continue to decline if the majority of countries on earth have healthcare but we don't. If they come here to visit and might go bankrupt if they get injured, why would they risk it?

Just a few things to think about before you vote on a bill that impacts millions and millions of voters and tax payers.

Chris

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Valerie Myers [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on GrahamCassidy bill

Greetings,

Regarding the GrahamCassidy bill: I am strongly opposed to this bill which will deny healthcare access to millions. Additionally, already emboldened insurance companies will now have legitimate reasons to drop coverage--or make cost prohibitive--for pre-existing conditions for millions.

Those who depend on medical insurance to defray astronomical medical costs are in danger--as are millions of healthy individuals like myself/my family who are of limited means yet rely on ACA-based insurance for routine care and baseline diagnostic testing in order to remain healthy, thriving, working, and voting US citizens.

Please vote NO on this bill--and work to improve ACA not destroy it (as with software design and many other industries, v1 is never the one and only, it's simply the best at the moment and is immediately and continuously *improved*--that's what ACA needs).

A Voting Constituent,
V. Myers

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rita Reid [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Bill

Vote - NO

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mara Anderson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

PLEASE do not repeal the ACA. My daughter is not a "preexisting" condition. Chances are high that without the ACA and the protections that are in place for pre existing conditions and life time caps on care, she would not be here. Not everyone has free health care like senators and representatives. We need the ACA.
Thank you.
Mara Anderson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cynthia Virtue [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy flawed and dangerous

- It “violates the precept of ‘first do no harm’” and “would result in millions of Americans losing their health insurance coverage.” – American Medical Association.
- 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,
- “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.”

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Slicer [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:16 PM
To: gchcomments

The repeal is a horrible idea. I have many friends who have Obama Care. They need it. It's affordable. It's necessary. It's life saving. The Republicans don't give a damn about the middle class. They lie. This replacement is terrible. Do they really think the state's are capable of running our healthcare? I think not. This is a disaster. Do not vote for repeal!!!
Work to improve the ACA. Make it better.
Karen Slicer

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kramer DO, Stephanie [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Pearson, Beth (Warren); Hurt, Nikki (Markey)

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. Massachusetts 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. I am a pediatrician practicing in an area with a large low socioeconomic population, and my patients in particular will suffer if the Graham-Cassidy bill is passed.

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.

Most sincerely,
Stephanie Kramer, DO

Please view our annual report at <http://www.bhannualreport.org>

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to inadequate healthcare

I think making sure we take care of the poor and sick among us should be a priority. I don't mind paying extra to make sure that happens. A resounding "NO" on any bill (especially the one being considered now) that does not do this.
Marjorie Pusey

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Matthew Hoptman [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stop Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senators,

I am writing to ask you to defeat the Graham-Cassidy bill. It will cost tens millions of Americans their health insurance and will destabilize the insurance markets. It will also harm the majority of states by making draconian cuts to Medicaid funding. Medicaid is the single largest insurer in the country, and this bill is essentially a poison pill to destroy Medicaid. As states reel from the cuts to Medicaid, they will have to make harsh cuts in other sectors. As an employee of New York State, I am quite sure these cuts would extend to my agency and could threaten my job.

There are no real upsides to this bill other than to keep some poorly considered promise to end the ACA. I urge you to work on ways to improve the system we have rather than to ram through this poorly considered, woefully inadequate bill that affects 1/6 of the American economy, without so much as a CBO score.

I urge you to vote to defeat this bill.

Sincerely,
Matthew Hoptman

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: terry steiner [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:34 PM
To: gchcomments; Allen, Elizabeth (Aging); Griffin, Morgan (Murkowski)
Subject: Kill the Graham-Cassidy

I am writing this email to voice my concern about the Graham Cassidy Health Care bill. I hope this inhumane legislation is never enacted. My concerns are as follows:

Destroys Medicaid:

- It destroys Medicaid as we know it by fundamentally and permanently transforming the funding for the program into a capped system,
- The caps limit how much federal money states have to spend on Medicaid limits coverage, access, and states' options when more people need coverage, which could mean people go without coverage,
- Caps to Medicaid could mean the elderly are kicked out of nursing homes - elderly account for 2/3 the cost of medicaid.
- The bill takes money from states that expanded Medicaid and gives it to states that did not, which simply makes no sense whatsoever outside as a carrot for senators from those states to vote for the bill.

Destroys Pre-Existing Condition Protections

- The bill eliminates protections for people with pre-existing conditions - even if your state makes a law that pre-existing conditions will be covered, insurance companies will just pull out and focus on states with no such law.
- The new tax breaks for HSAs may cause employers to just put tax-free money into these HSAs and stop offering their staff health insurance all-together. This means that those with pre-existing conditions who rely on employer insurance could find themselves without insurance on the open market.
- The law eliminates protections against life-time max in the same way it does pre-existing conditions.

Discrimination Against Women

- The bill has total prohibition on any covered insurance plans (those eligible for employer tax breaks) from offering abortion coverage - this could be life-threatening for many women.
- Bars women Medicaid from Planned Parenthood.
- Does not require insurance to cover maternity care or birth control.

No CBO Score

- Independent groups estimate a huge price tag for this bill as well as millions being kicked off insurance.
- No bill, regardless of subject matter, should be up for a vote until the CBO has scored the legislation.
- The CBO will not have estimates relating to this legislation for weeks.

Time Has Run Out

Nobody is saying whether or not this bill would be effective for 2018. It is absurd to think that the states have the means to implement an effective healthcare system virtually 5 weeks before open enrollment. We don't need any more uncertainty in the insurance markets.

Please have compassion and do the right thing. PUT AND END TO THIS BILL!

Thank You,

Terry Steiner

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maria Reyher Meredith [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:15 PM
To: gchcomments

Do not approve Graham Cassidy. You would negatively be impacting so many. Country above party always!

Sent from my iPhone. Please excuse typos and brevity.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joan [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

I am opposed to this health care bill on a number of levels. It will probably not directly impact me but I know many who will be affected by it. I object to so many people's health care insurance being put in jeopardy; I object to the Republicans in the Senate trying to force this through, bypassing normal procedures and not making details readily available to the people who will be affected. I object to this bill having been crafted instead of these Senators trying to work with a bipartisan committee to create something that will work for everyone. I also worry that something created in such a short period has not been carefully vetted.

There are suggestions that the reason for this bill's creation is that wealthy donors have said they will withhold funding for GOP members if it is not passed. Is this the country that we want? Where a few with means can determine how we treat those who are not as fortunate? The Senators do NOT have their constituents well-being as a priority when 56% of the American public is opposed to the bill. It seems as though they are tone deaf.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

When, oh when, are you Republicans going to wake up and realize the American people like the coverage they receive with ACA? You keep bringing up bills that are a disaster for this entire country, but you are all too stubborn to realize it. Are you EVER going to actually find out what your constituents want in healthcare, or are you going to continue to lie to us about how the latest bill is best for us, when we know better. Shame on all of you!!!! I am as embarrassed as much by you as I am by the person who calls himself president.

Not only do you NOT serve the interests of the American people in regard to healthcare, you are all too chicken to confront #45 about all the money he is making while he is president. He has wiped out the entire budget of the Secret Service by getting away from Washington, and you all look the other way. His whole cabinet is corrupt as the day is long, and you don't care. et a

Get a backbone and stand up for the American people. You keep saying ACA is failing, then FIX IT instead of coming up with these ridiculous plans that serve no one.

You want to know why your poll numbers are so low? It's because of these insane actions that you continue to bring up for a vote. Get out and talk to the people you represent, and then DO WHAT THEY WANT YOU TO DO. How hard is that??

Everyone of you should have your health coverage taken away, and then, maybe, just maybe you'd wake up and have a conscience and do what should have been done long ago.

Those of you who are up for re-election in 2018 better realize, YOU ARE WORKING FOR US, WE ARE NOT WORKING FOR YOU!!!!

Elizabeth Blough

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carla Girten [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stop This Bill

Please do not take away healthcare from millions by passing this bill. Just fix what we have - single payer even better. The people with brains in this country realize that many of you are bought and paid for by the Koch brothers and the insurance industry and it's all about the money. We also see what's happening with the evangelicals who want to control women and their bodies. Do not defund planned parenthood. Please just do this one thing - take a stand against the money. Do not let yourself be bought. We are all watching. And it's not just the "far left". It's all of us who used to be moderate republicans but will no longer be voting for you as we've seen the travesty our government has become.

Sent from my iPhone

This e-mail and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or company to whom they are addressed. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete this e-mail including all attachments from your system. Thank you

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sunil Mehrotra [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Respected Finance Committee,

Obamacare clearly needs to be fixed but not in this way. This is an issue that effects all Americans, it deserves thorough vetting. When 50 directors of state health systems, most hospital CEOs. AMA and insurance companies to name a few are against the Graham-Cassidy bill it needs to be relooked.

Thank you,

Regards,

Mehrotra family

PS: We are independent voters.

--

Sunil Mehrotra

[REDACTED]

blog: [REDACTED]

Linkedin: [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: McGrath, Colleen L. [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: #SaveMedicaid!

Send comments to the Senate Finance Committee. Share the story of why Medicaid matters to you. Share how you would lose coverage if people with pre-existing conditions are not guaranteed coverage. **Submit comments by Monday at 9am t**

Please do not cut healthcare insurance for our children, seniors and people with disabilities. They are the ones that need healthcare the most and to deny them of Medicaid would be a devastating blow to their lives and the lives of their caregivers! If not for Medicaid I would've have lost my home because I would've had to sell it to be able to pay for the care of my son. And where would we live? And without the care he received where would he be? My son has made phenomenal progress please don't deny our future generations the ability to receive aid in healthcare costs.

Thank you,
Colleen McGrath

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jane Bergeron [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable Care Act

Please do not take away my insurance! I am a cancer survivor and my child has diabetes. We can not afford to be dropped by our insurance and then since we have pre-existing conditions, we will not be covered.

How can you look Americans in the face and lie about this new attempt by the GOP to repeal the Affordable Care Act as a good thing? How will you live with yourself if you take away the only safety net of medical care that most Americans have?

You are lucky. A repeal of the ACA will not affect you or your families. But were you elected to only represent your own families or your own interests? Have you forgotten your pledge to help your constituents?

Act with heart and compassion. Is it the fact that President Obama was able to pass the ACA that bothers you? Are you all so petty that you act to repeal it simply because a democratic president passed health care? I can see no other reason for your actions.

Be human!!

Jane Bergeron

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy healthcare bill

I have been unable to reach my Senators by phone, and having a landline am unable to text them. Please let it be known that this Utahn is vehemently opposed to the Graham/Cassidy bill. In fact, I am vehemently opposed to *any* measure meant to undermine or get rid of the Affordable Care Act. I am a senior citizen who has been a registered Republican ever since I was old enough to vote - that is, until I renounced my party membership last year because I was, frankly, sick and tired of the my party lying to the American people about something as important as healthcare in order to get the ill-informed and uneducated to vote against their own best interests. While I realize that my Senators have been ignoring their constituents for quite some time, especially on the subject of the ACA, I hope that they will finally do the right thing and vote NO on the Graham/Cassidy bill, regardless of whether or not changes are made to it.

Sincerely,

Carol Clayton

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laura Walsh [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy sorry excuse for a bill

Please do whatever you can to protect us from this horrible bill that doctors, aarp, ins companies, diabetes assn and dozens of health organizations as well as hospitals and clinics say will be a disaster. Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amanda Czerniuk [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:31 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Strongly Oppose Graham/Cassidy Bill

To Whom It May Concern:

I am strongly against the Graham/Cassidy bill that would strongly hinder my family, and millions of others, from receiving the healthcare that all civilized people should be entitled to. Please spend your energies making the ACA even better than it already is instead of trying to remove a program that has done much to change people's life for the better. This is a matter of life and death that I don't take lightly.

Thank you for your consideration,

Amanda Czerniuk
Evanston, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: S. Peck [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:31 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill!!!

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with ACA is that when my husband retired and we lost our Blue Cross family policy, I am very grateful that I was able to get good affordable health care through the ACA until I was old enough to get Medicare.

I know how important this-my parents suffered a great deal because they lacked affordable health care. My father worked as a carpenter and scrimped and saved to pay for a modest Blue Cross insurance plan, he was not covered by his work. My mother had a traumatic brain injury in her last 50's and the Blue Cross plan that they had struggled so hard to purchase paid very little of the enormous bills. This catastrophic injury collapsed their fragile financial world and all they had worked for their whole lives was in jeopardy because of the huge medical bills. A year after my mother's head injury, my father committed suicide. My mother's traumatic brain injury was an accident- denying people affordable, high quality healthcare is a crime.

I believe that high quality affordable health care is a right. I would like to see Bernie Sanders Medicare for all program put in place but until we are able to accomplish that, I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Sarah M. Peck

West Townshend, VT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eric Westendorf [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:30 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Caaidy Bill

To the Senate:

I am the co-founder and CEO of a education company in the District of Columbia. We rely on the ACA to ensure all our employees have affordable, quality healthcare. I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill and would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Eric Westendorf

Eric Westendorf
LearnZillion
Co-founder and CEO

[REDACTED]
Washington, DC [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Vicki Sween [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:26 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

I am deeply concerned about the future of healthcare, and am in support of making changes to the ACA. The ACA was a solid first step not the final answer, and is in need of improvement. However, **I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill and urge Congress to make a truly collaborative, bi-partisan effort to effect changes that will make the ACA more effective and affordable.**

Access to healthcare is about more than saving costs, it is about saving lives and quality of life. I urge you to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill and continue to work so all Americans may access and afford healthcare/healthcare insurance.

Respectfully,

Vicki Sween, Seattle WA [REDACTED]

My experience: I am a 60 yr old self-employed mental health counselor in private practice Seattle, Washington. I own my home, have worked all my life, pay my bills on time and single-parented an adult son who is self-sufficient, working in the healthcare field. I am also an 8-year survivor of breast cancer.

Currently, my insurance plan includes a high premium with a high-deductible policy, meaning I pay significantly into the insurance pool each year without withdrawing much in terms of benefit. I see this as my responsibility to the system, and to others, for the I care received. It also provides peace-of-mind that healthcare will be available in the event of a serious health problem.

I have multiple concerns about the current and future healthcare system: the high cost of care, the unnecessary waste, the lack of accountability for costs, and, many of the limits insurance companies place on what is covered often translating into officially having coverage, but no real coverage when it is needed. These are changes to be addressed in time.

Of urgent concern is the threat of not being covered at all because of a pre-existing condition. With treatment, my chance of a recurrence of breast cancer is described by my doctors as "in the low-single digits". However, without the mandate to waive pre-existing conditions, I could otherwise easily be denied insurance .

Email: by 1pm EST/10am PST Monday 9/25.

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

Sincerely, [name]

[town, state]

--
Vicki Sween

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Liz Fogarty [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:27 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Pearson, Beth (Warren); Hurt, Nikki (Markey)
Subject: Opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill

I am writing to express my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill, which would eliminate Medicaid as a federal entitlement. I cannot adequately express how much I am opposed to this bill, and I oppose any measure which does not protect Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Fogarty

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Norwood, MA [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jenny Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:26 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Although my husband and I have never carried any debt and are healthy people, we were forced to file for bankruptcy when he went through stage 3 melanoma cancer and insurance refused to pay bills claiming he had pre-existing conditions. In the end they started paying his bills and he has been cancer-free for 8 years. Had we not had access to healthcare, he would have died.

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

Sincerely,

Jenny Johnson

Forest Lake, MN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: m. underwood [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:26 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: affordable and accessible healthcare

The Graham-Cassidy bill does not bring me or my family closer to having quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Although the ACA has made health insurance more accessible for most of the people I know, the high cost of deductibles (mine is \$5,000 a year) and pharmaceuticals (\$300 a month) means that more work needs to be done. I work with the blind and visually impaired and am deeply concerned about their ability to access quality healthcare as well as my brother who lives with schizophrenia. Access to transportation is an incredibly important component of this problem, which demonstrates the wide-ranging challenges of access. The problems are complex and the solutions must come through a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. We need affordable healthcare, affordable prescriptions, and expanded Medicaid access for those with disabilities.

Sincerely, Melinda Underwood

Saxtons River, VT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:10 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

> My nephew relies on affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham Cassidy bill.

>

> Tyler has struggled since his late teens with erratic behavior and self-destructive actions. His family was helpless until he finally was able to get on Medicaid in Washington state. He was diagnosed with bipolar disorder and is now getting counseling, medication, and is getting his life back together. If he is thrown off this medical coverage, who knows because he can't afford the medication or counseling on his own.

>

> I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve ACA, not repeal it. Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater, please.

> Most Sincerely,

> Carolyn Adkins

Cloverdale, CA [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Vandzura [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:09 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

I and my family rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am a nurse of 30+ years. I have seen many people benefit from The Affordable Care Act. My sister and her family are great examples. Before The ACA they couldn't keep insurance because of preexisting conditions. Medicare and Medicaid are hugely important to 100s of 1000s of Americans.

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

Sincerely,

Karen Vandzura

Grand Canyon, AZ

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dina Friedman [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:07 AM
To: gchcomments
Attachments: TESTIMONY FOR THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE.docx

Please include my previous message in the hearing record. I am submitting this again with your formatting requirements in the attached file. I will paste it here below, as well.

TESTIMONY FOR THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

September 25, 2017

I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill for the following reasons:

--I am concerned about people with pre-existing conditions being charged much higher premiums. Relaxation of requirements under the ACA will allow some states to provide waivers to insurance companies on these regulations. As I have family members with chronic illness, this is a personal issue. The bill clearly fails the "Jimmy Kimmel" test.

--My home state of Massachusetts, which has been at the forefront of providing subsidies to assure that all people who have quality access to health care would be devastated. This bill punishes states that have attempted to expand Medicaid and provide more access to health care, while rewarding states that have not.

--The bill defunds Planned Parenthood for one year, which is a key player in providing breast cancer screenings and health care to poor women across the country.

--Several prominent health organizations, including the AMA and the AHA are against this bill. Threatening access to health care violates the clear medical principle of "do no harm."

While I understand that there are problems with the ACA, efforts moving forward should be bipartisan. A "win" for the GOP should not be at the expense of a "loss" for 32 million people would stand to lose their health insurance. Furthermore, Congress should enact legislation to make sure that the insurance markets are stabilized while new legislation that has broad support from both sides of the aisle is enacted.

Sincerely,

D. Dina Friedman

[REDACTED]
Hadley, MA

--
D. Dina Friedman

Author, Escaping Into the Night (Simon & Schuster, 2006)

Playing Dad's Song (Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2006)

[REDACTED]
NYPL Best Book for the Teen Age
AJL Notable Book for Older Readers
VOYA Top Shelf Fiction

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Paula Getzelman [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:07 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do NOT Pass Graham-Cassidy

A great number of American citizens, including myself, rely on the quality, affordable healthcare available to us through the ACA. Because of this, I strongly oppose passing the Graham-Cassidy bill.

I have pre-existing conditions (breast cancer, diabetes and heart disease) that would prevent me from obtaining insurance if it weren't for the ACA. Under Graham-Cassidy, even if I could obtain insurance, I probably wouldn't be able to afford the exceedingly high premiums.

Rather than passing Graham-Cassidy, I strongly support bipartisan Congressional efforts to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Paula Getzelman

Lockwood, CA [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patrick Young [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:07 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: heath care

Dear Senate Finance Committee Numbers

My name is Patrick B. Young. I live in Germantown Wisconsin my address is [REDACTED] Montgomery Drive Germantown WI [REDACTED] I write to you as a citizen.

Medicaid is essential to the health and independence of people with disabilities. We are more likely to be low-income, have less access to health care. Medicaid provides affordable and quality health care coverage to individuals with disabilities. People with disabilities may access Medicaid programs in many different ways. Wisconsin has a strong Medicaid programs like specialized long term care program such as Family care and IRIS and almost 20 Wisconsin programs like children long term supports. imposing Medicaid per capita caps and block grants forces states to make decisions on who should be covered under state Medicaid programs whether people have to wait for services and what services and supports are included. Many adults with disabilities use the Medicaid Purchase Plan for working adults with disabilities to access the care they need. This is an example of flexibility in programs that can remain without cutting billions of dollars from Medicaid. when you debate and vote think about people with pre-existing conditions or have a disabilities who rely on Medicaid. Thankyou for your time

Sincerely

Patrick B young

Sent from my iPad

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stewart Deats [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:06 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill public comment

My wife and I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill because we both rely on having quality, affordable healthcare. My wife has high blood pressure, which is considered a "pre-existing condition". Prior to getting health insurance coverage through my employer under the ACA, we could not get an insurance company to issue her a policy - simply for having high blood pressure! While the Affordable Care Act is far from perfect, it is much better than the previous system, and a lot better than all the lame "repeal and replace" bills that have been offered up in Congress this year. Graham-Cassidy is no different, it will hurt millions of Americans while helping a few profit greatly. Instead of continuing to try to "make good" on a dumb campaign promise that the majority of US citizens oppose, I would prefer to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Stewart Deats

Stewart Deats

[REDACTED]
Flagstaff, AZ [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Janet Broesch [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:06 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Improve the ACA, DO NOT REPEAL

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

My brother was diagnosed with appendix cancer in 2012. He had insurance through his union. He was unable to work after the first surgery. After that I believe medicaid took over until the end. Without affordable insurance and pre-existing conditions being included, he wouldn't have lasted as long as he did. (he died just before Father's Day in June of 2016) While he was struggling through this horrific and painful experience, the thought of not being covered or fighting with insurance companies to have or not to have an operation would be cruel and unusual.

Please, for the sake of the good people of this country, I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Janet Broesch

Berlin, Wisconsin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jill Sisco [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:04 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mrs. Jill Sisco

[REDACTED]
Grove, OK [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ann Tindell Keener [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:04 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

My family, friends, and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Two years ago, with ACA marketplace insurance, my husband was diagnosed and treated for testicular cancer. His insurance still covers him at an affordable price, and covers the continued cancer screening he needs to assure him the cancer is gone. Three weeks ago, my best friend was diagnosed with glioblastoma. Under the Graham-Cassidy bill it is likely that the treatment he will need in the years to come would be unavailable and prohibitively expensive, and he may very likely lose coverage altogether. I cannot watch this happen to my closest loved ones. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Ann Keener

Chattanooga Tennessee

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Josh Robbins [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:03 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment for the record

Hello, I am Josh Robbins, an HIV positive patient advocate that offers encouragement to those living with HIV to live well. I am also someone who has lost my health coverage 4 times since the ACA took effect because insurance providers had loop holes to end my coverage and/or they left my state all together. Sure, it is frustrating to yet again know at the end of this year that I will once again be without coverage--but I find comfort knowing that I will be able to actually get coverage because no insurance company can deny me because of my pre-existing condition. This current bill up for voting will have devastating consequences for me and millions of other people that have pre-existing conditions if the federal protections are terminated or relinquished back to the state level of control. The reason the federal protection is there is because my state, Tennessee, could never find the political will to offer that protection before and we can not trust them to have found a backbone. If the protection is important enough to those voting on this bill, it is important enough for the federal mandate to remain. Either it is right or it is not. It shouldn't matter the location of my home to be the deciding reason I am able to have health coverage. I am begging for you to vote no on this bill. You are voting on a bill that will have absolute life or death consequences for me and millions of others. Forget your party affiliation... consider me your son. Do I deserve the chance to have health coverage? If I deserve that chance... help protect my shot at that coverage by voting no. Your vote will never be forgotten-- never.

Josh Robbins, 34
Nashville, Tennessee

Josh Robbins,
+sexual health journalist | +speaker
+activist | +HIV patient expert
[imstilljosh] #HIVscoop
[REDACTED] (direct)

2017 GLAAD Media Award Nominee
2017 TEDxNashville Speaker
ADAP Awards Social Media Campaign of Year
[REDACTED] HIV Global Advisor
#UequalsU [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christina Sheran [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:02 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repeal and Replace

My family relies on quality and affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. As a 5 year survivor of breast cancer I need to be assured that I can continue to get check-ups on a timely basis and get the necessary hormone medication to keep me Cancer free. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Christina Sheran

Minneapolis Minnesota

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: dianaallen423 <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:02 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Proposal

Hearing to consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017.

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am opposed.

Mrs. Diana K. Allen [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Robinson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:02 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Elected Officials,

As a voting citizen I am asking you to defeat the Graham-Cassidy Bill. The Affordable Care Act saved my sisters life from Stage III Breast Cancer. While in the middle of undergoing treatment, the insurance she had through work stopped covering her treatment. She was able to enroll in the ACA and continue care. She is now approaching her fifth year cancer free. Since her life has positively impacted hundreds working as a lawyer protecting children from abuse rather than recovering from bankruptcy. Not making healthcare affordable will not only impact individual families and loved ones but will hurt the economy and society. The Graham-Cassidy Bill will be devastating. Thank you for your support and please continue to fight with all the power you have.

Sincerely,
Sarah Robinson

[REDACTED]
Brooklyn, NY
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: the uncertainty guru [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:01 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: feedback on ACA

Dear Members of Congress,

The Affordable Care Act has improved the quality of care for the people I serve as a mental health care provider. More people have access to better care since the initiation of the ACA. Providing widespread, affordable care not only helps people with their suffering from health issues, but makes sense economically in the long run. In the years prior to the ACA, I saw many families wait until the bitter end to address health crises because of funds and then they made trips to the emergency room and to in-patient care, which is much more expensive than regular, preventative care. Do not allow partisan politics to damage the well-being of millions of Americans. Please do not support the repeal of the ACA.

Thank you,

Patricia Malone
New York

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kelly McCleary [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:00 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Please vote NO on Graham-Cassidy! My daughter survived a rare blood disorder and chemotherapy but needs the follow up care ACA provides and the protection for preexisting conditions as she would be otherwise uninsurable. People like her WILL die if you repeal ACA, and their blood will be on your hands..

Kelly McCleary
Bentonville AR

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bonnie Miller [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:59 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Bonnie Miller
Subject: The Graham-Cassidy bill

I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Something as important as health care for Americans deserves a thorough bipartisan process to assure quality access to quality health care for all. Our adopted son has 2 major mental illnesses and relies on medication and frequent reviews of his meds. He relies on Medicaid. When on his meds he functions well and works a job. Thank you for your consideration. Bonnie Miller

[REDACTED] MA [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hester Bell [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:59 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare reform

ACA has provided millions of Americans access to better, more affordable care. ACA can and should be improved by bipartisan and transparent work by Congress. I oppose Cassidy Graham because it is a sloppy, poorly conceived piece of legislation. It is only destructive in its purposes.

Vote NO on Cassidy Graham!

Work together to improve the healthcare system for all Americans.

Respectfully,
Hester Bell
Altadena, California

Sent from my phone. Please excuse errors.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: GLORIA SAVIGNANO [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:58 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable Health Care Act....

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

What kind of America do we have if we let these people suffer and die.

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

Thank you to Senator McCain.

Sincerely,

Gloria A. Savignano

Massachusetts

"Be kinder than necessary, because everyone you meet is fighting some sort of battle."

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Blair Van Brunt [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:57 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mrs. Blair Van Brunt

[REDACTED]
Sherborn, MA [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elisabeth Benders-Hyde [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:55 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Say NO to Graham Cassidy bill

Why would you introduce another disastrous healthcare bill to replace the last disastrous attempt to repeal and replace the ACA just voted down? The Graham Cassidy bill goes even further in its cuts. What is wrong with Republican thinking? People don't want their health care taken away. They don't want to lose their Medicare or Medicaid coverage. They don't want to be disqualified because of preexisting conditions. The list goes on and on.

And this at a time when thousands of people in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico will need any and all help in health care they can get.

WHY?

This bill is wrong for the people of the United States. Except for the 1% who can afford to pay exorbitant prices for their health care.

Can you afford adequate health care? Of course you can, you're legislators, but your constituents are not.

Who do you stand for?

Elisabeth Benders-Hyde
Massachusetts

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marianna Stout [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:52 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stories of People Who Need the ACA
Attachments: DIE IN Story - Lisa Ames.docx; DIE IN Story - Christine Button.docx; DIE IN Story - Elissa Holzman.docx; DIE IN Story - Liisa McCloy-Kelley.docx; DIE IN Story - Lisa Ames - short version.docx; DIE IN Story - Maggie Ploner.pdf.pdf; DIE IN Story - Marcia Story.docx; DIE IN Story - Rose Rowland.docx

Dear Senators,

Please read these personal stories. Please do not repeal the ACA.

Sincerely,
Marianna Stout
Peekskill, New York

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary McQuillan [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:23 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Against Graham Cassidy Bill

Congress should not pass the Graham Cassidy bill for several reasons. The loss of protections for pre existing conditions, reductions in Medicare and the loss of coverage for huge numbers of Americans. You must understand that people's actual lives depend on these coverages.

Again, this is a NON healthcare plan and should not be supported.

Mary F. McQuillan [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jen Barger [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:23 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Graham-Cassidy

I & my family rely on quality, affordable healthcare, something we have been able to obtain under the ACA.

Because of this, **I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill** that would decimate women's healthcare, destroy Medicaid as we know it, and cause an unknown number of preventable deaths due to lack of coverage for preexisting conditions. Not to mention, it hasn't received a CBO analysis yet or been put up for any debate.

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

Sincerely,

Jen Barge

Eagan, Minnesota

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: L [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:22 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

I, Linda Laswell rely on quality, affordable, available healthcare. I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Following a recent bicycle accident, I want to see improvement not reduction of care in any possible bi-partisan effort.

The ACA needs expansion and improvement not fly by night attempts to pass major legislation impacting millions of our citizens.

Sincerely,

Linda Laswell

Belen, NM [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dorothy Kress [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:21 AM
To: gchcomments

I and my family rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My sister has auto-immune conditions (Crohn's, giant cell arteritis, and rheumatoid arthritis). Without affordable healthcare she would be unable to continue working as a contributing member of society. Healthcare is not just a "handout". It provides us the ability (and financial security) so we can keep working, providing for our families, etc. so that we do not need other "assistance".

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

Sincerely,
Dorothy Kress

[REDACTED]
Duluth, MN [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rebecca Jacobs [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:18 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on GCHJ

Hello,

I would like to register my support against GCHJ.

I am a resident of New York City, but my father resides in San Diego, CA, and depends on tri-weekly dialysis to survive. He is a AAA survivor and is in end stage renal failure. His hemodialysis and overall care is largely provided through Medicaid programs, and with any sort of budget cuts to Medicaid and lapses in care as a result, it will only be a matter of time until he dies.

Simply put, GCHJ is an avoidable death sentence for my father. Do not pass this bill.

If this passes, he will die. I am a scared 23 year old who only recently entered the workforce, and while I have been blessed with an employer who generously funds my entire medical coverage, I would be remiss to miss an opportunity to have my voice heard in an effort to save my father and the millions of other Americans who rely on Medicaid programs to survive.

These American citizens, like my father Ken, have done nothing to deserve this treatment. Often the situations that cause people to rely on federally-funded Disability stem from bad luck and a lack of accessible preventive care. These Americans already fight for their lives everyday in hospitals and at home - the last thing they need to worry about is fighting to maintain the very medical coverage that allows them to fight for their lives.

That said, the Senators in California and New York are not having their voices heard. I am appalled that the Senate is seriously contemplating a bill that will harm and inevitably kill innocent Americans, that impacts 1/5 of our overall economy but acts without clear regard for the impacts, that fails to protect pre-existing condition coverage costs, removes mandatory coverage on things such as hospital visits and pregnancy, and that the bill has been unanimously rejected by all 50 state Medicaid directors.

I am happy to engage further on this subject. Should you need to reach me, my contact information can be found below.

Thank you for your time.

Best,
Rebecca

Rebecca Jacobs
Queens, NY [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeanne-Marie Crede [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:12 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy-Graham Bill

Dear Sir or Madam, I am writing to you to let you know I strongly oppose the passing of the Cassidy-Graham Bill. Passing this bill will only result in one outcome: denying health care to millions of Americans. This bill is heartless and cruel. It reflects badly on anyone who supports it. Decent human beings do not allow people to be buried in dept due to doctor bills. Decent human beings do not allow people to suffer because they cannot afford the outrageous cost of health care. And finally, decent human beings do not allow people to die for lack of medical treatment. For a group of people who get heath coverage from the government, you have a hell of nerve to say that the rest of us Americans don't deserve the same.

Jeanne-Marie Crede
Watertown, MA

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: judy ferstenberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:17 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare Reform

Hi,
Please enact Medicare for all. We need to reduce healthcare spending by curtailing heroic, last ditch treatments for people who have little chance of survival and allocate sufficient money for basic health and dental care for the general public.

I have seen, 1st hand, that some folks get multi-million dollar treatment courtesy of MassHealth, while others can't get basic dental care. Ironically, doctors believe that my friend (who was kept alive with machines and ultimately had a heart transplant) contracted the bacterial infection that caused his heart failure, due to a lack of basic dental care which he couldn't afford.

Please make hard choices to rein in healthcare costs & put together a plan for all Americans. If people want supplemental insurance they should be allowed to buy it on the open market.

Thank you!

Judy Ferstenberg
Peterborough NH

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kate [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:15 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Please vote no on the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am a former recipient of the ACA. I had been self-employed for 25 years and always paid my own health insurance. My rates went up so high that I made the very painful decision to give up my health insurance. As a cancer survivor that was a very stressful decision for me to make. The ACA came along and with the subsidies I again was able to afford my health insurance. And the insurance offered was very good. I work in a cancer center and am a cancer survivor of 13 years. Before the ACA I saw a lot of cancer patients who could not afford their treatments. It was very sad. That all changed. Please do what you can to fix the system we have to make it more affordable and decent for the average working person. The Graham-Cassidy bill does not do this and that is why I am writing to you today. Thank-you for your time.

Kathleen Powers

[REDACTED]
Essex, CT [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeni Pisani [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:55 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.

Jeni Pisani
[REDACTED]

San Leandro, CA [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Abby Mooney [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham-Cassidy Bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband is a 39 year old man with Crohn's Disease and a cancer survivor. We depend on the protections of not being denied healthcare because of preexisting conditions. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Abby Mooney

Santa Rosa, CA

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: dk [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:59 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Committee,

I'm a widow and am dependent on the single income I make from having my own business. In today's climate, that means living close to the bone with little money for anything extra - especially major medical bills. Any medical bills really.

Affordable and possible healthcare is all I have to rely on for present health issues and more that are expected as I am now in my sixties. I have Type 2 diabetes and severe arthritis. Without physical therapy, medication, doctor visits - I wouldn't be able to run my business or survive with any modicum of decency.

It's essential to have a bi-partisan effort on the part of Congress to build on what we currently have, not demolish it so those not in the 1% are left with nothing. We all know the truth behind the bill and that truth does not include concerns regarding health for anyone, especially those of us who are a bit older. The ACA is not perfect - far from it. So, fix it. Improve it. Be heroes because you can make that happen, not servants to the biggest donors who want to call the shots in our country.

Sincerely,

Debra Kletter
NYC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Yair Chaver [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:55 PM
To: gchcomments

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. My family is currently under-employed, as well as dealing with significant student debt. Recently our son had to undergo ear surgery to close a hole in his eardrum. The surgery was necessary so that he could hear properly and do well at school as well as enjoy one of his favorite activities - swimming.

Without affordable healthcare we would not be able to pay for this out-patient procedure that cost over \$40,000. 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, Yair Chaver

Santa Cruz, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kevin Kinsella [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote NO on Graham-Kennedy

Dear Committee,

It is highly disappointing that the Graham-Kennedy Plan does not prevent insurance companies from charging more for pre-existing conditions or from instituting a lifetime cap. My child was born with Coffin-Siris Syndrome, a rare genetic condition resulting characterized by a range of congenital, neurological issues, including developmental and intellectual delays, hypertonia and hypotonia. As a result she requires frequent medical attention as well as occupational, speech, and physical therapy. She was born with this condition -- the definition of a pre-existing condition -- and depends on the health services she presently receives under my wife's insurance. Should this bill be enacted into law and my wife lose her job, we would be unable to afford the medical attention that she requires.

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."

Sincerely,

Kevin Kinsella
Brooklyn, New York

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: linda hughes [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing comments

To whom it may concern:

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill! My husband, a veteran, has a pre-existing condition that we could not afford if it weren't for the ACA.

Yes, the ACA could be improved. But I would like to see a BIPARTISAN Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you for listening,

Linda Hughes
Angel Fire, NM

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tish Hicks [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No Repeal.....

Dear Senate Finance Committee —

I urge you to vote against the ill informed and inhumane bill that is before you regarding Health Care Reform.

Your job is to represent the people's best interest. This does not. You must.

Healthcare should be something that every person has access to.

If you disagree with this... imagine yourself and your loved one in any situation without access to it.

What would you do?

I would hope that you would put your family's well being before any political or financial gain.

This is not something that we should be fighting about... or blocking each other on... this is something that everyone should be coming together on to make health care something we can all feel easy and secure about.

Thank you and I am praying for you to do what you would want for your family as what you do will be affecting mine.

With greatest concern,

Letitia Hicks
Burbank, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Health Bill

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN : and this certainly concerns All Americans

I am writing about the proposed Graham/Cassidy Health Bill for changes to the ACA. By every measure, this is a horrible bill.

Firstly, I am asking that Congress not even hold a vote that will effect about 20% of the American economy without knowing how much this is going to cost. The CBO must score this before any vote is held. I don't make a decision on what to do here our house until we know how much it will cost. We don't even know how this will impact Americans. It is a complete unknown, I have heard Cassidy say it won't preclude pre-existent conditions, I've heard that it won't. It sounds like falsehoods and without actually figuring out how this will affect our economy and how it will affect ALL Americans, how can the Congress vote on this? To vote without a solid knowledge about how much it will cost is foolish and down right stupid.

Secondly, I am concerned about some of the language in the proposed bill that allows states to do as they wish. Some states will preclude pre-existing conditions, some won't. What happens if Arkansas says no pre-existing conditions, yet say Minnesota says yes. Maybe we should move to Minnesota? This very protection affects our family personally. My husband gave a kidney to his brother and under some understandings, this becomes a pre-exisiting condition. I have high blood pressure. Is that a pre-existing condition as seen here in Arkansas? Who knows? Do you? If pre-exisiting conditions are not a requirement, both of us could be priced right out of the insurance market. We have had insurance all of our lives. All of a sudden we just may not be able to afford it.

Thirdly, Medicaid is being cut back so severely, I am concerned about that if our health deteriorates, will be be able to care for each other without Medicaid funding for a nursing home. We are both healthy, but it doesn't take much to put a family in the position of needing to use a nursing home. I personally, do not want to go to a nursing home, but who knows? Do you? Does Lindsay Graham know? Does Bill Cassidy know? Does Donald Trump know? (Trump knows next to nothing as is evidenced by his threatening to destroy North Korea). I really don't want to linger in my later years. If I could go out of life with a huge, massive heart attack, I'd be happy. But who knows how we each will end up in our later years. Medicare doesn't cover long term nursing homes (it should, but doesn't). Sixty-four percent (64%) of the Medicaid money spent (as I understand it) is for nursing home care.

Trump said the House bill was "mean". Tell me, doesn't this Cassidy-Graham bill seem "meaner"? I really think so. It is thoughtless, not within the norm of a thinking government that passes bills that we understand just what we are letting ourselves into by passing it.

What happened to the days when Republicans and Democrats worked together to help all of America? For the past 8-9 years there is so much partisan ship that very few want to talk to the "others". Mitch McConnell is a prime example of refusing to work with the opposition, as he believes it is.

We need to make a fundamental change in thinking that only one party or the other can make things happen. Even in our home, we talk about big decisions, looking at all of the options, giving up something we want so that we can make a decision that will, in the end, help our family move on and become better. Paradigms need to change, desperately.

It disappoints me when I see our legislators not wanting to talk to each other. What happened to the family meetings to discuss big problems? This country has become so split and alarmingly hateful towards those who don't agree with each other. Congress should be the shining example of people getting together and showing how we can use our combined intelligence to make things better. What happened to that? Why has bickering, belittling, and being hurtful to one another become the norm?

We need to work together. Healthcare is a human right. No one should ever be denied the right to good health care. Why should one faction of our populace get affordable access to good healthcare and others not?

I am sickened by the bickering. The leaders of our country are playing games, manipulating the system when I am very sure that the founding fathers never, ever envisioned this to be the case.

I implore you to return to regular order. Work with one another. Compromise is a GOOD word, not a bad word. We need as much bipartisan ship as is possible to make America the example to the rest of the world. When I see riots and protests, it saddens me that there is something desperately wrong with the leadership. I went through the Vietnam period, I fought for women's rights, I cried when blacks were hosed down and beaten just for being black. My parents taught me to love my neighbor. What has happened to our country?

I urge you to work together and not let this particular bill become law. There is too much lack of thought, careful consideration and understanding to let a bill such as this get by with little or no decent consideration.

Sincerely,
Patricia Slice

[REDACTED]
Jordan, AR [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tonya Wood, PhD [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Myself and my family, especially my elderly mother, relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with affordability is that after 10 years of infertility, I finally conceived a baby and was immediately identified as having a high risk pregnancy. Without the proper and AFFORDABLE prenatal and postnatal care I received. My 5 healthy, smart, funny 5 year old son would not be here today. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Tonya

hometown: Newnan, Georgia

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Walentas [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: STOP THE GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have a special-needs family member, as well as know many with preexisting conditions. This tact being taken by the Republicans is a travesty. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Nancy Walentas
Phoenix, AZ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to Graham Cassidy

My family has Obamacare in Arizona. I oppose everything in the Graham Cassidy bill, every policy idea in it, and every lie told to defend it. Problems with Obamacare should be corrected and I support a move to Medicare for all. I have never received Medicaid, but I SUPPORT poor people having health insurance and medical treatment. Therefore, I oppose everything the GOP believes in. I also oppose tax cuts for corporations and the rich and know that nothing ever has or ever will "trickle down" to the working people. I can only hope that the GOP's horrible values and corruption will inspire 92 million who did not vote in 2016 to vote the entire GOP out of office in 2018 and 2020 and all the gerrymandering and hacking of vote tallies and all the other cheating and corruption will not be able to overcome the wave. The 66 million who voted Democratic in 2016 and the 92 million who did not vote can, with the right inspiration, defeat the 63 million coalition of the corrupt rich people and the poor, racist stupid people and take back our country from the horrible decline that began in 1980, finally bring justice to our country and REALLY drain the swamp, not just pretend to. I believe the GOP campaign to take away healthcare from poor people might be that inspiration, so thanks GOP! I will work for the rest of my life to achieve these goals and hopefully teach my daughter the same values so her generation can continue until justice is done.

Best regards,
Susan R. Schwaiger

[REDACTED] Chandler, AZ [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Steve & Nancy Gould [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:00 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.

Steve & Nancy Gould

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
New York, New York [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ula H. [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Tom Higgins
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing

Dear Members of Congress,

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have a pre-existing thyroid condition that developed after my third child was born, without my thyroid medication, I can die. Without health insurance that helps pay for my prescription and dr visits, my family would quickly go into debt to pay for my life saving drugs. Even with insurance, I pay over \$100 a month. I work very hard to exercise every day and eat right to mitigate any need for medical intervention. Even with my proactive behaviors, I still require medication and medical supervision.

As it is, my family pays over \$1000/month for our healthcare premium. This insurance currently covers all my dr visits and semi annual blood draws required to make sure that my thyroid is in normal parameters. I am concerned that a repeal of the ACA would cause my pre-existing condition to increase my family's premiums or make us ineligible for quality healthcare.

My family needs me to be in the best health possible so that I can care for them in the best way possible.

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

And if you really want to change the system or see an improvement, healthcare can not be a "for profit" system.

Sincerely,
Ula Higgins

Lexington, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Philip Garbe [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing on Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Bill

September 22, 2017

Re: Hearing on Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Bill. September 25, 2017

The above titled action, Graham-Cassidy et. al., is allegedly to be voted on to replace the Affordable Care and Patient Protection Act. I believe that is a bad idea as many, many Medical entities have come out against the bill. They include, but are not limited to: American Cancer Society, ALS Association, American Heart Association, American Diabetes Association, Medicaid Directors for all 50 States, numerous State Governors, Doctor's associations, Nursing Associations, Hospital Associations, even Blue Cross, Blue Shield Association.

At some point the views of the **Medical Professionals** has to be taken into account. Even though Senator Grassley thinks that the Senate needs to keep this Campaign Promise, the question becomes "WHY"?, when so many other promises have fallen by the wayside.

Philip C. Garbe

[REDACTED]
LaSalle, IL [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ellen Waggett [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care for All Americans

Dear governmental representatives of America,

My family and I rely heavily on quality, affordable healthcare. My husband and I own two successful small businesses. We are proud Americans who try to give back to our country and try to make our community a better place. We generate many jobs in our town, work constantly, and just break even.

We have two children. Our daughter, who is 13 years old, suffers from Type-1 diabetes, Celiac Disease, and Hashimoto's Disease. Although she lives a relatively normal life, she needs constant medical oversight and medication to stay alive. Currently, these three diseases are incurable. She will suffer from them for her entire life. Does she deserve to be ever rejected for coverage because she has chronic conditions? Does she deserve to worry-- for even one second-- if she will have to make major life decisions based on whether or not she will get health care that will keep her alive? No. No American should ever have to make a choice like that. Our country needs to take care of its citizens first and foremost. Our citizens are our greatest strength. We need a health care plan that shows empathy and care for fellow Americans.

Because of this, I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I applaud Senator McCain for standing up for a more inclusive and thoughtful approach. Like him, I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Ellen Waggett

Austerlitz, NY

--
Ellen Waggett
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gina Myerson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Villanueva, Josie (Duckworth); Kanner, Max (Durbin); jfraggos@luriechildrens.org
Subject: Opposition to the Graham-Cassidy health reform proposal

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am involved with Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago and serve on its Public Policy Committee.

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 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,

Regina Myerson
[REDACTED]

Chicago, Illinois 60605

--
Gina Weber Myerson
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: carrie burkart [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

I, Carrie Landis, rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with pre-existing conditions is that I have been denied before for having Celiac Disease, and I am worried I would be denied again. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Carrie Landis

Santa Rosa, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re: The Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear folks,

So very many people rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill because it removes so very many protections that individuals and families badly need to stay strong and healthy. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort put forth to improve the Affordable Care Act, not to repeal it. Please take your time and do the right thing; the people should not have to suffer the loss of their healthcare through haste and poor judgment. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Sherry Horowitz
Croton-on-Hudson, New York

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lois Barber [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

I strongly feel that we need a bipartisan bill to improve the ACA. I know people who will be adversely affected by the new bill.

Lois Barber
Piano Beach,
Ca. [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Flolgarcia [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Pearson, Beth (Warren); Hurt, Nikki (Markey)
Subject: VOTE no on Graham-Cassidy - Protect Medicaid

Dear US Senate,

The Graham-Cassidy proposal is an egregious attempt to take away health care from children and adults with disabilities and other vulnerable populations. It would devastate the state budget for health care in Massachusetts. I urge you to oppose this proposal. My eleven year old son has Epilepsy , Arachnoid Cyst in his brain, ADHD, Global Developmental Delays, Sensory Processing Disorder, Dysgraphia, and other learning delays with medical needs. He does not deserve to lose his Masshealth Healthcare insurance that covers all his medical care due to his disabilities and medical conditions he was born with. **VOTE no on Graham-Cassidy - Protect Medicaid! PLEASE I URGE AND BEGG YOU AS A MOTHER! DO NOT REPEAL OR REPLACE OBAMACARE AND THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT!!!**

cc Senator Warren (Beth_Pearson@warren.senate.gov) and Senator Markey (Nikki_Hurt@markey.senate.gov)

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sophie Heller [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have been laid off twice over the last year and without Medicaid, I would not have been able to access insurance. I would like to see a bipartisan, Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Sophie Heller
Oakland, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jim Kozelka [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: DEFEAT GRAHAM-CASSIDY HEALTHCARE BILL

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. This bill is clearly a travesty and I am stunned that anyone with a sense of common decency supports it. I wish to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Jim Kozelka

Palo Alto, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dinah Bachrach [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my deepest concern. I am fortunate to now have Medicare as I am 69, but so many of my friends and my clients need quality, affordable healthcare due to their income, pre-existing conditions, disabilities etc. I would like to see bi-partisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Dinah Bachrach
Santa Rosa, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Martha Beetley [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote down The Graham-Cassidy Bill

All Americans should be able to depend on quality, affordable healthcare. No American should go bankrupt over medical expenses. Congress can work in a bipartisan way to provide adequate coverage for all citizens - but the Graham-Cassidy Bill is NOT that.

Please vote this bill down, then get to work to improve the Affordable Care Act. Do your jobs to work for the betterment of the American people!

Martha Beetley

[REDACTED] Redwood City, CA [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Becky Fortgang [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: public testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing



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

Sincerely,
Rebecca Fortgang
New Haven, CT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jessica Tresser [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Hurts Disabled Americans

I am disabled, single mom, raising a multiply-disabled child, and I depend on the protections of the ACA for access to individual insurance coverage that means life-sustaining medical care, without which I will not be alive to care for my son. I was diagnosed with my first chronic illness at 5. I had my first cardiac event at 32 -- with zero prior risk factors. I have multiple progressive autoimmune disorders. Without protections for pre-existing conditions, and against premium surcharge increases (both of which Graham-Cassidy make possible for states to permit), I will be functionally uninsurable. Without insurance to cover my ongoing medical treatment, I can expect multi-organ failure.

My bright, beautiful, autistic and multiply-disabled boy has a whole, independent life ahead of him. He was born with multiple pre-existing conditions. Raising him with the ACA a reality has meant I can focus on finding him the best therapeutic support, instead of crowd-funding bare-bones medical and mental-health treatment, because he was born uninsurable. He's required \$100k+ already, in medical costs, at only 8. The Graham-Cassidy Bill will mean \$3.2 billion cuts to Medicaid, for TN, alone. These funds mean the difference between community living, and institutionalization, for autistic adults -- as my son will one day become-- and others in his community.

Please hear the millions of us telling the Senate that this is life-and-death, for us. We literally can't afford to live under the Graham-Cassidy version of American Healthcare. You were all elected to represent us, the American people. Please don't create this devastating reality with another "Yes" vote, to replace the ACA with a substitute that doesn't meet the "first, do no harm" standard. I urge each of you to VOTE "NO" on the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

Sincerely,
Jessica Tresser
Murfreesboro, TN [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Charles R Pikcunas [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re: Repeal of ACA

> On Sep 21, 2017, at 19:17, Charles R Pikcunas <tsunamitropicalsltd@gmail.com> wrote:

>

> 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, HI [REDACTED] USA
[REDACTED]

>

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Roxi Zilmer [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill Hearing

Dear Senators,

I have osteoarthritis (OA) in my hands ~ not really that big of a deal compared to some pre-existing conditions . . . but I am a Physical Therapist . . . My hands are my work, my job security, the way I make a living!

Not long ago, I had pain when I do manual therapy on my patients, when I typed on the computer and when I prepared healthy meals for my family. My OA created a bone spur that punctured my joint capsule . . . I had surgery on May 9th 2017 to fuse my DIP joint of my left index finger so that I can continue working . . . did I mention I am only 47 years old!

Having OA does not only affect me personally. It also affects my family and my patients. I cannot continue to help others remain functional, productive members of society if I cannot perform the manual therapy they need. I have personal and professional experience with the ACA and while it can always be improved, it will clearly be destroyed with The Cassidy Graham bill.

- If I ever need surgery on other parts of my hand will it be covered?
- Will I be able to afford it?
- Will I be able to keep working ~ helping others regain and maintain their healthy, active lifestyle?

Constitutionally speaking it is impossible to have life, liberty and the ability to pursue happiness if you are sick, disabled or dying! For this reason I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA. PLEASE DO NOT REPEAL IT!

Sincerely, Roxi Zilmer
Plos Verdes Peninsula, CA [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Gordon [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. For several years I went without any medical insurance or services because my husband was self employed. The ACA enabled me to get basic healthcare and vaccinations; I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Barbara Gordon

Mineola, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Billi Romain [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable health care needed

I rely on affordable healthcare and I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see congressional effort to improve ACA, not repeal it. Coverage for my young adult children is vital to our family and keeps us financially stable. Please consider the lives and loved ones of people who are dealing with chronic and life threatening illness.

Thanks for your consideration,
Billi Romain
Berkeley CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pat [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

Why should my health care depend on the next election in my state? Are you people aware of what could happen?

This bill is a disaster, and an insult to the American people.

Patricia Lukaszewska

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Montauk, NY [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rhonda Bland [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: affordable care act

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,
Rhonda R Bland
Haverstraw, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lorene Chesley [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE NO on Graham Cassidy "health care" bill

PLEASE!

This bill is the absolute worst and it's hurting the people who truly need it the most. Please Please Please STOP THIS!!!

Thank You!

Sincerely,
Lorene Chesley

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: hollyburgin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

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

Sincerely,

Holly Burgin

Los Angeles, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: ellesin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson

Title Of Hearing: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal
Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017
Full Name: Leela Rajani Sinha
Address [REDACTED]

Dear Senators of the Finance Committee,

Dear Finance Committe:

The ACA coverage I had saved me twice in a year.
The year before that, I barely used it.
The year after that, I barely used it.
But the year that I needed it, I NEEDED it.

I had two, major, unrelated medical events. I am a business owner, who at the time was living and working in the state of Maine. At the end of December, 2014, I had excruciating pain in my left leg that left me sobbing on the floor of the cottage where I lived by myself.

A friend had to come from over an hour away to help me, and it was two weeks before we discovered the cause: my L3 disc had ruptured, compressing the nerve that controls everything from my bladder to my ability to bend my leg.

The pain was bad, the immobility was worse. I was very lucky that I didn't become incontinent.

After considering my options, I chose the conservative treatment, which was three months of bedrest. It was six months before I could reasonably walk and reliably squat. It was a year before I felt like I had the 80% function I was told to expect.

But my leg sometimes goes numb. I sometimes get shooting pains. I can't lift, carry, or bend too much anymore, not if I want to remain mobile. I'm grateful--and cautious--every day.

I will need monitoring for the rest of my life if I'm to remain mobile. I cost the government a lot less if I can walk, shop, cook, and clean for myself.

That monitoring needs to come through health insurance. There are MRIs and lab tests and medical visits and spinal treatments. That costs money. If you want me to remain in business and not fall onto the rolls of the unemployed, you need to make it possible for me to have insurance.

That one injury would have been enough. But eight months later, I found myself at the doctor again, this time because one of my mammary ducts was bleeding. It was dark red blood oozing from my nipple. Something was wrong...and we didn't know if it was a big problem or a little one. I had imaging. I imagined this would answer the question, but the tech left the room, came back with someone else, and there were still no real answers. They didn't see anything wrong.

You'd think that would be good news.

It's not.

There's a kind of carcinoma that doesn't form a mass--a cancer without a clear tumor. They were worried that I had that. So off I went to the surgeon, who scheduled me for surgery within the week. I was under general anesthetic, she cut around my nipple, lifted it off, extracted the duct in question and several small nodules, and put it all back together, leaving most of my nerves and other tissues intact.

That's a miracle of modern medicine right there. They sent the extracted material to the pathology lab, and the report eventually returned "clean". No chemo, no radiation, just the process of healing.

But it was close.

The new year came and went. There was a problem with my ACA paperwork and I got booted out of the insurance plan by a wild set of errors and miscommunications.

I never went for my followup appointments because I knew I couldn't afford them without insurance.

Each day, hundreds of people make critical health decisions based on money.

Each day, hundreds of amazing contributions and thousands of dollars are lost from the economy of this country because people ignored their medical needs because they couldn't afford to have them attended to.

The problem can be solved. It has been, in nearly every other developed country in the world. I have lived under Canadian health insurance; I've got friends around the world who are horrified at what it takes to get medical care in this country. I have one brilliant friend--a teacher and musician--who left years ago because of a medical diagnosis. He lives in Norway where he teaches and makes music for their children. Another brilliant friend relies heavily on her German citizenship for medical care. She has a doctorate in seismic geology and we are lucky she is still here.

The ACA is far from perfect, but it is saving lives, jobs, and revenue every day.

It would be foolhardy, not to mention inhumane, to pass the Graham-Cassidy Bill and regress; we cannot afford to lose the progress we have made thus far. Our economy needs people focused on jobs and income and productivity, not illness and medical bills and bankruptcy.

Please help save our economy and the small businesses at the heart of American enterprise, and reject the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Leela Sinha (Rev.)
Richmond, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy is a bad remake of the days before the ACA

There is a real possibility that we will go back to punishing people with pre-existing conditions. As much as I hate to talk/think about myself as a disabled person, I hope someone will read my story and think twice about doing this to a new generation.

I was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy at 6 months old. Eventually my constricted muscles led to a severe scoliosis. It affected my vision, reaction time, & my left arm and leg. At 18 years old I took myself off of disability. I wanted to work like everyone else. I usually worked 2 jobs, even though I usually worked 25 - 29 hrs a week per job because employers didn't want to offer me insurance and that was considered part-time. I couldn't get a policy on my own and I didn't know about CHP yet (IL High Risk pool), so I went without. With the help of family & friend driving me, I graduated college Suma Cum Laude with a degree in Elementary ED. I taught full-time for 7 years, but 3 other teachers and I were let go in 2009 when the economy collapsed. Being 45 & disabled did not make me the first choice in a bad economy. That's when I enrolled in Illinois' high-risk pool. My deductible was \$2000. My last premium was just over \$600 a month and many things still weren't covered.

During this period I needed medical care for the effects of living with CP & the emotional effects of not finding regular work. For the first time in my life, I felt handicapped. While I waited for Obamacare to be activated, between the premiums and my out-of-pocket expenses I was now over \$20,000 in debt. I had to apply for disability so the back pay would help me get out of debt. It was the saddest day of my life.

I'm telling you my story because I believe that if there hadn't been a high-risk pool, the Medicaid expansion was already in place along with the basic coverage mandates I would still be working (not as much though) and paying taxes contributing instead of taking.

The way Graham-Cassidy is constructed, all people will pay more for healthcare. 1st because there will be fewer healthy people in the pool without the individual mandate. Changing Medicaid expansion will also cause the poor to use emergency rooms as their primary physician. We will be paying for their care when it is at its most expensive. If individual states compound that by pushing people with pre-existing conditions into a more expensive high-risk pool, the unintended consequence will be a rise in disability and public assistance claims. Rather than subsidizing insurance, the government will be responsible for all the expenses.

People with moderate disabilities don't want that any more than you do. We want to work even more than a healthy person does because our identity depends on being as useful as anybody else. Increasing the number of hours we have to work to be insured by an employer, or adding a multiplier to the insurance we have to buy on our own costs the government money and us dignity.

Wendy LaFauce
[REDACTED]

Belvidere, IL
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Stevens [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: please consider this story



Dear members of the Senate Finance Committee,
The man in this photo is my husband, Mark Stevens. He works as a flight paramedic in the Yukon-Kuskokwim region of Alaska, one of the most medically underserved places in the United States. Mark used to be a firefighter. He's not anymore because he has Post-traumatic Stress Disorder. This came from a call he responded to as a firefighter in Sheridan, Wyoming. He was unable to save a teenage girl, the daughter of a friend, who was kidnapped and murdered by a stalker. Instead of abusing alcohol, or drugs, or his family, or committing suicide as so many good people with PTSD do, he got help. Thanks to the help he received, he's still around. He can work, he can be a good father to our kids and a good partner to me. But because he got help, he now has a "pre-existing condition", one that the proposed Graham Cassidy healthcare legislation would allow insurers to charge him more for. They might even be allowed to deny him coverage altogether. Please think very carefully about this. Mark has spent his life in the service of others; do you really feel it is right to deny him, and people like him, access to health insurance?

Thank you,
Sarah Stevens
Anchorage, AK

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Olivia Cammisa-Frost [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My ACA Story

Good afternoon,

I'm writing to enter my comments regarding the upcoming vote on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson healthcare bill, which would repeal the Affordable Care Act and make it more difficult for millions of Americans like me to afford healthcare.

When I was 25, I lost my job and my health insurance. Because of the provisions required by the ACA, I was able to go on my parent's health insurance while I secured a new job and until I turned 26. After my 26th birthday, I purchased insurance through the New York State Marketplace. I would not have been able to afford health insurance on my own if it were not for the tax credit provided to me through the ACA. Let me say that again so that it truly sinks in: I would not have been able to afford health insurance on my own if it were not for the tax credit provided to me through the ACA. While I was going through the process of getting insurance, I specifically remember saying to my friend, "I don't normally get that sick, but I feel like I need the insurance just in case something crazy happens." I go to all of my yearly doctor's appointments, always get my flu shot, go the gym 4-5 days a week, and don't have a strong family history of any hereditary diseases.

26 days after I received coverage through the ACA, I woke up with a sharp pain in my lower right side and was rushed to the hospital thinking that it was appendicitis. After spending several hours in the ER, I was sent for imaging, which determined that I had a large benign tumor on my right ovary that had caused the tissue to collapse and wrap itself around my blood vessels. I was told that I was heading to surgery within the hour and to call work and tell them I would need to take a week off. I was given paperwork to sign, I told the friend that I was with to go home and grab my toothbrush and a change of clothes, and then I was in the OR being told to count backwards from ten- it happened so fast I barely had any time to be scared. I spent the night in the hospital and was discharged the next morning. I had a painful recovery period and it took me almost a month to feel like my normal self again, both physically and mentally.

I had a high deductible plan through the ACA, so I had to pay an "out of pocket" cost of approximately \$3,000. This payment was broken up over a 2 year period. If I didn't have insurance, I would be paying off a nearly \$100,000 hospital bill, and I would not have been able to afford health insurance without the tax credit provided to me through the ACA. A debt of \$100,000 on top of my already existing \$80,000 in student loan debt would have bankrupted me; it would have taken away my ability to ever buy a house, to be able to afford to have children. I say a silent "thank you" every day for what the ACA has given me, because it truly saved my future.

GCHJ scares me because it takes away the protections for people like me with pre-existing conditions. It allows insurance companies to charge me more money for my premiums because I now have a pre-existing condition and removes the tax credit that would make the purchase of health insurance attainable. I consider myself lucky- I'm a healthy individual who has a minor health concern that should be looked at by a doctor every year. My heart breaks when I hear about families spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on medical care for their kids before their first birthday, or people who are struck with a Stage 4 cancer diagnosis and choose not to have treatment because they cannot afford it. This is the reality our country will face if ACA is repealed and GCHJ or an equivalent is put into law. I realized that the ACA is not a perfect system; but an imperfect system that we work on together to fix is by far and away better than a system that leaves the most vulnerable members of this

country in poverty because they can't afford both food and a routine doctor's visit. I implore you to consider the ramifications of re-writing 1/6th of the American economy without a CBO score and to consider what this bill means for people throughout the US. For just a brief moment, please put yourself in the shoes of someone who is truly struggling with health concerns for either themselves or a family member, then actually sit down and read GCHJ cover to cover and then answer if it truly would protect you and your loved ones when you were at your most vulnerable. If you cannot answer that question in the affirmative, I urge you to vote "no" on GCHJ.

With kind regards,
Olivia Cammisa-Frost
Buffalo, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sheri Nix [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Graham-Cassidy Bill

September 22, 2017

RE: Real life impact of ACA

Dear Members of Senate Finance Committee:

I'm sharing this story with you in support of my very dear friends of 45 years, Mitch and Terry Bonar. They are constituents of Senator Feinstein and Senator Harris living in Chico, California, as do I. Mitch is 66 years old and his wife Terry is 65. They've been married for 42 years. About 30 years ago Mitch started having some problems with his balance, after more doctor appointments than you can count he was given the diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis. As you can imagine they were both devastated as well as terrified about what the future would hold. Mitch continued to work and receive treatment but then about 25 years ago he was fired from a job after they discovered he had M.S., of course the company would not admit this was the reason. By this time his M.S. had progressed to a point that it was becoming increasingly difficult for him to walk. After he lost his job, Mitch started his own consulting firm and worked for several years from home. Over time the disease has completely taken away his ability to walk and he is now confined to a motorized wheelchair. His entire body has been ravaged by this disease, he now has very limited use of his hands and now is completely dependent on others to provide for his basic needs. His wife Terry has been his primary caretaker at home all of these years. As a result of lifting him she has developed a variety of health issues. They now have to use a pulley system to get him in and out of bed. Their life has not been an easy one. Yet during this time they raised 2 amazing and very caring daughters.

Shortly before the Affordable Care Act was enacted Mitch and Terry were to the point of facing the possibility of being forced to sell their home in order to afford to live. After the ACA was enacted Mitch was able to qualify for Medicaid and Terry was able to afford health insurance for herself (this was prior to her turning 65). Mitch's disease has progressed to the point where he now needs care 24/7, he literally can do nothing for himself. With the ACA they now have access to part-time in-home health caregivers that help to provide for Mitch's daily needs, such as bathing, dressing, shaving, etc. Terry also now receives a very small payment for the healthcare she provides Mitch when the caregivers aren't there. As you can see from this story, Mitch and Terry have *greatly benefited from the ACA!* If the Graham-Cassidy Bill is passed they will lose so very much and once again will be faced with prospect of having to sell their home just to be able to live! They will be part of the large segment of our society, the poor, the elderly, and the disabled who stand to lose the most if this cruel bill is passed. This truly breaks my heart and it should break yours as well...It's simply not fair! They've done nothing to deserve this disease! They do deserve, like millions of others, to live the remainder of their lives with dignity and with access to healthcare.

I'm hoping you will take Mitch and Terry's story to heart and go back to the Senate floor and share THEIR story...I'm asking you to please protect them and the millions of others throughout the United States that share similar heart wrenching stories. I'm pleading with you to help spread the stories you hear and **VOTE NO on the Graham-Cassidy Bill, which will repeal and replace the ACA resulting in millions of Americans losing their critical coverage as well as access to Medicaid!**

In the words of Thomas Jefferson, "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Denying millions of people access to healthcare is to deny them life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness...Please do not let this happen!

Sincerely,

Sheri Nix

[REDACTED]

Chico, CA [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bergin, Christina [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for the record on Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

I am a hospitalist physician at a large academic medical center and tertiary care facility in Phoenix, AZ. I have over 10 years of experience here taking care of the sickest of the sick patients from all around Arizona, and sometimes also from California and New Mexico as well. From this extensive experience, I can unequivocally tell you that the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill would cause incredible damage. The upheaval that would be imposed on the American healthcare system would be devastating to patients. Not only that, it would be devastating to hospitals, health systems, and their employees who have dedicated their careers to caring for others.

Under Graham-Cassidy, millions of Americans would lose their insurance due to the elimination of marketplace subsidies, smaller & eventually eliminated Medicaid block grants, and unreasonable premium surcharges due to states implementing the waiver option included in Graham Cassidy. When uninsured patients get sick, they still need high quality and compassionate medical care, which we still provide when they arrive in our hospitals across the country. It is a simple fact that health care is not free. Thus, the costs of this uninsured care are passed along elsewhere. More uninsured patients means higher costs and premiums for those who are lucky enough to afford health insurance. More uninsured patients means more unreimbursed ("free") care provided by hospitals and health systems – this translates to potential layoffs of nurses, pharmacists, ancillary staff, and in some cases even physicians. More uninsured patients means more dependence on county hospitals, which are funded by taxpayer dollars. So in addition to the incredible human cost that would result from the passage of Graham-Cassidy – decreased access to healthcare leading to delays in presentation/diagnosis/treatment and even deaths – it would also result in a significant economic impact to communities nationwide. It would lead to increased local and county taxes to support the county hospitals, increased costs for those still insured, increased job loss in the healthcare job sector, and so on.

In addition, Graham-Cassidy provides no funding for recessions, natural disasters, or public health emergencies. Furthermore, the block grants allocated to the states will all be eliminated in 10 short years. In my opinion as a medical professional, these components of the bill are irresponsible and short-sighted. States and their citizens would be economically devastated by the health repercussions of a natural disaster or infectious pandemic, and all states will enter a fiscal crisis in 2027 when their block grants are eliminated. Furthermore, the waiver text that ends federal protections for pre-existing conditions and prevents annual and lifetime caps on benefits is not only immoral and cruel but once again, it is economically short-sighted for all the reasons I outlined above.

On a personal note – not only am I a physician, I am also a patient. I have several different pre-existing conditions. And protection against hefty premium increases and against annual/lifetime caps are essential to both me and all other Americans. If Graham-Cassidy is passed, I am likely to have premium surcharges of at least \$26,000 - \$30,000 per year for me alone (not even accounting for my husband and children).

It is my professional duty and my vocation to serve the sick and the injured, to "first do no harm," and to always consider what is in the best interest of my patient. The passage of Graham-Cassidy will make it increasingly difficult for me and my fellow physician colleagues to adhere to these principles. The contents of this bill will harm all Americans, privately insured or not. It will harm patients and those who care for them. This is not an isolated opinion or an uninformed opinion. It is one also espoused by the American Medical Association, the American College of Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, 16 separate patient advocacy groups, the American Hospital Association, and the group 'America's Health Insurance Plans.'

Please listen to the experts, and do not pass Graham-Cassidy.

Sincerely,
Christina Bergin, MD, FHM

Christina R. Bergin, MD, FHM

Academic Hospitalist, Academic Medical Service
Dept of Internal Medicine, Banner – University Medical Center Phoenix
University of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix Internal Medicine Residency Program

Director, Electives
Clinical Assistant Professor, Dept of Internal Medicine
University of Arizona College of Medicine – Phoenix

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: chris blood [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Family story. My 17-year old nephew was born with severe heart defects. He had two surgeries in first month he was alive. Valve had to be created and heart separated into normal chambers. His parents both have excellent insurance through work. Nick will have a pre-existing condition. When he's no longer covered by his parents insurance, under GCH, he would not be able to afford his own insurance. Two months ago, he had a mechanical valve installed. Nick is otherwise a normal, healthy high school senior. Who knows about the future?

Friends' story. Friends have a 40-yr old son with muscular dystrophy. His original life expectancy was 20 years. Until age 26 he was covered by his father's insurance through work. For the last 14 years he has been covered by Medicaid. Billy has many pre-existing conditions. He needs wheel chair, special transportation, breathing and feeding tubes, and special food. Hospitalization is common for his due to breathing problems and illnesses like pneumonia. Medicaid has enabled him to double his life span. Without Medicaid, it's simple, Billy will die. How do his parents tell their son, in a wheel chair, with an active, intelligent mind, his 'representatives' from Iowa voted to cut off his insurance and end his life.

These stories are for ALL senators and representatives who support GCH. Voting in support of this tragedy of a bill will have huge impact on peoples lives. Literally can mean death for millions. Health field experts, doctors, hospitals, insurance companies themselves ALL have spoken out against GCH. Senators don't care about content of bill and how it affects other humans, to them, it's a check mark on their list of campaign promises. I hope those Senators voting in favor of bill can live with their consciences if health care is ripped away from millions.

Senators from Iowa, Chuck Grassley and Joni Ernst, both support this bill. No chance that either one of them will consider the human cost of this bill. If bill goes to House, neither will Rep Rod Blum, who won't hold town meetings, won't return calls, emails, or dignify any of his constituents with any inkling that he is remotely interested in their opinions/concerns.

Thanks for opportunity to share stories and my own opinions.

Chris Blood
Cedar Rapids, IA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: johnnyko [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please consider my statement for Monday's committee hearing on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal

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.

Thank you, Senators, for your time and consideration.

Respectfully

John M. Kolasinski
San Diego, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kayla Dula [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH Comments

For nine months, I've watched the news in horror, listening and praying that the Affordable Care Act wouldn't be repealed. I've sat up for countless nights watching with great relief as several bills were voted down, fearing for the worst for myself and the other 300 million Americans who are chronically ill. After the last repeal was voted down, I allowed myself to feel safe. Clearly, that was a mistake.

I am among the faceless and nameless individuals you claim to care about. I am twenty-six years old, and I'm chronically ill, having been diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis four years ago. My worries are far different from those of most people my age. My thoughts are occupied with questions like, "Will I be able to walk today?" and "Can I make it upstairs to my bedroom, or do I need to sleep on the couch tonight?" I don't know what my future will look like, but I know that it will include brain and spinal cord lesions appearing at random and causing symptoms for the rest of my life.

I didn't choose this. I doubt that anyone would want a life filled with illness and unknowns. When I was reviewing information on the GCH bill, I was horrified to see that premium increases for individuals with autoimmune disorders could rise by nearly \$27,000. What sort of country are we if we penalize people for being ill? Comparisons to homeowner's insurance and car insurance are ill thought out and inhumane. I can live without a vehicle. I can move into an apartment. What I cannot do is replace my broken body. Homes and vehicles are things and can be replaced—human beings should not be so disposable. The GOP claims that this bill is not denying insurance to those with pre-existing conditions, but merely allowing states to opt-out of the clause that prevents companies from charging more. This is a blatant untruth. This is a denial of insurance for those who need it most because they cannot afford it. The average salary of an American between the ages of 24 and 34 is \$40,000 per year. The average age for diagnosis with Multiple Sclerosis is 30. With insurance costing 67.5% of pre-tax income, how are we expected to live? The remarks about Obamacare death panels now seem particularly ironic, as this bill will inevitably prevent millions from receiving treatments, thus hastening their demise.

This bill is an abomination, an attempt to get a win, no matter the cost to American citizens. There has been no cost analysis done, and the damages it will cause are clear. I urge you to consider what life is like for those of us who aren't protected by life-long government healthcare. Please, imagine your siblings, children, spouses; see these people with grievous illnesses. Imagine that their insurance premiums have now far outstripped your income and you have nowhere to turn. Imagine watching them fade because you and your ilk have prioritized the bottom lines of insurers over the needs of the people. If you can sleep at night after imagining this happening to your own family, then please, feel free to vote for this bill. If you cannot empathize with other humans enough to see yourselves in this situation, I expect that you will vote yes anyway. But if there is any humanity within you, any compassion, don't cull the chronically ill poor who are trying to survive,

just as you are, but without the advantages you have. Please think of your fellow Americans before you vote yes.

Best,

Kayla Dulak

Milford, Massachusetts

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Justin Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

Title Of Hearing: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal
Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017
Full Name: [REDACTED]
Address: [REDACTED]

Greetings from a young man with severe cerebral palsy who depends on Medicaid,

I would like to share my video [REDACTED] 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-Heller-Johnson Proposal 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 and oppose the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal!

--
From Justin Smith

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

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elizabeth Scrafford [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:56 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

To Members of the Senate Finance Committee--

I grew up in a household where my dad worked full time as a welder for a company that provided either little or no health care insurance. My mom was born with a kidney disease and our family's budget revolved around medical bills. Each month bills would come in and my dad would sit at the kitchen table trying to figure out how to pay them.

I remember being hit by a car when I was twelve and calling my dad from the emergency room in tears, heart broken that I was adding to our families medical debt. No child should live in fear of how their parents would pay medical bills. We're the best country in the world, but our health care is horrible and many families file bankruptcy each year because of medical debt.

Because of the hip injury I sustained when I was hit by the car when I was twelve, prior to the Affordable Care Act I could not get health insurance. My hip problems are minor -- eventually my hip will need to be replaced, but not until I'm an old lady. And I don't understand how I could be denied health insurance, but that's what happened before the Affordable Care Act came about.

The ACA was life changing for me -- I was able to get health insurance at a time in my life when I really needed it. And while it didn't cover everything, it reduced the amount I had to pay out of pocket. I could write you all about the gory details of my uterus, but I'll save us all from that and just say that women's health care is an important issue. Please don't take this care away from women who couldn't otherwise afford it.

I'm writing to ask you -- the people who have a vote in this process -- to vote against The Graham Cassidy bill and every bill that follows it that seeks to overturn the Affordable Care Act. The Graham Cassidy bill will hurt families like mine and people like me-- not help us.

If you're truly interested in helping American families and making our health care system better, try finding out what specifically isn't working in the ACA and fix that. OR and this is a big or, you could pass Senator Sanders Medicare for All Bill.

Thanks for your consideration,

Elizabeth Scrafford
Springfield, Illinois

ADOPT AMERICA NETWORK
Toledo, OH

ADOPTION EXCHANGE ASSOCIATION
Baltimore, MD

ADOPTION RHODE ISLAND
Providence, RI

CHILDREN AWAITING PARENTS
Rochester, NY

CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA
Washington, DC

CONSORTIUM FOR CHILDREN
San Rafael, CA

FAMILY BUILDERS NETWORK

FOSTERADOPT CONNECT
Independence, MO

HARMONY FAMILY CENTER
Knoxville, TN

KINSHIP CENTER SENECA FAMILY OF AGENCIES
Salinas, CA

LILLIPUT CHILDREN'S SERVICES
Citrus Heights, CA

NORTHWEST RESOURCE ASSOCIATES
AK, OR, WA

NORTH AMERICAN COUNCIL ON ADOPTABLE CHILDREN
St. Paul, MN

NY COUNCIL ON ADOPTABLE CHILDREN
New York, NY

SIERRA FOREVER FAMILIES
Sacramento, CA

SPAULDING FOR CHILDREN
Southfield, MI

THE ADOPTION EXCHANGE
Aurora, CO

THREE RIVERS ADOPTION COUNCIL
Pittsburgh, PA

YOU GOTTA BELIEVE
Brooklyn, NY

Voice for Adoption

SPEAKING OUT FOR OUR NATION'S WAITING CHILDREN



Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal
Monday, September 25, 2017
United State Senate Committee on Finance
215 Dirksen Senate Office Building

FROM [REDACTED]

Voice for Adoption (VFA) urges the Senate Finance Committee and the Senate to reject the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal.

In short, this legislation will be devastating to the nation's child welfare system.

This legislation will undercut the past work of the Senate Finance Committee to reduce the number of children in foster care, to strengthen families that adopt, to support young people that exit foster care and to reduce and prevent child abuse.

VFA urges Senators to think of the young men and young women with foster care experience that you have sponsored as interns, fellows and temporary staff. They have told you their stories about the trauma they have experienced, the multiple placements and the missed opportunities in their care and support.

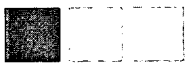
Too often these young people have told you stories of parents or guardians who could not access the needed drug treatment, mental health and health services that might have kept their family intact and all siblings together.

The young men and women, you had the opportunity to meet, represent the 10 to 20 percent who, for reasons we cannot fully explain, were resilient enough to make it all the way to college. These young adults were even more extraordinary in that they also made it to Capitol Hill. Not as visible to you are countless others, their brothers and sisters (figuratively and literally) who did not make it to college or to Capitol Hill. For too many of them there may be a future of juvenile justice, trafficking or just a life of struggle.

This legislation will undercut the critical role that Medicaid plays in addressing child abuse, reducing foster care and supporting kinship families and families that adopt.

This comes at the moment when the child welfare system is facing another drug crisis—this one opioids. This crisis has the potential to add to the number of children at risk of harm, in foster care and awaiting adoption.

As a country, we have taken significant strides in reducing the nation's foster care numbers in this century. Foster care caseloads stood at 568,000 in 1999. (House Ways and Means



Voice for Adoption [REDACTED] • director@voice-for-adoption.org

Committee, 2000, The Greenbook). By 2012, the number of children and youth in foster care had decreased to 397,000. (Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, 2016, AFCARS Report Number 23)

Last fall, 2016, the Department of Health and Human Services released their latest official child welfare data. That data showed that in 2015, 427,910 children were in foster care, an 8% increase since 2012. New data suggests that drug abuse by the parent was the primary reason for the child's removal in 32% of cases, and a parent's inability to cope was a factor in a child's removal in 14% of cases. (Ibid.)

To better understand this data to this, officials at the Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) interviewed child welfare directors in states experiencing the highest increase in foster care numbers. State officials informed ACYF on what the data suggest: "*A rise in parental substance use is likely a major factor driving up the number of children in foster homes. Citing opioid and methamphetamine use as the most debilitating and prevalent substances used, some state officials expressed concern that the problem of substance use is straining their child welfare agencies.*"

At this critical time when the caseloads are increasing, decreasing access to health care generally and Medicaid specifically will add to the number of children in foster care.

The expanded access to health care through Medicaid and private health insurance resulting from the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has provided more than \$5.5 billion in substance use and mental health services, according to research by Dr. Richard Frank and Dr. Sherry Glied of Harvard Medical School and the Wagner School of Public Service at NYU. (Frank, R.G., & Glied, S.A. The Hill, January 11, 2017)

According to Dr. Frank and Dr. Glied, a full repeal of the ACA would result in a loss of coverage for 2.8 million people with a substance use disorder, including 220,000 people who have an opioid addiction. Additionally, it would eliminate mental health coverage to 1.2 million people with a serious mental health disorder. (Ibid)

Early in 2017, *USA Today* highlighted mental health programs developed by the Montefiore Health System in the Bronx. They quoted psychiatrist Henry Chung, chief medical officer of Montefiore's care management organization, as saying the success of these programs is contingent upon patients getting early treatment in primary care. He went on to say the new mental health provisions in the recently enacted 21st Century Cures Act that improve access to treatment need "...to be combined with strong, affordable insurance. You can't have one without the other or some of that progress will be taken away." (O'Donnell, J., & DeMio, T. Obamacare repeal jeopardizes mental health, addiction coverage. *USA Today*, January 9, 2017)

This conclusion is further supported by *Facing Addiction in America*, a 2016 comprehensive report by the U.S. Surgeon General. One of that reports recommendations states:

"Full integration of the continuum of services for substance use disorders with the rest of health care could significantly improve the quality, effectiveness, and safety of all of health care."

Many of the Finance Committee members know first-hand the impact the recent opioid epidemic is having on families in your states. This legislation will add to the pressure already increasing on your states because of opioids and other substances. It will not help that some states will get a temporary increase in funding by cutting funding to the rest of the states not benefiting from the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal.

VFA supports the recent recommendations of the President's Commission on Combatting Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis when it called for efforts to enhance access to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT).

According to the National Center on Behavioral Health, many states with the highest opioid overdose death rates have used Medicaid to expand access to Medication-Assisted Treatment (MATs). This includes 49.5% of medication-assisted treatment in Ohio, 44.7% in West Virginia, 44% in Kentucky, 34.2% in Alaska, and 29% in Pennsylvania. (Blue, S.C, & Rosenberg, L. (2017). Americans with Mental Health and Substance Abuse Disorders: The Single Largest Beneficiaries of the Medicaid Expansion, the National Counsel of Behavioral Health.)

Imagine the impact on foster care caseloads, child maltreatment, and other areas of child welfare if the expanded behavioral health and substance use treatment is repealed, cut back due to state options, or cut out due to a state hitting their annual Medicaid per capita cap.

According to our colleagues at First Focus, the State Policy Advocacy Reform Center (SPARC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics, due to their experiences of abuse, neglect, loss, and trauma, youth who are in foster care face a range of health issues that make it vitally important for them to have access to health care:

--35-60% experience a chronic medical condition

--50-75% exhibit behavioral or social competency issues that may require mental health treatment

--nearly 50% suffer from chronic conditions such as asthma, cognitive abnormalities, visual, and auditory problems, dental decay and malnutrition

In 2013 the Center for Health Care Strategies, analyzed behavioral health care use and expenses for children in Medicaid in all 50 states. They found common themes other researchers have documented:

--Children using behavioral health care represented under 10 percent of the overall Medicaid child population, but an estimated 38 percent of total spending for children in Medicaid.



--Children in foster care and those on SSI/disability together represented one-third of the Medicaid child population using behavioral health care, but 56 percent of total behavioral health service costs.

The research showed that for all children accessing behavioral health care services through Medicaid, the mean annual behavioral health services totaled \$4,868, while physical health services totaled \$3,652 – a total combined Medicaid health cost of \$8,520.

Compare that to the subcategory of children and youth in foster care: Annual behavioral health expenses of \$8,094 and physical health services cost of \$4,036, for a total of \$12,130 for children and youth in foster care with at least one behavioral health cost.

These numbers are significant because of the per capita cap.

VFA believes that this legislation will also have an adverse impact on some families that adopt from foster care. Medicaid is a vital source of support. We know that adoption, as cited by past HHS publications is a *“lifelong experience for a child and a family. It is normal to face challenges; some challenges may even appear long after the adoption has been finalized.”*

Postadoption services are an increasing need as we have increased the number of adoptions from foster care over these past two decades. Much of this progress in increasing adoptions to more than 57,000 per year is because of past efforts of this Committee. These efforts include the de-linking of eligibility from the 1996 AFDC standard and the passage of the Adoption and Safe Families Act.

Medicaid and the behavioral health services it provides are a vital part of post-adoption services that may not be needed by these families until years later when this legislation will result in its biggest reductions.

Some will argue that the increased flexibility in funding that will be created by this legislation, will allow states to better address these new and on-going demands. They will argue that flexibility in funding is all that is needed. That is wrong.

VFA reminds you just how difficult it is for children and families involved with state child welfare systems and families that adopt from foster care to get to the top of the list of budget priorities.

Flexibility in Medicaid funding along with future caps and reductions will mean that these families, children and youth will be competing with future costs including the potential growth in demand for long term care and nursing home services. States will budget and choose according to top priorities and youth in foster care may not meet that priority.

Many of the members of the Finance Committee were present and vital to the enactment of 2008 Fostering Connections to Success Act. That historic law gave states the option to extend foster care to 21 and to expand federal funding to kin families. Nearly ten years later

approximately 25 states have not extended care to age 21 and approximately 15 have not taken the subsidized guardianship option.

As health care and Medicaid funding becomes tighter, the priority to address the reduction of foster care placements, to support the adoption of children from foster care, to support those families with post-adoption services and to provide the ongoing support to kinship families will inevitably slip down the budget and political priorities.

VFA believes that the flexibility and the options this legislation will create will leave children and youth behind.

Senator Mary Landrieu along with Senator Charles Grassley provided the inspiring leadership to create the Senate Caucus on Foster Youth.

Senator Landrieu, during the original debate over the Affordable Care Act (ACA), worked with some members of this Committee and other Senators to assure that every young person who aged-out of foster care had access to Medicaid to age 26. This was an attempt to assure that these young adults have the same protection all other young adults have to be on their parent's health insurance to age 26.

Unfortunately, because of the technical problem with the way that provision was written and interpreted, if that young person aged out in one state and moved to another state, for example, moves to go to college, has an internship, or moves to a neighborhood just across state lines, they are not covered unless the state takes the option to extend Medicaid.

According to our colleagues at First Focus, approximately 14 states have taken the option to extend Medicaid to youth formerly in foster care.

VFA gives these examples to highlight that optional coverage does not always work to the benefit of families that encounter child welfare systems. These families, children and youth oftentimes lose out due to competing pressures.

We join many of our colleague organizations in highlighting the fact that Medicaid is a critical children's health coverage program, and a key vulnerable population Medicaid serves is children involved with the child welfare system. Children in or at-risk for entering foster care experience disproportionate exposure to trauma and often have complex medical needs. Medicaid covers all of children in foster care, and is vital to meeting their health needs.

Changes to the Medicaid program that undermine its structure, including per capita caps and block grants, would harm vulnerable children and families in the child welfare system.

History has demonstrated the negative effects of converting funds into a flexible state block grant may not be felt next year but it will be felt in the very near future. That is not a comfort and it is not a solution.

Please vote to reject this Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal and work instead toward bipartisan solutions both in health care and in child welfare.



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kelsey Rhodes [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Testimony submission for Graham-Cassidy hearing - San Diego, CA

I rely on compassionate, quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with disabilities is that as a 25 year old woman diagnosed with multiple mental health disorders, I'm fearful that when I turn 26 and no longer qualify to remain on my parents insurance, my mental illness will be used against me and I won't be able to afford my insurance. As a woman, I fear that I will not be able to continue affording my contraception coverage. When my fiance and I are ready to start a family, I fear that my mental illness and pregnancy will be treated as dueling pre-existing conditions and I won't get the comprehensive and supportive care I need to avoid experiencing post-partum depressions.

Thanks to the ACA, I'm able to afford the healthcare I need. Without it, I don't know what I will do.

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

Sincerely,

Kelsey Rhodes

San Diego, California

--

Kelsey Rhodes

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Holly Reeves [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

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

Sincerely,
Holly Reeves
O'Fallon, IL [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Guy Peled [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please improve the ACA, rather than repealing it through the Graham-Cassidy bill

Many people in my community rely/relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

They have benefited of the ACA, and the proposed bill would most likely result in many of them being unable to afford coverage due to pre-existing conditions, and affordability.

It is mind-boggling that the people we elected to represent us in the government, are even contemplating such changes that would so clearly harm so many of their constituents.

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

Sincerely,
Guy Peled
San Jose, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Connie Overstreet [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

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

Sincerely,

Connie Overstreet

Davis, CA [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Pruitt <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposing Letter
Attachments: NCADD New Logo Word Doc Template (3).docx

To: Senate Committee on Finance, Please except this letter in opposition of The Graham-Cassidy-Johnson Proposition, Thank you Mary Pruitt

*Mary Pruitt CADDC II, ICADC
Executive Director
NCADD*

[REDACTED]
Sacramento, Ca [REDACTED]



[REDACTED] Fax

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ken [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:13 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

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

Sincerely, Ken Keohane- disabled army Vietnam veteran

Plymouth Massachusetts

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anni Crofut <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:12 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

My family rely/relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My son had open heart surgery at 3 mos old and now needs a very expensive annual heart check, which is made possible right now by MassHealth. This allows him to stay on top of any changes to his heart condition, and he has been therefore able to live a normal and wonderful life.

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

Sincerely,

Anni Crofut

PO Box 241

Housatonic, MA [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Stein [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:12 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA urgent!

My family, and all of our families rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. To limit care for pre-existing conditions is ridiculous, arbitrary, and inhumane. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Karen Stein

Weimar, CA [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Merchlewitz [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:12 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Testimony

Dear U.S. Senators,

My fiancée and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My partner had Leukemia as a child and continues to undergo yearly monitoring and tests that without health insurance would be unaffordable and jeopardize our future financial stability together. We also plan to start a family after our wedding next year. Ensuring that I have affordable access to prenatal and OB/GYN care throughout the pregnancy process is a priority for me and should be right of all American women, regardless of state or ZIP code. I am lucky to have employer-provided health care through my job as a New York City educator, but I recognize that all women are not so lucky. Furthermore, until it is the right time for us to have an raise a child, I am fortunate enough to have an IUD provided through my healthcare. This option is helping us make a responsible family planning choice in our partnership.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it and thereby make healthcare a right for all Americans.

Sincerely,
Sarah Merchlewitz
New York, NY

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[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cindy Hamilton [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:12 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Disabled

I am a Registered Nurse. I work as a case manager to elderly and disabled patients. Most of our patients receive Medicaid for services we provide in the patients home. Patients include the elderly who need help with a bath a few times a week, and physically and developmentally disabled patients that depend on home health caregivers to provide total care for all of their activities of daily living. These people alr day barely survive on such a minimal amount of resources, it is heartbreaking.

Any cut to Medicaid would be devastating and cruel to these unfortunate souls. Remaining in their homes is the final act of dignity these people have.

Please do not hurt these people.

Shadow me for one day and travel to these homes to witness this for yourself. If you have a conscience, you will understand the needs of these people, and will realize people will literally die without the services Medicaid provides.

Cindy Hamilton RN Case Manager

Terre Haute, IN [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margaret Boelman [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:11 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee;

Last fall my 25 year old son had open heart surgery. Without the ACA he would have died. Under Graham-Cassidy he would have died. Under every attempt you have made to replace and/or repeal the ACA my son would have died since the condition for which he had surgery was "pre-existing".

Imagine what freedom you would feel to actually represent the people you were elected by if you had spent as much time and energy working to remove big money from politics as you have spent trying to obliterate healthcare for millions of Americans. Imagine the sense of accomplishment you might feel if you had push as hard to pull the puppet purse strings out of the claws of corporate bullies as you've worked trying to find funds to fuel tax cuts for the wealthy. Imagine the pride you would feel in America and in a job well done if you had utilized your positions to promote sustainable energy practices, innovation in industry and technology, and the rebuilding of our infrastructure. We look to Washington to lead, to seek justice for every American, and to keep the Average citizen safe from those who would oppress them--not to do the bidding of those very oppressors. AARP, the American Medical Association, a bi-partisan group of governors, the American Heart Association, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and the American Cancer Society have all spoken out against the Graham Cassidy Bill. PLEASE, do the right thing and recommend against passing it.

Thank you,

Margaret B. Boelman
White Sulphur Springs, MT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rebecca Sue Schillenback [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:11 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose Graham-Cassidy

To Whom it May Concern:

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. We are among the millions who have been tangibly helped by the Affordable Care Act, specifically with the expansion of Medicaid. Prior to this bill, we always made too much money to qualify for Medicaid, and far too less to be able to afford the next least expensive plan. We are self-employed, working hard and not making much money, but trying to make a good life.

Access to affordable health care is a basic human necessity, not a product or commodity. It should not be rationed according to the dictates of the profit motive or whether one's work pays enough to be able to afford it. All people matter, not just the wealthy donors who are pushing this repeal effort. I would like to see a good-faith, bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Schillenback
Brooktondale, NY

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*Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in. -- Leonard Cohen, "Anthem"*

Walk into day with knowledge of the night, and walk into night with knowledge of the dawn. --Sarah York

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: julie.schwedock [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:10 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA, Graham-Cassidy bill

To the Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am strongly opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill on many grounds. Since your purview is finance, let's talk about its potentially devastating economic effects:

1. The one-size-fits-all block grant program would disproportionately hurt some states because the cost of delivering health care is not the same across the country due to differences in cost of living, among other things.
2. The radical cuts and restructuring of Medicaid would disproportionately hurt our most vulnerable Americans: seniors, people with disabilities, and poor children. According to CNN, there could be a **32% cut in Medicaid funding for children** (<http://www.cnn.com/2017/09/22/politics/cassidy-graham-charts/index.html>). How can you expect to have a healthy economy in the future if you don't invest in the health of children?
3. The woefully inadequate block grants would be completely eliminated in 2026. What then? We've seen what happens when millions of Americans don't have health insurance. They defer treatment. Many end up in emergency rooms. The result is less effective health care that costs significantly more. Hospitals go bankrupt, and then everyone in that area is at greater risk.
4. By eliminating the federal provision that requires insurance companies to cover people with pre-existing conditions without charging higher premiums, the likely result is that people with pre-existing conditions will be priced out of the market. Millions more could find themselves uninsured. I know of a family where the mother is a paraplegic because of a hit-and-run accident. With the ACA they are finally able to lift themselves out of poverty. By gutting the pre-existing conditions provision, they will be forced back into medicaid, which will require them to be poor in order to receive assistance. So they husband and wife will either have to divorce, or the husband will once again be forced to go into low-paying jobs in order to qualify for medicaid. Do you really want to force these nightmarish choices on good people?
5. And if you're lucky enough to keep insurance? Independent analyses suggest that out-of-pocket costs will rise significantly for individuals.
6. This plan would almost certainly destabilize the individual insurance market in the short run and perhaps destroy them in the future. Imagine if each state went its own way. No economies of scale. Paperwork nightmare.
7. How would the states pay for their higher burden? They'd have to raise taxes, cut critical programs such as education, kick more people off insurance, or cut benefits. Some of the likely targets would be community-based services that typically provide much better care and allow people to avoid living in institutions. That's why so many governors have come out against this plan.

Beginning in 2027, this bill would essentially amount to repeal-without-replace – ONLY WORSE – because of its extra cuts to Medicaid. The CBO estimated that the previous repeal-without-replace plan would leave 32 million more people uninsured. Clearly, this plan would create a far worse situation.

In fact, the one "benefit" of this bill might disappear before the vote. The provisions that would provide flexibility to states might well be cut out of the bill by the Senate Parliamentarian, who is likely to see through

the rather transparent tweaks of language that was rejected during the “Byrd bath” of the previous Better Care Reconciliation Act. So states would receive less federal funding for health care and gain no freedoms.

A great nation is measured by how well it takes care of its most vulnerable citizens. This bill does just the reverse! It’s craven, with an unfair distribution of money that’s clearly based solely on political considerations. It would create economic turmoil that would ripple throughout our economy. No other civilized nation is as cavalier with the health of its citizens as ours.

Sincerely,

Julie Schwedock
Arlington MA

Sources:

<https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/like-other-aca-repeal-bills-cassidy-graham-plan-would-add-millions-to-uninsured>

<http://www.cnn.com/2017/09/22/politics/cassidy-graham-charts/index.html>

<http://www.businessinsider.com/graham-cassidy-health-care-bill-byrd-rule-2017-9>

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hallie Devir [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:11 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I'm writing to state my strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill. Every major medical group and all 56 Medicaid directors are opposed to this destructive bill. The best thing for the American people is a bipartisan effort to fix the flaws of the ACA, protecting coverage for millions of Americans with pre-existing conditions and preserving essential health benefits for all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Hallie Devir
Chicago, IL

Sent from my phone--please excuse typos.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: The Phoenix [REDACTED]n>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:33 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment on Graham-Cassidy

Shame on you.

Shame on every senator who votes for this disaster of a bill.

Shame on every senator who votes to take healthcare away from 21 million Americans

Shame on every senator who votes without knowing the full effects of their bill.

Shame on every senator who votes just to fulfill a campaign promise.

Shame on every senator who puts their party over their country and constituents.

I'm almost of voting age, and every senator who votes for this terrible bill makes me ashamed to call myself an American.

Shame on you if you vote yes on Graham-Cassidy.

Sincerely,
Aaron Fernando
South Richmond Hill, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David Grussing [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:33 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mr. David Grussing
[REDACTED]
Victoria, MN 55386
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Madeleine Ball [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:33 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing

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

Sincerely,

Madeleine

Queens, New York

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: MEG COLLINS [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:32 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare.

Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Two of my daughters have had a couple of surgeries because of years involved with youth sports. This is the case around the country, where sports are more American than apple pie. I don't think we, as a country, should say to our young athletes: "Go for it! Perform to the best of your ability, BUT if you get hurt you will never be able to get health insurance coverage in the future."

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. It is the job of Congress to make laws that HELP the country, not HURT the country. Do not forget: Our country is not the corporations...it is the PEOPLE.

Sincerely,

Meg Collins
Naperville, Illinois

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Britt Rusert [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:21 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am writing to oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill because 32 Million Americans could lose coverage, radical changes to Medicaid, and diminished funding for every state, If you want to keep your campaign pledges start by keeping your pledge not to touch Medicaid benefits. Reject this bill.

Thank you,
Britt Rusert
Princeton, NJ
[REDACTED]

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rachel Goodman [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for Record of Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Rachel Goodman, a resident from West Orange, NJ, and I want to tell you about my brother and his experience with Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act. Joshua is 28 (almost 29!) and he is an adult living with autism. Josh's actual diagnosis is Pervasive Developmental Disorder, joined by Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. That's all to say that my brother processes the world very differently from how I do, how Senators Graham, Cassidy, Heller, and Johnson do, and from how the other 96 Senators on the Capitol do.

His diagnosis also means that Josh requires far more help to engage with the world than any of us do and he has to work five times as hard to do so. Growing up, my mother had to pay for all medical expenses for Josh, myself, and our younger brother out-of-pocket on the salary of an Instructional Aid. For Josh to walk in to his neurologist's office without insurance was \$350 up front, plus the eventual added cost of medications (over \$100 per month), follow-up visits to adjust each dosage, and the need to do this every year with a neurologist and a general practitioner. This was an impediment to care that we could not overcome and for many years Josh, and my younger brother, who also has ADHD and OCD, went without care.

Since 2010 and the creation of the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid Expansion, these costs have dropped drastically, which means that Josh has been able to do all of the things that were unthinkable for a child with autism not just a generation ago but even ten years ago. Colleges didn't have the support services they do today but because times have changed and we have evolved as a country, Josh was able to graduate first from community college and then eventually from a four-year college with a Bachelor's degree. He was able to find part-time employment, which gives him a sense of self-worth he never had before. He is able to look you in the eye, speak above a whisper, and can even engage with strangers in a group. Without Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act as it currently is, Josh would lose the progress he has made. He would not be able to focus at work. He would be consumed by the need to complete his rituals. He would, in short, lose his job and the little independence he's been able to attain.

To Josh, and the millions of Americans like Josh, health care isn't just a yearly check-up with a physician. Health care is a gateway to all of the experiences you and I take for granted. Health care has given Josh access to an education, to a job, and even a social life. These are accomplishments that may not have been possible for Josh if he were born in a different generation, and it certainly won't be sustainable if the Senate abandons him, and other Americans like him, who rely on Medicaid for this essential care. Americans living with developmental disorders like autism should not be treated as second class citizens. They deserve every chance at fulfillment that we can offer them in society.

Any repeal that eliminates coverage for pre-existing conditions, which includes Autism, will negatively impact the lives of millions of Americans who are thriving because of the care the Affordable Care Act guarantees. So please, protect Medicaid for my brother and for all of those like him who don't have a sister or a mother or anyone to fight for them.

Thank you,
Rachel Goodman

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Viviana Solórzano [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: info (Booker); sen.menendez@opencongress.org
Subject: DO NOT PASS TRUMPCARE

I am a resident, citizen, taxpayer in Hudson County, NJ. Through good fortune, I have medical insurance that covers myself and my 3 year old through my employer, but I know the moment they decide to have layoffs, or eliminate positions, or through some other action terminate my employment, I will have little choice. There is SO LITTLE that separates those who are in good health for the MOMENT, and those who do not. There is SO LITTLE that separates those who have a job, and those who do not. Insisting that poverty is a character defect, that ill health is a result of lack of willpower, that simply because you're older is somehow something you need to pay more for, that "that group" over there is the cause of all their problems, is so deeply flawed. This sham of a bill, being rushed through without any vetting, without any CBO, and just 90 seconds of debate?! It is an embarrassment, and a crime against humanity. If this bill passes, millions of Americans will lose their health care coverage, health care costs will rise, Medicaid will be gutted, protections for pre-existing conditions will be gone, and more.

PLEASE DO NOT PUNISH the most vulnerable just to deliver on a policy promise that should NEVER have been made to begin with. You can't use the lives of the poor, the ill, the elderly and the marginalized to cash that bogus check that was written when all you saw were votes and dollar signs from the Kochs and others who have their foot on the necks of the rest of us.

DO. NOT. PASS!

--

A star danced, and under that, I was born.

~ Shakespeare