

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Murphy-Hammond, Kerry [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH Comments

Senators,

I am (clearly) an employed individual who, thankfully, is able to provide insurance to my family through my employer. It costs me \$800/month and includes my stepdaughter who is 23. She works full time as a nanny and attends college at night. The latest ACA replacement proposal would eliminate her coverage. Additionally, my husband, myself and my daughter all have conditions that would qualify as preexisting. Are you trying to put us in a position where we will have to choose between medical treatment and paying our mortgage? Are you trying to force my state into raising my taxes to support this proposal?

Additionally, I find it morally reprehensible that you would even consider eliminating coverage for an estimated 32 million people. What happens when these people get sick?

I cannot, for the life of me understand why this is even on the table. Who are you working for?

Undoubtedly, people who put you in the Senate will be impacted. I can't imagine they'll vote for you again.

Sincerely,

Kerry Murphy-Hammond

[REDACTED]
Columbia, VA 23038
[REDACTED]

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not pass Graham Cassidy

How can passing this bill even be possible? It is terrible for people with pre-existing conditions. This is the very population we need to support and ensure that they have healthcare.

You must cover pre-existing conditions and you have to eliminate caps. In January of 2007 my dear friend was diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer. At the time, she had a three-year-old an almost two-year-old and an infant under one. I did not have good insurance in part because she had a pre-existing condition so the only health insurance she could get was capped at \$75,000 annually. Until the affordable care act kicked in \$75,000 year for doctors visit cancer drugs chemotherapy and multiple surgeries was a joke.

Could you vote for this with good conscience if it were your mother? Son? Daughter? Loved one?

Another friend, a brilliant professor of education (and a mentor to me) had a perfectly healthy son until one day he became suddenly horribly ill. As he spent weeks in ICU and months with doctors and therapies (as I understand it he has a form of encephalitis), they were being sent to collections. How is this okay? He still needs many therapies and nursing support. Please- no cuts to Medicaid and Medicaid block grants. His family is exactly who would be impacted by this.

Fix the ACA, don't kill it (and the people it protects, imperfectly, but better than anything that's been proposed). Thank you!
Amy

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: shauna.hunt [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Your plans are awful

Please no, the health care proposal is terrible and no one should vote yes

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Loth Hill [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote "NO" on Amendment to H.R. 1628 Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson



DE: VOTE NO to Amendment to H.R. 1628 Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson

My name is Jenny Hill and pictured with me is my employer, Aaron Walbert. We are the faces of Americans affected by the above-mentioned piece of legislation.

I am a 53-year-old woman living well despite severe life-long immunodeficiency and autoimmune disease. I provide personal care to Aaron who lives independently with severe cerebral palsy and developmental disabilities. We both work, volunteer and live in Denver, Colorado. We are passionate about contributing to our community through service and to the economy. We vote, pay taxes and are active citizens with disabilities. We are able to work because of medical treatment and healthcare benefits which are life-altering. Without our treatments and in Aaron's case, Medicaid benefits, this would not be possible. Aaron would be institutionalized and I will likely die prematurely.

I oppose an Amendment to H.R. 1628 for the following reasons:

1. It will cut federal healthcare funding by nearly \$300 billion.

This legislation will eliminate Medicaid expansion and health insurance marketplace subsidies and replace them with a temporary block grant that is much less than states currently get and disappears altogether in 2027. There is no requirement that any of that already inadequate funding is used to

provide low-income Americans with health coverage or give them financial assistance to afford health coverage.

See the [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#) for more information.

2. It will cut Colorado's funding by \$823 million

In 2011, prior to full ACA implementation, Colorado's uninsured rate was 16%. This year, it's a mere 6.5%. Slashing our healthcare budget by \$823 million, as predicted by the [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#), will inevitably cause that number to rise. The people most at risk of losing coverage are veterans, retired persons, young people, and individuals with disabilities and pre-existing conditions.

3. It will eliminate rules about pre-existing conditions, which will raise premiums

This legislation will eliminate the rule that health insurance companies may not impose surcharges on premiums based on pre-existing conditions and health statuses. It is possible to have pre-existing conditions at any age but will affect older American disproportionately. [The Center for American Progress](#) estimates the following premium surcharges (based on pre-ACA premiums):

- **Autoimmune disorders: \$26,580**
- **Asthma: \$4,340**
- **Autism: \$5,510**
- **Diabetes: \$5,600**
- **Major depressive disorder: \$8,490**
- **Pregnancy: \$17,320**
- **Substance use disorder: \$20,450**
- **Metastatic cancer: \$142,650**

4. It will leave millions of children without health coverage

[The Center for American Progress](#) also points out that while the Senate is spending time talking about this bill, they are ignoring the deadline to extend the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Even though the Senate already agreed to extend CHIP funding for 5 years, the clock is ticking for them to finalize that. If the deadline passes, states are going to start running out of CHIP funds, leaving 9 million low-income children at risk of losing health coverage.

Over 25% of Denver country's children are at or below the federal poverty line, leaving them dependent on this program and Medicaid to stay healthy. Over 600,000 children in Colorado are covered by Medicaid and CHIP. We must protect them.

5. Healthcare stakeholders, who are experts, agree the legislation will be harmful to Americans

It isn't just me that is against the bill. Here's an incomplete list of organizations and coalitions that have urged Senators to oppose the bill. Most notable is that even health insurance companies oppose the amendment:

- American Academy of Family Physicians
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American College of Physicians
- American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

America's Health Plans

- American Osteopathic Association
- American Psychiatric Association
- American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
- ALS Association
- American Diabetes Association
- American Heart Association
- American Lung Association
- Arthritis Foundation

Blue Cross & Blue Shield

- Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
- March of Dimes
- National Health Council
- National Multiple Sclerosis Society
- National Organization for Rare Diseases
- Volunteers of America
- Children's Hospital Association
- American Hospital Association
- American Medical Association
- Association of American Medical Colleges
- AARP
- Blue Cross Blue Shield
- America's Health Insurance Plans
- The Arc
- American Health Care Association
- National Center for Assisted Living
- American Public Health Association

6. Even people with employer-sponsored coverage are at risk

The bill eliminates the individual *and* employer mandate, meaning that your employer can choose to not sponsor health coverage with no repercussions.

7. Medicaid will be capped per capita rather than an open-ended entitlement

States will have to be choosy about how they spend their Medicaid funding. This means that the threshold to qualify for Medicaid will be lower, certain health services may be denied, and limits on visits or hospital days may be enforced. This means that many people who qualify for Medicaid now will lose it and many people who will continue to qualify for Medicaid will still be limited in what health services they can receive.

8. States will be able to apply for waivers in order to deny coverage of the 10 essential health benefits

The ACA established 10 essential health benefits that all health plans must cover. If Graham-Cassidy passes, states will be able to waive this requirement, meaning that crucial services may disappear from state marketplaces in all but the most expensive of health plans. At some point in every American's life, they will need one of these essential benefits. The 10 essential services are:

- Outpatient care
- ER visits
- Inpatient hospital care
- Pre- and post-natal care
- Mental health and substance use disorder services
- Prescription drugs
- Services and devices to help with injuries, disabilities, and chronic conditions
- Lab tests
- Preventative services like counseling, screenings, and vaccines
- Pediatric services, including dental and vision care

9. Older Americans are at risk

If this bill passes, states could also apply for waivers that let insurers charge different premiums based on age. Before the ACA, people over 50 years of age were often charged three times as much as younger people for the same health coverage. This could make health coverage unaffordable and inaccessible for our parents, grandparents, and other loved ones. Everyone will age. This will affect all Americans and discriminates against our citizens who have contributed the most to society over their lifetime and deserve to live the remainder of their lives as well as possible.

10. It is better to work in a bi-partisan, transparent manner with stakeholders involved to create legislation that affects every American

Legislation that is not carefully crafted including all perspectives and not informed by analysis from the CBO is poor legislation. Insufficient time for Senators to review the effects of this amendment and to discuss it with constituents defeats our democracy. "*We the people*" elected our Senators to represent our best interests not to gain power through campaign promises, funding major corporations and upholding their personal political ideology. Let's face it, this process is led by a coalition of white male conservative politicians who seek to destroy the legacy of an African American President. It is wrought with elitist, racist and anti-feminist values. Get over yourselves gentleman, this legislation will harm your base and your ability to be re-elected. You had seven years to come up with a decent replacement and you couldn't. I didn't ever think that conservative values included cruelty to your fellow citizens, but this piece of legislation proves it.

Sincerely,

Jenny Hill

 Denver CO 80216





Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: jayne and robin [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham- cassidy bill

I am emailing to ask for a "no" vote on this bill. Please work to improve the ACA in a bipartisan manner. It is fixable. It seems that Laman Alexander and Patti Murray's group was making progress.

Thank you
Jayne Dunnum
Wisconsin 53818

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Steve Luebke [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

This bill is not a good deal for Americans. It kicks the can down the road to the states instead taking a stand to guarantee all Americans receive good healthcare. How can Christians support a bill that will likely make tens of millions of unfortunate people lose their insurance? Further, no one should go bankrupt because of illness. Great societies are those who take care of the less fortunate, not those who pander to the wealthy.

Steve Luebke

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathy Hartley [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy Graham Bill

NO to this bill!

It will take health care away from millions, give the rich a tax break and won't cover pre-existing conditions.

The American people are against this.

Instead, we need the bi-partisan committee to work on fixing Obamacare.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy White [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

I writing because I am livid about the Graham-Cassidy proposal, the latest misguided attempt by the Republican to repeal the Affordable Care Act. This bill will hit us hard here in California as the state stands to lose 35 billion dollars if this travesty is passed. Graham-Cassidy is essentially an attack on the blue states that have chosen to implement the ACA. There will also be a personal toll for many people, including my daughter. She works two jobs, and neither provides health care. Being a woman, and having several pre-existing conditions, the passage of this bill would leave her out in the cold. And there are so many more like her, who have finally been able to get the care they deserve with the ACA. We all have a personal connection to this. I live in Fullerton, which is in Ed Royce's 39th district. He has voted in favor of the previous, and thankfully failed, attempts to repeal ACA, but I am imploring him to vote NO on Graham-Cassidy.

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

Thank you,
Nancy White
[REDACTED]
Fullerton, CA 92831

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Caroline Yang [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please DO NOT repeal the ACA

I am writing because my family depends on quality, affordable healthcare. Over 10 years ago I was diagnosed with a cerebral aneurysm. I was lucky, and had brain surgery to place a titanium clamp on it before it could rupture. My father had passed away 20 years ago from the same thing. Going forward, I need to be scanned every 10 years to monitor the development of any more. Our healthcare also covers my daughter who was born with a severe, life-threatening peanut allergy. She has had to be treated in the emergency room twice from exposure to traces of peanuts in food that we were not aware of. We are seeking treatment for her, but it will take some time. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. This bill will prove to be devastating for so many people and families like mine. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to *improve* the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Caroline Yang
St. Paul, MN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Roberta Brownfield [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Vote

Please vote no on the Graham-Cassidy health care bill. There has been no public understanding of what is in the bill, no attempt at developing a bi-partisan bill and it is harmful to many citizens. We don't need to repeal and replace the ACA, we need to improve and fix the existing bill.

Thank You,

Roberta Brownfield

Roberta Brownfield
Brownfield Realty Advisors Inc.

[REDACTED]
Charlottesville, VA. 22903

[REDACTED]
www.BrownfieldRealtyAdvisors.com
Licensed in the Commonwealth of Virginia

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joe Kenny [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Joe Kenny; Jo Kenny
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Healthcare Bill

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to register my opposition to this bill. As a person with "pre-existing" conditions - as in I have been alive for more than 50 years and have seen a doctor once or twice - I have enjoyed the State of Texas's version of "access" to "affordable" healthcare, pre ACA.

\$20,000 per year in premiums and minimum out of pocket costs before the "insurance" kicked in to pay 70% with a max payment cap of \$50,000 was not what I called accessible or affordable. That was for me, plus the same again for my wife. We covered our kids under CHIP, but for the better part of 2 years while unemployed and looking for work, we were a car accident away from homelessness.

I do not trust the various states to "have an affordable and accessible" insurance plan should they waiver out of the ACA's guarantees. It appears that no other patients, doctors, hospitals, or insurers advocacy group does either. Fix the ACA, guarantee the subsidies, improve access and funding. I know my name is not Charles or David Koch, and I cannot give hundreds of thousand to the GOP, but I served in uniform for the better part of 15 years and am raising a family, here in America, and I deserve better.

Sincerely,

Joe Kenny

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Holly Robinson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Please do not pass this bill. I will loose my health care and with a pre-exisitng condition a new plan will be completely unaffordable.

Holly Robinson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Peter Nordgren [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject Graham-Cassidy

Finance Committee,

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

The failure of Graham-Cassidy to protect those with pre-existing conditions renders it unacceptable. The mechanism to transfer block funds from states accepting Medicaid expansion to those whose leadership chose not to do so, is also unacceptable. The prohibition of single payer health care insurance at the state level is an unacceptable restriction.

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 Nordgren
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Cornucopia, Wisconsin 54827

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Mengarelli [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re Graham-Cassidy Plan...

PLEASE...

I URGE you to stand against the Graham- Cassidy Healthcare Plan and vote NO. It will take away Healthcare from millions of Americans and make it nearly impossible and unaffordable for those with pre-existing conditions to obtain insurance (to just name a few negative aspects of this heartless and ill conceived plan).

I am hoping for a bipartisan plan to come forward, both sides working together for the good of the American people they supposedly represent (not just the 1%)!

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Susan Mengarelli
[REDACTED], Fair Oaks, CA 95628

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Phylliss Henry [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing

I rely on accessible, reliable and affordable healthcare. Prior to aging into Medicare I had a diagnosis and recurrence of cancer, requiring a mastmectomy, high dose chemotherapy, a bone marrow transplant and radiation. Subsequently I was uninsurable because of those preexisting conditions. Fortunately, eventually I started a job with an employer—the United States Government—that did not have a preexisting conditions clause. For years before and since becoming Medicare eligible I have been covered by insurance, thank goodness. Every American citizen should be able to be so covered.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laura Rose-Fortmueller [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

I oppose the Graham Cassidy Healthcare bill. Any bill that doesn't cover pre existing conditions is unacceptable. Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anna Jacobs [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Please to not vote for this bill. It will put so many Americans at risk.

Sincerely,
Anna Jacobs
Brooklyn, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eugene J. Fierman M.D. [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:43 PM
To: gchcomments; Pearson, Beth (Warren); Hurt, Nikki (Markey)
Subject: Oppose Graham Cassidy - Devastating to patients

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.

Eugene J. Fierman, M.D.

[REDACTED]
Brookline, MA [REDACTED]

Home Tel. [REDACTED]

Bus. Tel. [REDACTED]

Fax [REDACTED]

Mobile/Pager [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Thomas Fuchs [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

To whom it may concern:

I'm a business owner and employer in Pennsylvania.

The Graham-Cassidy bill, and other attempts to dismantle healthcare advances are a serious threat to my business and to the economy of this country.

There's tens of thousands of small business owners and self-employed people (I'm working in tech industry and running a software company) who can only follow the "American Dream" because finally there's some semblance of actually fair health insurance because of the ACA.

I know of many people who will have to go back to corporate jobs and abandon their small businesses and their employees because they can't otherwise afford healthcare.

And for people who are actually employed, the provisions in the bill spell disaster. Higher premiums because you have asthma? Letting people go bankrupt, or worse, let them die because they hit some "lifetime maximum"?

How about we get everyone on the table and finally make healthcare universal? The cost of healthcare per person is TWICE as much as in other developed countries. Why is that? The answer is simple: greed. Greed from corporations. Greed from politicians.

They want to get their "healthcare" bill through without even hearing back on the financial consequences of it.

Why is no one doing anything?

This is disastrous to our country, to our economy and most importantly to the people who live here.

Sincerely,
Thomas Fuchs

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

Dear elected officials;

Our Senate is jeopardizing so many lives with their bills that try and take health care away from so many. The very people we elected to serve us are placing us at risk.

Sadly, I have to speak up again and again or my family will suffer. I should not have to. You should respect that you were elected to serve us not the 1%ers but you don't. The Koch brothers have poured 400 million into defeating ACA. Why? Because they want more money for themselves. It is simply greed.

Please know that I see the "inhumanity of taking away healthcare from pregnant women, children, the vulnerable and those with pre-existing conditions". Why don't you? These people include my mother, sister, brothers, husband and daughters and I feel very strongly about it.

I am disappointed in Bill Cassidy and Lindsey Graham. How could they do this?

Thank you Mark Warner and Tim Kaine for standing strong for all American people! Virginia is so proud of you and we are grateful to have you.

I vote every year. I will organize and resist this Lindsey-Cassidy Health Care sham.

Shame on anyone that votes for this. It is a miscarriage of justice and I can't believe leaders are trying to push this on people who put their trust in them.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Dabbenigno

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hanna, Mary Xavier (mxh3f) [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

I believe every American deserves health care. Affordable and equally accessible. For everyone -not just the wealthy.

Repealing the ACA is not the way to go. Bipartisan work to make ACA is a better approach.

Sincerely
Mary Hanna

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: E R [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE NO ON GRAHAM CASSIDY

Dear Senators,

The Graham Cassidy bill is a sham and a travesty. Please stand up for the American people and vote NO. Americans want the full Congress to work together and improve the ACA in the short term and in the long term, kindly work with Bernie Sanders on Medicare for All.

I am aware that Republicans have been shown to lack empathy in recent studies. So for those of you for whom this is true, look at the numbers. The American people by an overwhelming majority support good healthcare for all. If you ignore this majority, your legacy will be tarnished and surely you will be voted out of office. Not to mention that you have amazing health care paid for by the American people. What's up with that?? We demand the same. Thank you!

Ellen Ryan
Stratham NH

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

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

What we need is universal healthcare.

Terry Allen Smith

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA - please do not repeal

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. After age 45, it's tough to find someone who doesn't have at least one pre-existing condition. We are able to work, pay taxes and be productive because our health issues are under control thanks to the ACA.

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

Sincerely,
Beth Sussman
Los Angeles, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: *Jenna Devare <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stop the Graham-Cassidy bill

To our nation's senators,

I am a resident physician at the University of Michigan, where my patients rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have seen patients suffer serious medical complications, disabilities, and even death as a result of inability to access health care when it was needed. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Jenna Devare, MD
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Katy Byrns [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Dear Finance Committee Members,

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. In the last seven years:

*I survived an emergency Caesarean section because of my health insurance and the care of doctors and nurses at the hospital both during and after the birth of my daughter.

*My son survived his premature birth with underdeveloped lungs thanks to our health insurance and the care of the providers in the hospital's NICU.

*My daughter's club feet are being corrected because of our insurance and the doctors and health professionals at Shriners' hospital.

*My mother survived aggressive breast cancer because of the care she received from her surgeon, oncologist and nurses who delivered her chemotherapy and pharmacists who prepared her medication, all covered by health insurance.

*My father had insured colon surgery to prevent a serious life-threatening intestinal condition.

And we are an active, healthy family!

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

Sincerely,
Katy Byrns
Bend, Oregon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Veronique Liem [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Dear Senators

I am a Michigan divorce attorney and can assure you that relaxing protections for preexisting conditions hurts many people, often women, going through a divorce. I also personally believe that we need to preserve Medicaid for those in need of it.

Please vote No!!

Thank you.

Veronique Liem
Law & Mediation Office

[REDACTED]
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Aaron Sterr [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject the Graham-Cassidy ACA Repeal

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.

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.

-Aaron Sterr [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Brady [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

The Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill will have a devastating impact on my family. I'm a single, older mother of two - facing college tuition x 2 as I also head into my sixties. Both children have pre-existing conditions, as do I. My oldest, now a college freshman, is determined to pursue medical research. She has done EVERYTHING that was asked of her and more - worked part time to help with expenses, volunteered and started a fund raiser to give back, and excelled at her academics (perfect score on her ACT). All this despite health challenges. If she were to lose her insurance, a brilliance such as hers will be forced to drop out - or leave the country. Her grandparents, my parents, came here after they married to pursue the American dream. And they succeeded to some degree. They loved being American, believed in our freedoms and our nature to look out for each other - help your neighbor. This new healthcare bill does none of these things. It's a death sentence for us. Please do not pass this bill. We know better - and so must do better.

PS - I've built my career on health care policy and benefits. The only thing this bill accomplishes is political positioning. It fails completely at protecting accessible health care. There is no future for America with this type of legislation.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michelle McDermott [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Dear Legislature,

Please do not pass the Graham Cassidy Bill as it will have a strong, negative impact on those who have been previously diagnosed with an illness. I am a retired public school teacher and a survivor of Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. If this bill passes, health insurance companies will penalize those of us who have been diagnosed with a previous illness and I will no longer be able to afford health insurance. Please kill this bill!

**SINCERELY,
MICHELLE MCDERMOTT**

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anita [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-CassidyBill

A Bill that has been formulated in secret by one party, that will not undergo debate, that has not been scored by the CBO, that could be approved by a completely partisan vote and result in the loss of healthcare for 30+million Americans should NOT become law. You all had ought to be ashamed of yourselves. Hah- what a quaint notion- a GOP Senator who feels shame over behaving like a pig at a trough.

Anita Dixon
[REDACTED]
Williamsville, NY 14221

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christine Brown [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: How the bill would impact me

Dear Senator Graham and the other members my name is Christine and I live in Ohio I have a developmental disability and get services county boards of DD I live and work in the community and pay into taxes I get services of homemaker personal care to help me with skills like cleaning because of my low eyesight over 40 years ago people with disabilities were put in institutions and institutions cost 60% more then living in the community and we do not want people to be institutionalized that is going backwards so please do not cut Medicaid for those with developmental disabilities because it is important to see people have have the care they need Christine Brown Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Aisenbrey, Elizabeth Ann [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable healthcare

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

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Aisenbrey

Knoxville, TN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Wesel [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:34 PM
To: Kilkelly, Marge (King)
Cc: gchcomments; Smith, Edie (King); Kezer, Gail (King)
Subject: Re: Statement for the Record for the Graham-Cassidy hearing Sept. 25, 2017

Thank you for your support, and for the good work all of you do on our behalf.

> On Sep 23, 2017, at 10:29 PM, Kilkelly, Marge (King) [REDACTED] wrote:

>

> Thanks Lisa, I am so sorry for all the stress that this situation has already caused. I find it so frustrating that the people tossing these proposals around have no idea or just don't care about what they have caused. Hang tough, as you always have...we will weather this storm because of all the good work of folks like you. Thanks so much! MLK

>

> Marge Kilkelly
> Senior Policy Advisor
> Senator Angus King Jr.

> [REDACTED]

> Sent from my iPad

>

>> On Sep 22, 2017, at 4:34 PM, Lisa Wesel [REDACTED] wrote:

>>

>> Thanks, Marge.

>>

>> I was at the Common Ground Fair today, promoting Question 2 to expand Medicaid in Maine (saw Chellie Pingree there), but all anyone could talk about was Graham-Cassidy. People are really scared of this, for a lot of different reasons. The truth is, it is dangerous for a lot of different reasons. I understand that Sen. King has already said he will not support it, for which I am very grateful. Senators McCain and Paul have done the same. It literally is down to Susan Collins. I hope she does the right thing; I can't stand to lose any more sleep.

>>

>> Best,
>> Lisa

>>

>>> On Sep 21, 2017, at 11:33 PM, Kilkelly, Marge (King) [REDACTED] wrote:

>>>

>>> Thank you Lisa! Well said..MLK

>>>

>>> Marge Kilkelly
>>> Senior Policy Advisor
>>> Senator Angus King Jr.

>>> [REDACTED]

>>> Sent from my iPad

>>>

>>>> On Sep 21, 2017, at 11:12 PM, Lisa Wesel [REDACTED] wrote:

>>>>

>>>> To the Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

>>>>

>>>> I am writing to express my deep opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Bill currently under consideration. As a cancer survivor and the mother of an adult child with physical and intellectual disabilities, it would be detrimental to my family on many levels.

>>>>

>>>> First, the bill eliminates protections for people with pre-existing conditions. That's me. I survived cancer; I don't think I should be punished for it. Why would you do that? And my daughter, Lidia, was born with a rare genetic disorder called Dup15q (isodicentric chromosome 15), which causes intellectual disabilities and epilepsy. Epilepsy is also a pre-existing condition. Does she deserve to be punished for that?

>>>>

>>>> The bill also removes the requirement that insurance policies cover prescription medications. Lidia takes several medications to control her seizures; she's one of the lucky ones in that her seizures are very well controlled. Without these costly medications, however, she would suffer multiple seizures daily, until they cause brain damage and eventually kill her. It's really that simple. Why would you do that?

>>>>

>>>> As for Lidia's quality of life, the community-based services that give her life meaning are funded by Medicaid, which we must NOT reduce or transfer to a block grant program. She has a job coach, which allows her to work in a nursing home, where she earns money and where she brings a great deal of joy to the residents. She had volunteered there for years, and when she graduated from high school, the administrators were anxious to hire her for a paid position. She also participates in a day program in an artists studio, where she is learning valuable skills, making beautiful items to sell, and developing friendships in the community. Someday, when my husband and I are no longer alive, Medicaid will pay for my daughter to live in a supported home in the community. She cannot survive on her own, but with a little support, she can live a productive, happy and meaningful life. Why would you take that away from her?

>>>>

>>>> The claim that no one would lose their health coverage under this bill is SIMPLY NOT TRUE. People will lose their health coverage, meaning that people will lose their healthCARE, meaning that people will suffer and die. Once my daughter turns 26, she will no longer be covered under our health insurance and will rely solely on Medicaid. If you cut that, too, Lidia won't have a chance.

>>>>

>>>> Why would you do that?

>>>>

>>>> Sincerely,

>>>>

>>>> Lisa Wesel

>>>> Bowdoinham, Maine

>>>> [REDACTED]

>>

>>

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maren Olson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Pediatrician opposes Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Esteemed Senators,

As a pediatrician who also has a master's degree in public health, I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill. I spend my days caring for the most precious and vulnerable resource this great nation has: our children. Please believe me when I say that this bill will be a disaster for our children, especially those with special health care needs. Any cuts to Medicaid disproportionately impact children and will force children's hospitals around the country to cut critical programs. Communities in rural areas will also be particularly hurt by this bill.

Please, please listen to me and the many, many others from the front lines of health care who have spoken out against this bill. When the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Children's Hospital Association, the American Medical Association, the American College of Physicians, and many, many other physician groups and patient advocacy groups are saying that this is a terrible bill that does not serve the American people well, it is time to listen to our collective wisdom and work to find a bipartisan solution to improve the ACA.

Sincerely,

Maren E. Olson, MD, MPH

Maren Olson, MD, MPH
Associate Director of Medical Education/
Pediatric Hospitalist,
[REDACTED]
Associate Program Director, U of MN Pediatric Residency
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy Penn [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Please vote against this horrific bill.
Amy Penn

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jack Sitarski [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: RE: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, September 25, 2017 at 2pm

This is the First page of this statement.

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

Deborah L Sitarski
[REDACTED]

Terre Haute IN. 47803-1218

Honorable Senator Hatch and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Dear Senator Hatch:

I am writing about this proposal because I am AFRAID: Afraid I will not be able to enjoy the hard-won benefits of the Affordable Care Act, afraid I must periodically beg for major medical insurance, afraid my family will lose their coverage because it will be rendered unaffordable, afraid my pre-existing conditions will be denied coverage, afraid annual caps will keep my nice neighbors who are elderly from getting mammograms, shingles vaccines, and adequate nursing home care. I am also afraid that the next thing I know, I will not have the strength, desire, ability or motivation to fight the GOP the next time the well-being of my family is questioned or threatened because their insurance is junk. Why do my Republican representatives willfully disregard these concerns? Why do they not work with the Democrats? Why do they persist in threats to the most vulnerable among us-the poor, elderly, sick, those with mental or other disabilities who cannot speak for themselves?

To whom is their loyalty? The GOP? The Koch Brothers? Donald Trump? Why do they try repeatedly to dismantle the Affordable Care Act, over and over, for almost 8 years now? We need debate, we need more hearings, we need bipartisan cooperation and a Congressional Budget Office score! Know this as you deliberate this proposal: my family will suffer if it is passed. The toll is too great in terms of pain, illness, duress, anxiety, lack of proper treatment, bankruptcy, lowered medical outcomes and reduced prevention. My niece may not receive all 3 of the HPV vaccination series, my grandson may not be tested for HIV, my sister may not receive a recommended mammogram, I may not have orthopedic corrective surgery for hip dysplasia because it's congenital and my state would, in all likelihood, roll-back coverage for all pre-existing conditions, black children would no longer have, as they finally do now, as equal a chance as white children to be insured under the CHIP program.

I am AFRAID: that I won't have the energy to fight for healthcare the next time the GOP wants to gut Medicaid and use those dollars to provide tax breaks for the wealthy. I have a Masters Degree. At the end of my working career, at the height of my earning power, my highest annual salary was about \$37,500. I am not wealthy and neither is my family, and neither are my friends and neighbors. Please don't make me beg

over and over again: PLEASE FIX THE ACA, not dismantle it, as it seems this proposal will certainly do. There is nothing in this proposal that is legitimate under Regular Order - This in and of itself is a travesty.

*It is imperative that the Republican Party represent ALL of the people in their district, not merely the rich or those who voted for them. If one wants to be called a "public servant" one must serve the public, NOT one's political party. PLEASE RETURN TO REGULAR ORDER.
Please do not approve this proposal.*

Thank you for accepting my statement. As instructed, I shall mail a copy of this as an original document, via US Postal Service. Please note there is no time left at present to use mail because you would not get it before the hearing, or even by the Sept 30 vote deadline.

In closing, I urge you NOT to pass the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal.

*Sincerely,
Deborah L Sitariski*

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patti Richards [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Bill

Hi,
Please do not pass this bill, it will hurt many Americans. We need to increase coverage for people not decrease it. We can't make essential benefits optional at the state level. I rushed to get my preventative care this year, because I was fearful you all would take it away.
Everyone gets sick at some point in their life. Do not strip the pre-existing condition clause. I was hospitalized once, and so has my husband. We are over 55 but under 65, and the cost of insurance would be very high, and we can't retire because of the health care situation.
Please put the American people first, not donors to your campaign.
Respectfully,
Patti Richards

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tom and Courtney Somers [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA vs. Graham/Cassidy

I know so many folks who rely on affordable, quality health care. Obamacare has afforded them good and accessible health care since its inception. For this reason I oppose the empty and unfair Graham/Cassidy health care bill. I support fair and bipartisan work to improve the ACA rather than repeal and replace it.

Courtney Somers

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Martha Alewine [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposed to Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am retired educator living with several pre-existing conditions. Currently I can afford my healthcare costs with my retirement and my Social Security. I am very worried at the prospect of what may happen to me if the currently proposed healthcare bill passes. We who live in SC have no guarantee or assurance that our Republican-controlled state will do what's right and will actually use the proposed funding blocks to help us with insurance coverage.

What is needed is a true bipartisan effort to write a moral healthcare bill that works for all. What we have seen with previous Republican efforts as well as the current bill is mean-spirited, non-caring, and aimed only at putting something on the books so that Republicans can brag about getting rid of the ACA.

Don't just push this bill through. Take the time to get the projections back at what Graham-Cassidy will cost and the number of Americans who could lose their health insurance.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ray Campbell [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: PLEASE OPPOSE THE GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL!!!

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My daughter and son are under 26 years old and are new to the work force. They depend on the ACA provision which allows them to be covered under my health insurance plan because they are not yet able to afford their own insurance at this early stage in their careers. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Please oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Karen Campbell

[REDACTED]
Bolingbrook, IL 60440

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jasmine Rubert [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy health care legislation

I strongly oppose this legislation. As a speech-language pathologist I work with children with special needs, many of whom receive medicaid coverage or use their health insurance to provide them with needed therapy services. Removing protections for pre-existing conditions, including Autism or genetic syndromes, would have drastic impact on families with children with special needs. This is not a pro-life stance. In addition to the harm this bill would cause children with special needs it also hurts health-impaired children, cancer survivors, anyone who is chronically ill or has any other pre-existing condition. Allowing insurance companies to charge astronomical amounts to cover conditions such as prenatal care and pregnancy is reprehensible, and also NOT a prolife stance. This legislation would hurts millions of people.

Sincerely,
Jasmine Rubert
Bellingham WA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robin [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public testimony -opposing Graham-Cassidy bill

My daughter relies on Medicaid due to disability. If and when she is able to work and support herself, she will have a pre-existing condition. My second daughter is a musician and small business owner who was recently divorced. She is currently obtaining medical insurance from her former spouse and is worried how she will be able to afford her own individual coverage when that is no longer an option. I am 70 years old and rely on Medicare Advantage insurance through my former employer. None of us has insurance through ACA at this point but all of us would be impacted if changes were made to limit Medicaid or to remove the protection for those with pre-existing conditions or to make individual coverage even more expensive and difficult to obtain. The ACA is an attempt to make affordable health insurance available to all. It is not perfect and needs improvement but the Graham-Cassidy bill is not the answer. Please work together in a bipartisan effort to improve the ACA and make the U.S. health system efficient, affordable and fair. Meanwhile, let Medicare bargain with pharmaceutical companies to obtain the best prices for drugs. The rising drug prices are a blight on us all.

Sincerely,
Roberta Welte
Pennsylvania

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carter Higgins [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: OPPOSE Graham Cassidy

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to urge you to reject the GCH proposal in favor of the bipartisan bill the Senate HELP committee was considering. Graham Cassidy will cause 32 million people to lose their health coverage, destroy Medicaid, and harming so many of our most vulnerable citizens. Do not allow the GOP to put a party win over the lives of American citizens. This will be shameful.

Sincerely,
Carter Higgins
Los Angeles, CA

--

Carter Higgins

Author, Blogger, Librarian

This Is Not a Valentine (Chronicle Books, illus. by Lucy Ruth Cummins; coming 12.26.17!)

A Rambler Steals Home (HMH Books for Young Readers)

Design of the Picture Book

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bryony Gagan [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: comments on Graham-Cassidy bill

Hello,

I, and my friends & family, rely on affordable healthcare. It allows us to take risks, start businesses, move jobs and otherwise contribute to this country without fearing that we risk bankruptcy should we have an unexpected illness or injury (or a resurgence of one), or that we'll die, untreated, in the richest country in the world.

The Graham-Cassidy bill would rip that protection, which is so essential to our economy, away. And the effort to jam it through, without a CBO score or any open debate, is disgraceful. Regardless of your politics, healthcare and its impact on our economy is far too high-stakes to treat in this way.

I strongly urge all leaders in Congress to focus on a bi-partisan effort to improve the ACA.

Thank you,
Bryony Gagan
Santa Monica, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Noel Bisson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Against the Graham-Cassidy bill

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

Sincerely,

Noel Bisson

(Belmont, MA)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: D Gelineau [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare reform

Dear Sirs and Madams,

I am writing to share my opinion of the healthcare reform bill proposed by Graham, Cassidy and Heller. As a rural Nevadan, I am aware of the effects that any cut will have on my neighbors and friends. If it isn't bad enough that we have a limited number of medical professionals and providers here, now these senators wish to cut access even more.

I'm asking that you keep the Affordable Care Act in place as is.

Thank you in advance.

David Gelineau
1080 Piltz Rd
Pahrump, NV 89060

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Nitz [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. 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.

Jennifer Nitz
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

west yellowstone, Montana 59758

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pat Tieman [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

I rely on quality affordable healthcare as I have MS, a pre-existing condition for which the cost of medications would have bankrupted my family if not for a MN healthcare plan and the ACA, when it came into existence. The medications allowed me to stay in the work force for longer than without them.

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

Sincerely,

Patricia Tieman

Minneapolis, MN 55417

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]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy Rheauge [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH Vote

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members:

Thank you for your time and consideration of this letter. I have just received Medicaid for my son diagnosed with Autism and Anxiety. Medicaid will help him access medical, mental health and support services that he would otherwise be unable to access.

Please do not make any cuts as this will help him to grow independently and not depend so much on others as an adult.

I appreciate your time, Amy

Amy J. Rheume, MEd, LABA, BCBA

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Merrimack, NH 03054

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jean Lin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no on Graham Cassidy

we oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill and would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA. This is essential to safeguarding an affordable health care system for all Americans. A country so blessed with good fortune as ours should be first in the world to give our citizens the security of knowing they will be able to take care of themselves and their families. we know many people who would be unable to afford healthcare without the ACA.

please make the right decision.

Terry and Peter Lin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sam Beesnatch [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I could walk around my city all day, and I wouldn't be able to find anywhere close to 50 people who are evil enough to vote for this bill. But for some reason it seems to be very easy to do in the US Senate.

Also, Pat Toomey is a slimy weasel.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Defeat Graham Cassidy

It is inconceivable that we must protect the citizens of the United States from such mean spirited, hard hearted and such vicious and vindictiveness.

GCH IS NOT A GOOD PLAN. You know it. We all know it. Doing something rushed doesn't make it right or good.

I am tired of the childish antics and bullying that the Senate Republicans and House Republicans are displaying.

Stop holding the American People hostage with "let's rip healthcare from the old, the sick and the vulnerable".

Go back to the drawing board.

Get it done Bi-Partisan.

Do it right.

Check your numbers.

Don't rush. And stop making "Revenge" Bills.

Keep the good of all of the American People in mind.

Keep your petty differences to yourselves.

Remember that you work for the people...not the other way around.

Barbara Heintzelman

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Naomi Drew [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Cruel, heartless, immoral, and amoral. Who are these people who would bankrupt Americans in order to give tax cuts to the rich? Who are these people who would purposely harm our most vulnerable people -- the poor, disabled children, the elderly, people with pre-existing conditions? This bill is morally abhorrent. Kill it.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shoshana Levin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for the Record, Re: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

This bill is awful. So, so awful.

Regards,
Shoshana

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ken [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH

Senator Lyndsey Graham Sir I am shocked and saddened by your connection in particular to this abhorrent bill.

To many of us Trumpcare is like a premeditated design to kill Americans for no other reason than to take President Obamas name off some legislation. It's petty, childish, vindictive, and quite frankly, I mistakenly thought, beneath you.

Good day,
Ken Lemaster

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Brenda Negus [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no on Cassidy graham - It's a bad bill

I'm a type 1 diabetic. Vote no against a bill that fails to secure protections for people with pre-existing conditions. Vote no!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tara Ivins [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:03 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

....

1. Medicaid expansion in PA provides aids and serices to children with special needs in schools. These services are what allow my child and children like her with autism to thrive in a regular classroom with peers.

Tara Ivins

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Castro [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: This latest healthcare repeal sponsored by Cassidy and Graham

Does not care about the health and care of the American people. It is callous politics And the GOP should be ashamed of selling their souls to the Koch brothers.
It is unAmerican.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nichole Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Against Plan

It is appalling the Graham-Cassidy Plan does not prevent insurance companies from charging more for pre-existing conditions or from instituting a lifetime cap. I urge you to consider the opinions of experts including the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association ("This bill harms our most vulnerable patients"), the American Public Health Association ("Graham-Cassidy would devastate the Medicaid program, increase out-of-pocket costs, and weaken or eliminate protections for people living with pre-existing conditions"), the National Institute for Reproductive Health ("the Graham-Cassidy bill preys on underserved communities ... a clear and present danger"), and Federation of American Hospitals ("It could disrupt access to health care for millions of the more than 70 million Americans") and do not allow this bill in its present form to pass the Senate.

Respectfully,

Nichole Jones

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ellie Moniz [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

I am 39 years old with a young family. My husband and I are both self employed and get our insurance through the ACA. In January of this year, I was diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer. If I loose my health insurance, I will not be able to continue treatment. Please vote no on this bill.

Ellie Moniz

19006
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lee Shuey [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I cannot believe that this is a viable solution to the problems that have arisen from the ACA. It seems that all this bill does is redirect coverage to states that didn't want to expand Medicaid in the first place. We really need real solutions to our healthcare system not just bait n switch for election states.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gail Friedman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it will strip people of needed coverage, impair Medicaid and rehabilitative treatment for addiction, make coverage of pre-existing conditions prohibitive in cost for most, cut funding for prenatal care and childbirth, and have numerous other ill impacts on health care coverage for Americans. It would also distribute funding unfairly and is being "railroaded" through with no consideration of the consequences. We deserve more than political maneuvering by our elected officials when something as essential as health care is at stake.

Gail Friedman

19067
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ronnie Yu [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: my whole family would be affected negatively by the Graham/Cassidy act

I was born with a chronic disease that has no cure. My mom has lymphoma. My dad, a senior citizen, was run over in an accident and is on crutches. He also has COPD. Our whole family would be severely and negatively impacted by the Graham/Cassidy Act.

To make matter worse, I am certain we are not the only American family to be impacted in this way.

Please for a moment consider citizens like us and work a little more towards a more reasonable Health Care Act, which would actually live up to the 'care' in its name.

Best Regards,
A very concerned citizen,
Ronnie Yu

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

PLEASE do not pass this monstrosity. This bill does NOT take into consideration American lives. It is partisan politics only. Any elected official who could vote for this clearly does not work FOR the people but rather works for the big bucks donors and the corporations.

Rebecca Schweigert

It's admirable to strive for perfection, but allow room for everyone to be human.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lynn Bardell [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Save our health care

My son Benjamin was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes about 2.5 years ago, less than one month before his 14th birthday. He was, up to that point, a remarkably healthy kid. Now his pancreas simply does not produce insulin anymore. That diagnosis means that for the rest of his life, he will need daily insulin injections and will have to monitor his blood sugar throughout the day, every day.

His insulin and related blood sugar monitoring and management supplies are ridiculously expensive. Without insurance coverage, he would face the possibility of being unable to get the care and insulin that he needs to stay alive.. The Affordable Care Act is literally a lifesaver for him because it ensures he will not, as a person with a pre-existing condition, be priced out of coverage. It ensures that he will never be told that his insurer has paid its limit and that he's on his own. It ensures that if he does not earn much and struggles to afford insurance, there will be money available to help him.

Please keep my child in mind when you consider legislation to change our health care system. Please remember that the benefits and protections of the ACA quite literally will help keep my child alive. Please work toward changes that will be true improvements to the system and not cuts and rollbacks that will endanger my Benjamin. Thank you.

Lynn Bardell

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Shuman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to Graham-Cassidy

My brother in law and friends rely on quality affordable health care. Because of this I am strongly opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill. My brother in law has a pre-existing condition resulting in his quin triple by pass that was covered under the ACA. He would have died if it were under this horrible Graham-Cassidy Bill. I would liek to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you,
Lisa Shuman

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Claudia Lavin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to 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.

Sincerely,

Claudia Lavin MD MPH

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: nick campbell [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No repeal no replace

This is horrible! We as a nation can not go back to the way it was where millions of families didn't have healthcare or even the ability to see a doctor. There has to be something very broken inside the GOP members to even devise such an idea and call it a health care plan. It's a death care plan. Is this what it looks like when someone sells their soul? For all that is wrong with the ACA it has many more merits. Yes it isn't perfect. I haven't seen a law with this large an impact come out of the gate and not need tweaked ever. So get to brainstorming some BIPARTISAN ideas on how to improve the ACA not kill it along with millions of citizens. Is the hate and racism that strong that destroying millions of innocent lives and murdering people is an acceptable collateral damage for undoing the blacks mans legacy?

This is not the party of my grandfather, my father or me. This is NO longer a Republican Party. It is a nazi party of greed.
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gary Moore [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

This bill is un-Constitutional in its distribution of benefits to States and I shall work tirelessly to see that anyone in Congress who supports it is turned out of office at the next opportunity and pray that they never find work again!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stephana Ditzler [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

I am 81 years old, on a fixed income, and rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story is that without medicare and affordable health coverage I would never have been able to pay my husband's hospital bills for a stomach tumor March of this year and finally, a hemorrhagic stroke in June that killed him. I urge you to consider a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. This is not just a health issue, it is a moral issue, as well.

Sincerely,
Stephana Ditzler

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Val Coleman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care bill

Please - do not let this bill be rushed through! We need bi-partisan effort to tweak the current bill, NOT simply scrapping it without much discussion and review!

Our very lives depend upon it!

Val Coleman

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Taratuski [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because I do not believe that this plan ensures that those in most need of health insurance will have access. There has been insufficient time for review and vetting of this proposal by the public and the CBO. This plan would result in loss of access to healthcare, most importantly Medicaid, which will harm Americans, especially the most vulnerable. I urge you to oppose this plan and direct attention to bipartisan work on a better plan for all.

Karen Taratuski

19031
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maureen O'Rourke [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public comment from a nurse- VOTE NO

I've been an oncology nurse for 37+ years. I am Urging you to vote NO on this bill. This bill would leave millions without coverage, and millions more with inadequate or unaffordable coverage. Insurers would be able to significantly raise rates on those of us with pre-existing conditions- causing us to lose health insurance coverage.

I've worked hard all of my life- through no fault of my own I have systemic lupus. What happens to me? What about the patients I care for?

This bill is humane.

It is a national embarrassment .

Vote NO.

Thank you

Maureen E. O'Rourke RN, PhD

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lynne Wartman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because I am a functioning pre-existing condition. As a insulin-dependent diabetic for 33 years, I have watched my supplies skyrocket in price. For most of those years, I have been BLESSED with excellent medical benefits through extremely generous employers. However, I have also experienced what COBRA'ing benefits costs - and how limited my choices quickly became when my coverage was not so excellent. I will not bankrupt my family because of my health condition, as I strive every single day to keep in the best control possible. Please, you must protect my affordable benefits!

Lynne Wartman

19044
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dawn Blanch [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy health repeal: kill the bill

Dear Finance Committee members:

This bill should fail because it punishes poor children and seniors through cuts to Medicaid. GOP argues that states should determine health care investments. This gives southern states permission to continue their horrible health outcomes among so many of their citizens.

Dawn Blanch

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jill Coppage [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

My name is Jillian Coppage, and I live in Keller, Texas.

I am 23 years old and live with a rare and life threatening condition. I was diagnosed earlier this year after literally years of emergency room visits, doctor's visits and visits to specialists. I won't bore you with the details, but without access to the monthly shot that keeps my throat from closing up without a trigger or an allergen to avoid, I am likely to die. Those shots are \$800 a month without insurance, and as a recent college graduate, there is absolutely no way I could afford both my life saving shots and rent. I am lucky to have benefitted from the ACA. I can remain under my parents' health insurance plan until I am 26. My insurance cannot refuse to cover my shots because my disease is a "pre-existing condition." My insurance cannot refuse to cover my shots because I am "high risk." My insurance cannot refuse to cover my shots because they are not "essential health benefits."

The ACA certainly has issues, but the answer is not to make access to healthcare more difficult to those who are struggling. The answer is not to turn our backs on the poor, the sick, the children and the elderly. The answer is to do everything in our power to protect them and give them access to the best quality care. Graham-Cassidy does not do that. Graham-Cassidy increases premiums (by \$17,000 for pregnancy, \$4,000 for asthma, etc., etc.) and makes healthcare more difficult to access. It is unacceptable and I urge you to oppose this bill.

I am 23 years old. I do not want to die at the hands of Senators who refuse to acknowledge my life is in their hands. Please, I'm begging you, do the right thing. Keep the ACA in place, and make a bipartisan effort to make it even better than it already is.

Jillian Coppage

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Valerie Yoder Otto [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Valerie Otto
[REDACTED]

Kearns, UT 84118

Dear Chairman Hatch:

I write to voice my extreme opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal. I am very discouraged that instead of continuing down a bipartisan path and working on issues to improve the strength and stability of the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) marketplaces, the sponsors of this legislation have put forward a proposal that lacks transparency and opportunity for meaningful evaluation and input. This rushed proposal will also:

- Eliminate the financial assistance that helps low- and moderate-income families purchase health care coverage;
- Push massive new costs onto states like Utah;
- End expanded Medicaid coverage that helps millions of low-income adults;
- Threaten care for low-income seniors, children, consumers with substance use disorders and people living with disabilities;
- Undermine essential protections for people with pre-existing conditions;
- Eliminate critical consumer protections;
- Increase premiums and out-of-pocket costs and destabilizes the individual market;

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

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

Sincerely,
Valerie Otto

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Erb [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO and preserve healthcare for Americans

Senators:

We urge you to vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill and reflect the vehement opposition of your constituents.

My family, neighbors, friends and every person of conscience with concern for their fellow Americans resent the repeated covert attempts by Republicans to score a win for their party by gutting the health care of millions of Americans covered by the ACA.

Please work together across party lines to protect and serve all Americans by improving the ACA and stop trying to overturn it.

Sincerely,

Lisa Erb
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sue Allen [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO!

This bill is yet another travesty.

No CBO input.

Millions left with no or inadequate health care coverage.

Funds transferred to the states with little oversight, and almost certain inequities.

What if you move from one state to another? What happens to your health insurance?

This is not something to be left to individual states to oversee. It is a NATIONAL issue, and should be a right for all Americans.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joel Umlas [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy ACA repeal bill
Attachments: To the Senate Committee.eml

Joel Umlas, M.D.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: lauren corallo [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Hello Senators of the Finance Committee,

I am writing about the Graham-Cassidy 'healthcare' bill that will repeal the ACA and affect millions of American's access to affordable healthcare.

I'd like to start off by saying my dad has recently passed due to stage 4 renal cell carcinoma, and how grateful I was that he had access to affordable healthcare. Without it he would not have been able to battle it as long as he did and my mom would not have been able to beat her skin cancer. The passing of the Graham-Cassidy bill would strip away so many Americans access to the care my parents were able to receive.

I am asking congress to please not hold a vote on this potentially deadly bill to 1/6th of the American economy without first receiving a full CBO score of the cost and numbers of Americans who will become uninsured due to its passing. We cannot afford to push this bill through without the regular order that comes with passing such a major piece of legislation.

I am concerned about the details of the bill that would allow states to loosen protections for pre-existing conditions, women's health rights and the huge cut in federal funding. American's tax dollars should absolutely not be moved away from funding healthcare and into the pockets of the ultra-wealthy donors. Many Americans are not as ignorant/blind as GOP congress members think and can clearly see this is a decision of party over the people they are supposed to represent. Not a single Medicaid Director in all 50 states thinks this bill is a good idea, as well as almost every single American health organization, plus doctors, nurses, hospitals and even the insurance companies.

This is hardly a healthcare bill seeing as it does not bring healthcare to more Americans, but could cause up to a predicted 30 million people to lose their coverage. It is wrong and un-American to make families choose between putting food on their tables and paying for outrageously priced healthcare that won't even cover as much as it currently does.

We can do better. Let's stop this ridiculous and mean bill and start working on a bipartisan deal to improve the ACA. No one claims the ACA is perfect, it definitely needs work to bring down premiums and make it so even more Americans can have their right to affordable health insurance. This is your job and why you've been voted to represent the American people, not to destroy the bill that finally gave millions of people access to affordable health insurance. It's time to return to regular order with bipartisan committees, hearings and a vote that requires all of congress to work together for a real solution that will actually benefit the American people.

Thank you,
Lauren Corallo

--
Lauren Corallo | [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Hearing comment

Hello -

I am pleased to submit the following comment prior to your Monday, September 25th, 2017 hearing on the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill.

I am writing in very strong opposition to this bill.

Since Obamacare (aka ACA) was implemented, the small business that I manage has seen our premiums stay steady each year while having increased coverage. Previous to Obamacare, if we had a large claim, our premiums would skyrocket. With a few of our employees having expensive on-going health conditions, there is no doubt that our premiums would be much higher today if Obamacare's laws weren't implemented. In addition, our employees benefit from all of the coverages included in the Obamacare plans (eg: free immunizations, annual physicals, etc).

For this year's October 1st renewal, due to Republican sabotage and continued uncertainty of the healthcare market, our premiums increased by 20%. This was our first large increase since Obamacare was enacted, and it can be directly connected to Republicans threatening not to fund the CSRs and continued efforts to gut Obamacare. Your actions are hurting the country. Please stop trying to tear away affordable healthcare from Americans.

Sincerely,

Sarah Polich
concerned citizen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

This proposed bill does not follow the view of the American people. It is vitally important that this bill does not pass. People's lives and financial well-being are more than numbers on a page. Taking healthcare away from these people will only do harm, not only to your constituents, but also to the economy.

A better plan, reduce this awful military budget, which has billions of wasted dollars, and put that money into the well-being of the tax payers.

Katelyn Gurr

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Wong, John [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

As a physician who cares deeply about patient access to health care, I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill to replace the ACA. This bill is just bad for US health, bad for the economy, and bad for our country. 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 and would burden small businesses.

Rather than stripping health care from and weakening covered health benefits for 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. –John Wong, MD

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 Tufts Medical Center HIPAA Hotline at [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: Kathia Marvin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it will strip people of the healthcare they need to stay healthy, and in many cases, to stay alive. Preexisting conditions should not be a death sentence, and no one should worry about going bankrupt if they ever face a serious illness or injury. This is a draconian, cruel bill that would result in deaths.

Kathia Marvin

18822
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: kristen leggate [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill comment

My son and I rely on the ACA for good quality care. I am a widow and aging woman who has a preexisting condition, as does my son. My husband died before ACA was implemented. It was a constant fight with the insurance company to cover care even though he had a good plan through his work. He would have reached his lifetime cap if he had survived. I had to schedule my sons operation within a week of his father's death in order to afford the operation on his fathers medical plan. It was traumatic. Cobra was so expensive there was no way to afford the policy. Every year my insurance policy got more expensive as I went on my own policy with my son. Then thankfully the ACA passed and I could once again breathe. Without the subsidies I could never afford insurance for my son and I. Without requirements to not charge more for preexisting coverage I will be unable to afford any care. Without essential policy coverage I will unable to afford any care. This bill is both cruel and will unravel the market causing widespread chaos. We need bi partisan fixes to ACA and not this draconian bill that impacts so many Americans.

Sincerely, Kristen Leggate

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kelli Murbach [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Please don't let the Graham-Cassidy bill, which guts the idea that there should be FEDERALLY mandated basic minimum levels of coverage for ALL people of this country available, pass through the Senate.

The bill as written will damage the self-employed, the women, and the poor in this country profoundly and widen the gap between the haves and the have-nots.

Please, please, please vote no.

Kelli Murbach

"When I was young, I expected people to give me more than they could - continuous friendship, permanent emotion.

"Now I have learned to expect less of them than they can give - a silent companionship. And their emotions, their friendship, and their noble gestures keep their full miraculous value in my eyes; wholly the fruit of grace."

- Albert Camus, Journals [REDACTED]

... perchance to dream.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kolea [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:59 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: health bill

I hope you will opposed the Graham Cassidy bill. I am a kidney cancer survivor, I would be one of the millions of folks that would be subject to the whims of my state regulators in obtaining affordable accessible health care. I doubt if it will be affordable or accessible for me under Graham Cassidy, so then what do I do? In the richest nation on earth, I, a middle class retired teacher will not have accessible affordable health care. This is crazy!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: judy warner [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:59 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill: NO

I favor Congress working together to improve Obamacare, not repeal it.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cynthia [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE NO ON GC

This bill is yet another attempt to implement a law simply for the purpose of repealing the ACA at the expense of millions of Americans. We will not stand by while our healthcare is denigrated.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Adam Bright [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I STRONGLY oppose the Graham-Cassidy HC repeal

To Whom it May Concern,

ObamaCare is not perfect, but it is a sane, compassionate, and fundamentally decent attempt to provide healthcare to Americans. I want to see Congress pursue a truly bipartisan improvement to ObamaCare--one that preserves Medicaid, protection for pre-existing conditions, and disabilities while promoting affordable access. The Graham-Cassidy bill will do none of these things, and worse, will deprive millions of my fellow Americans of decent care. It is an ideologically driven, impractical bill. We, the American people, deserve *much* better. I will donate to the opponents of any senator who supports this disastrous bill--and I will donate to any Republican who has the courage to oppose it.

Thank you,
Adam Bright

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shanea O'Connor [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Comment

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

As far as I am concerned, the Graham-Cassidy Bill is a disgraceful excuse for a bill. It is not aimed at helping any American receive better health care at a more reasonable cost. Instead, it is intended to significantly raise costs for the sake of tax cuts while hurting the majority of people.

What angers me most about this bill is that it does not even try to achieve any sort of long-term solution, it is only focused on a short-term gain.

I would not be the person I am today without Medicaid. I was born with cerebral-palsy in 1985 to a single mother. Because of Medicaid, I received the necessary treatment I needed to lead a relatively normal life. Thanks to Medicaid I'm not confined to a wheelchair because I received the surgeries I needed so that I could walk. I've used my ability to walk to attend college and graduate school and go to work.

As a matter of fact, I now work in home health with patients who have Medicare and Medi-Cal. We have been able to provide great care to our patients and keep them out of the hospital, saving money thanks to these government entitlements.

Health Care should be looked at like an investment, not a burden. Without access to good and affordable healthcare, fewer people will be able to work, provide for families, and pay taxes to help keep America going.

It is time to put away hasty and cruel legislation such as the Graham-Cassidy Bill. The best way to Make America Great Again is to fix the Affordable Care Act, not scrap it. Fix it and re-brand it as something else if that's what it takes. But don't let this health care system fail because of politics. The long-term costs and immense suffering are not worth it.

Sincerely,
Shanea O'Connor

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: eric ward [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Horror Show

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.

--

Eric Ward
Violet Season 2, Office PA

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kandace Kohr [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: PLEASE VOTE NO to TrumpCare AKA A DISASTER

My name is Kandace Kohr. Without the help of ObamaCare, my 87-year-old grandmother wouldn't be able to remember my name or my face. She's struggling with dementia, on top of having a moderate stroke last year, but thanks to the capabilities of Medicaid and Medicare, she is able to get the care she needs.

Today she still has trouble remembering things, but I thank God EVERY DAY that she is still with us physically. This disastrous Republican healthcare replacement would be detrimental to more than 30 million Americans, including myself, who suffers from a handful of the pre-existing conditions aforementioned in the repeal.

Please vote AGAINST this replacement. Please vote AGAINST greed, selfishness and gluttony. Please vote FOR the American citizens who rely on you to be their voice, their platform for change.

--
Kandace Kohr

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kandace Kohr [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: America says NO to TrumpCare

My name is Kandace Kohr. Without the help of ObamaCare, my 87-year-old grandmother wouldn't be able to remember my name or my face. She's struggling with dementia, on top of having a moderate stroke last year, but thanks to the capabilities of Medicaid and Medicare, she is able to get the care she needs.

Today she still has trouble remembering things, but I thank God EVERY DAY that she is still with us physically. This disastrous Republican healthcare replacement would be detrimental to more than 30 million Americans, including myself, who suffers from a handful of the pre-existing conditions aforementioned in the repeal.

Please vote AGAINST this replacement. Please vote AGAINST greed, selfishness and gluttony. Please vote FOR the American citizens who rely on you to be their voice, their platform for change.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michael McClary [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:27 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy "Healthcare" Bill

Dear Senators of the Finance Committee:

Here are my comments for the record as you conduct hearings on this latest partisan Republican bill to destroy Obamacare.

I am a combat veteran who served in Vietnam. I'm a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy and the University of Southern California. I am well versed in the intricacies of the health care debate. As I am retired from the U.S. Department of Energy, I currently have Medicare with secondary insurance through the Government Employees Hospital Association. I also pay for "concierge family care" so that I receive tremendous personal care from my family physician who strongly believes in preventive medicine. I also have a long term health care insurance policy. All of this costs me (including vision and dental care) \$656.84 per month, or \$7882.08 per year.

I am one of the lucky ones, because I have Medicare and employer-related insurance and I can afford it. Because of this, Obamacare has not really affected me.

.What about the tens of millions of Americans who have no insurance except through Medicaid, or are under-insured, or who have preexisting conditions? If there were no Obamacare, they would be doomed to sickness and death. It's as simple as that. Obamacare is not perfect. We all know that. But what most Republicans don't want Americans to know, is that it is flawed because both Democrats and Republicans made compromises that weakened it considerably, just so that they could win its passage. I don't know what's true -- emphasis on "true" or "factual" as far as claims that are being made about premiums going up, deductibles that are too high, blah, blah, blah. Some person on the news this morning claimed that he was paying \$30,000 per year for health insurance. How can this be true?

The truth is: we are being held hostage by the health insurance industry and the big pharmaceutical companies who are making enormous profits at the expense of us citizens. I recently broke two ribs. My doctor prescribed lidocaine patches for the pain. My insurance company, who I am generally happy with, denied payment. I asked the pharmacist how much they would cost if I paid for them myself. \$250 for a 30 day supply. How can this be justified? Why does the insurance company get to overrule my doctor? Yeah, yeah, yeah, blah, blah, blah.

Every other modern country in the world has a single payer system or universal healthcare that doesn't cost the citizens arms and legs. If we are the greatest country in the world, why can't we do this? Healthcare is not a privilege, it is a basic human right. Healthcare is not health insurance. Republicans say everyone has access to healthcare. But, it is not affordable, in most cases. The health insurance industry does not want you to be healthy. Big pharma wants to sell drugs to treat symptoms, they are not interested in cures, because that cuts down on profits.

The rich get richer. The poor get sick and die. Emergency room treatment is no solution to health problems and offers no long term post-emergency care. Plus, the rest of us have to pay for it.

Democrats and Republicans need to work together to come up with a new healthcare system that works for all Americans. If those who complain about how much it will cost need to take a look at the budget for the Department of Defense.

Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Michael V. McClary

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kelli Rocius [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH will make my life worse

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Fitting Finance Comm is recipient of comments on Graham-Cassidy-Heller and not the Health committee. This bill is all about finance, not about improving or even understanding health and healthcare.

I have pre-existing conditions as do most of my friends. We are in chronic illness support groups together. Most of use the least amount of health services possible as getting to doctors is difficult for us and we have adjusted our lives to not provoke symptoms. We use generic drugs when possible and effective. We educate new doctors when they are testing us too much to save us and insurance money. We should not be priced out or lose guaranteed coverage!

GCH does not protect us. It allows states to price us out of health insurance. Sure a state could protect us. It isn't guaranteed like ACA.

People will be relocating because health care systems vary so much. More unnecessary chaos and expense and upset.

Trump's across state lines promises - become impossible.

GCH allows for lifetime caps for employer insurance. This is a step backwards.

I am concerned the block grants, while flexible, are too flexible. They will not provide the resources and time of what setting up new flexible insurance systems in states will need.

I am concerned Medicaid is to be defunded over time. I have family members relying on Medicaid for treatment and housing. 50 Medicaid directors are concerned. I trust them. All 50 Medicaid don't usually agree unanimously.

The ACA is working. May the GOP stop sabotaging and lying about it. Fix and stablized it. Educate and support it while it is current law!

The bribes to the states for votes on GHC seem unconsitutional as well as morally wrong. Stop.

Insurance company execs and patient group leaders who have read the bill oppose it. AARP, read the bill, says it is bad for seniors. It is bad for kids and the poor. It is politically toxic.

Drop this bill!

I am concerned a few friends will lose insurance rather immediately after being able to afford it. They are working, but have needed the ACA to enter the insurance markets. They have pre-exisiting conditions. They have no savings. They live paycheck to paycheck.

GCH doesn't care for health. It is tax cuts for the rich, and chaos in the states as a prize for Putin and/or the rabid far right base that cares more for punishing a black president than for the health of citizens or the nation.

Grow up. Abandon GCH and return to regular order in the Senate.

Please let the 50 vote budget thing expire and invigorate the bipartisan effort by Senators Alexander and Murry in HELP committee.

Please listen to the health experts, health journalists, citizens in the know about how this bill is not the solution. This bill is uniting America.... against the Senate GOP.

How bad is the bill to accomplish that? The worst of them yet.

Long live The PP ACA!

Kay Rocius
USA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Emily Heilbrun [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

I am a beneficiary of the Affordable Care Act. In the past, I experienced being denied an individual insurance policy because of a pre-existing condition. I value many parts of the ACA, including that it has no lifetime limits, and the provisions on what must be covered. I am 62 years old and must buy an individual policy for 3 more years before I am eligible for Medicare.

I encourage the legislature to engage in a bipartisan process to improve the ACE. Please do not repeal it, and certainly not under the provisions of this very dangerous bill, which would result in many people losing their coverage.

Thank you.

Emily Heilbrun

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linden Perlman [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care bill

I am writing to strongly oppose the current version of the health care bill to replace the ACA.

For a number of years I had to purchase private health insurance at ridiculous prices because of some minor pre-existing conditions. Premiums had gradually gone up to almost \$900 per month for a \$5000 deductible! While scarcely able to afford it, I was afraid of what would happen if I had a severe illness or accident, which actually was the case. I kept it up until the ACA took effect and I was able to purchase insurance through the Marketplace. The cost for a Silver policy--better than the one I had--was \$70 per month! Ten months later I was able to go on Medicare and that has been fine. While I realize that premium costs for insurance under the ACA have risen, there is no way they would equal what I had paid before for a lesser private policy. Mine is only one of many similar stories.

How can Congress think about taking this valuable insurance away? You say it won't affect that many people, though the numbers haven't even been crunched yet, and you say that pre-existing conditions will be covered, though there are too many loopholes and no credible way to follow up on what you are asking the States to do. People in this country are hurting and need to feel confident that if they get sick they can get the care they need. Your bill is not ensuring that. Please take the time necessary to make appropriate changes to a law that, while not perfect, is certainly better than the current proposal.

I fully realize that I was fortunate to manage to pay what I felt was necessary, but very many people are not and they are the ones I am now worried about. Did you read that? I am worried about other people! I think you would do well to do the same. No matter what bill eventually goes through--to replace or to amend the ACA--Congress will have good health insurance. You know it, I know it, and the rest of the country knows it. And they are not happy. If doctors, nurses, hospitals, constituents, patients, a large number of governors, AARP, Medicaid officials, and even insurance companies are not happy with what you are proposing, who are you to go against their wishes? You were elected to be representatives of the people. Please represent us.

Thank you for your time and your service.

Mary Linden Perlman

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Improve the ACA

Let's see a bipartisan effort to **IMPROVE THE ACA, NOT REPEAL IT!**
Many, many people rely on the ACA, and to repeal it would cause immeasurable misery. Why would you want to hurt so many people?
For Pete's sake, work together to help your constituents, not hurt them.

~April Fisher

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: marcia crosbie [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

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

Sincerely,
Marcia G. Crosbie, RN, IBCLC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

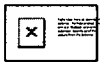
From: Connye LaCombe, Ed.D. [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

This is another attempt to ram something through the Senate when it has not had sufficient public scrutiny, a CBO score, nor sufficient time for analysis and debate. Every health care organization from doctors to insurance companies have said that it is not good. It will result in millions losing health care and in severe financial devastation for the industry that makes up 1/6th of our economy.

My family relies on quality, affordable health care. My son has severe mental health issues that would result in his death if this bill passes. My husband and I both have pre-existing conditions that would cause our death if we should lose our affordable health coverage. I want to see a bipartisan effort to implement a well thought out improvement to the ACA. There are plenty of countries where every citizen has health care, why can't we use their examples and come up with a solution that will serve our entire population. I believe that access to affordable health care should be a right, not a privilege dependent on one's wealth. I spend my working years in public service so did not accumulate wealth. I did, however, believe that I would have health care covered. Now that may change. Please, be reasonable and show that our government has a heart.

Sincerely,

Connye LaCombe. Ed.D.



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michael Steichen [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: against GC bill

Hi,

My name is Michael Steichen (Chicago, IL) and I'm very concerned about the GC bill. I **oppose the GC-bill** because I a genetic mutation that runs in my family that means I am predisposed to certain types of cancers. I could easily get tested and know definitively if I have the mutation, but I am **not getting tested for a genetic mutation because it will be considered a pre-existing condition** if a bill like this passes. If I get cancer, I want my insurance to cover it. My fiancée and I are probably not going to have children until we know whether I have this mutation. **If this bill passes I may choose to not start a family.**

God bless,
Michael

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not pass Graham Cassidy

This third attempt to pass a repeal and 'replace' bill that does nothing to protect Americans is unacceptable. We are watching and know that we will not reelect those who seek only to make billionaires richer and line their own pockets.

You are a shameful, weak, embarrassing Congress. Instead of standing up for your constituency, instead of working to improve the lives of all Americans, you're pandering to the worst elements of society.

We're paying attention.

You will not be reelected by harming Americans.

Sarah Jackson

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stephen Follansbee [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy Health care bill

Dear Senators,

This is not the time to play politics with the health of our nation's citizens. It is unconscionable that anyone would vote on such a far-reaching bill without awaiting the CBO's full assessment of its impact.

As a physician, who has worked in the public, the university, the fee-for-service, and the HMO sectors of health care, I urge you to resist political expediency and vote to approach health care reform in a mature, bi-partisan, thoughtful, and educated manner.

Please VOTE NO.

Stephen E. Follansbee, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cathy Gentry [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Vote NO

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Fullerton [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

The Graham/Cassidy bill is not the answer.

I live in South Carolina where our state opted out of the Medicaid expansion. I work with the poor who struggle each day to work, pay the bills, have enough food to eat, and are uninsured.

Currently I have a 47year old female client who was uninsured when I called an ambulance to take her to the hospital because she was unable to walk. She had been seen at least five times in the ER of our local for-profit hospital where they had attributed her difficulty in walking to anemia, spots on her brain, etc.. Each time they sent her home.

Prior to her complete inability to walk, she had walked to her low wage job, walked to the soup kitchen for her one meal each day, and walked to our outreach office where we helped her get a current ID, made appointments at the local community clinic where they saw her for \$5 a visit, and obtained free glasses for her through a private program that provides eye exams and eyeglasses to people under a certain income limit.

I visited her home when I had not seen her for three days. I found her lying on a fold out couch in the dark in a room with no running water or electricity. We began to take food to her each day because she was starving. I hesitated to take her back to the community clinic because they had told me that without insurance she had no treatment options.

For a period of three weeks a group of us made sure she had food each day. During this time we had a phone interview with Social Security because I was unable to get her into my car to be interviewed in person.

Finally she called me one day and said she was having trouble with her hand too. By this time she relied on a "boyfriend" to carry her once each night and once each morning to the potty chair in the corner of her fetid room.

I told her I would come to stay with her while I called an ambulance and I would stay with her until she was admitted to the hospital. She was terrified because she didn't want to be put in a "home". I assured her that was not my intention. I wanted her to go to the hospital to get well.

She has been in the hospital now for five months. We had to contact our local congressman to expedite her Medicaid. The congressman's office also facilitated her SSI. She now receives \$30 / month SSI because technically she is homeless. She has a preliminary diagnosis of ALS, but we cannot get the full testing done because it is an outpatient procedure and the hospital would have to dismiss her in order for her to go to the ALS clinic for the testing. Once they discharge her, she would not be eligible to return to the hospital. The answer is for her to go to a nursing home, but she needs so much care that the local nursing homes do not want to take her since she is now on Medicaid only- they would not get paid enough to give here the kind of care she needs.

This woman is one of many who I see each week. People who have worked all their lives. Who cannot afford to go to the doctor or purchase needed medications. The local ER provides what healthcare they receive.

If you think the G/C bill is the answer to healthcare, you are mistaken.

In this country, which is the richest country in the world, we must have guaranteed healthcare for all. We do not need lifetime caps, or block grants, or higher premiums for pre-existing conditions. You cannot tell me that a nation that spends billions of dollars on our military cannot spend to care for its people. We are no better than North Korea if we have all the weapons and military and yet our citizens suffer.

We all pay when my clients go to the ER for medical help. Why not just pay up front. People who have health care insurance are less likely to have expensive emergencies. You ought to know that.

Affordable healthcare for every American is the only reasonable solution. The ACA was a start. Make it better. Study the problems, adjust what doesn't work, and make sure every person has insurance.

My one client has cost the taxpayers five months of intense hospital care because she did not receive timely care because she had no insurance. She has had immeasurable pain and suffering because she had no insurance.

In this time in our society it is a right, not a privilege to have health care.

Please vote no on this latest abomination of a healthcare bill.

Thank you,

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elizabeth Moore [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: What You Must Know

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

The Graham-Cassidy "healthcare" bill is actually not a healthcare bill at all, but a death trap for Americans from birth to old age. It is worse than the two earlier bills. And the comments of various GOP Senators about health care indicates that they (and some of you, therefore) know that, and they do not care that this bill will result in more sickness, more deaths, and more financial hardship for American citizens.

Americans need, and deserve, a rational health care system in this country, something at least the equal to other first-world nations' health care. We don't have it. Our health statistics are worse (the maternal and infant mortality are particularly noticeable) and yet the current bill will specifically impact access to care for women and infants and children. The ACA was a start toward better--(torpedoed and crippled by GOP opposition, as I'm sure you're aware) but every bill presented this year has been much worse than the ACA, and this one is the worst of the three. What is even worse is that both houses, Senate and House of Representatives, have tried to do this in secret, hiding the provisions of the bills from citizens, refusing to listen to citizens' comments, refusing to let citizens speak to the relevant committees, about something that is extremely important to every one of us affected by it. Senators have lied about the current proposal on national television, claiming it offers protection *that it does not offer.* This bill allows individual states to remove protections for those with chronic conditions ("pre-existing conditions") and raise the cost of their coverage; it allows states to include yearly and lifetime caps on costs....a move which will bankrupt families, causing a cascade of economic collapse. You have not allowed the CBO time to evaluate the plan and calculate the direct effect on individual families of various types, with various conditions. This is utterly wrong.

Every person who votes on this bill should be thoroughly familiar with it (not a cursory reading but a careful one) and with the likely effect of it on every group that uses medical care (in other words, everyone in the country.) We the people deserve to know that our representatives have put in the work, the hours, that this will take. (They could stay off TV until they have put in those hours, for instance. Less time in make-up and speechifying and bragging and lying: more time in doing what they're paid for, which is making good laws that benefit the most people.)

Until then, no one should support this law. No one should vote for it. It will result in unnecessary deaths of innocent people, from newborns to the elderly; it will result in more sickness, for those who cannot afford regular medical checkups; it will result in higher prenatal and postnatal infant mortality, more maternal mortality, more disability after injury, workers losing more days to sickness and injury. Poorer health overall in the American population, lessened productivity as a result, more bankruptcies as people cannot pay for their own medical care, more hunger and homelessness, more

mental illness resulting from unbearable stress (watching your child die for lack of medical care you can't pay for and some politician shrugs off as the cost of doing business.)

You should insist on knowing more about the cost *to the person who needs to see a doctor, who needs the life-saving drugs for his/her condition, who needs life-saving surgery after a car wreck* before you give this bill a push. And you should consider at what point you would consider your spouse, your parent, your child "not worth the cost" if you were the one without coverage. I spent six years as a volunteer ambulance attendant (paying for my own certification all the way to EMT-Paramedic) in a rural area; I saw the struggles families went through--and are still going through today. This bill will make things much worse. Kill it.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Moon

This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
<https://www.avast.com/antivirus>

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Blount [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Save the ACA

Please make a bipartisan effort to fix the ACA and vote no on the current healthcare bill.

I'm a type one diabetic with three small children. My three year old has asthma. My husband is a disabled vet. Our family is insured through the ACA. If the current bill passes, we will lose our insurance.

Sincerely,

Sarah Blount

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sasha Kay [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose Graham-Cassidy!

Dear Senators of the Senate Finance Committee,

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill, for several reasons:

1. It's not really a health care bill. It's a tax cut bill. Among the beneficiaries are medical device manufacturers, many of whom are tax cheats who offshore their profits. They would receive a \$20 million tax break. This idea of giving tax breaks to corporations to stimulate the economy and create jobs simply doesn't work. Exhibit A: Kansas.
2. The whole process of passing this bill violates regular order. It's too secretive and too rushed. There won't be a CBO score by next week, when the vote is supposed to take place. Yours is only the second hearing that's been scheduled, on a bill that affects one-sixth of this nation's economy. (The only other hearing I'm aware of was set to take place in the Homeland Security Committee, which has absolutely nothing to do with health care.) Finally, it's been reported that Republicans have set aside a whopping *90 seconds* of debate before voting on this bill. You can't even cook a burrito in the microwave in 90 seconds! This whole process seems designed to keep both Senators and the public in the dark about what's in the bill.
3. This bill is not "moderate" in any way. It's worse than all the other replacement bills combined. In spite of the secrecy surrounding it, we know it's much like the other replacement plans that were voted down: millions are expected to lose coverage, and everyone stands to lose essential health benefits and pre-existing protections; Medicaid would face steep cuts, forcing states to assume crippling health care costs. But what makes this bill even worse is that it would actually punish states that expanded Medicaid and reward those that didn't.
4. Forget about fixing everything in a conference committee. Show me one example of a committee starting off with the legislative equivalent of cattle dung, and coming up with anything *remotely* smelling like a rose! Bill-Cassidy is an inherently horrible bill, and no amount of tinkering is going to fix it.
5. The Alexander-Murray bipartisan committee's efforts on healthcare reform have been undermined by the desire of one political party to hold onto power. Republicans really don't care what happens to me, or to their base, just so long as they get to rule. That's my takeaway from all this.

On a personal note: I am one of millions of Americans with pre-existing conditions. Mine are hereditary, and lucky for me, they aren't life-threatening. I say "lucky" because in the bad old days, insurance companies would deny me coverage for them. No matter how much I paid, I couldn't get coverage. Now, if insurance companies were willing to deny me coverage for relatively mild conditions, just imagine how hard it must have been for those with *serious* conditions: cancer, diabetes, muscular dystrophy, congenital heart defect, etc. The bottom line: some people are only alive today because the ACA forbids insurance companies from denying coverage on the basis of pre-existing. Insurance companies *do not care* about people; they care about making money. If they're allowed to drop coverage again, they'll do it in a heartbeat. Bill-Cassidy lets them do it.

Sincerely,
Sasha Kay

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Setrakian [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Listen with your conscience

Dear Ladies & Gentlemen,

32 Million Americans could lose coverage, radical change to Medicaid and diminished funding for every state. When your own healthcare is not at risk, is it easy to take others' away?

Please act with your conscious and keep your campaign pledges. Don't touch Medicaid benefits and reject this bill.

Thank you,
Mary Setrakian
10028

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara DelRio [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Our story

Senators,

My son has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, a terminal progressive neuromuscular disease. DMD is a parent's nightmare and for a child a monster that slowly but surely wastes his muscle away. The life expectancy due to recent improvements in treatment is now late 20's, my son is 26.

I raised Josh to know that he could still live independently and accomplish his goals but as a physically disabled adult. Unfortunately as Josh got older we came to see that AL invests little in the kinds of programs disabled people need. Transportation is unreliable and although he had a Medicaid waiver this provided very little care. My son is on my group insurance so I could not stay home with him once he graduated from high school. Insurance doesn't cover long term care.

Long story short through research we found that MN's Medicaid program funds the services a disabled person needs to access the community and live a good quality of life as independently as possible.

When Josh turned 20 we moved him to MN and applied for Medicaid. This was truly a heartbreaking decision particularly with the death sentence that hangs over our heads.

At first he lived in an apartment building for physically handicapped adults where he received 24/7 care. Eventually as DMD progressed he needed to move to a group home where he could receive the kind of personal and medical care he now requires. He is in a great situation now. He has the quality of life he could not get in AL and he continues going to college.

I am very insurance savvy, I've had to be and I can confidently tell you the Graham Cassidy bill will pull the rug out from under people like my son living with disabilities. It will devastate families that must rely on Medicaid or insurance on the ACA exchanges for their child's medical treatment and personal care.

Please oppose this bill and call on the senate to work together to do the hard work of reforming and improving ACA. No one party can possibly have all of the answers. Please support a return to regular order to solve the complicated problems of healthcare. This is too important to ram down Americans' throat. The genuine and knowledgeable stake holders' voices must be part of any healthcare discussion.

There's so much to our story that I can't fit in one email so I hope you are able to read between the lines and empathize with families like mine and the gut wrenching decisions we've had to make.

Sincerely,
Barbara Del Rio

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My family needs health care!

I have labile hypertension. This has already kept me from being able to afford long-term care should I need it. (I'll soon be 75 and am at moderate or serious risk of stroke. I do yoga, Tai Chi, Qigong, walking, exercise, eat well. I do SO MUCH to preserve my health) I want to see others have good preventive health care so they can prevent hypertension, diabetes, cancer, all sorts of afflictions.

My granddaughter has autonomic dysfunction, which means her automatic functions don't function normally, leaving her vulnerable to sudden changes in blood pressure, terrible digestive issues, breathing difficulties..... Nobody caused this. It just happened. Would you PENALIZE such a young woman and leave her to suffer when YOU legislators have the power to HELP such people simply by providing health care.

You can give all Americans good, reliable, affordable (note: AFFORDABLE) health care, even those of us with pre-existing conditions (which includes beyond me SO MANY members of my family, despite our healthful practices). You have the POWER to do this. Do NOT make this a partisan issue. It's SO MUCH BIGGER than that.

Take it upon yourselves to act reasonably and with compassion. Just FIX the ACA. About 88% of Americans would be very pleased with that move.

Try acting in a bipartisan fashion. Join with all your fellow Congress people who see the light.

PLEASE FIX the ACA. Require subsidies be paid (by the current administration; we're all watching) to the insurance companies starting many weeks ago so that premiums can come down and people actually will be able to afford health care. That would be morally sound. It would be good for the economy and for children (30 million will lose health care if you repeal the ACA) in the most critical stages of their education. A smarter work force could make America great again!

Thank you for moving on this—reaching across the aisle and agreeing, at last, to work to IMPROVE what we have, which is working well but needs its glitches addressed.

Carolyn Young
Lawrence, KS
66044

Retired h.s. teacher of Economics, German, and String Orchestra.

B.A. Grinnell College: history; M.A. University of KS: economics Concerned loving mother of 3 and (extended family) Grammy of 11.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: DEBORAH KEMP [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Like every major health organization in the USA including the AMA,

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.washingtonpost.com/amphtml/news/wonk/wp/2017/09/22/heres-a-list-of-medical-groups-opposing-the-cassidy-graham-health-care-bill/>

I am oppose to this bill that does NOT guarantee citizens will not be denied or charged excessive rates to those with pre existing conditions. The bill cuts funds for healthcare. There has been no CBO analysis, no bipartisan input and no debate.

Thankfully honorable men like Senator McCain and all Democrats oppose the bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Crockett, Jennifer [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: vote NO

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I urge you to vote **NO** on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Health Care Proposal. I am particularly concerned about the impact the bill will have on people with mental health or substance use disorders. I oppose the bill for the following reasons:

It allows states to drop the requirement to cover mental health or substance use care. Today, Exchange plans are required to cover essential health benefits, which include treatment for mental health and substance use conditions. Under this bill, each state will have the freedom to drop or change these requirements, putting mental health and substance use benefits at risk.

It shifts Medicaid funding to a "per capita cap" system. Shifting to per capita cap funding (a fixed amount of funding per person) may sound reasonable, but would not keep up with growth in costs and needs. This would result in states being forced to cut Medicaid services and eligibility, which would harm children and adults with mental illness.

Please vote **NO** on this potentially devastating bill.

Sincerely,
Dr. Jen Crockett
Psychologist

Disclaimer:

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sandra Whiteknact [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposed to Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill for the following reasons:

This healthcare bill is disastrous. It decimates Medicaid, turns healthcare over to the states, gives the bulk of the block grant money for the states to red states, guts the healthcare funding for blue states, guts pre-existing conditions, guts Planned Parenthood and that's just the start.

There have been no legitimate hearings about this bill, let alone bipartisan hearings, there is not time to get a score from the Congressional budget office, Democrats have not been allowed to have any input at all, there has been no testimony from healthcare industry officials or medical professionals.

The only purpose of this bill is to assure that the Republicans get their 2018 midterm funding from donors who have threatened to cut them off if they don't pass a healthcare bill to kill Obamacare and this should not be a consideration when determining the future of the health of 32 million people. The donors want a bill, any bill, no matter how harmful it is to the well-being of the country and our economy. We can't let the Koch brothers, Robert Mercer, Sheldon Adelson and other billionaires gut our healthcare because they are rich. The Republicans, admittedly, also plan to use money saved from the draconian cuts to healthcare to give tax cuts to these same billionaires, with wanton disregard for the well-being of the American people.

Additionally, this healthcare bill will have a detrimental effect on one-sixth of the American economy and we have no way of knowing how extreme this bad effect will be.

My last reason for opposing this bill is that the Republicans, clearly, have no idea what is in the bill or what the real-life ramifications of this bill might be.

Thank you for listening. Please do everything you can, as a committee, to prevent this bill from coming to the floor for a vote.

Thank you,

Sandra Whiteknact

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Trevor Buit [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My Medicaid Story

Hello,

My name is Trevor Buit, currently living in Provo, Utah. The specifics of why Medicaid has been important to me are going to require some backstory, so please bear with me. I was born with cerebral palsy. Growing up, I had access to military health insurance, so Medicaid didn't become important to me individually until around 17 years old. At that time I was diagnosed with a severe mental illness. My military dependent benefits were reluctant to cover the related expenses, such as medication, counseling, psychiatric consultation etc, so I applied for, and received Medicaid and SSI.

Because of the complications from multiple disabilities, I was unable to work in any meaningful way, something my treatment teams agreed on. Also, as I got older, I lost the ability to use my crutches to walk, necessitating the use of a power chair to get around the community, and in home care to help me keep up my apartment (which was on a local mental health campus). All these things were covered by Medicaid, and without it I wouldn't have been able to afford to continue my recovery.

I did get better. I was in recovery for eighteen years. As the symptoms of my mental illness improved, I began to volunteer in the disability community, and enrolled in Vocational Rehabilitation in hope of finding a job and ending my dependence on state and federal assistance (Vocational Rehabilitation is also threatened if Medicaid goes to block grants). I became a strong voice for those with both disabilities and mental illness, and in so doing I found my voice. My work meant a lot to me, but in large part because of the stigma of both mental illness and disability, and my own lack of experience...my job hunt was six years long (despite having worked to obtain a double bachelor's degree...which nearly killed me) Even now, I work as a Peer Support Specialist part time. I'm working hard to be able to return to school, get a Masters of Rehabilitation Counseling, and become a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor.

I'm still dependent on Medicaid for medications, medical care, in home care, counseling and my power chair upkeep and replacement. Without these, it may as well be as if my recovery never happened. My journey isn't done...but I'm trying...as I know many others are.

Please...I know Health Care is a hot topic...as polarizing as any topic I've ever seen...but I'm dismayed by how people on benefits are portrayed. The vast majority of us want something better, but this takes time, effort, and each case is different...just as each person, disabled or not...is unique. I ask that you vote NO to Graham-Cassidy. In so doing, you will preserve the independence, spirit, and hope of people like me...and our families. No Cuts...no Caps. Nothing About Us Without Us.

Trevor S. Buit

PS- To have my bases covered, I also submitted this story through The Arcs website

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tim Wackenreuter [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on GCH Bill

To Whom It May Concern,

I will make this short and try to stay on message. I think most of us know the Obamacare needs work, this bill will not fix the core issues in our health care system. I urge you to hold hearings and let the American people hear from you, as well as experts in the health care/insurance fields. Let's solve this together.

We are losing hope in you as a body. We've endured decades now of gridlock. Our President is a source of shame for 70% of the country, and most of the world. You have a great responsibility to protect us from him and we are counting on you to do that.

I wish you luck and appreciate your time.

Tim Wackenreuter

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ann Reego [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Sirs,

I respectfully ask that you vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill when it comes to a vote in the Senate. This bill could potentially take insurance away from or put premiums financially out of reach for many Americans. I feel that the authors of this bill have not been truthful to the public about important issues like cost ceilings and pre-existing conditions by passing the buck to the states to deny coverage or set premium limits.

Please follow Senator McCain's lead and vote against this bill. I do not think the the current ACA is perfect, it needs work. But to take insurance away from millions, with a bill that is full of vague language is cruel.

Thank you,
Ann Reego

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dan Haney [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: New healthcare bill.
Attachments: FB_IMG_1501687861452.jpg

This abhorrent, pathetic excuse for a bill, is basically like throwing shit on a wall to see what sticks. Anyone that votes for this bill is a heartless vulture. You should be absolutely ashamed of yourselves. You are not politicians. You are faceless demons. May you have a pineapple shoved up each of your asses, every day at noon.

- Dan Haney RT (R)
University Hospitals,
Cleveland Medical Center
330-221-3183
Sent from my Galaxy S8

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gretchen Miescke [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

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

I have a mental health condition that I was born with. It onset in my teens. I could not have prevented this by a different life style or nutritional choice. With health care my condition is well controlled and I live a normal life. I have a daily job, a supportive husband, and three happy cats. During this last summer I was diagnosed with a thyroid that had enlarged and wrapped around my windpipe. Without surgery I would have died. Since I had healthcare I was able to have the surgery. The post surgical biopsy found traces of thyroid cancer. The cancer had not been diagnosed prior to surgery, even with a biopsy. Even though I was cured by the surgery I am now listed as having had cancer. Once again, not something I had control over.

I am a self employed musician. This means that I will not ever have health coverage through my work. Prior to Obama Care I was paying \$850 per month for coverage, over 70% of my income. Obama Care brought that down to \$180 with subsidies. That changed my life.

Everyone deserves to be able to have affordable health coverage regardless of their income level, sexual preference, job source or preexisting conditions.

Thank you for your time.

Gretchen Miescke

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Desiree Darton [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 28, 2017 9:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Please be mindful of how much this bill is going to devastate lives. If senators are being bribed to keep their ACA to vote yes to repeal the ACA does not make any sense.

Thank You, Desiree Darton

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: martine yingling [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No on the GC bill!

Dear Sirs,

We need the ACA to survive! Please ensure that a bipartisan bill is crafted that continues to protect those with pre-existing conditions.

Martine Yingling

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: The Duggans [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee members,

Does the Graham/Cassidy bill improve upon what is already in place with the ACA? Of course not. There is no CBO score, there are insufficient protections for those with pre-existing conditions, Medicaid benefits will be drastically reduced, and more than 30 million people will lose coverage. Clearly there is no justification for voting for Graham/Cassidy. It is time to return to regular order and to work together to improve the ACA for the benefit of the humans of the United States.

Sincerely,

Sandra Duggan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pat Callard [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Testimony for Graham-Cassidy hearing

I am a Registered Nurse and my patients rely on healthcare for many acute and chronic conditions. When the Affordable Care Act was available, many of them no longer had to wonder how they would pay for or receive needed care. They didn't have to make the choice to go without other necessities of life. Because of this I oppose the Graham-Cassidy- Heller proposal for healthcare.

Affordable care is so important to all Americans and I would really like to see both parties come together to work on healthcare that meets the needs of people. ACA can be improved. Repealing it is not the answer. Listen to healthcare providers, hospitals, insurers and patients who understand what is needed daily to provide patient care.

On a personal note, I have asthma which would be considered a pre-existing condition. Millions of Americans with pre-existing conditions, the elderly and the disabled would not be able to afford care if premiums are allowed to rise uncontrollably.

Sincerely,

Pat Callard, DNP, RN, CNL
Associate Professor
College of Graduate Nursing
Western University of Health Science

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eileen Albert [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Medicaid

Please keep Medicaid as it stands today. To change it or reduce it would be harmful to the disabled and the poor. Medicaid is working and serving the populations that need help the most. Go after the hospitals, and pharmaceutical companies. Restructure their taxes, profits, and government subsidies. Have them reduce their profits and stop making exorbitant amounts of money off of the people who need care the most. Medicaid is working. If anything expand medicaid and have hospitals and pharmaceuticals and doctors contribute to a cost sharing program. Doctors have taken an oath to serve the people, not their pocketbooks. Doctors are complaining about not making enough money. Healthcare should be about taking care of everything, not based on a system of greed. Healthcare is an American right and a human right.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Larry L [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Graham-Cassidy is a terrible bill that does not increase coverage or reduce healthcare costs. It unacceptably takes away healthcare for millions and reduces coverage for millions more. This bill is unacceptably being rammed through congress by special interests. It has not been properly reviewed or followed proper protocols. It has not even been evaluated to determine the cost analysis. I am asking the Finance Committee to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill and work to fully implement the ACA as the best plan to provide the best coverage to the most people.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jodi Fenton [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

I have long since given up thinking any of our government representatives are looking out for the American people. But taking away the ACA and trying to replace it with the inferior Graham Cassidy is despicable. Please, if any of you care about the health and well being of the American people who rely on Obamacare, do not pass Graham Cassidy! Please act like you work for us, which you do!

Sincerely, a concerned citizen,

Jodi Fenton

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nick Stanford [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NNTR: Don't Pass That Bill

Hey.

Don't.

This new healthcare bill isn't going to help anyone; in fact, it'll probably ruin the lives of a lot of people. Including the people who supported you to office, and the people you represent.

Kind regards,

Nick Stanford

--

Nick Stanford

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gail Wolfberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:54 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 not support anyone with pre-existing conditions and leave too many citizens without health insurance. Our insurance rates will also go up...

Gail Wolfberg

19034
2

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rachel Van Orden [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:51 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 raise costs for people with pre-existing conditions and my son has a preexisting condition. It will also cause millions to lose their coverage and destroy Medicaid. People who are needy or disabled rely on Medicaid to survive.

Rachel Van Orden

17003
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathryn Daniels [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators,

I have relied on the ACA to provide high-quality, affordable healthcare and I oppose the current Graham-Cassidy bill because I don't believe it addresses the healthcare needs of Americans. I felt so fortunate to receive both cost sharing and premium subsidy for my 2017 health insurance. Without it, I would have had to go without life-saving medical treatment.

I have worked hard for forty years, paid my taxes and contributed to society. I think it is time for a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA rather than repeal it. Lamar Alexander and Patty Murray have begun this important effort by working to stabilize the current insurance market and provide Americans with the healthcare they deserve. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Daniels

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: SILVA ISAGOLIAN [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare Bill - Do Better Than This

Graham/Cassidy:

American citizens deserve the best consideration from their elected officials. This bill does not represent that. It is hurtful to those who need our protection the most. And these innocents of God probably will not be able to vote to voice their disapproval of this because they are our children, our ill and our elderly. So it is up to us, those who can speak up, to speak up; those who can vote so our voices can be heard, to vote with all our strength. Please remember Matthew 18:14 "...it is not the will of your Father that one of these little ones should perish". We need to protect the innocents when they cannot protect themselves, this starts with prenatal care. And for our elderly and our ill citizens of America, please use the tenets that Jesus wants us to live by as he says in 1 Timothy 5:8, "But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." Our household, our American household. This American household, the one that we have given you the responsibility of faithfully caring and nurturing, and not causing harm to.

There are many ways to fix the Affordable Care Act. First, start calling it something else. Something with the name of the innocents it will help and protect. Don't tie the name to one individual or to a small group. Look outward, name it for those who can't vote for you, can't speak to you, but are affected the most by your actions.

Second, our federal government needs to focus on protection of its citizens. Don't write the policies for the insurance companies. Tell them which actions are hurting Americans (i.e....denying coverage for pre-existing conditions) and block that.

Add the option of having disaster care. If I want to pay more for basic coverage, so that I can have disaster care, where is that option? I had a horrendous broken arm this year, metal plate, screws. I paid the maximum of my out of pocket cost. I am grateful I had this benefit (I don't have Obamacare, I have individual coverage, but they are married to each other in what/how benefits are paid). But, I am still willing to continue paying co-pays for my doctors visits, co-pays for blood tests and x-rays, and prescription co-pays. Can this be an option that the insurance companies can add? Find a way to add additional options for those willing to pay for them.

And, why can't I change my insurance coverage in the middle of the year? Why do I have to wait for the open enrollment to search for better coverage? Work on this type of restrictions. Make our capital system work.

Start here and make this better.

Matthew 25:35-40 "For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison

and you came to Me.....And the King will answer and say to them "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me."

Keep God in your heart and you will always choose the right path.

Silva Isagolian

Sent from Outlook

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kim Beloin [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:37 AM
To: gchcomments; gchcomments
Subject: Testimony for the Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Graham-Cassidy Bill hearing
Date of hearing: September 25, 2017
Kim S. Beloin, PhD.
[REDACTED]
Grafton, WI 53024

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

I am writing to you regarding our daughters who have disabilities. Over 20 years ago, my husband and I adopted a sibling group of four children from our state's foster care system. Our children came to us with many many needs. We accepted them into our home and family and worked very hard to stabilize them and teach them the skills to be as independent as possible. Our children are all in the 20's now and are doing fairly well given where they came from two decades ago. However, two of our daughters need long-term care supports in order to live semi-independently. Without the long-term care support in place that are funded through Medicaid, these young women would not be healthy working taxpayers.

Our oldest daughter, Melinda, is 27 years old and she is Deaf. Our private health insurance does not cover the costs of Melinda's audiology tests and equipment. It also does not cover costs for speech therapy. According to private health insurers, hearing is not required and is a luxury. Without Medicaid, Melinda would not be able to communicate and therefore would not be able to work at her job at a small business in town. Medicaid also provide transportation for Melinda to get to her place of employment and it provides some job coaching so that Melinda can be successful at her job. Melinda's employer is very happy with Melinda's work performance and Melinda loves her job. She is a contributing member of the economy and a tax payer. I assumed that a major priority was employment for all American citizens. If you vote for the Graham-Cassidy Bill, Melinda will lose her supports to stay employed and to live a healthy and safe life in a shared apartment. Melinda also takes her civic responsibilities seriously and votes in every election. She pays close attention to these issues and how each senator votes.

Our youngest daughter Christa also requires long-term care supports. Without Medicaid funding, Christa would also be far more dependent upon the state and federal government. She currently lives in a shared apartment and contributes to her community. Christa is healthy and safe as long as Medicaid supports are in place for her. Without needed Medicaid supports Christa could not live a semi-independent life.

We did our part over 20 years ago to adopt and support these young women. It is time for you to do your part and provide the Medicaid supports they need to live as independently as possible.

Thank You for your time.

Cordially,

Kim Beloin
Kim S. Beloin



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dianne Berlin [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:37 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I don't understand why you Republicans are trying to keep us poor, keep us uneducated, and most of all, trying to kill us! All health organizations oppose this bill! It will be a disaster for America and all of its people. It must not pass!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Debra DeGroot [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:36 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Senate Finance Committee - Graham-Cassidy Atrocity

I am writing to express my vehement rejection of everything the Graham Cassidy bill would mean for our health care system.

Is Obamacare perfect? Nope. I am currently enrolled in Obamacare because I was "downsized" from my job that had insurance benefits. I was fortunate enough to find another position, but it is part-time for now, so my ONLY choice was Obamacare. Do I like it? It is expensive (compared to what I was paying for my employer-sponsored plan) and of course the benefits aren't nearly as good. But this is the only option I have for now, (and I do not care to pay the "penalty" for not having coverage) as I am too young for Medicare by five years (want the math? Means I'm 60 years old).

Now....last night I heard Barney Frank speak on Bill Mahr's show. He would like to see base age for Medicare dropped to 55. He feels this would be a way to begin our country's overhaul of the health care and health care insurance systems. This would of course be of great benefit to someone like me. It would not be a financial burden to pay for Medicare, and the benefits are far better than my current insurance.

I am an independent voter who finds the Republican "antics" over health care appalling. WTF is wrong with you people? What happened to "working together" – you know – partisanship – for the AMERICAN PEOPLE????? When did it become a "gotta keep my seat at all costs" job? This seems to be the overriding concern of many of the Washington lawmakers in our current political climate. Money, power, greed and self-preservation. Yes, I know it's not just Republicans.....but boy, you guys sure seem to be doing a great job of showing the world how inept and craven you all are.

Trump said he would "drain the swamp". BS – he's done a bang-up job of flooding the swamp. His laser focus is on dismantling everything that our country did in the last eight years under Obama. To what end....for what purpose? Of course, I don't expect him to know the meaning of a "Pyrrhic victory" – perhaps you folks don't know it either, because you're certainly acting like you don't.

I would plead that you search your hearts and souls when you vote on this horrible measure.....but I doubt that it would do any good. It seems that the minute an elected official steps into the Washington bubble, he/she loses his/her mind, heart and soul. Oh, there are a few Republicans that can still find a heartbeat (McCain, Murkowski, Paul, Collins) – but their souls are not directing that decision – their own selfish desires to lay waste to anything Democratic/Obama are. Still, if that's what it takes to defeat this horror, then so be it.

In the end, I understand that my pleas mean nothing to you – that's has been made clear over and over again in the release of the CBO scores on your countless attempts to destroy the modicum health care of millions of Americans. Still, I am asking you today to think carefully about what you're voting on.

Oh, and if that doesn't get to you, perhaps this will – November 2018 is coming, and you had better be ready for the consequences of your actions in this matter, in your behavior in the coming months on matters vital to the citizens of the county, and your continued tolerance of Trump's daily horror show.

Debra DeGroot

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: vanburen@gmail.com on behalf of Benjamin van Buren
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:36 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Why I favor government-provided healthcare

Hello,

While I support protecting people's individual liberties and reducing government spending, I urge you to consider the undeniable fact that government-financed healthcare systems greatly reduce the per capita cost of healthcare. As our representatives, I urge you to be more utilitarian and to bring America to a place where everybody has access to healthcare — not through their employer, but rather through the government. Does the government not exist to protect us?

Sincerely,
Benjamin van Buren

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bryan Cat [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:36 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

This bill will put my life and my future children's life in danger, throw my mentally ill grandma out of her home. Please do not vote for this.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christina Macken [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:34 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Meet Frankie Macken - an ACA success story

This is Frankie Macken. She was born 10 weeks early, on May 7th, 2016.



She is proof that quality healthcare is a matter of life and death.

In 2016, the Affordable Care Act saved her life. The proposed Graham-Cassidy legislation would leave her for dead.

In 2016, our family purchased private insurance through the Affordable Care Act Marketplace because it allowed us to obtain significantly better coverage at a much cheaper price than the options provided by my husband's employer, or by trying to enter the private market ourselves. As a small business owner, my insurance options were very limited until the Affordable Care Act came along.

In my 6th month of pregnancy, I developed serious and rapidly advancing complications, which, if untreated, results in death for both mom and baby. After several days in the hospital, I went into organ failure and Frankie had to be delivered 10 weeks early, arriving weighing 2 3/4 pounds.



My husband and I waited 4 days before we could hold Frankie, and 47 days before we could see her adorable face unobstructed by tubes and wires.



Frankie spent 50 long days in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit before we could bring her home.

Without the quality insurance options available through the Affordable Care Act Marketplace, medical expenses would have easily overwhelmed us at a time we were already overwhelmed by the potential of losing our baby girl. Without the Affordable Care Act:

- My two-week hospital stay would have demanded all of the money we had saved for me to take six months of unpaid maternity leave.
- By Frankie's 8th day in the NICU, we would have exhausted the entirety of our retirement savings in our IRAs and 401k accounts.
- By Day 20, her medical bills would have exceeded the potential amount of money we could recoup from selling our home.
- By Day 25, we would have been forced into medical bankruptcy.

If not for the Affordable Care Act, the preexisting conditions my daughter was born with would have excluded her from future coverage altogether. The \$4,500 per month medication that protects her underdeveloped lungs would have been painfully out of reach, putting her at risk for serious illness and death all over again.

It would be an absolute disgrace if the Affordable Care Act were eliminated. Mothers will die. Beautiful babies will die. Unpredictable medical events will destroy families and their futures.

The Affordable Care Act provided comprehensive and affordable coverage options for my family. The pregnancy complications I experienced were hard to predict, but are common. Other families will experience these complications. It would be an outright travesty for families to lose their babies because our elected representatives decided that ANYTHING was more important than protecting the health and wellbeing of all American families. It is unconscionable that Congress is even considering this alternative, deadly legislation.

Thank you,

Christina and Frankie Macken
Washington, DC

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Christina Macken



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kay Seib [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:34 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect the most vital pieces of the ACA

Hello,

I am a self-employed single mother with a pre-existing condition (seizure disorder). I have to take a medication that retails at over \$800 at my pharmacy. The ACA was a life-saver for me, allowing me to have much more affordable health insurance that paid for my prescription.

I live in Virginia, and as of this coming year we will have no insurance companies participating in the Exchange. Obviously the ACA has flaws and needs improvement.

Repeal it if you must, but please don't wipe away these most basic pieces:

- * the requirement for insurance companies to cover those of us with pre-existing conditions without enormous differences in premium prices
- * the requirement for all insurance to cover basic health screenings and pre-natal care
- * no lifetime limits
- * adequate funding to Medicaid that so many people with disabilities depend on for their health and possibly their lives.

Thank you,
Kay Davenport Seib

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: CONRAD STEINHOFF [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:34 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

I am strongly opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill. It is destructive to providing health insurance coverage to all Americans. It is particularly dangerous to low income Americans who depend on Medicaid. Graham-Cassidy is a money bill, not a health care bill. The motive is all wrong and it produces a destructive outcome, in that millions of citizens will lose coverage or face prohibitively high co-pays. My wife is one of those. Graham-Cassidy would be devastating to her. She would end up without insurance.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Paul Fegan [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:34 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please oppose Graham-Cassidy

My family has never been much for complaining. Yes, there are annoyances in our lives, but we never felt bad enough to bend anyone's ear. I notice on Facebook, Google+ and other social media sites many people complaining about stubbed toes, hangnails, and papercuts. One of my children was diagnosed with Graves' Disease, my youngest has had her intestines removed because of Irritable Bowel Syndrome, my wife has diabetes, and I suffer from hypertension, cholesterol, and I had a stroke a few years ago. With all these problems why do we not parade our misery before the internet?

I could point to our upbringing and champion good parenting, but I think there is one element that helps us with our integrity. We were sure that all our medical concerns would be covered by our insurance! Without that worry, we are able to get on with our lives and be strong in our healthcare goals.

With the new Graham-Cassidy health care bill, our state of Florida stands to lose \$10 million. How can families like mine hope to soldier on through any health crisis when they feel they have to choose between family care and medical care? We implore any who have a voice in this discussion to oppose the repeal of the Affordable Care Act. We ask that it be kept and improved in bipartisan efforts in Congress.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mattie McMaster [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:34 AM
To: gchcomments

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

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy Rogers [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:33 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

It is disgraceful that so many senators and representatives are hell bent on limiting and in many cases eliminating healthcare coverage for over 30 million Americans. Instead of trying to actually find a solution by reaching across the aisle and working with Democratic colleagues, they would rather turn their back and the most vulnerable.

I was hopeful a few weeks ago when we actually saw Republicans start talking to the other side, but I guess I was wrong in thinking that leadership from the Republican side would allow their members to actually do something that was good for all Americans. Republican leadership is more interested in selling the American people a bill of goods (they say one thing a deliver something else). I wonder where integrity has gone (The kind of integrity that three senators demonstrated during the last vote). Why are so many Republicans more interested in pushing an agenda that benefits the rich and special interests at the expense to the weak, the injured, the ill, the elderly? It is truly disheartening to see.

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

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:29 AM
To: gchcomments; Jee, Lauren (Cardin)
Cc: Matthew Celentano; Lauren Herman
Subject: Fw: Fwd: Letter to Senator Cardin in support of the Affordable Care Act and in Opposition to the Graham Cassidy bill
Attachments: GBCONS Ben Carden ACA.docx

Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry

From: Lauren Herman [REDACTED]
Date: Sat, 23 Sep 2017 10:47:20 -0400
To: Vinny DeMarco<demarco@mdinitiative.org>
Subject: Fwd: Letter to Senator Cardin in support of the Affordable Care Act and in Opposition to the Graham Cassidy bill

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Ruth Evans <ruthedevans@msn.com>
Date: Thu, Sep 21, 2017 at 8:57 PM
Subject: RE: Letter to Senator Cardin in support of the Affordable Care Act and in Opposition to the Graham Cassidy bill
To: Lauren Herman [REDACTED]

Lauren,

Here's the letter in support of Ben Cardin's opposition to Graham-Cassidy. It's on our Chapter's letterhead.

Ruth Doerfler Evans

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From: Lauren Herman
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:43 PM
To: ruthedevans@msn.com
Subject: Fwd: Letter to Senator Cardin in support of the Affordable Care Act and in Opposition to the Graham Cassidy bill

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Vinny DeMarco** [REDACTED]
Date: Thu, Sep 21, 2017 at 9:30 AM
Subject: Letter to Senator Cardin in support of the Affordable Care Act and in Opposition to the Graham Cassidy bill
To: Vincent DeMarco [REDACTED]

TO: Maryland Health Care For All! Coalition Leaders

FROM: Vinny DeMarco

As you all know the Republican leadership is trying to ram through the US Senate a terrible proposal called the Graham-Cassidy bill which would gut Medicaid, throw millions of Americans off their health care coverage and costs states billions of dollars in needed revenue (\$2 billion for Maryland). Attached is a great summary of how bad this legislation is done by Community Catalyst. We are very proud that our two terrific Senators, Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen, strongly oppose this measure and strongly support the life-saving Affordable Care Act. We also thank Governor Larry Hogan for joining several other Republican governors in opposing Graham-Cassidy.

On Monday, the US Senate Finance Committee will hold a hearing on Graham-Cassidy. Senator Cardin has asked for letters from key groups like yours in opposition to the measure which he can submit. Attached is the letter which I have submitted. Please send one from your group as soon as you can, and no later than Monday morning, to GCHcomments@finance.senate.gov .

Together we can save and build upon the ACA to achieve our goal of quality, affordable health care for all Marylanders.

Thank you very much!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: michelle cerrito-nazzaro [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:31 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Hello,
I am writing you in regards to the healthcare issue.

First, I'd like to say that I am an independent voter but registered as a republican. I'm telling you this because when I express my views on this issue people always assume that I am a "far left crazy liberal" who can only think along party lines. I have voted for both republican and democrat through the years. I base my vote on the integrity of the person and what I think our country needs at that particular time in history. I am a moderate and a clear thinker.

That being said, I'd like to give my opinion of the healthcare bill being shoved through congress and down our throats. I am ASHAMED and ALARMED by the way the republicans are doing "business" under this administration. From where I sit, which is in the moderate section, I see a totalitarian regime hungry for power and eager to usurp our democracy in the attempt to achieve it.

I have spoken to MANY independents and I can tell you, that the Republican Party has lost a majority of their future votes. I personally, will probably NEVER vote republican again because I am absolutely TRAUMATIZED by their behavior.

This healthcare bill is an example of the degradation of the Republican Party. It hurts MILLIONS of vulnerable Americans who have no means of coverage besides Medicaid. Our elderly, our sick, our disabled, our poor...I need not tell you this because I believe that the republicans who are ramrodding this down the barrel of the gun, know EXACTLY what this bill will do.

Yes, you've heard this all before, and you're rolling your eyes up to heaven as I say it again..."Oh, here we go...another far left crazy liberal", you say. Well, I wasn't labeled a "democrat" before but I can tell you with certainty that if being a "democrat" means loving and taking care of the sick, the elderly, the disabled and the poor, I will proudly wear that title for the rest of my life!

Republicans, I stand with John McCain on this one. We NEED you to set a good example for the rest of the country. We NEED you to go back to "regular order". Reset this country by showing everyone in it a good example!

The majority of this country...I'm talking about the civilians and NOT your donors who are only thinking of their bottom lines, WANT a bipartisan fix to healthcare! One that encompasses everyone, across party lines and including ALL! Fix what is there. Keep the compassionate, human parts of it. Tweak it. Shape it. Name it something else if Obama's name is so offensive to you, the "Unity Plan", the "Togetherness Plan"... whatever! This is about the people of the USA. YOUR people. The people you are supposed to protect and care for! DO YOUR JOBS! This is a bill for HUMANS! Be humans yourself and work together for the benefit of ALL the people not just some.

Thank you, and remember you have loved ones watching you from heaven...

Michelle Cerrito-Nazzaro

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joan Loughran [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:55 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy-Graham health care

Cassidy-Graham plan undercuts GOP's promise to protect those with préexisting conditions - OUTRAGEOUS. Shame on Cassidy for continuing to mislead - LIAR!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Teresa Baker [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:54 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Test

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sonya Freiband [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:55 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

I am a psychologist who works with patients of all walks of life as they deal with their very substantial mental health problems. Often these problems get in the way of productively working, or impact their parenting. Clearly these issues effect our economy as Americans, when workers are disturbed, unable to concentrate or even attend work, and they impact us when the children of unstable or troubled parents cause damage in the next generation. Many of my patients are only able to afford the treatment they need because of the ACA subsidies that allow them to get mental health coverage in the first place. Without it, these patients would have to just fall back on the coping strategies that caused them trouble in the first place, and my practice would end up returning to what it was in the past where I could only treat Peale who could afford treatment in the first place - an elite practice serving only the elite. Please oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill which would damage so many of these earnest people who want to better their lives and the lives of those they touch.

-Sonya Freiband, Ph.D.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chris Varley [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I am a registered voter, covered by health care through my employer. I make enough to fully fund my 401(k) and to tuck the maximum away in my HSA every year. I resent the repeated Republican efforts to gut the current health care law.

Is it perfect? Of course not. But not one of the solutions proposed by the Republican party (of which I once counted myself a member) makes any improvement, and Graham-Cassidy may be the worst yet.

We need to make what we have better, not try to tick the box on a (poorly thought out) promise to "repeal and replace."

A Return To Order is the only way to return order to our country, begin the process of learning from our European, Scandinavian, and Canadian counterparts, and coming up with an American solutions that takes us from worst to first again.

Michael Chris Varley

--

Chris Varley
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Steve [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:54 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No on Graham-Cassidy

To:
The United States Senate
Committee on Finance

Dear Committee Members,

I strongly urge you to vote no on the Graham-Cassidy health care bill.

As a resident of central Illinois, I can tell you first hand that a lot of folks live very much pay check to pay check around here. They have no financial margin in their lives. The health care they have keeps them in a house with food on the table. It's a delicate balance that Obama Care helped stabilize for so many people. It's not perfect. Any set up that still has a profit margin built in for insurance companies on something as basic as people's health and life is bound to be flawed. However, it's a damn sight better than what we had before.

By my way of thinking, Graham-Cassidy represents a great big Federal shrug of the shoulders and a mumbled "not my problem" by elected representatives unwilling to accept responsibility for the health and welfare of the people they represent. Part of why we pay you folks to be our voice in Washington is so you can take the time to really study problems and arrive at solutions that work for everyone—not just the wealthy. You need to take that responsibility seriously. Please have the moral courage to do so even in the face of the loud, the uninformed, the monied and the ill-intentioned.

We can't just hope states don't cut guarantees to people with pre-existing conditions; we can't just hope states don't place lifetime caps on medical cost reimbursements; we can't just hope that millions of people don't lose health care.

In the end, I still believe more of you are in office for the right reasons than not. Dig deep. Do the right thing. Vote against Graham-Cassidy.

Sincerely,
Steve Vaughan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeff Slavin [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Many small business entrepreneurs rely on the exchanges from the Affordable Care Act for their families and to expand their businesses. They can not compete with large corporations that provide large-group health care benefits to potential employees. I worry that small business growth will stagnate if small business owners and employees can not obtain health care insurance on the exchanges. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA — not repeat it. Senators Alexander and Murray are presently working towards such a goal. The Graham-Cassidy bill would set back those efforts. Thank you. — Carolyn Slavin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ellen Furnari <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I donated a kidney and now might be denied health insurance

I am 62 years old. I donated a kidney to someone in my faith community 8 years ago. Under the current health care bill being considered, I can be denied health coverage. Or my insurance rates could go up enormously. Or both. Though I am overall healthy, I depend on affordable health insurance to cover me, should I have any medical needs. As a self employed researcher, I do not have insurance through an employer.

Please do not do anything that will decrease coverage and dramatically increase costs, for employed contributing members of our economy, let alone those who are most vulnerable and needy. I would like to see bi-partisan efforts to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Ellen Furnari

--
Ellen Furnari, MSW PhD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sally Welsh [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:50 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO. GC is a travesty

So few principled Republicans are left. This is worst example of dirty politics. Repair ACA instead of destroying. A bipartisan bill can happen if Republicans stop being cowards, running scared from big donors. Look at the polls of voters now on health care. Aren't they more important than your rich donors? Or not....

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Andrea Venezia [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:50 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose attempt to repeal ACA

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

If Graham-Cassidy becomes the law of the land, those who voted for it will be responsible for the deaths of millions of people in this country. It will be more effective at killing Americans than a terrorist attack. And that is what the history books will write about Graham-Cassidy if it becomes law. A change like this requires rigorous analysis by an impartial entity. That has not occurred.

Sincerely,

Andrea Venezia

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Spring Garrett [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repair not Replace

Please do not pass the Graham Cassidy bill. It clearly is not going to help our people but will hurt them dearly.

My teenage daughter has the misfortune to have chronic physical and mental illnesses. There are no cures for these but with medicine and therapy she can live a productive life. She may not have the ability to get healthcare if this bill passes. She will be at risk for homelessness and addiction when she is an adult with no decent insurance. She has a lot to offer our country. Please don't waste one precious soul.

Fix the ACA so we can all rest easy and stop being terrified of the future.

Sincerely, Spring Garrett

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: kimberly sturdivant [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

This health care repeal bill for the country is inhumane.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ginger Inness [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:38 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Bill

As a nurse, this bill will not only hurt patients, but will send hospitals, clinics, and doctors offices into a tailspin. On a personal note, my brother, Larry Inness, back in 2009, was dx with Melanoma Cancer. Larry worked as a sanitation driver. He had ins. Larry, post surgery, began tx. The Melanoma spread. Larry's only hope for a remission, was a drug called Interlukin 2. Ins. refused to pay. We couldn't get additional ins due to his pre existing condition. Yale wanted 900.00 wkly to start tx. We are low- middle income. I wrote, pleading, with Yale. Answer.. "We are not a charity". 3 months before the ACA was passed by the Senate, Larry died. He died paralyzed from the waist down, and in tremendous pain. Had the ACA been in effect during Larry's illness, he would have received the Intelukin.. We found out, very painfully, ACCESSIBLE DOES NOT MEAN AFFORDABLE! Telling the public anything else is a lie that will cost lives.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carrie Hull [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:37 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: fix what's there instead of starting all over

To Whom it May Concern,

Americans have spoken. Over and over again, we've said that we want health care, we want better health care for all of us. Yet, somehow, Congress seems to keep ignoring that message.

So here it is again. Don't scrap everything and try to start all over, because none of you can debate about this bill in a way that proves you REALLY know health care. Jimmy Kimmel, a comedian, totally won the most recent debate.

Fix it. Make the ACA better. Stop calling it Obamacare in some belligerent teenage way, and just get to work. Do your jobs of being public servants for the American people. Because that is your job; your job is not merely reelection.

Roll up your sleeves, swallow your pride or whatever is keeping you from just helping your country, and get to work.

Sincerely,
Carrie Chauhan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mark Heffernan [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:36 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please don't repeal the Affordable Care Act

Dear Senators,

Please resist the commercial and political pressures you face to repeal the Affordable Care Act. The repeal of this Act will cause unrecoverable harm to millions of Americans. None of you will want to be responsible for the damage it will cause.

Sincerely,
Mark Heffernan

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cathy Lundquist [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:36 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fwd: Health Care

Begin forwarded message:

From: Cathy Lundquist [REDACTED] >
Date: September 22, 2017 8:57:07 PM CDT
To: GCHcomment@finance.senate.gov
Subject: Health Care

To whom it my concern:

I respectfully request that you stop this ridiculous effort to repeal and replace the ACA. Every healthcare organization in the country is against repeal. There is no CBO score. Have you even read the bill? Have you thought about the impact on your constituents? You were hired by the American people to do a job. That job is to do your best for the people that gave you the honor of their vote. Taking healthcare away from millions is not doing that job. Allowing the states to decide if preexisting conditions are covered, is not doing that job. How many hospitals and nursing homes in your district are primarily funded by Medicaid? It is time to work together with the Democrats to improve the ACA not repeal it. You have had over seven years to come up with a better idea and have failed to do so. Not to mention all the time and our money that you have wasted. Your effort to repeal is fueled by pure spite.

Barack Obama was an excellent president for eight years. No amount of repealing the good work that he did will ever change that fact.

Thank you for your time,

Cathy Lundquist

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jerrie Lindsey [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:35 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy health care bill

Dear Senators,

I guess it is appropriate for a hearing to be held in the finance committee for The Graham-Cassidy "health" care bill. It's purpose after all is to eliminate so much spending on health care that the next priority of Republicans - large tax cuts for wealthy Americans - can be justified.

The problems are the tens of millions of Americans who will be injured or die in the process. Eliminating or capping Medicaid coverage, no coverage for pre-existing conditions, etc. will doom my severely autistic niece and financially ruin her whole family even though we will all struggle to help her. They are just a small group of victims. Tens of millions of other disabled and elderly will go along with her.

The health care and insurance industries, physicians organizations, faith community leaders and the majority of United States citizens are arrayed against this bill. It is immoral and tears at the fabric of our country. It also tears down rather than builds up the economic health and productivity of our citizens.

The bill is so bad with so many against it that is is puzzling that Republicans would fight so hard to keep at this. Until you realize that the promises that they are concerned about keeping were not to their base but to the small group of wealthy oligarchs who support them. It is a shame.

Sincerely,

Jerrie Lindsey

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jan Mura [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:35 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

All members of Congress and their families should have the same Healthcare as the rest of USA. If you vote for Graham-Cassidy and it passes all of Congress should have it as well. G-C is terrible. So many RESPECTED organizations and individuals in record numbers are coming out against it. To many will lose their Healthcare including the neediest among us. Sending Healthcare back to the states to implement and then offering special deals to Alaska and Hawaii to keep Obamacare just to win is really a crime against the people of the USA. If Obamacare is good enough for them it is good enough for everyone - a truly devious way for the Republicans to go for win to impress their wealthy backers.

I can not support something so hurtful to this country. If you were elected to serve this country - serve everyone!!! Try a Bipartisan approach to fix Obamacare!

Please vote no for Graham -Cassidy.

Thank you.

Jan Mura

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christine Doss [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:34 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

The G-C bill is an abomination and should not even be considered. My medically fragile granddaughter would lose the services she needs to stay alive. Pre-existing conditions and caps will destroy millions of families. The US should join the rest of the world and have healthcare for all of its citizens.

Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Deborah Spitz [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:33 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham-Cassidy

Members of the 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.

Deborah Spitz MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Andrea Levario [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:31 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Jurinka, Elizabeth (Finance)
Subject: Human Rights Campaign Letter Opposing Graham-Cassidy
Attachments: HRC Letter Oppose Graham Cassidy.pdf

Liz,

The Human Rights Campaign is pleased to share the attached letter expressing our views on the Graham-Cassidy proposal on behalf of our over 2 million members and supporters.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

Andrea

--
Andrea Levario
Senior Public Policy Advocate | Human Rights Campaign
Office [REDACTED] | Cell [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dan Svirsky [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:31 AM
To: gchcomments

Hello,
I would like this read into the record during the hearing on the Graham-Cassidy Act.

My name is Daniel Svirsky. I am a United States citizen living in Watertown, Massachusetts. I urge senators to vote against this bill. It was cause a massive disruption to the health care system. The most vulnerable of us -- children, people with disabilities, the elderly -- will suffer. Please consider the pain and misery this bill will cause and vote against it.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Betty Golembeski <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:31 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE NO!

For people with preexisting conditions, having to worry about health care insurance, is just one more battle to bear. Older people, living on a limited income, also should not have to worry about paying for health care. Most people realize that the main reason this vote is taking place is because so many legislators cannot stand to have the name Obama on anything. Please look into your hearts and NOT your reelection and VOTE NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: MARILYN SCOTT [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:32 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: affordable healthcare

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beth Kaplan Strong [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:31 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: public testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing

Hello,

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

Please vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Sincerely,

Beth Kaplan Strong

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Thomas Fielder [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:54 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

It is difficult to comprehend a world in which the elected representatives of the wealthiest nation are on the brink of deciding that it is not feasible to continue subsidizing the healthcare insurance of millions of its poorest citizens. And not only that, but to not even *consider* doing what dozens of other less wealthy nations have been doing for decades: providing reasonably priced healthcare to all of their citizens. And yet these same representatives, only a few days ago, almost unanimously agreed that our nation *can* afford to increase its spending for weapons, soldiers, and war-making to a level that exceeds the combined outlay of the next 12 nations with the highest military budgets. How is it possible that these two decisions could be reconciled in any sane person's mind?

I am the parent of a child who suffers from several severe medical conditions, including inflammatory bowel disease and hyper-coagulation. The passage of the Graham-Cassidy bill could very well directly endanger my child's life, and the lives of millions of other people in similar circumstances. Yet the people who control the US Senate have decided that this piece of legislation does not deserve the usual amount of discussion within their ranks, nor the weighing of input from healthcare experts and all of the professionals who work in the field of healthcare. How can this be? How can they possibly justify such sweeping changes, whose consequences will be felt for decades by millions of citizens, without fully debating, or even *estimating* those consequences?

It is indeed difficult to comprehend.

Thomas J. Fielder
US citizen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lori Moore <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony for Graham Cassidy Bill
Attachments: ACA story.docx

Please submit my testimony for the upcoming hearing

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

- Title Of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
- Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017
- Lori Moore
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] WI 53221

I implore you to vote NO on the Repeal of ACA. There are changes needed, but to dismantle the whole system would be catastrophic to the most vulnerable of U.S. Citizens, elderly, disabled, vets, pre-existing patients as myself. Fix ACA instead. I have experienced 30 years in the medical system handling issues such as chronic pain, fibromyalgia, TMJ, degenerative disc disease, Aortic Dissection, Thyroid Cancer, Sleep Apnea, Trigeminal Neuralgia, etc. I've been a patient to many Doctors, Insurance Companies, and Pharmaceutical Companies. I have seen what our health care was, compared to now. From HMO's to PPO's, etc. I've spent 30 years as a guinea pig for them as they tried to treat me best they could. I have various chronic health care conditions and I did not ask for them, or cause them to myself. I have been working full time since I've been 17, so for almost 30 years. I have had 3 cervical fusion neck surgeries due to degenerative disc disease and have extreme pain in my neck and shoulders constantly. Most of my neck is fused together with rods, screws and plates. I've had 1/2 my thyroid out from thyroid cancer. I've had a hysterectomy. I've had brain surgery. They drilled a hole in my skull to put a sponge between an artery and nerve due to Trigeminal Neuralgia (nicknamed the suicide disease, as you can guess why. The pain makes patients think they have no other solution but suicide). Unfortunately that surgery was not successful so I am left with permanent facial nerve damage (similar to phantom limb pain) and loose screws in my skull. The right side of my face, mouth, teeth, tongue, chin, forehead, eye is numb. It's like a dentist put in nova cane and my face is frozen. But the worst part, numb on the inside, but the nerve is hypersensitive on the outside. I can't even have air touch my face because I have a constant feeling of electrical current running in my face, or bugs constantly crawling there, also feels like someone is spraying canned air in my mouth, freezer burnt. My surgeon was arrested and lost his license a week after my surgery for health insurance fraud. I've been out of state to other surgeons who tell me there is nothing they can do. I can try another brain surgery where they will implant a deep brain stimulator but there is no guarantee. I will live with this facial pain until the day I die, which almost happened a year later.

The other major, absolutely incredible thing about me is I survived an aortic dissection. That is quite rare, %15 rare in fact. Due to the quick AND ACCURATE attention by medical staff, and my sisters hurry to get me to the hospital, I survived. I'm being told it's a miracle, I'm a miracle. So I have a deep passion for health care for U.S. citizens, as you can imagine. I have seen the best and worst of it. After 3 years of asking why my life was saved, I know now. To fight for our health care.

Now, if you repeal ACA I will be uninsurable. I already am uninsurable as I've been denied over and over again. I still live with the aortic dissection as they can't repair Type B, they only repaired my Type A. In order to live I need constant CT scans, Echo Cardiograms, medications, etc. No joke, My aorta will re-rip and I will die if it does. If I lose access to health care you will be sentencing me to death. Why did I survive death, only to have the necessary care taken away from me. Currently I am working and have employer insurance, but I'm coming to a point where I won't be able to work much longer.

This is my REAL life, the life of your constituents, many of us. Please work FOR us and not against us. I have never wanted anything for free. As I stated I've been working full time since age 17. Had an 18 year career with a huge Wisconsin bank that I had to give up due to my health. Now I work for my Clerk of Courts and it's not much easier. I have lost so much due to my health and I didn't ask for a life battling my body, but I fight to work and support my family. I see a time I will need assistance, and all these programs I've paid into as a taxpayer should be available for me when I need them too. My faith has gotten me through so much. This is only a summary of what I've been through with my health, a short summary. I just wanted to give you

an idea of the people that will be affected if ACA is repealed and we are left with horrible, mean, harsh, and uncaring solutions, if any solution at all!

Please take a bipartisan approach and do what's best for the US citizens, not Insurance & Pharmacy companies. If they are pulling out of states, they need to be held accountable. Drug companies are making billions off the misfortune of others. That's what needs to be fixed. Not the ACA.

I can't write 30 years of what I've been through without writing a book series, honestly. And I for sure can't see me applying for an insurance plan if I lost my job. I can't even obtain short term disability at my employer. I do not qualify, nor do I qualify through my insurance agent for different coverages we've tried.

Please take the opinions of real people who's lives will be impacted into account. Our voices need to be heard.

I will die without access to health care as I need constant medical scans and medications to live. It's literally a death sentence to repeal ACA to many of us. Don't our lives matter?

Thank you for your time

Lori Moore

09/22/2017

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Sent from my iPhone please vote this bill done. It is such a bad bill, pre existing conditions are not covered, p pole will lose their coverage.
Barbara Cangelosi

=====

Lisa Rampton Halverson, Ph.D.

[REDACTED]

Joy is the holy fire that keeps our purpose warm
and our intelligence aglow.

-- Helen Keller

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Deborah Peterson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

To whom it may concern,

My husband and I completely rely on affordable access to quality healthcare, and believe everyone should have that ability. I therefore OPPOSE the Graham-Cassidy bill and urge everyone to do the same. Despite being an active runner and healthy eater, I developed colon cancer at the early age of 43. It's hereditary in my case and I was only caught through early screening. I had surgery which removed my colon but I'm still at a much higher risk, and need regular monitoring and screenings.

The belief that good habits, or money, should determine who gets healthcare is absurd. And punishing states that tried to do their best for their constituents, the ENTIRE purpose of your elected position is even more absurd.

I oppose any attempt to undermine my right to healthcare and I oppose Graham-Cassidy.

Very sincerely,

Deborah Peterson

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jo Ann Bowes [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

Jo Ann Bowes

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judith A Spak [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy hearing

Stop this bill from even being voted on .

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mariposa Calavera <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham-Cassidy Bill & Me

Esteemed Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I, an active & voting citizen of the United States, want to tell you a very short reason why I need you all to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill (HR 1628).

When I was in High School and early college, I was active in theatre and sports - I was healthy and in-shape, and yet, suddenly my reproductive system started going haywire. My menstrual cycle became sporadic, and suddenly I was hemorrhaging enough for a few trips to the emergency room in College. Luckily, I was covered - not by my parents (one who was a homemaker that married when she was 15, and another who was construction worker who could go months between jobs) - but by my college, who had health services available to us just by being students there. I was grateful for that and because of that I was able to start treatment.

Sadly, many of the doctors I went to couldn't figure out what was wrong with me and had to drop out of school. That meant I lost coverage. Again.

My illness was debilitating...when you're bleeding 9 days out of 10, anemic and have no health insurance, you do what you can. I had a part time job (It was impossible for me to do full time - there was literally no way), at the least, and there were days I could barely function - my brain was in an anemic fog, regardless of the iron supplements i took. When my boyfriend and I moved to San Mateo, California, for his job, I couldn't believe that the county had a medical coverage plan for people who had low or no incomes. Even though my boyfriend and I were long term (We've been together since I was 18 - 21 years so far) at the time, he could not get coverage for me through his work. So, I went an applied for the San Mateo ACE program - only paying a \$250 yearly "deductable", and finally, was able to see a doctor. Most co-pays were \$10, and some prescriptions were a little more, but THAT I could handle. I don't mind paying for my healthcare when it's reasonable and won't bankrupt me.

And even though this was a county hospital - and I expected to get low quality care - I was astounded to get some of the most compassionate, thorough medical care I have ever gotten - even NOW when I am on a "real" insurance plan. In the end, my medical illness did not bankrupt me, even though I had to have surgery, thanks to the ACE program, and I have since gone on to get a degree in Marine Science, volunteered at local aquariums and worked at museums.

If i had been denied reasonably priced health care because I had a "pre-existing" condition - or had they increased the prices because of this condition - I wouldn't be here today. One doctor I had seen early on had told me - "if you keep bleeding like this, you may one day have a hemmorrhage we can't save you from" - which I think about often when I hear about the debates on health care in our political arena. I wouldn't be here or be able to teach children about the wonders of the ocean - I wouldn't be here to instruct about technology - but more importantly, my one precious life would have been snuffed out by the greedy insurance system.

I am so lucky now to be covered right now by a reasonable plan - it's not perfect, and I'm not rich - so a really bad future problem could really hurt us - but it's *SOMETHING*. It's like having a warn-out safety net, but you know what? I don't take that net for granted. But, my boyfriend also has a decent job. What about everyone else who isn't as lucky as I am?

Someday, maybe if Republicans can pull their collective heads out of the pockets of the Kochs' or the Mercers and stops trying to repeal the ACA, we might be able to have a better healthcare system that actually respects the lives of citizens of this country. We can FIX it, and YOU can fix it. But not we repeatedly disrespect the lives of the citizens of this country the way the Republicans have been for the last 10 plus years.

The Shakespearian play Hamlet said it best: "Something is rotten in the state of Denmark" - which can be easily be applicable to us here in the United States. If our body politic is dying, rotting - do something to save it instead of doing it more harm. Be the immune system, not the knife.

I respect your jobs worrying about the financial situation of this country, but if you spend your time worrying too much about money and less about the people, there's only terrible things ahead of us.

Be human, be compassionate & please for the love of everything American, take care of us - THAT is your mandate.

Sincerely,
Margaret Astorga

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elizabeth Mulheisen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose Graham-Cassidy!

I just wanted to email to let you know I am opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill and I hope you will say NO as well.

Thank you,
Elizabeth Mulheisen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cheryl Westmont <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Sir/ Madam,

My family purchases individual healthcare through ACA and depend on it for our healthcare. Because of this, we oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My family has pre-existing conditions and this bill would throw us in a high risk pool with high deductibles and high cost. We would like to see more affordable healthcare and hope to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve ACA not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Cheryl, Clark, Taylor & Jessica Westmont

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Phyllis Banucci <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO Graham- Cassidy bill

My parents are elderly and will soon need nursing home care. They rely on quality, affordable nursing care through Medicaid and some Medicare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. The Graham-Cassidy bill appears to put funding for Medicaid at risk in Arizona where they live. I do not trust that our state government will use block grants to keep Medicaid funded at present levels. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Pat Banucci

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eliza Manriquez <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

As the parent of a 19 year old with a pre-existing condition, a chronic, progressive form of juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, I implore the US senate to NOT pass the Graham Cassidy bill. Those with pre-existing conditions need to be protected, and not left to the vagaries of the insurance industry. There are 300,000 children in the US with some form of juvenile arthritis. This is not the same disease as that which afflicts most people as they age. It is not merely a little pain in the joints. These children will have arthritis for the rest of their lives, and should not be put at risk of losing their insurance, or having uncontrolled premium increases just because they are unlucky enough to have arthritis.

My child was diagnosed 5 years ago, and has been on over 20 different medications to try to slow the damage caused by her arthritis. Many of these medications cost thousands of dollars each month, with the most expensive she has used costing over \$30,000 per month. My child has also needed extensive physical therapy, diagnostic tests, lab tests to assure the medications were not causing harm, and has required a wheelchair and other equipment, as well as a service dog. Juvenile arthritis is a very serious, potentially deadly, disease. And it is only one of thousands of pre-existing conditions which would be jeopardized by the Graham Cassidy bill.

Please do what is right and protect the most vulnerable among us. Please protect my child's right to be as healthy as her disease allows by assuring that she will continue to have access to affordable insurance.

Respectfully,

Eliza Manriquez
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Debra Billard <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose Graham-Cassidy

My father was a WWII veteran whose plane was shot down over the South China Sea. He had a stroke in 2014 and without Medicaid he could not have afforded nursing home care. My stepdaughter's third child was born prematurely and with a collapsed lung. Without Medicaid he would have died. I myself received medical care from Planned Parenthood when I was a young student without insurance. Please do not let this cruel and horrible bill pass!

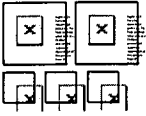
Sincerely,
Debra Billard

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: William Vayens <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: For The Record

How about cancelling your own health care too???





Read the Blog:
[PITH + VIGOR](#) - Ideas and Inspiration for Garden Makers and Landscape Lovers.



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rochelle Greayer [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Trumpcare Crap

Dear Senators,

My family and just about every person in this country relies on quality, affordable healthcare. I am sick of the games that you are playing with our lives and I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

While my family has coverage now - I know that at any time we could become in need due to loss or change of jobs, and this bill puts us all in jeopardy. In fact, 10 years ago after living abroad, as expats, my husband and I wished to return home to the United States. We were young, healthy, and able to pay for insurance. We had been covered by private insurance though our jobs the entire time we lived out of country - but because they weren't in US jobs and we weren't covered covered by US insurance - we were unable to obtain healthcare coverage (COBRA not allowed - International coverage not considered as continuous coverage).

I was pregnant with our first child and the pregnancy was viewed by all insurers as a pre-existing condition. The expense of delivering a baby in the USA was huge and ultimately we opted to re-commit to our lives and community as expats - we didn't come home - singularly because of our inability to secure health insurance. We were sad that our child had to be born in the UK - but in the end realized that it was a blessing in disguise. We have since moved back (our second child was born in the USA) and not only have we learned first hand that our healthcare system is way overpriced, but it is not nearly as good as other countries (particularly as related to pre-natal and maternal care). This is a national embarrassment and this bill will make it even worse.

My husband and I are smart, highly educated, people. We are high income earning tax payers. We are innovators in our industries and we entrepreneurial. We are not the type of people that the USA wants to push away (whether we are citizens or not). But I assure you that people like us will leave if this country and move elsewhere if we do not start acting like the leaders we like to say we are.

Not knowing what is in the bill and not taking the time to get bipartisan agreement is irresponsible and reckless.

I am tired of Congresspeople voting for things that do not effect them - your privileged status with congressional medical coverage is insulting and apparently leaves many of you hopeless to empathize with regular people.

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

Sincerely,

Rochelle Greayer

--
Rochelle Greayer
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Denise Sellhausen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GrahamCassidy hearing

With all do respect. VOTE NO on GrahamCassidy hearing - our Health Care is that important! We deserve better!!!!

Best Regards,

Denise Sellhausen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jane Grillo [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO MEDICAID CUTS/CAPS No to Graham Cassidy

I honestly can't believe that families like mine are forced to fight for our lives for the THIRD TIME. Nothing has changed for us, and yet, here we are once again pleading to be heard about the calamity that imposed Medicaid cuts in this latest version (Graham Cassidy) would create for my family.

My husband and I work hard. We are homeowners. We vote. We are active in our community and work hard to make it a place where people with and without disabilities can thrive.

We both work full time and I have insurance with my job as a parent mentor for [REDACTED] working with families of children who receive special education services (most of whom receive Medicaid by the way). My son Joe is 16 and has spastic quad Cerebral Palsy and a seizure disorder. My son has to have Medicaid because of the costs of his medication, therapies, equipment and other support services (specifically, caregiver services, so that my husband and I can work since my son cannot take care of himself after school and there are no programs who serve people with severe disabilities).

Without Medicaid we would have had to find a way to pay for the new \$7,000 wheelchair that our insurance paid a whopping \$700 for. Without Medicaid, Joe's prescriptions would eat up my entire monthly salary and there would be nothing left to pay for his caregiver so I can keep my job.

This is untenable, unimaginable and just plain unfair.

Jane Grillo Parent [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: ginger [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

- >
- > I keep trying to figure out when I lost my country because my country would never put the health and even life of Americans in jeopardy just to give rich donors more money or because they did not like a Black man ever being President or because they fear for their own job above all else, or because they really do not support the majority rule of the constitution(33% is never a majority). My America would never sabotage a better but not perfect health care plan for a disastrous one just because party became more important than country somewhere along the way.
- > No my country would never do any of this but I did not move so you must have.
- > And in case you care, I am white and I have voted for Democrats and Republicans.
- > Please do not pass this bill, it creates the real death panels.
- >
- > Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jan Kessel [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I will be 64 in 2020...

I will be 64 in 2020, the year your disgusting, cruel plan will be in effect.

I have 2 preexisting conditions:

- 1) **I am a breast cancer survivor**, from 2010.
- 2) I have recently diagnosed type 2 diabetes.

I am a small business entrepreneur, I have owned by business since 1989. I purchase my insurance on the individual market, through the health exchange that my state, Washington, set up.

I currently do receive a tax credit.

If preexisting condition protection is waived I will be completely screwed. I will not be able to afford the premium.

Already premiums are expected to rise 20% for 2018, because trump has created so much uncertainty in the markets.

I think it is shameful that a majority in congress has embraced trump, and the policies republicans are trying to shove down everyones' throat without the due process of congress. McCain is right.

Congress needs to remember the principles of democracy, that our country was founded on. History will not be kind to it's telling of your iteration in congress. You are sell outs for greed.

DO THE RIGHT THING. VOTE NO ON GRAHAM CASSIDY.

Thank you

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: School Email [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy ACA repeal

Americans rely on affordable, quality healthcare. Repealing the ACA threatens the healthcare of millions of people, especially women, and more specifically, poor women, by decimating Medicaid, defunding Planned Parenthood, slashing federal support that helps women afford healthcare services and coverage and eliminating the ACA's guarantee of vital coverage that addresses women's health needs - maternity care and those with pre-existing conditions. We would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jill Calian <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Plea from a Parent: Reject the Graham-Cassidy Plan

To the Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I write to you as the parent of a 16-year old son with Williams Syndrome, a rare genetic disorder that is characterized by medical problems, including cardiovascular disease, developmental delays, and learning challenges, especially in the area of math/spatial abilities. Interestingly, these challenges often occur side by side with striking verbal abilities, highly social personalities and an affinity for music. Thus, although my son has a multitude of medical issues and cannot add within 20, he lights up a room with his friendliness, joie de vie and musicality.

For all our son's difficulties, including behavioral issues, he is a source of tremendous joy in our family. And he is the reason that I became a special education attorney as well as a committed parent advocate and activist for the interests of children and adults with disabilities.

In your hands rests the most important decision for children like my son, but also for people with disabilities in all circumstances: whether or not to vote for the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

I write to ask you to oppose this bill, but not because I believe that the Affordable Care Act is a perfect example of health care legislation. Far from it—I believe that the ACA can, and should, be reformed and improved upon if people of good will and conscience come together to work sincerely to do so. It would be a tragedy to see this good, if slightly flawed, legislation undermined or jettisoned entirely.

I ask you to oppose this bill because it will decimate Medicaid, the single most important health insurance program for children and adults with disabilities in our country.

I ask you to oppose the bill because it will also threaten the health insurance stability—and access to critical care and supports—of all people with chronic illness and disability who currently have private insurance.

Because the ACA requires that—no matter what pre-existing condition our children have—they have access to health insurance, our families do not face the impossible financial burdens that their medical bills would otherwise cause. Should the states be left with the option to be waived—or to waive insurers—from this requirement, many of our children and their families would be faced with terrible choices and outcomes.

The ACA and a stable Medicaid system have given many families I know peace of mind—release from the constant anxiety about whether the next procedure, or the next piece of equipment, or the next critical therapy, will be accessible to our beautiful, loved children (whether little ones, or adults). Instead of managing this worry, we can concentrate on our children and their well-being.

Across the country, Medicaid keeps children with profound disabilities in their homes, with their families, rather than in nursing homes. It allows parents to maintain their employment and contribute to society because our children are able to receive the supports they need for healthy home and school care. It offers important secondary insurance to fill the gaps left by inadequate private insurance.

In my state of Illinois, the projections suggest that in 2020, we are looking at an 11 percent cut to Medicaid reimbursements to hospitals and other medical providers; by 2030, that number is 34 percent.

Such cuts would be devastate the children's hospitals where medically-complex children, like ours, receive their specialist and primary care from neurologists, neurosurgeons, gastroenterologists, orthopedists, ophthalmologists, and therapists.

Fully 50 percent of our hospital's patient population relies on Medicaid, and thus, the hospital's ability to provide care for ALL children is directly linked to a robust, healthy system of Medicaid for our most vulnerable children.

The Graham-Cassidy plan to "equalize" Medicaid funding across the states who wisely expanded it under the ACA, and those who cruelly prevented their citizens from getting those benefits is really just stealing from Peter to pay Paul—and we know that this is a terrible way to invest in anything that is meaningful. For governors who refused to

participate under the ACA to now take that funding out of the hand of children in another state under the name of "repeal" is grossly unjust.

It is nothing more than a political shell game, and our children's lives are worth more than that.

There is work to do to make the ACA better, to make insurance and pharmaceuticals more affordable, to improve the efficiency of our systems. But this does not require us to act inhumanely, or to fly in the face of what we know to be the honest, good gain made under the ACA.

My son may not be your constituent, but today, all Americans are your constituents.

Please, think long and hard about what a vote to repeal the ACA and to block-grant and reduce Medicaid would mean for the most vulnerable of your fellow citizens and their families.

I urge you to imagine the greatest good that could be achieved here instead if you put people first, and ideology and foolhardy campaign promises to the side.

I ask you to reflect on the simple question, "What if this was my child?" and then vote "No" on the Graham-Cassidy.

Sincerely,

Jill Calian

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Connie Stalf [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

To the Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Regarding the Graham-Cassidy Bill currently being considered: I urge you not to support passage of this bill. If passed, it will negatively impact millions of Americans, myself included.

I am a 59 year old woman. I took an early retirement from a life long career in the airline industry, only to have the company renege on their promise to provide retiree health benefits. I currently work 2 part-time jobs, at non-profit organizations, neither of which offer any type of health insurance benefits and only pay slightly above minimum wage. Despite this, they are both jobs that I love and I feel are very rewarding. The work allows me to contribute to the community and fulfill that "pursuit of happiness" goal that Thomas Jefferson spoke of in the Declaration of Independence. (Or is that only intended for the 1% in this country now days?) I am able to afford health insurance only because I receive a small tax credit under the provisions of the Affordable Care Act.

If Graham-Cassidy passes I will lose that credit and be priced out of the insurance market. I will have to give up my current jobs and hope that I can find another job (at my age) in a company that might still offer health benefits. Although, since Graham-Cassidy does away with the employer mandate, that may not even be an option for me.

Besides the fact that I may not be able to find employment that does offer insurance, I worry about how I will ever afford market rates if this bill passes because of several pre-existing conditions and my age, which are factors that the insurance industry would be able to use against me in setting what rates they could charge.

My personal worries are actually minor when I consider others who would be devastated by this bill. People with life threatening diseases, or sick children, or the elderly...people who are older and poorer than me. The very idea that the GOP is once again trying to ram a bill through Congress that will hurt so many people is disgusting. Please reconsider how many people will be hurt and work to improve healthcare in this country, not destroy it.

Thank you,

Connie Stalf
zip code 41076

Sent from Windows Mail

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sandra Tizzard <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Vote

The constitution guarantees us the rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. There is a reason why life comes first. It's the most important right and this legislation would take this right away from millions of Americans who's only crime is having a preexisting condition.

It should be unconstitutional for our politicians to take this right away from millions of Americans while selfishly keeping it for themselves.

Like millions of other Americans I am going to be watching this very carefully and I won't forget how each and every senator and congressman votes on this issue.

Sincerely,

Sandi Tizzard

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dawn Cannon [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators,

I am writing today to ask you to vote no on the Graham-Cassidy bill. This is not a partisan plea on my part. I have voted on both sides of the aisle. The smart play would be to slow down and pass a bill you can defend and be proud of. If this bill passes as is, you may be able to say you repealed the ACA, but will Americans with preexisting conditions be able to afford care? Will vulnerable kids like the "little lobbyists" be protected? Will veterans have access to the medicaid they rely on? Will premiums be out of reach for the middle class? Will you be able to go home to your districts and hold your head high? Will you be able to defend your vote when the full CBO score comes out?

If you are in doubt of any of these questions, you must vote no. I'm urging you to stand with John McCain and have the courage to say no to a bill that will punish so many. Each one of you can be a hero if you step away from the September 30th deadline and put in the hard work to make a better plan. I am counting on you. My dad who is a veteran, a cancer survivor, and a senior citizen is counting on you. Please don't let us down.

Sincerely,
Dawn Cannon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joan McGrath [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.

Joan McGrath
[REDACTED]

Franklin , 02038

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dyscay [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: the Graham-Cassidy bill

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Debra Smith and I am writing you to tell you how my health was affected and saved by the provisions set by the Affordable Care Act. My story starts when I was a child. I was in and out of doctors' offices, hospitals, clinics etc.. My mom was a divorced woman who suffered from spousal abuse. She left my dad in the middle of the night with four small kids behind her. The job she had paid less than \$1.70/hr. And because of my illnesses she had to apply for Medicaid. During my childhood I suffered from viral meningitis, severe nose bleeds, broken and sprained ankles, dislocated hips, which caused me to miss sixth grade. Most kids first surgery is a tonsillectomy mine was four hip surgeries. This put me in the pre-existing status before I was out of high school. As I became an adult I was diagnosed with diabetes, high blood pressure, severe arthritis and several other illnesses. Because of my health issues, by 2013 I was close to my lifetime Insurance maximum.

At age 49 I had my third joint replacement, which became infected resulting in me losing my \$64,000 a year job and health insurance. I had just started that job and less than three weeks later I was unemployed and paying over \$700.00 a month for Cobra insurance from my previous job. I used all my savings, returned my car, almost lost my house because of this illness.

I am a Christian and prayed to God for help. And all at once there was President Obama and the ACA. The ACA took away the worries of the pre-existing condition, the life time caps and other things that sick people worry about. It provided me with affordable health insurance, but not just insurance but better insurance than what I had before. Since then I have had more surgeries, with more to come. I had several infections, kidney disease due to the drugs used to treat the infections, home IV drugs and on, and on, and on. So my health journey is far from over.

So my point is this I and many others like me face health issues that Graham and Cassidy and the others who support this bill probably will not face. I am asking you to please don't look at it as a political issue, or a Democrat versus Republican issue or a "we need a win" issue but a human issue. A life saving issue. Is that dramatic? Maybe, but to people who are ill it isn't, it is a fact. A fact we live with everyday. My life was saved by God and Him using the provisions set by the ACA. I am praying and asking you to do the right thing. Thank you Sincerely Debra Smith

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tamra Salvatore [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham Cassidy bill

I strongly oppose the Graham Cassidy bill- as a pediatrician for over 25 years, I am a witness to the benefits of healthcare for our most vulnerable. Children who are healthy, vaccinated, and thriving help all of our community. Their parents can be at work, the ERs are not bogged down by uninsured seeking crisis medical care, cancers are diagnosed earlier, and school children are healthier.

Do not accept less for Americans. Say NO to Graham Cassidy Bill.

Tamra Salvatore

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rob Monick [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

The latest proposal is the worst and once again an attempt is being waged to rush it through before its analyzed and understood.

I believe if our Congress should take a bipartisan approach and correct the deficiencies of the ACA.

Americans should be the winners not Democrats and Republicans.

Be mature and do the job!

Respectfully,

Rob Monick

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: William Kroll <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable Care Act

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

Sincerely, Sandra Kroll

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Steve & Amy Myers <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not repeal ACA

I really have no dog in this fight. I was born to a Naval Officer on Champus (now known as Tricare) and then married a Naval Officer. I will literally be taken care of by socialized medicine from cradle to grave. I believe all Americans deserve the same. But at the very least, they deserve the ACA.

Sincerely,
Amy Myers

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

Hello

I am an Independent voter and a registered nurse working in Home Health for over 35yrs and was the nurse coordinator for a Free Clinic for 10 years. I seeN first hand how Medicaid saves lives, how people can become financially destitute from one serious health problem or hospitalization, people coming to me sick with fear over enormous hospital bills they would never be able to afford that even I could not afford working full time in a professional career.

I have seen them wait until they are so sick they have no choice but to be taken to the ER, admitted to the hospital, often a critical care unit which then involves a rehab facility stay and then Home Health - ALL BECAUSE THEY ARE UNINSURED OR UNDERINSURED.

I have nurse friends who work in the insurance business so I also know, first hand, how they are pressured to deny coverage when the facts are there that this patient is indeed eligible for coverage.

Nurses are one of the most trustworthy professions in our country. That is because we put our patients and their well being FIRST. That is what I expect from you, you are elected in good faith that you will do what is best for the people of this country. I don't want to hear about Party lines - representing the people of this country and their well being is what you should be about. Stop wasting our time and money trying to prove the other party wrong.

We have a bird in hand with the Affordable Care Act - we know its shortcomings and successes. Start there and make improvements. We count on you, please don't let us down.

Karen Obert RN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maria Connors [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:34 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 this bill will cut federal funding to Pennsylvania by \$6 billion, killing jobs and people. An estimated 32 million Americans will lose coverage if this bill passes. Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson will end Medicaid expansion which has helped 11 million Americans gain coverage. It cuts coverage for children, seniors on fixed incomes and Americans with disabilities. The bill ends federal protection for people with preexisting conditions, requirements that insurance cover essential benefits like maternity care and ends prohibitions on lifetime limits. This bill will negatively impact Americans with individual market coverage and employer sponsored health plans, substantially increase out of pocket healthcare costs for low and middle- income Americans by ending cost sharing payments and premium tax credits and all funding for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act by 2026.

As a nurse, a patient and a mother I am horrified that the senate is even considering a bill condemned by the American Medical Association, National Nurses United, American Cancer Society, American Lung Association, American Association of Retired Persons and many other human rights groups. I am disgusted by those in the senate who are rushing to vote on this cruel bill without extensive expert testimony from healthcare providers and patients who will be harmed by it, without a full Congressional Budget Office assessment of the bill, without public townhalls and without public support. Senate members pushing this bill know they are acting against the interests of the vast majority of Americans who past polls show overwhelmingly reject these cruel changes to current law. This bill does Not improve upon or fix the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act for working families and patients. The Graham Cassidy Heller Johnson bill would remove protections for people with preexisting conditions and would increase the number of underinsured and uninsured Americans. The Graham Cassidy Heller Johnson bill was not designed to protect public health, working families, children, the elderly or Americans with disabilities; it was designed by and for the wealthy and corporate donors.

Sincerely,
Maria Connors, RN

Maria Connors

19348
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marcia Weese [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: IMPROVE, not REPEAL

I and my family rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. We are dealing with people's lives here, partisanship has no place in this situation.

Sincerely,

Marcia Weese

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: walter thomson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: "Obamacare" should be improved, not repealed
Attachments: In Defense of Obamacare.docx

The ACA has made a significant improvement in our lives financially and in quality of life. Under no circumstances should it be discarded like a broken toy. Improve it or go to "Medicare for all," but don't take affordable healthcare away from millions like us.

I've attached a description of what the ACA has meant to us.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Fields [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care vote

Senators:

The upcoming vote to decimate the American healthcare system will cost taxpayers far more than it ever "saves." I KNOW this because if I lose my Medicare and Medicaid benefits, I will be forced into a nursing home at thousands of dollars a month. I became significantly disabled at age seven in 1948 from a bad batch of the polio vaccine. I still completed school and worked my whole life. Now that I am approaching 70, I want to live my remaining years with dignity, not having to beg for the care I need.

Please continue to fight against this greedy, greedy insurance windfall. Aren't I an American deserving of a decent life like Trump and the others?

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dan Lauter <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re: Health Care

Hi, my wife of 38 years was diagnosed with Cancer last year. I was laid off work in June. Neither of us asked for this situation. We need to have affordable options. She was not born with a pre-existing condition. We have worked hard in life to feed and support our family. Please do not take away the few options we have for health insurance. Please make necessary improvements but don't destroy progress made.

The Lauters

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Suzanne Natalicchio <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I do NOT support Graham-Cassidy bill

I do NOT support the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill and think the USA needs to get onboard iwth the rest of civilized nations and supply healthcare to all, basis working models that are found in Switzerland, France and other countries.

Rushing a bill through in this manner is disgraceful. FOLLOW REGULAR ORDER!

--
Suzanne Griffin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)


From: Kristin Nord <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposed to GOP health care revision

This co-called health care plan is a travesty. Our family lives with pre-existing conditions — no one with Type 1 diabetes or any other serious chronic condition should be excluded from any plan. And I detest the way this plan is being rammed through.

Kristin Nord Phelps


Wright, Kevin (Finance)


From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:56 PM
To: gchcomments

Hide 
To

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, barbara campbell
alford ma. ..01266

Note: Graham-Cassidy appears to be a last-ditch effort to repeal the ACA. After September 30, 2017, the Senate will need 60 votes to repeal it, not 51. Their urgency is real. Use your voice today. Copy and paste the template above into a new email and be heard.

Hide 
To

Hide 

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Heidi Frazer <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:07 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No On Graham-Cassidy

Republican Senators:

I have had a stressful year and a stressful life. You are powerful millionaires and know nothing about my fears. And, you obviously don't care. My last name is not Koch. It is not Adelson. Therefore my life and its struggles are insignificant.

You've made the last 9 months a living hell. I've had to fight over and over and over and over and over and over and over for the right to live. You keep trying to take healthcare protections away from those of us who are vulnerable. Fighting cancer this year was not enough. Our family had to fight YOU too.

I had to take to the streets in frigid winter weather (multiple times) to voice my concerns in public protests. I've written countless emails. I've sent faxes to your offices, I have Tweeted and Facebooked. I've cried. I watched John McCain, Lisa Murkowski, and Susan Collins shut you down in the middle of the night with white knuckled fear.

Now, you try again to destroy our lives and what little financial security we have worked all our lives for with your heinously immoral power play called "Graham-Cassidy." Named for two, white, privileged men looking for power and infamy in exchange for cash and the destruction of Barack Obamas's legacy..

You are Godless. We are broken. The pain and suffering you've caused is immeasurable. History (provided there is a future after you and your illegitimate leader are done with the planet) will judge you. The grift, greed, and lack of compassion for human suffering you display today will be borne by many others--less fortunate in the future. This will be your legacy.

Turn away. Before it is too late. Apologize to the nation for having lost your way. Seek forgiveness from whatever God you believe in. Then FIX THE ACA. Do better. Remember what your mommas taught you. Be better men.

Heidi Frazer-Cherry

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Don Randall [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill

Vote NO!!! Another rushed attempt to appeal the ACA / Obamacare, instead of thoughtfully fixing or replacing it. Every major health organization is against it and it is terrible for Americans. The GOP had 7 years to work on this yet all they did was complain. We need a unified effort in Washington to work together to solve a very complex health coverage issue.

-Don Randall

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Randy Shayne Osborne [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

ACA does need work, but in a bipartisan manner. Graham-Cassidy does not appear to be access to healthcare for many of our fellow citizens.

Please vote NO.

We are weary and do not understand this persistence to downgrade healthcare. We see the effort by this administration to subvert ACA. Please help us keep and improve upon ACA.

Thank you,

A constituent of Senator Roberts and a citizen of the USA!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Taylor [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GrahamCassidy

This bill is the worst of them all. It's creates a loophole to allow insurance companies to deny healthcare to people with preexisting conditions and it hurts those who are economically disadvantaged the the most. Passing of thid bill is reckless and cruel.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Richard Thelin [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GRAHAM-CASSIDY HEARING

Please consider carefully and take to heart the following cogent words from Senator McCain:

"As I have repeatedly stressed, health care reform legislation ought to be the product of regular order in the Senate. Committees of jurisdiction should mark up legislation with input from all committee members, and send their bill to the floor for debate and amendment. That is the only way we might achieve bipartisan consensus on lasting reform, without which a policy that affects one-fifth of our economy and every single American family will be subject to reversal with every change of administration and congressional majority.

"I would consider supporting legislation similar to that offered by my friends Senators Graham and Cassidy were it the product of extensive hearings, debate and amendment. But that has not been the case. Instead, the specter of September 30th budget reconciliation deadline has hung over this entire process. "We should not be content to pass health care legislation on a party-line basis, as Democrats did when they rammed Obamacare through Congress in 2009. If we do so, our success could be as short-lived as theirs when the political winds shift, as they regularly do. The issue is too important, and too many lives are at risk, for us to leave the American people guessing from one election to the next whether and how they will acquire health insurance. A bill of this impact requires a bipartisan approach.

"Senators Alexander and Murray have been negotiating in good faith to fix some of the problems with Obamacare. But I fear that the prospect of one last attempt at a strictly Republican bill has left the impression that their efforts cannot succeed. I hope they will resume their work should this last attempt at a partisan solution fail.

"I cannot in good conscience vote for the Graham-Cassidy proposal. I believe we could do better working together, Republicans and Democrats, and have not yet really tried. Nor could I support it without knowing how much it will cost, how it will affect insurance premiums, and how many people will be helped or hurt by it. Without a full CBO score, which won't be available by the end of the month, we won't have reliable answers to any of those questions.

"I take no pleasure in announcing my opposition. Far from it. The bill's authors are my dear friends, and I think the world of them. I know they are acting consistently with their beliefs and sense of what is best for the country. So am I.

"I hope that in the months ahead, we can join with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to arrive at a compromise solution that is acceptable to most of us, and serves the interests of Americans as best we can."

As you can see, I am in whole hearted agreement with Senator McCain. We must know the true costs of repealing the ACA. Without a full score by the CBO will will not know how many American's will be left uninsured. What is the cost to the states? Healthcare is 1/6 of our economy and a bipartisan approach is the only way to ensure that all sides are considered, t's what the American people want. I am dishearten by the one-sided approach. As Sen Grassely has said, he knows the Graham-Cassidy bill is bad for America, but it's about political gains. Affordable healthcare insurance for all American's is more important than politics.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments and concerns.

Sara. J. Thelin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Emily Moore [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy-Graham bill

My family very much relies on quality, affordable healthcare, as several of us have chronic health problems. Because of this, I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. One of my children is on Medicaid, which allows him to get vitally important treatment for his developmental and mood diagnoses. He is partially disabled due to these disorders, as well as musculoskeletal dysfunction, and could not afford necessary treatment without this coverage. My other child still covered under a family policy at age 24, and would not be able to receive treatment for chronic disorders related to prematurity and gestational medications, without such coverage.

I am strongly in favor of a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. The current law is sufficiently well-established that, minus the political infighting, it makes the most sense to fix the implementation problems rather than plunging the country into economic chaos by starting over with a hastily-conceived and poorly-thought-through theory.

Please, let us cooperate in making healthcare accessible for all of us.

Thank you.

Sincerely, [name]

Emily D. Moore, Ph.D.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sandra Lokman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Subject: Healthcare

Gentlemen.

I am totally opposed to this new version of repeal and replace. It takes us back to healthcare before the ACA. The greatest percentage of personal bankruptcies was due to medical costs. Policies with maximum payouts is only one example. Unaffordable premiums was another

Pre-existing conditions was another reason and also the reason for raising rates even for the most ridiculous reasons.

My daughter had a short term rash on her face and the dermatologist ordered a salve that was also used for rosacea which she did not have. When she later went to the private sector, vs coverage thru her company which she left, for insurance they acknowledged there was no rosacea diagnosis but put a \$87.50/month additional premiums on her insurance for 2 years. That might sound minor but for a young working single person an additional \$1000 a year over an already high monthly premium can break a budget.

With each state having the ability to tailor their "rules" for coverage we will have unequal and often unaffordable discriminatory coverage state by state.

Healthcare is not State Right. Healthcare is a Human Right. Universal Healthcare is managed by every other civilized society. Why is the US the only one that allows profit to be the overriding factor in our country.

We can't go back to Bankruptcy, ER overcrowding, and death due to lack of money and coverage be the story of healthcare in our country

Respectfully
Sandra Lokman

Thanks
Sandra

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chamberlin [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bil

Hello -

This bill does NOT protect people with pre-existing conditions. Allowing states to decide whether to charge those people MORE money is NOT protection. Please do not allow this bill to move forward.

Cheryl Chamberlin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cynthia Woods <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA repeal and replace

As someone who works in healthcare I can only say that reducing Medicaid availability and access to affordable insurance options can only cause unemployment, economic downturn resulting in tax increases, in addition to needless pain, suffering and DEATH.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Woods, RN, BSN

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kerry Roger <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose Graham Cassidy

Vote no on this murderous bill!!! Ripping health care from people with pre-existing conditions is criminal!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mercedes Lawry <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Graham-Cassidy bill is basically a murder weapon. NO....NO WAY...NOT NOW OR EVER.....RETURN TO SENDER

Mercedes Lawry

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rachel Dugan [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Type 1 Diabetes Mom & Pediatric RN

I have a privately insured type 1 diabetic son. Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune disease, not a lifestyle disease. Through an unknown external trigger, my son's body attacked his own pancreas. Because of this, his pancreas no longer produces vital insulin required for utilizing blood sugar. Without insulin, his blood sugar levels would reach deadly highs. He has to administer insulin via injections or his insulin pump to survive. He also has to constantly monitor his blood sugar to make sure it doesn't go too low or too high. It is a never-ending job.

Obamacare ensures that even though my son has type 1 diabetes (through no choice of his own), he will never reach a lifetime limit despite the need for endocrine visits and the medical complications that arise with having type 1 diabetes, along with regular, preventative medical care.

There are very few limits to what my son can do despite having type 1 diabetes. Each version of Trumpcare thus far would not only reintroduce a lifetime max for privately insured citizens, but also raise healthcare insurance premiums since type 1 diabetes is considered a pre-existing condition. There is no limit on my son's life. Period. Limiting the amount of healthcare dollars allotted for my son's life is something no parent should ever have to fear.

In addition to Trumpcare's above-mentioned shortcomings, as a pediatric nurse, I have witnessed parents' grief when they wait too long to bring their medically uninsured child to the emergency room. Or, wondered how parents were going to pay the medical bills after their child was discharged home. A child's life is priceless to their parents. The reality is that there are limits to what many parents can pay for their child's life. Each version of Trumpcare thus far has held callous disregard for the most vulnerable: children. Unconscionable. Unacceptable.

Please work on a bipartisan solution to stabilize insurance markets under Obamacare. Golden rule: Let us treat others as we wish to be treated.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judy Donnelly <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Funding Medicaid

Hello,

What is there to like about a bill that removes healthcare from 30 million people and targets its harm toward the disabled and elderly? a bill that every physician and patient advocacy group opposes, as well as the AARP and even insurance companies? Appeasing billionaire donors is the only plus, if indeed that is any kind of positive result in the face of misery for so many Americans.

In my own family, my 96 year old mother is able to stay in her own home because of Medicaid. After a lifetime of raising 6 children and giving to the community, she and my 96 year old father, her spouse of 73 years who has dementia, had reached a point where their needs were too great to continue to live alone. We employed a full time assistant but within a year it was clear their funds were not going to cover the expense for long. With a combination of Medicaid and funding from the state of CT we have been able to keep them comfortably in their own home rather than move them to a nursing facility. My mother is able to continue her hobby of sewing baby dresses to send to Haiti and to host her weekly church group thanks to Medicaid.

We the people, the majority of Americans, have been saying fix the ACA don't repeal it. (And don't sabotage it either, by withholding funds and shutting down the web site.) It's past time for Congress to come together and work for the 99% who employ them, not the 1% with their hands perpetually out for a handout.

Thank you.

--

Judith Donnelly
Optics and Photonics Education
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Our public policy is now driven by billionaire donors requiring their lackeys to propose and vote on ridiculously harmful legislation so that they can get yet another tax break.

The fact that this legislation has the support of 47 Senators in the US Congress is a travesty. The cuts in Medicaid and failure to address problems with the healthcare system in this country should never have made it past the lowest of morality standards but morality now seems to be lacking in Congress.

Political wins are the only standard considered in the Trump administration. The method by which this bill was brought forward and pushed through the senate without real hearings and debate, not to mention a CBO score would be considered shameful by anyone who felt any duty to their constituents.

Never underestimate the depths to which some members of this Congress will sink.

Anne McCarthy

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Schnack [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable healthcare

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with Medicaid, pre-existing conditions, deals with my son who is diagnosed with severe asthma, kliebsfleeters , and has had to be admitted to the hospital because of these pre existing conditions . He would not have been able to pay for his medical without the help of Medicaid . I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you for considering the welfare of all Americans.

Barbara Schnacky

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christina Rae <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Senator@schumer.senate.gov; Senator (Gillibrand)
Subject: Please Oppose Graham Cassidy

Dear Senators

I am writing to express my vehement opposition to the Graham Cassidy Health bill which stands to upend the lives of millions and damage public health, our society and our economy. As health coverage shrinks, fewer medical conditions will receive timely medical care resulting in higher mortality and a greater incidence of preventable disabilities in our population, along with increased potential for epidemics. This in turn will take a severe economic toll, increasing social unrest, and making the American Dream less and less accessible to all but the fit and wealthy.

Those of us, like myself, who are already disabled (in my case with cerebral palsy) will be less able to access those medical devices (in my case, braces) which allow us to work and function within society. Under this bill insurers will again be able to raise rates on all of us who either live with a disabling condition, or have survived serious illness such as cancer. This will not only present an economic burden to the middle class but put coverage out of the reach of a significant portion of society.

Medicaid, under this bill, will no longer be an option for the millions who benefited from its expansion under the Affordable Care Act. Even those who retain some form of coverage will find that, depending on where they live, essential services such as pre-natal care and immunizations may not be covered, depending on each states preference.

Leaving the choice of how much health care to cover up to the states can only increase inequality between the residents of the various states. Those who live in states with less coverage will disproportionately suffer shorter life spans, impaired ability to access jobs and education and greater economic stress as they choose between food and medicine. Such disparities will undercut both the unity and the well being of our nation as a whole. I oppose this bill not only because it will damage my own chances to overcome my disability and not only because it will cause chaos in our health care system. The main reason I oppose this bill is because it sets American against American and state against state. It disadvantages the sick, disabled, and all those who struggle economically for the benefit of the healthy, wealthy few

Respectfully,

Christina Rae

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:47 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 it is inhumane and irresponsible. The health of our citizens should have more value than passing a partisan bill that will strip healthcare from those who need it most to simply make a point. This is not a partisan issue. Healthcare is a human right and our government should be pursuing a Medicare for All option NOT pandering to insurance companies and collecting bribes. Please make the health of our citizens, especially the most vulnerable populations, the top priority.

Tara Wallace
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: strongly oppose any GOP dismantling of PPACA

NO NO NO NO NO NO NO

Take care away from millions? Give states the ability to apply for waivers and start discriminating against those with preexisting conditions? Go against GOP governors, the AMA, the health insurance companies, AARP, etc., etc.

Repeal without a real replacement?

Repeal without CBO score?

Repeal without committee hearings?

Trump is a liar. Graham is a liar. Cassidy is a liar. Every GOP promise about repeal and replace has been broken in the actual bills.

NO NO NO NO NO

Robert S. Gold

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Gillibrand, Kirsten (Gillibrand); schumer, scheduling (Schumer)
Subject: Re: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, September 25, 2017
Attachments: Re_Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal_September 25_2017.docx

Please see my testimony, below and attached.

Conrad Mulcahy

Re: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, September 25, 2017

From: Conrad Mulcahy
37 Bridge Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201

To: The Honorable Members of the United States Senate

Senators:

I implore the members of the United States Senate to reject the proposed Graham-Cassidy bill. This bill is an extraordinary affront to all Americans, a clear majority of whom support a rational, bi-partisan approach to fixing the Affordable Care Act (aka "Obamacare").

The Graham-Cassidy bill is, bluntly, disgusting. According to current assessments (mind you, NOT the Congressional Budget Office, which has, unbelievable not been given time to "score" the bill):

- Cause 18 million people to lose health insurance in one year, and 32 million in ten years.

- Cause premiums on the individual market to increase by 25% in one year, and double in ten years.
- Kill the Medicaid expansion, one of Obamacare's most popular and successful ways to expand healthcare coverage.

And, according to one Senate aide interviewed by Sam Baker and Caitlin Owens of Axios:[\[1\]](#)

“If there was an oral exam on the contents of the proposal, graded on a generous curve, only two Republicans could pass it. And one of them isn't Lindsey Graham.”

This effort stretches the boundaries of credulity. Repealing Obamacare without a replacement is not a plan. It is a dangerous, right-wing attack on our health care system that could cost tens of thousands of Americans their lives. And many of you don't even know more about it than a few talking points.

You all have been elected to represent us, the American people. We are telling you, LOUDLY AND CLEARLY, that ramming an un-vetted, nakedly political, and punitive piece of legislation down our throats is the furthest thing from doing your job that I can imagine in this scenario. And all of this is being done in a way that far outside the normal procedural path of this legislative body. John McCain, a war hero and a lion of the Senate has said so time and again. This is NOT how this body is supposed to legislate.

Sit down together, identify what's working, and highlight the ACA's biggest issues. Then negotiate how to fix them in ways that can garner bi-partisan support. Use committees, allow for public scrutiny, then vote. Stop this madness. Step away from the ideological fever dream that many of you are in.

Again, this is one American imploring those of you considering this bill to reject it. Stop playing politics. You are on the wrong side of history, and if you do this, you will *literally* be putting people lives at risk in ways that you don't even know, to enact something you don't understand.

Respectfully,

Conrad Mulcahy

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill!!!!!!

It is appalling this bill does not prevent insurance companies from charging more for preexisting conditions or from instituting a lifetime cap.

Please consider the opinions of experts like the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association ("This bill harms our most vulnerable patients"), the American Public Health Association ("Graham-Cassidy would devastate the Medicaid program, increase out-of-pocket costs, and weaken or eliminate protections for people living with preexisting conditions"), the National Institute for Reproductive Health ("the Graham-Cassidy bill preys on underserved communities ... a clear and present danger"), and Federation of American Hospitals ("It could disrupt access to health care for millions of the more than 70 million Americans") and do not allow this bill in its present form to pass the Senate.

Thank you very much,
Rachel Cullen
Pelham, NY 10803

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:44 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 because

....
I am currently on dialysis and because I'm retired, I have insurance from my workplace. Having said that, let me tell you that I am also on social security disability insurance. I do not get enough income to pay my medical bills or insurance. There has to be a better way and I pray that you will keep searching for the right solutions for all of us and not let this terrible bill get passed.

Julianne Gould

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:43 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 I, along with almost everyone I know, will no longer be able to afford health insurance due to the high prices that insurance companies will be allowed to charge those of us with pre-existing conditions. At my age, 61, almost everyone has a pre-existing condition! As a cancer survivor, this means that if cancer recurs, I will die! Is that what you think should happen to good, upstanding American citizens who have lived good, hard-working lives and raised productive citizens?!?!? This bill means that millions will no longer be able to afford health insurance and that is JUST PLAIN WRONG!!! My husband and I have worked hard all our lives, raised five kids (four adopted, two of whom were from the foster care system); including one who has been in the Navy for twelve years, and this is how you think we should be treated by our government?!?!? DO THE RIGHT THING!! Throw out this bill and fix the ACA so that more people have health insurance, not less!

Janet Wheeler

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rebecca Noble
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare Bill

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to urge Congress to reject this latest version of Trumpcare. It does not have the best interests of Americans in mind. It is being rushed through without using the proper channels and I ask WHY? Why is everything being done in secret? This causes great distrust among the citizens of this country.

I am deeply concerned about my premiums skyrocketing due to my pre-existing conditions. I will not be able to afford proper insurance and then I will become a burden on society. I am trying to do the right thing and I would expect Congress to do the same.

Please return to working in a bipartisan manner to solve the problems and challenges of the ACA. It can be fixed! Congress works for the American People, you are in service to us so please listen to what the people of this country want and need.

Thank you for your time,
Rebecca Noble
San Clemente, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: SFC hearing Monday

I urge you, I plead with you, do not pass this bill. This bill is terrible for Americans especially families like mine.

My child was born premature weighing in at 1lb 5oz. She required a great deal of care and therapy in the first two years of life.

Today she is a happy amazingly healthy child- because we had insurance with protections of the ACA. She is medically worth over \$1.1 Million. She will be uninsurable if you pass the Graham Cassidy bill. She will have met her lifetime cap. She will have to list pre-existing conditions of her birth. This will bankrupt our family. No family should go bankrupt because of the birth of their child. This is not pro life.

Vote No.

Annie Edwards

Lindsay MT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elizabeth Nishiura [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I oppose the latest bill to repeal and replace Obamacare. It will cruelly end protection of affordable coverage for people with preexisting conditions, children, and pregnant women, among others. It will also destroy the healthcare industry and undermine the U.S. Economy, making the nation less secure and less competitive with other economic powers.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Nishiura
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Medicaid/healthcare

Re: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, September 25, 2017

To who it may concern.

My family is on Medicaid. We could not afford healthcare on the open market as we are freelancers.

My son is 8 and is attending a public school in New York city.

Due to medicaid and the ACA we are able to contribute to our school by being on various committees, and to our community where we helped to create a beautiful community garden and to raise a fine young man who will contribute to society.

We are freelancers. Without the ACA we would not be able to afford healthcare.

Please vote against this bill which would possibly force us to move to a different country. NB we are all US citizens.

Thank you.

Paul Whelan
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cheryl Bittner, [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:41 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

....
I have many pre-existing conditions. Currently my insurance and medications costs me \$15000 each year. I cannot afford to pay more than that. I am 70 years old.

Cheryl Bittner

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Belanich
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller in favor of the bipartisan bill the Senate HELP Committee was considering. Graham-Cassidy-Heller would cause 32 million people to lose their health coverage while destroying Medicaid and harming some of the most vulnerable members of our communities, seniors and people with disabilities. Many of my loved ones and friends will be at risk, and some may die. As Americans, we should be morally obligated to care for our citizens, regardless of their financial status.

Susan Belanich
Westford, MA

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fwd: Tweet from Aryana Khalid (@atozsquared)

Please review the #Graham/Cassidy bill in full, and disclose CBO score on the record for the SFC hearing. BEFORE any vote IN THE SENATE TAKES PLACE.

This is what the American people want and need. FULL DISCLOSURE PLEASE.

Thank you,

Carole McMahan
[REDACTED]

Sent from my Galaxy Tab® A

----- Original message -----

[REDACTED]@GCH.COM
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Aryana Khalid (@atozsquared) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] want a statement on the bill [REDACTED] on Monday, please
email [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (82c=09)
[REDACTED]
G [REDACTED] download?s=13

Sent from my Galaxy Tab® A

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED].com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Individual testimony re: Graham-Cassidy et al. Amendment
Attachments: graham-cassidy personal statement.docx

Attached as a Microsoft Word document is a statement in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy amendment that I wish to have taken into account before the committee takes any further action on the amendment. I am sure that in spite of the troubling media accounts I read, the members of the Finance Committee will discharge the obligations of their office and give the legislation a reasonable amount of consideration before taking any action on it, and that they will come to the realization that it should not be voted out of committee.

-- Peter Ellertsen

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 04
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Justine Gunn
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: cancer survivor comment

I'm writing about the horrible Graham Cassidy proposal as a concerned, scared, angry cancer survivor. I'm worried for myself, my family, my friends, the patients in the chair next to me during infusions and for us as a community, a society and a nation.

The Graham Cassidy repeal of the ACA is a nightmare for me. I was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer 5 years ago as an otherwise healthy, active, happy woman in my 30s. Fortunately, I received excellent treatment, and I survived. But I am terrified that a recurrence could mean hitting an annual or lifetime limit (or the limits necessitated by block grants) and the end of my care. I am terrified that even if the cancer doesn't come back, that my regular medical costs as a cancer survivor will be astronomical. I can't cut corners -- I need regular scans to monitor my health. What if I can't get that? Should my family go bankrupt or be homeless because my healthcare rights have been stripped from me?

I actively contribute to society! I volunteer! I teach! I go to church! I am a mom and a wife and a daughter, sister, friend, ally. What else do I have to do to "earn" the right to survive in this country??

Justine Gunn

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Suzanne Staggenborg <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:28 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 it will cut Medicaid and make health care more expensive for people with pre-existing conditions. Please do not endanger the health of Americans by passing this bill.

Suzanne Staggenborg

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not approve Graham-Cassidy.

Please do not support or approve the Graham-Cassidy bill. This bill, if passed, will devastate the lives and even doom millions of Americans. Efforts should be made to improve the ACA and make it much better, not tossing it out because it came from a black man. Graham-Cassidy is a cruel bill, and must not pass.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marge Platt
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Please. I implore you, do not approve this bill, or financing thereof. It will be a death sentence to nicu babies, women in general, and anyone with a disease or that will GET a disease. My son, with MS will not have coverage. He will die and who will take care of his 3 children? My niece, with lupus will die, she's in the hospital now, paying her own insurance, and won't be able to afford the new premiums for coverage, besides, she will have a pre-existing condition. She will die!

Babies born with birth defects will run out of a life time cap before leaving the nicu, they will die! My husband with diabetes, and heart problems won't be able to be covered. Will you pay for his funeral, or my son's children? Their blood is on your hands if this passes!

Please reject this, all medical professionals already have, and you should too!

Thank you
Marge Platt
Wallingford, CT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <linda_stanley60608@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: You have not met your OWN criteria for repeal of the ACA ...so don't do it

You said you would make something better. This is not. You are just punting the problems to the states. If you care about working for the people you need to drop this and start over.

Linda Stanley

[REDACTED] 5
[REDACTED] bec

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <geraldgreene@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care.

Americans will die. Why?

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy/Graham Healthcare Act

I urge you. No, I beg you not to let pass this act. It's a travesty and as bad as the last two healthcare bills that have been shoved at us. Obamacare works. It's proven. Get beyond the name and look at what it does.
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy: Could You Please Not??

Please fully review this bill. Please do not get rid of ACA without a valid replacement. I really want to make a bunch of American babies but I can't under this bill - and I can barely cover those medical expenses under our current system.

Further, what is the point in having an organized government if we refuse to use it to protect and defend each other? You just pumped \$700 mil into military spending - protect and defend our health with that tenacity.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, September 25, 2017

Below is my letter for submission. I did not realize that I needed to include my address and contact information.

My name is:

[REDACTED]

715-829-5384

> On Sep 21, 2017, at 6:16 PM, Elizabeth Ivankovic [REDACTED] wrote:

>

> Dear Senate member,

>

> On 9/11/2001, while planes were hitting the World Trade Center my husband and I found out that our twin pregnancy had a condition called Twin to Twin Transfusion Syndrome. Our boys were born 5 weeks later. They will be 16 next month. The smaller twin at birth (1#14oz) has done very well even though he came home from the hospital at 5 months of age and was on oxygen for 14 months. He is a sophomore in High School, a Life Boy Scout who has worked hard his whole life to keep up with his peers. He loves animals and which ever career route he takes, I will guarantee he will be successful at work and in the community. The larger twin at birth (2#14oz) has a mind like a steel trap and a passion for movies and Disney. He also has Cerebral Palsy, a mitral Valve replaced in his heart, cognitive disabilities and is currently recovering from a double knee surgery to help him transfer easier.

>

> My husband and I have appreciated qualifying for a few Medicaid programs. Both boys qualified while in the NICU for Medicaid coverage. My bills alone from being on bedrest in the hospital for 5 weeks were extremely high for a young family. If Medicaid hadn't have helped us out with their early life, we would have really struggled and would not have been able to give them and their older brother the care and attention they needed to grow.

>

> Our son with Cerebral Palsy is currently on the Katie Beckett program through Wisconsin Medicaid. It picks up where our insurance does not and again, this is so helpful. He has had a few illnesses that were very lengthy and very expensive.

>

> My long term worry is for my son with severe disabilities. We have and are doing as much planning, saving, and caring for him because we don't know what the future will hold for him. He is a very fun, wonderful young man who we hope will have a future of one day giving back to his community. He won't be able to do that without support. We do all of his needs for him right now....teeth brushing, showering, toileting, dressing, positioning, running him to doctors and other health care providers when necessary....but we won't be here forever. The right equipment, the right surgical procedures on children with CP, the right supports can make such a huge difference for a family as well as the individual. Cutting out supports for people with disabilities will have a snowball effect on a family which will lead to a worsening of the community.

>

> Please work with disability groups to find ways to make effective, positive, long term change.

>

> Sincerely, Elizabeth Ivankovic

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

[REDACTED]
Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:26 PM

gchcomments

Do Not Pass Graham Cassidy

This bill will literally result in the death of many Americans. Do not pass it.

Frank Parent
Vermont

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]@icloud.com >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Defeat GrahamCassidie healthcare

Why is it our country sees other countries benefit from healthcare for all and we still divide our country with good and bad healthcare?

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mindy Seidman, seidman@kewright.com
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no on Graham Cassidy

We as Americans deserve better than having our healthcare rights stolen in the middle of the night because republicans are trying to keep a failed campaign promise. Last I checked, senators worked for all Americans not just the wealthy ones that can buy your conscience. I'm tired of having to prove that my life is valuable. Being a woman is not a pre-existing condition.

Government should be working together to fix the very real problems facing Americans. We need legislation that fixes pharmaceutical prices, that lowers premiums, and keeps healthcare affordable for all Americans.

Enough is enough. I should not have to worry if I can afford my monthly medication. I should not have to decide whether I can afford to protect my son or hope he doesn't have an allergic reaction because his Epi pen costs too much. 2018 can not get here fast enough. I look forward to voting you out of office if you fail to vote no on Graham Cassidy.

Best,
Mindy

Sent from my Commodore 64

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy/Graham bill to eliminate the ACA

Dear Senate Workers ,

I would like to voice my opposition to the new version of Trumpcare. This bill would be devastating to families with children who have pre-existing conditions such as cancer, cystic fibrosis, cerebral palsy, to name but a few. It will be devastating for our veterans who sometimes need years of medical help because of their service. It will be devastating for seniors and those people too young for Medicare. It will truly be devastating to the poor (mostly working poor) as medicaid is decimated. Please recommend that Senators do NOT vote for this Cassidy Graham bill.

Thank you
Jacki Yurth
Petaluma, California 94954

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Taking away healthcare for millions is unacceptable for any reason

The CBO hasn't had time to analyse it fully yet, but it has harsher cuts than the previous version which would have taken healthcare from 23 million. You don't know what it will cost or save. But know that if you vote for this unconscionable bill the millions will know how you voted, and they will remember. Given the 17% approval rating of the less severe bill I'm amazed that this isn't a poison pill for anyone who wants to have a political future.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: DO NOT REPEAL/REPLACE

You are going to kill us with this bill.
Maybe there's nothing left to say to you to stop this, but I hope you will not let this bill go forward.
We are LITERALLY gonna die out here behind that bill.
What if it affected your family like it is affecting ours?
Would you care then?
I've worked hard my whole life, paid my taxes, and been a good citizen.
All I ask from you is to leave the ACA alone and improve upon it.
You know it's possible, we know it's possible.
Sincerely,
Catte Adams

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away. - unknown

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GrahamCassidy

Do not pass this.

Harriett Blakeslee

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH bill

Do you seriously want those of us who are self insured to be paying \$2000 a month for insurance? I pay \$1100 now as a 63 year old with no subsidy. I have a small business and have 3 or 4 pre-existing conditions like most people my age. My health care is 1/5 of my income now. I will have to close my business. You are going to break the back of the middle class. NO!
Lori Mc Collum

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

If Republicans want to be reelected, don't even consider this monstrosity! This is a cold hearted, enemy of the people bill. Unlike the President, I know what is in it. This represents the President's vengeance on anything President Obama ever did to benefit the people!

Senators, for once work for the benefit of the country!

Regarding the proposed tax cuts, don't ever campaign as a deficit hawk. People will remind you.

Regards.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:25 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

....
the drastic cuts to Medicaid will do great harm to the elderly, children with disabilities. More control by the states means nothing if they are given drastically reduced funds with which to meet the needs of their citizens. This bill is so important that as citizens we should insist on regular order with expert witnesses and a complete CBO score.

Connie Nesbitt

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:25 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
....
This is a horrible bill and you know it. Do the RIGHT thing and vote "NO"!!! You should be protecting and helping people instead of taking their health insurance. It's time for single payer!!

Cindy Hazlett

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Bill

Vote no on the Graham/Cassidy Healthcare Bill. Get back to the bipartisan table. This bill does not fix anything. You are playing Russian Roulette (no pun intended) with American's lives.
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA Repeal

To whom it may concern,

The current version of ACA repeal, aka Trumpcare2, Graham-Cassidy, is the worst idea the Republicans have come up with yet. Trumpcare2 is essentially a deathcare bill as it will remove insurance from up to 32 million people and essentially eliminate Medicaid. All this is being done in order to get Koch money. I don't know how Republicans can sleep at night knowing that Trumpcare2 will kill thousands if not millions. This is a modern day form of genocide in exchange for cash, plain and simple. Things don't get much more evil than this. This bill is so bad that Senator Lisa Murkowski is being bribed with being able to keep Obamacare while the rest of the States have to repeal Obamacare! Republicans do not care about their constituents, in any way, shape or form.

The majority of Americans, up to 80% in fact, want to keep Obamacare. The data show that although Obamacare needs to be shored up, it is work and working well. Repealing the ACA aka Obamacare in exchange for Koch dollars is just plain evil.

VOTE NO!

Best wishes,

Michelle Wilson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED].com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy will destroy my life.

I am able to function in society and hold a job because of my health insurance coverage under the ACA. Without it I won't be able to afford the medicine and regular medical care that I need to continue being productive. I will not be able to work. I will lose my job. I don't want to go back to living that way.

Graham-Cassidy will destroy my life. It will kill others.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Debra Early [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Retirement affordability is the next storm

I am not in favor of the GOP healthcare plan. Despite the rhetoric, the fact remains it has not been investigated, and what we know is that it isn't much different than the other two attempts.

What I want you to do is fix ACA and start putting universal health care into place. We are 55 and 56 and can no longer afford \$18,000 a year for insurance. I want you to start regulating drug and health care costs. This is why insurance is so high.

I pay 18,000 a year for 2 people and can't afford to use my insurance. A hospital stay will cost me \$600 a day. I can't afford to put what I need into my 401K. Another problem awaits for us in our golden years. I'm not alone. The next storm is brewing!

We all deserve health care, just like you. No one deserves to die or suffer because they can't afford co-pays or insurance. No one!

Have a great day, Debra Early

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

Please take into consideration the effect that this bill will have on citizens like me who were born with a pre-existing condition. I was born with a bi-cuspid aorta. Therefore blood does not pump efficiently through my heart. Over the years (I am 62) I have had to undergo many procedures and surgeries. Currently I take 10 medications every morning and 3 in the evening. I have worked and contributed to our society since I was in high school. Currently I have been employed by the same employer since 1983. I pay for my own insurance but still have trouble at times making ends meet. The plan you offer now would be devastating to people like me and many others. I'm sure if you get both sides to work together you can come up with a better plan. One that does not penalize a large number of citizens for things that were beyond their control. Maybe you could look at the health care coverage you voted for yourselves and offer us something like that. Your current plan is NOT in the best interest of the American people. Your job is to change that, to make things better for the people of this country.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 46

--

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Dear US Senate Finance Committee,

The American People do not want this bill.
This bill will hurt millions of people.
DO THE RIGHT THING!

Sincerely,
Amanda Harvey

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote against latest healthcare bill

"It is appalling this bill does not prevent insurance companies from charging more for preexisting conditions or from instituting a lifetime cap.

Please consider the opinions of experts like the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association ("This bill harms our most vulnerable patients"), the American Public Health Association ("Graham-Cassidy would devastate the Medicaid program, increase out-of-pocket costs, and weaken or eliminate protections for people living with preexisting conditions"), the National Institute for Reproductive Health ("the Graham-Cassidy bill preys on underserved communities ... a clear and present danger"), and Federation of American Hospitals ("It could disrupt access to health care for millions of the more than 70 million Americans") and do not allow this bill in its present form to pass the Senate."

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lorelei O'Hagan
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Lorelei O'Hagan
Subject: Our Alports Syndrome Story

There seems to be a total misunderstanding in the healthcare debate based on the idea that it's "those" other people who need a bail out or those poor people who don't take care of themselves, and why should "we" have to pay for them if they haven't taken care of themselves.

Let me tell you my story.

My husband and his mom have Alports Syndrome, a kidney disease that is hereditary and leads to end stage kidney failure. It also affects hearing. My husband was a healthy kid, played sports and was a golf caddy. When he went in for a regular physical in his teens, his kidney was found to be in failure. Not knowing what it was doctors gave him high doses of steroids to try to give them time to address the kidney. Within a few years, my husband was in full kidney failure, had severe joint damage and went on dialysis.

He had to stop college for a double hip replacement and was able to get a kidney from his father. He worked full time and tried to go on with his life. After 5 years, his new kidney failed and he went back on dialysis. Meanwhile his mother also went into kidney failure. They both were able to receive donor kidney transplants while working and maintaining a full life. They had Medicaid for the transplants and supplemented with corporate insurance, but spent a lot of money on the additional costs. They also struggled severely with pain and lost opportunity.

Fast forward a few years, my husband began to suffer from debilitating anemia and underwent hundreds of blood transfusions. He still worked full time, struggling at times with chronic pain and hospital stays. His second kidney had parvo virus and his immune system was unable to fight it. He also needed a knee replacement due to the extensive joint damage from the steroids. He spent hours in a blood lab undergoing a costly treatment to kill the parvo. He went weekly for nearly two years. He is our miracle. He's a loving a devoted father and husband who cooks, cleans and cares for our two boys while I work full time, as does he. We advocate for comprehensive treatment and he maintains a regular schedule of doctor visits and medications which are life saving and cannot be stopped. We have created a wonderful life for our family but have high medical costs despite double corporate coverage.

We fight for the rights and dignity of others like us who are productive members of society who are also living with chronic illness. My husband cannot change jobs, cannot pursue other dreams he may have or even take a break to recover or recharge from his grueling treatments because we cannot live without healthcare coverage.

Healthcare is not about profits and it's not about individual behavior, it's about a caring for people and building a robust system and network of care. It is unconscionable that we have to fight against people who do not put human faces on patients and see people as a burden.

Please read this and know that being born with an illness and being chastised and threatened with death is a deeply challenging way to live. We are not living up to our American exceptionalism except by being so heartless and cruel to our citizens. This debate is appalling and I hope for a better future for my family and all Americans.

Sincerely,
Active citizen, Lorelei O'Hagan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jody Arthur
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

This legislation is NOT a health care bill. The premise of the bill is to remove federal government oversight and allow states more funding, and more involvement in their constituents healthcare. However, the bill doesn't even mandate that the state funds be used for health care, so it is predetermined that HC will vary significantly by state, and in some states, actual HC will be virtually non-existent.

Medicaid is so deeply slashed, that the program will cease to operate effectively or efficiently. Americans will suffer. My mother died while receiving Medicaid support and I hate to think of how she suffered despite good medical care. What will happen to the chronically ill, to our oldest Americans, when we provide them no help? Pain, suffering and ultimately, death. WHY would anyone support a bill that harms the least among us?

STOP this monstrosity from becoming legislation. Protect the citizens of the United States!

Thank you,
Jody Arthur

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Garelik [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it will harm many of my fellow citizens by reducing their access to affordable, comprehensive healthcare. as a registered nurse, I feel obligated to stand up for my patients and the institutions that serve them. as a physician, Senator Cassidy should be doing the same instead of pushing this vindictive, destructive nightmare of a bill. i also abhor the manner in which you have ignored input from both professionals and your colleagues across the aisle in moving this legislation....

Susan Garelik ms, rn

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Senate Bill

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm begging you to drop this hurtful bill once and for all. Please don't do this to the American people. Please don't do this to women and children. Please don't do this to the poor, the sick and the elderly. You know this is wrong. You know this will hurt the very people you represent. We have no power. We only have you. Do the right thing, fix the decent health care that we already have and stop trying to undermine it at the expense of those who need it most. Please.

Thank you,

Mauri Wilber

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No Graham Cassidy bill

Please end this legislative mess because millions suffer. Where is the CBO score? What a sickening display of petty politics. Here is an idea repair the ACA and change the name! DO NO HARM! Polls show that 87% of Americans don't want this repeal bill. What happened to the bipartisan approach? Country over party! Take our country back from vindictive politicians who are so short sighted they can't see or hear their constituents. We the people demand action now to STOP THIS SCAM BILL IN IT's TRACKS...NO VOTE on Graham Cassidy!

Sharon C Miller
Germantown, TN 38138

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Bill

Hello,

I am 64 years old and a widow. My husband died of multiple sclerosis 4 years ago. Thank God, we had good employer insurance and then Medicaid when he had to enter a nursing home after being private pay until we depleted our funds.

My 33 year old son was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis last year. But he does not have insurance and does not have the ability to work right now. Thank God for Medicaid. He has had neurology visits, MRIs and is on a medication to stave off the horrible attacks my husband endured. MRIs are expensive and the medicine is more than \$100/ day.

Your bill would eventually end his care as Medicaid is decimated. And what happens to those who are in nursing homes?

On pre-existing conditions, a guarantee at reasonable prices is required. This bill takes it away.

Help us out here. Fix the current law that has done so much good for so many people. Do not harm most of us with this bill. Stabilize the individual market in a bipartisan manner.

Don't be owned by the Kochs, the Mergers, and other big donors. Don't destroy a law because you said you would and because you put a President's name on it. Do what is right for the people. This bill is not right for us.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cynthia Istvan
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care bill

Dear Senators,

This bill is not the answer to the ACA. Please vote no . ACA doesn't need to be replaced it needs to be amended and improved.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Istvan
Trumbull, CT

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not vote for Graham-Cassidy

Hello Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to beg you to not allow Garahm-Cassidy to become law. I deal with multiple pre-existing conditions and ACA is what helps me have affordable insurance. Allowing G-C to pass would hurt so many Americans. This is a bill that's been rammed through Congress at a break neck pace. At the very least - the very, very least - we should return to regular order and give this legislation the thought and time we gave ACA. ACA went through more than a year of hearings and debate - as any legislation that impacts healthcare for all Americans should. Please, stop G-C and think of the Americans impacted by this legislation.

Thank you,

Kate Polit
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

This is to let you know that I am strongly against the subject bill. I believe that it will cause irreparable damage to millions of people and cause uncontrolled escalation of costs. As an alternative, I strongly support a single pay health care system.

This is the richest country in the world. All American citizens should have the same health care benefits that so many other countries in the world provide.

Regards

Bob Powell
[REDACTED] USA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: STRIKE THREE!

The House is bad enough, with their small-minded country folk running the show. But the SENATE?

The Senate is thought to be a bit more sophisticated and smarter.

If you pass this shitty Health Care Bill, the American People will DESPISE YOU MORE THAN THEY DO NOW.

I know what you're asking yourself. HOW IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE?!?!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy = disaster

To the members of the Senate Finance Committee:

If the subject line was insufficiently clear, please know that allowing Graham-Cassidy to become the law of the land would be catastrophic for a surprisingly large number of reasons, including:

- 1) The return of widespread medical bankruptcies
- 2) The loss of Medicaid funds down the road, thus leaving hundreds of thousands of children, the poor, and the elderly high and dry
- 3) Instability for the healthcare providers, including the collapse of rural hospitals and clinics
- 4) Instability for the insurance companies--which are reprehensible greed-based entities, but they do represent a significant chunk of the economy
- 5) Untold thousands of preventable deaths and suffering as normal Americans are priced out of the market, which will absolutely happen (see no. 4)
- 6) Employer-based insurance plans would be hollowed out into uselessness (see no. 4)
- 7) Grotesque inequities in care for women (see no. 4)
- 8) There would be no more protections for citizens, no incentives/penalties for insurance companies to treat citizens fairly, and absolutely no reason why the situation will not devolve back to what we had before the ACA (see no. 4)

The legislation is abominably cruel on its face, but the way Senator McConnell et al. have treated the legislative process is at least as shameful. Their contempt for the American public, who will suffer the consequences of this monstrosity, is overwhelming, as is their contempt for the workings of a representative government and for their Democratic colleagues--and indeed for any potentially critical voice. In a better world, this mockery of the process would be enough to doom Graham-Cassidy by itself, but clearly the great majority of Republicans have no compunction about going along with this cynical campaign.

Graham-Cassidy will not do anything good for anyone. It will not help anyone get coverage, and will make coverage impossible for people who currently have it--myself probably included. The chaos it would create at both the individual and national levels is difficult to imagine.

The ACA could be an even more effective program than it currently is, but only if improvement is attempted in good faith, and if the welfare of average Americans is the priority. It's our best chance right now for providing meaningful and affordable healthcare to the greatest number of citizens.

Sincerely
Mary Burke
(St. Paul, MN)

"Problems can't be solved by the same level of thinking that created them"--Einstein

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate. In 2017 no American should choose between medical care and bankruptcy. Health is a human right and any action to take health insurance away from millions is unthinkable evil. Please do all you can to protect access to healthcare by defeating the Graham-Cassidy proposal.

Evelyne Kruger

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Questions relative to Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

Senator Blumenthal,

Why do Republicans believe that this healthcare plan fulfills a campaign promise? Consistently we were told that it would be better, less expensive than ACA and everyone would be covered. The plans they have proposed do not support those promises. This plan is opposed by patient groups, medical groups, governors, etc... and will not be a "win" for them. The only ones that will win are the recipients of Koch donations.

I would like to know why Congress exempts itself from this healthcare plan if it is so great? If Congress had to participate, they would make sure the plan was adequate.

Why hasn't Congress established a committee to design a healthcare plan that has actual healthcare professionals input? For something that effects 1/6 of our economy, we have 6 politicians spend a few days defining? Instead, we have a committee for election integrity to investigate voter fraud that has been proven over did not happen. Makes no sense.

Who will audit to ensure the states are complying? There needs to be an honest discussion/explanation to American people on protecting pre-existing conditions. Access and Affordable needs defined. Senator Cassidy said that people should trust their state officials more than some federal official that doesn't care about individual states. WV elected a democratic governor and as you know, he recently switched parties after being bribed by Trump. So no, I don't trust my state officials.

Also, how can it be considered fair to other states if Alaska is allowed to opt up while receiving additional incentives? Medicaid is as important to WV as it is to Alaska. People should not be treated differently in regards to their healthcare based on the state they live in and whether they have qualified and trustworthy officials.

I am concerned about life time caps as well.

Thank you for all you do, it is truly appreciated!

Jody Pitts
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kim-Morgan [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Will anyone listen to the pleas of millions and millions of Americans who will be hurt by this bill?

You didn't get elected to overturn Obamacare.
You got elected to do the best serving for the American People!

Vote no on this "health care" bill, the Graham Cassidy bill.

The people who voted each of you individually, will thank you.

Some day, you won't be in the Senate anymore. And more people will be able to talk to you. Think of how you'll explain why they went bankrupt because you were sent to Washington to facilitate they're going bankrupt.

Senators, we're begging you.

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

--
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy -TrumpCare

Dear Senators,

This outrages TrumpCare bill must not pass.

Killing your fellow Americans, to line the pockets of Republican Senators, is morally wrong and political suicide.

There will always be more of us than you, and ripping medical insurance from children, seniors, and people with pre-existing conditions will be a Crime committed, but never forgotten.

Save the ACA, and correct the problems it may have. Stop playing the "Trump's Vendetta Against Barack Obama" game.

Stop the heinous GrahamCassidy TrumpCare bill.

The American people are watching.

Sincerely,

Sally LaPradd

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Dear Sirs and Madams,

I am urging you to vote no on Graham Cassidy. There is nothing conservative or principled about remaking 1/6th of the nation's economy without careful consideration and hearings. You will own the consequences for a generation at least. It's a time bomb.

Grace Kline

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care bill

Please, I am writing to beg you to oppose this horrible health care bill. Lives hang in the balance- lives that are more important than a short cited political victory.

Please vote no for this terrible bill.

Thanks you,
Laura Lynch

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy

I am writing to ask you to remember all of the millions of people you will devastate trying to pass this bill. People will die, people will be bankrupted, hospitals will be overwhelmed with people who do not have coverage, health care professionals will be overburdened or without jobs. It's cruel and heartless! You must work with both sides, bring health professionals to the table, and do what is right for the American people. Your constituents will remember your actions. This is wrong.

Deborah Crane Hudson NH

Peace ♥☐

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because I believe that we must put the health of our fellow Americans ahead of the profits of insurance companies and ahead of partisan politics. You have been elected to represent our interests, the interests of everyday Pennsylvanians. We should not be in the position of losing our insurance if we get sick or lose our jobs. So many other countries are able to provide health care to all their citizens and if we are to continue to be a world leader we must do the same. Please represent the citizens of Pennsylvania and vote NO on this terrible legislation!

Sincerely,
Sharon Ohnesorge, registered voter

Sharon Ohnesorge



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Obamacare repeal

Please do NOT pass this legislation. It is a nightmare for everyone, especially those who are now warming retirement like me.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Heath Care Bill

To whom it may concern,

What is the rush to push this bill through? Why can't we wait until the CBO report is released? Why if insurers, doctors, nurses, numerous physician groups have all strongly objected to this bill would you allow this ill to be passed.

It's cruel, immoral and beyond reckless to pass this terrible health care bill. The reason why it's rushed is because if everyone got a chance to read it fully they would find out how harmful it is to the people in this country.

It would affect my parents, in laws, grandparents, daughter, niece, sister and friends. All whom are citizens of this country and need coverage.

Please think about millions of people who depend on health care to survive.

You have the power to do the moral and righ thing.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Katie Fisher
New Canaan, CT

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham cassidy bill--no

I am a veteran with a pre-existing condition. This bill is a gross abuse of power by a few Senators with no interest in doing what their constituents actually want and need.
This bill must NOT be passed.

Michael

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Are you out of your minds?

There is no CBO score. Every independent analysis indicates the results of this will range from horrific to catastrophic. Millions losing insurance. Millions bankrupted by illness. Millions of policies swiss-cheesed, with families discovering the loopholes only when they or their kids get sick. Hospitals shutting down. Every major disease, patient, provider group opposes this bill.

This is reckless. This is irresponsible. This is cowardly. This is cruel.

You are destroying healthcare for millions because Obama and the Democrats dared pass Mitt Romney's healthcare plan. You gambled in 2009 that opposing it would be a smart political move. That the details were so befuddling nobody would succeed in calling you out for opposing the very healthcare plan that was your 2012 presidential candidate's crowning achievement as governor.

And it worked!

But what now?

You have spent a decade like naughty teens, launching spitballs in the back of the class at the teacher trying to do the job right. Now, against all your expectations, somebody put you in charge. And you have no idea how to make good on your empty boasts and impossible promises.

You are like Hugo Chavez and Nicolas Maduro, promising the world to get power, and delivering chaos and poverty.

This bill is an obvious catastrophe. Vote it down. And get back to reauthorizing CHIP.

--

Kate Navarro-McKay

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] greggstokes@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: please submit this comment
Attachments: HealthInsPremiumChart-2017.jpg

Hello,

Protect pre-existing conditions on a Federal level. Protect no lifetime limits on a Federal level. Put in place a public option for people who can pay and would like to join a larger pool, this could be Medicare buy-in.

Please protect us from for-profit wall street health insurance companies.

Sincerely,
Gregg Stokes

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH bill

Senators,

Please don't put politics before people's health! Just be grown-ups-you're gambling with people's lives. This is an awful bill, the GOP just wants to get rid of anything with Obama's name on it.

Thank you,

Alison Baran

Sent from my iPhone

Please excuse any typos

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO!

Plz vote no on Trumpcare/Grahme Cassidy bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My pre-existing conditions would bankrupt me.

The ACA saved my life. I had an undiagnosed heart defect (meaning, I was born with it) that I didn't discover until age 32, when I fainted in a restaurant. I had no health insurance, because I couldn't afford it on a freelance salary. The ACA allowed me to get surgery to correct the defect, and pay for insurance to have follow up visits and keep me healthy. It is almost 4 years later, and I would happily pay extra taxes to help other people get the health care that they need, like I did then. Please do not allow the Graham-Cassidy Health Plan go into effect, or people like me will not survive.

Kathryn Licina
Tax Payer and Registered Voter
Los Angeles, CA 90031

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Regarding Graham-Cassidy

Hi,

My name is Michael Nanopoulos. I am 30 years old, and I am a resident of Massachusetts. I am writing to you to urge Senators currently considering the Graham-Cassidy bill to reject it. Americans need a better healthcare system, not a worse one; this bill would send us in the wrong direction.

Thank your for your time.

Best,

Michael Nanopoulos

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:03 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
....

PLEASE - do not rush this bill as is. Please have compassion for those who cannot afford health care. This bill is too brutal to be passed as it stands.

Chris Smith - Do your job.

Marie Fornicola

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kr [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

To whom it may concern:

Please stop this bill. This will endanger millions of people's lives in America. It will remove protections for people with disabilities and pre-existing conditions. I have a pre-existing condition. I remember insurance before the ACA when I was terrified of losing my job and not having continuous coverage. Please don't make me go back to those days. Access to health care allows people like myself to get the help we need to become productive job-holding citizens again after being out of work for an illness. If you take away people's health care, you are not only destroying people's lives, you are going to hurt our economy since those people will no longer be able to work. We have finally mostly recovered from the recession. Why would you want to take us back because of political points? There is no positive benefit to this bill. Please, think about what you are doing and stop this travesty before it's too late.

Thank you,
Kristina

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate becauseI am 63 years old and a widow, my children and I could not afford healthcare till the ACA was inacted. Do not take my healthcare away from myself as well as my 27 y/o daughter nor my 25y/o son. My premiums are lower now than when my deceased husband's business provided coverage for our family.

Monica McEliece

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: April Nims <sprecksbeach@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

Aloha. To whom it may concern. This is not governance. Putting a bill forth without a CBC score , without regular order , knowing this bill will kill people , for a campaign promise from a madman , who will be impeached, maybe for treason. People overwhelmingly support the ACA it is Working and could work even better if the GOP wasn't trying to kill it along with the American citizenry. Sincerely April Nims, an American Citizen from yes , an island in the Pacific Ocean

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: jguerney@familyvoices.org; info@raisingpecialkids.org
Subject: Cassidy-Graham Plan

Senators. Vote no on Cassidy-Graham. As a retired special education teacher in Rockford, IL, I am worried that this legislation will be dangerous to my former students and my family. It would convert Medicaid to block grants (per capita funds), which would lead to rationing of care. It breaks a promise the federal government made to provide health care to our most vulnerable citizens, including the elderly, children, the poor, and the disabled.

If this plan is good for the American people then make it your health care plan also.

I have a friend, Addie, she is four years old. Addie is adorable, sweet, sensitive, tough and medically challenged. Here are some of the facts, as written by her mom:

There are days and even weeks in the hospital, chronic infections, plasma infusions ever three weeks, feeding therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, tons of doctor appointments, machines that help to keep her alive, and so much more. You see, Addie was born with a genetic condition that has never been noted before. She has a combined immune deficiency, Ehlers Danlos Syndrome, Holes in her heart, spinal and brain tumors, slow stomach motility, and eye issues. The list could go on and on but I think you get the point.

I had planned on returning to work in July 2013 after taking a six week leave to bond with our beautiful baby. That wasn't in the cards. I had to quit my well paying job that I had been at for 5 years to care for our medically fragile child who required numerous surgeries throughout the first year of life and many after that year. We are well aware of the rising cost for insurance, because we pay them through my husbands employer. We thankfully have Medicaid for our daughter who is deemed medically disabled, and that covers much of our out of pocket. Adilynns treatments alone are over \$20,000 every three weeks. They give her an immune system that helps her to live a "normal" life. This doesn't include our doctors co-payments, hundreds of thousands of dollars in hospital admissions, therapy costs, machine rentals, specialty formulas, and medicines. We struggle enough to pay all of our bills on one income. If this bill passes, it would devastate us financially, emotionally, and would most likely impact her medical care drastically. SO many families would be impacted by this. Medical care shouldn't just be an option for the rich. These kids didn't choose to be born with issues, they didn't cause this to happen to themselves, it was the cards they were dealt. We are so truly blessed to have our special, wonderful, and beautiful daughter. We need to do what we can to protect and fight for her and all of the other children who don't have the voices to stand up to this bill.

Medical issues can happen to ANYONE. Everyone is one illness, one car accident, one newborn family member away from it being you. Please help to say no to congress and vote no on this bill. Please help our family and so many others who rely on the services to survive. Help save these children and their families. I am happy to meet with you in person and let you talk with her and see that SHE matters. I know many families would do this. Please hear our stories and know that this is our entire world and it is in your hands.

Thank you,
Kathy Adkins

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

If you vote down the ACA you will be exposing yourself to the legal charge of reckless endangerment or involuntary manslaughter if someone dies because you took away their health insurance. Explain that to the judge when you are brought up on charges. Don 't do it. IT WILL SHOW THAT YOU ARE TRULY A RACIST AS IT CAN BE THE ONLY EXPLANATION WHY YOU WANT TO GET RID OF OBAMACARE.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Dear Chairman Hatch, Ranking Member Wyden, and Finance Committee Senators,

I am writing as a concerned citizen in reference to the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill. I empathize with our GOP leaders in finding an effective, affordable, and enduring solution to our healthcare system. However, this bill does not appear to be well-thought out, nor does it offer the right solutions. I highly suggest that our congressmen and women thoroughly and aggressively review this bill (and any bill) that seriously impacts the economy. I work hard, and I want my elected officials to work as hard as I do, and fast-tracking a bill of this scale is not playing smart with my tax dollars.

Thank you,
Nasir Sakandar
Los Angeles, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy -TrumpCare

Dear Senators,
This outrages TrumpCare bill must not pass.
Killing your fellow Americans, to line the pockets of Republican Senators, is morally wrong and political suicide.
There will always be more of us than you, and ripping medical insurance from children, seniors, and people with pre-existing conditions will be a Crime committed, but never forgotten.
Save the ACA, and correct the problems it may have. Stop playing the "Trump's Vendetta Against Barack Obama" game.
Stop the heinous GrahamCassidy TrumpCare bill.
The American people are watching.
Sincerely,
Sally LaPradd

----- Forwarded message -----
[REDACTED] >
[REDACTED] 2017 8:00 PM
[REDACTED] >
[REDACTED] >

Dear Senators,
This outrages TrumpCare bill must not pass.
Killing your fellow Americans, to line the pockets of Republican Senators, is morally wrong and political suicide.
There will always be more of us than you, and ripping medical insurance from children, seniors, and people with pre-existing conditions will be a Crime committed, but never forgotten.
Save the ACA, and correct the problems it may have. Stop playing the "Trump's Vendetta Against Barack Obama" game.
Stop the heinous GrahamCassidy TrumpCare bill.
The American people are watching.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

I'm going to skip past the greeting.

Anyone who approves of the Graham Cassidy "healthcare" bill clearly does not have any intention whatsoever of supporting the American people. It's sad that I even need to send this e-mail.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO

Please do NOT put thru this bill which will devastate so many of us!!

Russell Mates
Palm Springs, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA Repeal vote

To whom it may concern,
I am deeply disturbed that a bill to repeal the ACA would be brought to vote without having a CBO score as well as a lack of debate and Bi Partisan support.
It certainly seems that our Representatives don't care about the constituents who employ them.
We will remember who destroyed our health care if this bill is not stopped.
Thanks for listening and do the right thing.
Vote NO on ACA repeal.
Doug Stoddard
California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michael W. Busch <mbusch@grm.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham-Cassidy

I am told that you are taking comments on the proposed Graham-Cassidy legislation prior to a hearing on Monday, September 25. I offer the following.

Thank you.

Michael W. Busch, PhD
Mountain View, California, USA

Senators,

My name is Michael Busch. I rely upon ACA coverage mandates to ensure that I will not drop dead.

That is not hyperbole. I have hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM). HCM kills people, most commonly by sudden cardiac death. Fortunately, my own HCM is currently nearly asymptomatic and my cardiologist informs me that I am at low risk for having a serious problem. However, I require regular monitoring exams to ensure that my condition has not progressed.

Right now; I have the privilege of excellent insurance coverage under my employer's group plan, and should I be unable to get coverage through my employer I could purchase an individual plan through the ACA exchanges and get the healthcare I need. If the no-preexisting-condition-exclusions and essential-health-benefits ACA mandates were effectively reversed - which Graham-Cassidy would do, by various means - then my being able to access the care I need would not be guaranteed.

And the risk I would be subjected to is small in comparison to the harm that Graham-Cassidy would do to tens of thousands of other Americans. By taking healthcare away from tens of millions of Americans, Graham-Cassidy would kill tens of thousands of people per year. That is the plain fact of the matter.

Prevent the mass death of Americans, and prevent the economic disaster that denying healthcare to tens of millions of people would cause. Oppose Graham-Cassidy and anything like it, and instead pass bipartisan legislation to stabilize the insurance markets and to prevent any sabotage of ACA or of Medicaid.

Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Faigle, susanfaigle@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH Concerns

I am alarmed that GCH will allow states to cap traditional Medicaid spending which will be devastating for the elderly/disabled living in nursing homes or receiving home-based care. My mother who suffered with dementia needed 24 hour care for her daily needs, and her nursing home costs averaged over \$8,000/month. In order to pay for her nursing home care, all of her savings and assets went to paying for her long-term care costs. Fortunately, the Medicaid program accepted her after all of her savings were depleted, and then her nursing home care was fully subsidized through the government program. Our family could not afford to pay the monthly \$8,000 nursing home costs for her care and are very grateful for the government program. Our government has a moral and social obligation to fund the long-term care costs of the elderly and disabled in our great country.

Sincerely,

Susan Faigle

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: dick@durbin.senate.gov
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

This plan will result in the deaths of many people. I have yet to hear a single way that this would help anyone. All it does is take away, take away, and take away.

Giving authority to the states is a very big question mark. Some states may provide decent options, but others won't. How fair is that.

I keep hearing that pre-existing conditions will be covered. Sure they will, but with outrageous premiums that most could not afford.

This is the worst plan you could have come up with. Is there anything you won't do to get rid of the ACA? I guess causing the deaths of thousands of people who won't be able to afford medications is not going too far for you.

The GOP should be ashamed.

Please don't pass this bill.

Susan Brook
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GrahamCassidy

Please do not pass Graham Cassidy bill. How can you justify a measure that will take away health care from babies, children, young people just starting out, families trying to do their best for their kids, and seniors? Raising costs for seniors?? What are you thinking? This is America? Who does that?? GC is thoughtless, cruel, hateful, comprised with desperate cost cutting motivation only. How about no more \$25,000 plane rides for Conway from D.C. to Philly, and cut the expenses Trump incurs for his golf trips. Don't destroy the country simply because undoing Obamacare was a Trump campaign promise - it's wrong and you know it.

It's time to get back to an America we can be proud of again. The last 9 months have been awful enough.
No to Graham Cassidy

Barbara Spenningsby
Greenwich, CT

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: #GrahamCassidy

The GOP is pulling out all the stops. Because 45 demands a repeal of the ACA is not a good enough reason to pass this dangerously murderous Graham-Cassidy bill. Change the name of the ACA and leave it alone. 45 needs to get over his vendetta against President Obama. Because the very dangerous Koch brothers are buying our government officials is the very reason why this G-C bill needs to be killed.

Jean Savage
California Resident
District OC-48

"Your task is not to seek for love, but merely to seek and find all the barriers within yourself that you have built against it." Rumi

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Expand access and guarantee essential benefits

I strongly disapprove of The Graham Cassidy bill as it stands. The most highly-skilled workforce in the world deserves better access to healthcare.

Also, essential benefits are called "essential" for a reason. If we hope to bring down costs in the long term we need to invest in preventive care. If anyone should understand this it's a Finance committee.

Finally, the GOP should be embarrassed by the bills they've brought to the floor. I support Bernie Sanders' Medicare for All plan.

Sincerely,

Eric Simon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Save the ACA

I'm a self employed person in California with a family insured through the ACA. I will need to shut down my business, spend less time with my kids, and go work for a corporation full time if this change is made. Please, I love spending time with my kids and I love working for myself. Do not do this. Also as a business owner, I can see that the ACA has been beneficial for small businesses, making health insurance easier to provide for employees. Why would government want to hurt its people and small businesses that are contributing to the economy.

In addition, it's insane to vote on this before the CBO can score it. It feels as though government isn't just uncaring, but is actually out to hurt and kill its citizens. This is crazy and sad.

Regards,
Samantha Sheppard
Mom to 2 kids, wife and business owner in California Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham Cassidy proposal

To whom it may concern,

I write to express my dismay over the Graham Cassidy proposal, and to ask you not to pass it. I oppose the proposed bill because it cuts Medicaid expansion by tens of billions of dollars, and permits states to permit insurers to charge sick people more money than healthy people for care.

Thank you for your time,
Chelsea Davis
Zip code: 94115

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote "no" on Graham-Cassidy

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am a resident of California, and would like to respectfully request that you vote "no" on the Graham-Cassidy bill.

According to several recent analyses, the bill will completely decimate the Medicaid program, and leave millions of people uninsured. The numbers are staggering for California:

By 2027:

- \$78 billion in cuts to California
- 6.7 million uninsured, which includes 4 million Medicaid expansion members, 1.3 individuals who obtain coverage through our state health insurance exchange, and 1.4 children, seniors, and people who disabilities who obtain coverage through traditional Medicaid.

Graham-Cassidy goes a lot further than simply repealing the Affordable Care Act. It fundamentally changes the traditional Medicaid program which has existed for over 50 years, and has served as the safety net for our most vulnerable population -- seniors, people with disabilities, and children with complex care needs.

This bill will be catastrophic for our nation, and will result in unthinkable hardships for millions.

I respectfully ask that you please firmly vote "no" on Graham-Cassidy.

Best regards,
Arif Shaikh

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stop Graham Cassidy!

I urge you to block this bill and let the bipartisan process, through normal order, complete its work. This is a complex issue that requires a thoughtful, transparent approach. Rushing an ill-considered, partisan bill to a vote is not in the best interests of the country. People's lives are more important than a campaign promise.

Respectfully,
Carrie Santore

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GrahamCassidy TrumpCare

Dear Senators,

This outrages TrumpCare bill must not pass.

Killing your fellow Americans, to line the pockets of Republican Senators, is morally wrong and political suicide.

There will always be more of us than you, and ripping medical insurance from children, seniors, and people with pre-existing conditions will be a Crime committed, but never forgotten.

Save the ACA, and correct the problems it may have. Stop playing the "Trump's Vendetta Against Barack Obama" game.

Stop the heinous GrahamCassidy TrumpCare bill.

The American people are watching.

Sincerely,

Sally LaPradd

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

This will make pre-existing conditions unaffordable for millions of people. They have the opportunity to have it, but they'll have to pay for it and won't be able to.
CBO has already reported on other ACA repeal attempts that if you remove the mandates, premiums will immediately go up by 20% by 2018.
There will be a cap for how much the insurance will cover. If you have a child who is born with a defect, they could reach that limit before the baby ever leaves the hospital. What do they do after that?
You're punishing the states that did expand Medicaid by taking their money away and giving it to red states who refused to expand Medicaid. \$11 Billion will be taken away from Arizona.
The money for Medicaid is drastically cut back and will end in 2026.
Bill Cassidy said on the last ACA repeal bill that it didn't have a CBO score and it was a ridiculous process (not regular order) and now they don't want to give any time for the CBO to show how dreadful this will be.
This is a HORRENDOUS bill. Do not allow this farce to be voted on.

Respectfully
Susan Hartman

I'm begging SenJohnMcCain to vote no if for no other reason that his demand for regular order. This was not even close to regular order

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy 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 because it will have devastating effects on many Americans. Millions of people will lose health insurance; personal bankruptcies will be rampant; the cost of insurance for many, if not most of us, will be higher; people with pre-existing conditions will be denied insurance; essential benefits are not guaranteed to be covered; disabled individuals will lose benefits; low-income individuals are disproportionately affected; and elderly people relying on Medicaid for nursing home coverage will be left stranded.

It is appalling that a bill like this is even being considered in the United States of America.

Any of us can be ravaged by cancer, Alzheimer's Disease, heart disease, stroke, orthopedic conditions, autoimmune disorders, mental health problems, addiction, or even a broken limb. Do you really want to be responsible for passing a bill that would shut out so many people from getting good medical care for these conditions and many others?

Some of my family members have pre-existing conditions in the form of chronic diseases. They will always need to be under the care of a doctor and may, at times, need specialized care and treatments. We are worried about what will happen if they cannot afford health insurance or the care they need. I do not understand why we would want to go back to the time where only people lucky enough to have good coverage through their employer or those who are really wealthy don't have to worry about what happens if they get sick.

The fact that nearly every medical organization and even insurers are in opposition to this bill should be a key indicator that the policies are not viable.

Furthermore, all forms of insurance are most efficient and cost effective when the risk pool is as large as possible. Having, in essence, 50 separate health care systems is vastly inefficient, wasteful, and is bound to cost more.

You mistakenly believe that people want "Obamacare" repealed. Maybe a few do, but even just by substituting the term "ACA" for "Obamacare," we learn that, actually, people like the coverage they've gained in recent years. This efforts seems to be much more about politics than policy, and that is just plain wrong.

I urge you to set the bar higher and start with a goal to cover more people rather than fewer. Making healthcare unaffordable goes against our American values. I would also like to make sure we provide coverage for our most vulnerable citizens and maintain and expand Medicaid for those who need it.

We are great innovators in this country, and if most other major nations in the world have figured out how to provide health insurance coverage to all their citizens at less cost than the US is paying to insure only some, I'm sure that we can do it, too!

Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy-Graham Senate Finance committee Hearing

I am writing to persuade in strong terms the Senate Finance Committee to NOT pass the Cassidy-Graham Bill that would seriously affect so many people with disabilities, including my daughter Jennifer, who has autism. She is 34 years old and is living in her own apartment with supportive help from her staff...This is possible only because Jennifer has Medi-Cal funding through In-Home Support Services. Please don't take us back to the time of State Institutions! Supported living is so much less expensive, but just as important, helps Jennifer, and other people with disabilities to be more independent and live in the community. Jennifer has a job, and loves her apartment and the semi-independence it encourages. I never thought that Jennifer would be this independent, happy, and productive....this is because she is living as independently as she can, through the support of Medi-Cal funding....Please don't take this away from her and other people like her! Carol Huhn, Mother

[REDACTED] e.
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed health insurance bill sponsored by Sens Cassidy and Graham. This bill is a disaster for the American public! It will hurt millions of people if the states get to restrict eligibility. Please consider what you will be doing!! This is terrible!!!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed health insurance bill sponsored by Sens Cassidy and Graham. This bill is a disaster for the American public! It will hurt millions of people if the states get to restrict eligibility. Please consider what you will be doing!! This is terrible!!!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham-Cassidy!

Speaking as lifelong American citizen, I implore the Senate to do the right thing and work in "regular order" to IMPROVE the Affordable Care Act or enact "Medicare For All" instead of trying to race thru the most venile healthcare bill that ever has existed.

Diane tebault

Sent from Diane's iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

I work for an insurance company. The bill is no good if healthcare is not affordable. I understand the majority of people involved in passing or making this bill can afford the rates at which the general public would be charged... however the majority won't.. it would push the rates extremely high. Healthcare is extremely complicated and for those who don't work in the healthcare system , like yourselves, cannot begin to understand how delicately these complexities need to be addressed and mandated.

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

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony for GCHJ

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Erin Freel. I am a nine year USAF veteran and military spouse with two children. My oldest son Connor has severe juvenile idiopathic arthritis. At nine years old, he was barely able to walk and was confined to a wheelchair - on chemotherapy and biologic medicines, he is able to walk and has a bright future without crippling disfigurement. Those medications cost \$5100 a month without insurance. Right now we have decent coverage under Tricare Standard, but I am highly concerned about ten years from now when he is graduating college and embarking on a life of his own without parental insurance. Under Graham Cassidy his choices look bleak. States will be unfunded in Medicaid, insurance will be able to charge him a great deal more to cover him and his choices will be poverty or pain, if he doesn't run up against a lifetime cap or rejection of his life-quality drugs. I am fighting for my son - I need affordable coverage that will help him fight this incurable and incredibly painful disease for life. Please don't allow this travesty of a bill to take my son's future from him.

Thank you,

Erin Freel
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No on Graham Cassidy

I do NOT agree with the new healthcare bill Graham Cassidy. It will strip healthcare from millions and does not cover pre-existing conditions. Pursue a bi-partisan solution to healthcare. Save the ACA. This bill will cost people their lives. It has not been scored and we do not know it's costs. It's irresponsible to explode 1/6 of the economy without proper debate and a thorough scoring of the bill.

VOTE NO ON GRAHAM-CASSIDY.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:13 PM
To: gchcomments

The Affordable Care Act is a life saver for some people. I am writing to you to tell you about my sister. She had a job for 12 years, which didn't pay much hourly wage, but included a health insurance benefits package. Her employer decided to retire, and at the age of 62, with few skills to get another job, she found herself looking for employment. She was not poor enough to qualify for Medicaid, and she was not old enough to apply for Medicare. She was extremely frightened that she might get sick and have to cash her small retirement savings, to pay for medical bills.

My sister looked into the ACA, and found that she could actually afford insurance coverage, until she found a new job. I cannot tell you how relieved she was, and how relieved I was, knowing that she had some security.

I don't suppose this story rings familiar with any of you people in Washington, who are paid well, and have fortunes of your own. My sister's story may not seem like a big deal to you, but this is the kind of stress and fear regular working Americans go through, all the time.

It's just not fair, Senators. We live in the richest country in the world. We have a massive defense budget, and a President who flies in the taxpayer owned jet, to play golf...but someone like my sister, who works hard every single day, has to live in fear of getting sick. Shame on you, and shame on us if we leave millions of people without health care. There is nothing exceptional about a government that will let people go without health care, lose their homes, or even die.

Vote no on the Republican bill to repeal the ACA. Vote people, over party.

Thank you,
Jeanne Swander (mother, daughter, sister, citizen, taxpayer)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Je [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

To whom it may concern,

I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. It's a bad piece of legislation that would deprive millions of Americans of affordable health care. It's no wonder this bill is opposed by the AMA, the American Association of Physicians and Surgeons, the American Cancer Society and many, many more. In fact, rarely has there been such consensus between hospitals, doctors, health insurance companies, and patient advocacy groups.

Not only is this a bad bill, the process being used to try to force it through the senate before September 30th, so that it can pass with only 50 votes is despicable. A bill that so greatly affects so many citizens of the United States should be openly debated, should have hearing that allow critics to recommend amendments and changes, and should most definitely have a CBO score published well before a vote. This bill should not pass, and this process is a travesty.

Sincerely,
Jeff McConaughy
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ho [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

32 Million Americans could lose coverage, radical change to Medicaid and diminished funding for every state.

90 seconds of debate?

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

Reject this bill.

Maureen Mostyn-Brown

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

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: REJECT GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL

To Whom It May Concern:

32 Million Americans could lose coverage, radical change 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,

RON DOMINGO
STATEN ISLAND, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE NO!!!

Please vote NO on this horrific Graham-Cassidy bill-PLEASE?! The American people are counting on you, our elected representatives, to act/vote in our best interests, and Graham-Cassidy is most assuredly NOT in our best interests!

Denise Carl
Alexandria, KY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to Cassidy Bill!

The people of the United States already have the worst healthcare system in the industrialized world. Please do not kick us back into the dark ages by passing this draconian, cruel bill. It will result in thousands if not millions of deaths.

Thank you.
Mary Vogt

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: T [REDACTED] n>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO Graham/Cassidy, please

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing about the proposed Graham/Cassidy Health Bill to replace the ACA.

This bill will hurt the most vulnerable among us.

Please do not vote for this bill. Please work to improve the ACA.

Thank you and best regards,

Thanh Le
Cumberland, Maine

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Good afternoon,

First, thank you for all you do for our country! Second, as you review the latest bill for repealing and replacing the ACA, please consider, among other things, that this bill is not moving through the senate under regular order. A bill affecting such a considerable portion of our US economy deserves regular order... contemplation, discussion, etc. Additionally, health insurance and healthcare affects 100% of our people!! People in my family, people in your family, me, you, our neighbors.... everyone!!

Please consider that even though the ACA needs work... this bill and this process are detrimental to our economy and all Americans.

Please vote NO on this bill. Let's work together to make a healthcare bill that improves our current system.

Thank you for listening and considering.

Liz Smith
MPLS MN
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] m
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: please reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Millicent Borges Accardi
Topanga, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Senators,

You know in your hearts (and heads you aren't that stupid) that the Graham Cassidy bill is bad for the American people. Most medical associations think so, AARP thinks so and countless other institutions involved in provide health care to millions of Americans.

Do the right thing or you can kiss your Senate seat good-bye. You work for the American people, not the (disgraceful) president and certainly not the Koch Bros - is their money really worth spending eternity in Hell? Because God will not forgive you if you vote for this shameful, hurtful, disgusting bill.

Jennifer Lin

Mother, Wife, Defense Software Engineer

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy MUST NOT PASS.

Why is the Graham-Cassidy bill any less unconcionable than the previous Skinny Repeal effort? You'll be throwing millions off their healthcare for the sake of making rich people richer. This is political nonsense. DO YOUR JOBS - looking out for the interests of the American public, not just the fat cats who are funding your own election bids. The people are not going to stand for this kind of thing. We will vote you out right quick.

Thomas Drescher
Los Angeles

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Regarding the Graham Cassidy hearing

Dear Sir or Madam,

I'm a CT resident that is very concerned about the upcoming Graham Cassidy meeting. I think we're all aware that this is not a healthcare bill for the people. In fact it harms countless American citizens. Simply put, people will die if this goes through. I'm pleading with you to do the right thing. Regardless of your politics, American lives are more valuable than any amount of money. Don't gamble with them, don't trade in them. If we are not looking out for the most vulnerable citizens in this country, can we call ourselves a great nation?

I know this might be hard to envision, but it is terrifying to be an American citizen right now. Every day we see attempts to take our most basic rights taken away, and that's on a good day. On bad days we're dealing with the possibility of nuclear war and hurricanes. We can only effect change through your help. If you don't listen to us, if you don't work to protect the American people, we've got no one. Please hear us. We don't want this bill to go through.

Thank you for your time,

Scarlet Meyer
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:46 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 hurt many people who will not be able to afford the increasing insurance premiums. Also the states won't be able to pay for their citizens health insurance. It does not appear that people with pre-existing conditions will be able to afford to pay their insurance premiums. Turning health insurance in our country back to the private insurance companies is the wrong policy. I urge you to vote against this bill. Thank you.

Bruce Simmeth

Bruce Simmeth

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I strongly appose the Graham-Cassidy bill on the grounds that it will put healthcare out of reach for many Americans.

Thank you,
Patricia Ferretti

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect affordable health care for all Americans!

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Once upon a time, all of you must have had a desire to help your fellow Americans. I'm sure amidst the power struggles and those who want to transform our democracy, into a kleptocracy, which hurts the majority of citizens, it's hard to remember those long ago ideals!

However, in your last races for office, I'm sure you promised to serve everyone!

It is my prayer, that when the vote "to repeal and replace," is held, you will remember those assurances you gave your constituents!

The majority of the public is vehemently opposed to this bill, as it will strip healthcare from millions of Americans. There will be tragically sick children, dying because they have been denied healthcare. There will be veterans from many wars, who will go untreated for the diseases they got, as a reward for keeping YOU and yours, safe!

If this bill is passed, there will be blood on your hands, of millions of citizens. How can you, as people who aver your beliefs in God at every opportunity, think you are acting in a way that truly respects life?

Please be aware that Americans are watching you, and will remember your actions at the next election!

IF I were in your shoes, I would think long and hard, before voting for one of the most despicable bills ever proposed, in the halls of Congress!

Sincerely,
Fay Bowen

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Save Obamacare

This latest plan is cruel and inhumane. Basically, the only people who will be able to have healthcare are the healthy and the wealthy. Your responsibility is to the people of this country.

Marilyn

~ Marilyn T. Yerks

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: DO NOT TAKE AWAY HEALTHCARE. OPPOSE GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL

Funding and pressure from your campaign contributors Koch Bros is not a reason to take away healthcare. Republicans had 7 years to draft a humane, reasonable healthcare plan. They bragged they had it 'ready to go' for 7 years. This is pure greed, fueled with lies and deception.

Florida voter
JDavis

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Dont take my healthcare away

I dont know what is wrong with you Republicans. If you pass this terrible bill, I wont be able to afford health care.

Ive also met a 5 time cancer survivor that is so worried about this bill, shes becoming a citizen of ITALY. Her own government, the US, is trying to take her health care away because she has a pre-existing condition.

PS Tell Senator Cassidy to stop lying to the American people.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christine [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

This bill will hurt the people who need healthcare benefits most. It's cruel and inhuman to deny people healthcare in this country where some people have so much. Healthcare should be a basic human right, not a luxury.

Christine McAllister
Bristol, CT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy is TERRIBLE

I cannot believe how many times we have had to tell our elected officials that we need and want healthcare, but I am YET AGAIN writing to urge our senate to reject this monstrosity of a bill known as Graham-Cassidy. I am a woman. I have a child. My husband has a genetic defect. All of these are things that would get us kicked off of our insurance policies under this abomination of a bill.

In short, I ask you to stop playing with my life, my husband's life, and the lives of all of the unborn babies with pre-existing conditions that you proclaim to care so much about. Take the truly pro-life stance and keep Obamacare in tact.

Erin Loucks

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy

This is the worst attempt yet by a desperate Republican Party to repeal something else Obama brilliantly set into motion. By allowing this bill to pass you're giving the finger to MILLIONS of Americans who just want to be better. If this were to pass, I believe anarchy could actually happen.

Chris Maris

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not pass Graham-Cassidy

Please this bill will harm so many in our country including defenseless children. Please vote no.

Terry Wood
Braintree, MA

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because my state, Pennsylvania, stands to lose \$8.3 billion in Medicaid funding. This proposal will harm our poorest, sickest, and oldest residents most. Though we haven't even received a CBO score, we know this bill will cause millions to lose coverage. I strongly oppose any legislation that fails to protect essential services, maternity care, and people with pre-existing conditions. You can't simply push through a bill without meaningful public hearings, expert testimony, and bipartisan compromise. We are watching, and we expect you to stand up and say that this bill is unacceptable.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Goldberg

Jennifer Goldberg

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy/Graham bill

IS ABSOLUTELY HORRIFIC. Denies care to 32 million fellow citizens. A disgrace that life in this country has come to this!!!!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pamela Davies (Pamela.Davies@PamelaDavies.com)
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: graham /cassidy health care bill

I am writing in opposition to the Graham /Cassidy health care bill. I am not the only one who opposes this bill, because only 17% of the American public want ACA repealed and replaced. Every National Association of Medicaid directors has come out against this bill and here is a list of some of the many organizations that oppose it: American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, AARP, Blue Cross Blue Shield Assoc., Planned Parenthood, Kaiser Permanente, America's Health Insurance Plans, American Heart Association, Association of American Medical Colleges, HIV Medicine Assoc., The Alzheimer's Association and Alzheimer's Impact Movement, American Cancer Society, American Hospital Assoc., American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Children's Hospital Association, and the Public Health Institute,

Tell them to stop playing around with our health!

The fact that they leave pre-existing to the states is very concerning to me. What is there to protect us from them increasing our plans to be completely unaffordable or rejecting us all together? This is a very cruel bill. The senators only want to repeal ACA because they've either been promised funding for their campaigns, will ensure the Koch brother's get money and tax breaks and, or they hate the fact that President Obama's name is attached to it. My sister in law has an immune deficiency disorder and she take IGG every day in order to live. Her treatments are very costly, but right now it's covered. What happens to her and her 4 adoptive children if they stop paying for her treatment? What happens to the people with mental health issues that see a psychiatrist and take medicine for their illness. Can we afford as a society to have them left untreated?

I am urging you to vote against this. Let's come together and do this with regular order, like Senator McCain suggested, where all of congress works together for the country.

I hope and pray you do the right thing for our country.

Sincerely,
Pamela Davies

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Plan

It is appalling the Graham-Cassidy plan does not prevent insurance companies from charging more for pre-existing conditions or from instituting a lifetime cap. I urge you to consider the opinions of experts including the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association ("This bill harms our most vulnerable patients"), the American Public Health Association ("Graham-Cassidy would devastate the Medicaid program, increase out-of-pocket costs, and weaken or eliminate protections for people living with pre-existing conditions"), the National Institute for Reproductive Health ("the Graham-Cassidy bill preys on underserved communities ... a clear and present danger"), and Federation of American Hospitals ("It could disrupt access to health care for millions of the more than 70 million Americans") and do not allow this bill in its present form to pass the Senate.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: please vote no

Hello-

Please, please, please you cannot approve this horrendous bill. Graham-Cassidy bill would destroy lives of those families dealing with disability on a daily basis.

You could not, in good faith, vote for a bill that would deny people basic care and dignity in living.

Emily Davis

--
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christina Adams [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy financial consequences

Dear Finance Committee,

As a former federal employee (Pentagon) and now an expert in autism, I'd like to point out the financial risks created by diminishing support for people with autism and their families. Let's start with the fact that lifetime care costs are already about 3M USD-plus for each individual. This is added to be the loss of career by both mothers (80%) and fathers (also impacted severely, from 20-60%). Soon we will see (under current conditions) more homeless autistic people and their families filling the streets, creating disease conditions and swelling shelters. Such disease conditions (as seen in this week's San Diego Hep A outbreak) harm everyone and cost more than the simple supports of existing health insurance. One can only imagine with the autism rate of one of every 45 US boys, how things will worsen without existing, already bad, health care. I see the proposal you entertain is saying to bill autism families and extra \$5K per year. This is unconscionable as we already spend thousands on their unpaid health care, child care, and therapies. And it's financially counterproductive for this country.

Second, fewer people will be having children under such conditions, as the birthrate is dropping already in the US and young people report a fear of autism, costs, and other things that dissuade them from wanting to have kids (see OC Family Magazine, Sept 2017). The tax and infrastructure consequences of a dropping birth rate are well-known to nations like Japan, and removing health insurance options will cost this country more than any "savings" in the loss of health care.

Third, my own son has autism, yet benefitted so much from interventions made possible by his health care and social supports funded by Medicaid and Regional Centers that he now holds a job, is super intelligent, has friends, and can expect a decent future. I myself have now gotten back to work again after many years of being impacted by his care. Morally, the devastation to these young autistic persons' lives and their families is just beyond comprehension were they to lose more health care, Medicare supports and everything they have struggled to achieve in decades of therapy. If you could sit there and see a young man cry over having no friends, hating himself for being autistic, and being bullied in school, you'd see what you should be working to prevent. Health insurance and funding is the only way these kids have any happiness. And their families are just as miserable along with them.

Please drill down into the costs of removal of services for autism and don't make a shortsighted decision to cut them.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], CA and Scott County, VA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not pass Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

I'm writing to ask you not to pass the Graham-Cassidy health bill. It will throw millions off their insurance, doom Medicaid—which provides important health care to millions, probably including some people in your families—and will end the protections on pre-existing conditions and lifetime caps. How can you possibly support a bill that every major medical organization including the AMA opposes. For the sake of all the citizens of this country, I ask you to put partisan politics aside and do what's right and vote against Graham-Cassidy. Otherwise, you'll be responsible for the pain, suffering and bankruptcies of millions of your fellow Americans.

Instead, please work with the Democrats to shore up the ACA. It's working, and with a few tweaks, will work even better.

Thanks very much,

Michael W. Levine



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no on the Graham-Cassidy amendment

No real debate, no CBO score, no support from health care communities, motivated by politics not a desire to implement good policy.

Wanda Hill
Very concerned citizen

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: abhorrent graham cassidy bill

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

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I am a 55 year old mother of a young adult with severe disabilities. Daniel was born with microcephaly, developed epilepsy and requires total care. He lives at home with me, and I provide his care with the help of personal care assistants through Medicaid.

I am a Registered Nurse and I've worked over the years in part-time jobs that allow me to care for Daniel when he's not in school. My income is about \$30,000 a year and I have another child in college. I've had early stage colon and breast cancer in the past four years. I pay for my own health insurance through the Exchange. ACA saved my life twice, and continues to keep me healthy.

This healthcare bill would impact my entire family in a negative way. My son relies on Medicaid to live in the community, and I need my insurance to stay healthy.

I believe rushing to repeal the ACA is immoral. We cannot bow to the Koch brothers and others at the top who want to take our healthcare away. History will not look kindly on those who support this bill.

Please vote no on the Graham-Cassidy bill. Our lives depend on it.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Murray

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please don't repeal ACA

Hello my name is Loren Omer and I'm emailing you because of my concerns regarding repealing the affordable care act. I, like many Americans rely on the affordable care act for life saving coverage. It's not perfect but it's fixable. The new proposal would be a disaster for American. Please don't repeal the affordable care act.

Thank you,
Loren Omer

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: 're Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

I understand the GOP is committed to a government that is not for The People and is committed to transferring OUR wealth to Trump #UnderRussianCloud and his #KremlinCohorts but I expect my opinion to be calculated in the faux process you have provided as a strong request that you all vote no on this thinly disguised devastation of so many Americans.

Thank you for your time.

Gail Mountain
[REDACTED]
Gloucester, MA 01930

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:40 PM
To: Hurt, Nikki (Markey); gchcomments; Pearson, Beth (Warren)
Cc: dmitchell@ethocare.org; MARGARET BARHITE
Subject: AGAINST - Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA)

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am a resident of Charlestown, Massachusetts and an employee of an eldercare agency, Ethos, in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts. I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) – specifically the gutting of the state-federal Medicaid program.

In Charlestown I have seen income and asset disparity increase dramatically – especially in recent years. Many long-time, low-income Charlestown residents, who are my neighbors and friends, would lose their ability to stay at home and within our community with these massive, devastating Medicaid changes. Conversely, the newer, wealthier residents of Charlestown would be far less vulnerable in their desire to age in place, affording private, at-home care. Everyone deserves the dignity and choice of remaining safely at home.

At Ethos I am employed to support similarly vulnerable elders and disabled persons throughout Boston neighborhoods (including Charlestown) who choose to live at home and within their communities. The repeal of the ACA could mean an end to their supported independence as low-income persons (as well as the resulting significant cost-savings to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts).

The inclusion and empowerment so important to my neighbors and me is multiplied exponentially throughout Boston. We must remain a neighborhood, a city and a country that places value on human dignity, the choices and empowerment that underscore it.

Please do the right thing in not supporting the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Wright, Kevin (Finance)
Subject: Statement for the record from the American Society on Aging
Attachments: ASA-stmt-Graham-Cassidy.pdf

Hello,

Please find attached a statement for the record from American Society on Aging pursuant to the "Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal" hearing scheduled by the Senate Finance Committee for Monday, September 25, 2017.

Please feel free to contact me concerning this statement.

Regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Officer
[REDACTED] g
[REDACTED] 869
p [REDACTED] 2607
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] bin
Agi [REDACTED] g/aia

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: URGENT re: your vote on the Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senate,

Healthcare is one of the most important moral and human rights issues of our time and one that I feel most passionate about in my voting for the past decade of American elections. It will surely guide my future voting until healthcare is ethically resolved.

Please reject this new Graham-Cassidy bill you are putting forth.

32 Million Americans could lose coverage, not to mention radical change to Medicaid, diminished funding for every state and higher costs for those lucky enough to have insurance through employment. If you want to keep your campaign pledges start by keeping your pledge not to touch Medicaid benefits.

Reject this bill.

Sincerely,
Your very concerned citizen

H. K. Yeung

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Medicaid!

I am a former Navigator for the Healthcare Marketplace and now a teacher in a school with about 80% free and reduced lunch. In both capacities, I have worked with vulnerable populations who needed Medicaid for their medical insurance. Without Medicaid, as we know it, many of my students would not have healthcare. One student just suffered severe burns and without Medicaid, the family would be facing astounding medical bills on top of coping with the illness of their child. No family should have to face that.

Please reconsider your plans for Medicaid - People should come before politics. Have a heart and do what's right!
Thanks, Monette Harrison

--
Today I would like to remind you to "Enjoy the little things, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things." -- Robert Brault.

Monette Harrison
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:40 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

....

It is obviously a way to steal more from the poor and give to the rich. It will also take away healthcare, pre-existing conditions, and the safety net needed by our sickest AMERICANS.

To vote for this is a vote against AMERICA's true meaning.

Of course, Sen. Toomey, you really don't care about America, only lining your own Pockets.

Sen. Casey, continue to fight the good fight!

Serge Small

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

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

Sherri Kotimsky
NY democrat voter

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marnie [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose the Graham-Cassidy ACA repeal bill

As a constituent and American Public Health Association advocate, I write in support of the Affordable Care Act and to express my strong opposition to any future attempts to repeal or weaken this important public health law, including the Graham-Cassidy repeal and replace proposal that contains many of the same negative provisions as the proposals rejected by the Senate earlier this year. The Graham-Cassidy proposal would cut health coverage and raise premiums and out-of-pocket costs for millions, eliminate the Prevention and Public Health Fund, slash federal Medicaid spending and end the ACA's Medicaid expansion, allow states to weaken protections for people with pre-existing conditions and eliminate Medicaid reimbursements to Planned Parenthood for one year.

I strongly urge you to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill and any other effort to repeal or weaken the ACA and instead continue the ongoing bipartisan efforts to improve and strengthen the ACA.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Im a victim of the UHS false claim

I think that the current proposal is a disgrace, it would hurt millions of people. However, if you really interested in saving money, I suggest you go after Universal Health Services. They are stealing billions of dollars from the government and they have been doing this a long time. I am a victim, I have evidence and spoke to the FBI. I have evidence if anyone on your committee is interested, pleas contact me. I had a lawsuit, however the lawyer couldn't deal with all of their attorneys. To me it's about stopping them. They are the Bernie Madoffs of psychiatric hospitals, however worse they leave a trail of blood (many wrongful deaths).

Jason Duchan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

I am the sister and guardian of a 50 year old man with autism. He was diagnosed at age two. Autism is a pre-existing condition. Currently, since my brother lives in Indiana, he is getting insurance through the Healthy Indiana Plan, HIP2.0, which was developed by former Governor Mike Pence.

Fortunately, HIP2.0 has covered my brother's healthcare needs. He is being treated for high blood pressure, allergies, and anxiety. Both of our parents died of heart disease. Our dad died at age 67, our mom at age 77. I am watching my brother closely and monitor his diet, but genetically we are disposed to heart problems. It is imperative that my brother continue to receive proper healthcare screenings, appointments, and treatments.

What would he do without HIP2.0? I really don't know. Before he was on the Medicaid Waiver, which was most of his life, he didn't have any insurance at all. He was living at home with our parents. All of his healthcare needs were paid out of pocket. As he ages and will be requiring ever more intensive care, he will be depending on adequate insurance, just like everyone in Congress.

It is a mystery to me why members of the GOP, in particular, are so intent in destroying people's lives by taking away their health care. There are only two possible reasons I come up with. 1. They absolutely want to destroy any legacy of Barack Obama 2. They are benefiting personally from this bill. Those are the only two logical reasons to present a bill that is so harmful to the elderly, the poor, and the disabled.

I find it despicable and immoral that members of Congress are not willing to cooperate with members across the aisle and come up with a bipartisan bill that actually helps people. The majority of Americans have told you loud and clear that they do not want the ACA repealed. We want it fixed. There are indeed parts that need work, but the entire ACA does not need to be demolished.

I am ashamed of our current government. Our country is becoming one that caters only to the very wealthy. The rest of us be damned. It doesn't matter how we vote, because you have gerrymandered so much that our votes hardly count.

I am worried about my brother, about his healthcare and his future. I worry about the future for my grandchildren. And I worry about the future of our country being led by wealthy bureaucrats who won't listen to their constituents but only cow tow to the Koch brothers and the almighty dollar.

The Graham Cassidy bill is a disservice to all Americans. Start listening to us and start being real representatives. It's way past time.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] t.
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:42 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 is an aberration and will have the effect of hurting our most vulnerable populations - we, as a country, are better than this! Maureen Gore

Maureen Gore

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nicolaykreidler.com>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment on ACA/Obamacare repeal bill

I'm a constituent from CA 94941.

Please vote no on this disastrous bill. Stop trying to repeal something that has started to work and put your effort into improving it.

The latest ACA/Obamacare repeal bill, the Graham-Cassidy-Heller Amendment, destroys Medicaid.

I have 2 young children. 3 years ago my wife had breast cancer. It was only because of the ACA, the public information, the proactive outreach and the easy enrollment process that she was able to get health insurance that covered her bilateral mastectomy and ensuing treatment and continuing coverage. My children would be uninsured if they had no access to Medicaid. The same goes for me. I work. I put food on the table. I pay my rent. Why are you trying to destroy something that finally was heading in the right direction?

Is it because of some people who are upset that their premiums are too high because they don't happen to have cancer right now? That is just ridiculous. Is it because health insurance can make a higher profit if they can only cover those who are not sick and price you out if you do get "too" ill? What's the point of that? Is it because keeping people on the edge all the time makes them more pliable?

There is nothing wrong with the ACA. You need to improve it, reign in the insurance companies and the drug industry. Why is it that with the resources and wealth we have, we cannot create a system like in Germany, France, and most other European countries where people don't go bankrupt when they get sick?

It seems to me that this is all about power and politics and not about people. Why is it so hard to come up with a compassionate solution. Who cares if corporations make a lower profit? It's not like anyone is dependent on those dividends or executive salaries. It's sacrificing the population for the benefit of a few.

Thanks for doing the right thing and voting down this bill.

Nicolay H Kreidler

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] m>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

A 60 year old earning \$25,000 a year, premiums and out of pocket costs could increase by as much as \$16,174 a year, that's \$8,826 a year for housing, utilities, food, insurance, how will that work?? Medicaid funding will be cut by billions of dollars. Who benefits really benefits from this bill, really?

I can't wait until every corrupt individual is walked out of whichever house they're in.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda H. [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Trumpcare

Vote NO! We The People demand healthcare for ALL, no reduction in coverage can be allowed!

Linda

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy NO

Dear Senators,

The latest ACA repeal attempt is as terrifying as the previous ones. 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. Please. The future health of millions of Americans depends on your action.

Thank you.

Megan Sandberg-Zakian

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: PLEASE OPPOSE Graham Cassidy bill!

Good afternoon.

I am a cancer survivor with a father on medicare and children in my life. We all need health insurance. Please help protect our needs. That is the American thing to do. That is the Christian thing to do to, in case that is important to you.

Thank you,

Marj Kleinman
Brooklyn, NY

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

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: jendohner@... [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re: Graham-Cassidy Bill
Attachments: FB_IMG_1505796861451.jpg; Screenshot_20170922-094040.png

Oops. Please add these two attachments to my prior e-mail.

On Sep 22, 2017 9:33 AM, [REDACTED] wrote:

This Graham-Cassidy bill is truly atrocious. It's the worst of the bunch recently proposed by the GOP. It's a death sentence for metastatic cancer patients. It takes money away from the low income elderly and disabled children. It hangs opioid-addicted communities completely out to dry. It strips funding, access, and ultimately rights away from women and girls regarding reproductive health and choice. It literally takes money away from blue states and gives it to red states. Mark my words, the opposition to this bill is thick and fierce. Bipartisan Medicaid directors from ALL FIFTY STATES, innumerable medical associations, insurance companies, and the informed public ALL oppose this bill.

Let us be perfectly clear. This bill has nothing to do with health or with care. This is not a healthcare bill at all. This is a straight up fleecing; a robbery backed by dark Koch and Mercer money. We're just wondering if three upstanding GOP bystanders might just become heroes by leaping into action, and subduing the guys with the guns. Regular process must be restored. This is the US Senate we are talking about, not some secluded gold-rush-era stagecoach.

Kill this bill. Americans deserve better.

Jen Dohner

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Please oppose this bill and seek to improve not eliminate the ACA. I myself am a cancer survivor. Access to good health insurance even in the limited income of my retirement is my greatest comfort. My sister is dying of a condition which may never have become terminal if she had always have access to the care that she was able to procure with the ACA. I can not think of a single thing I am more opposed to than this travesty of a health care bill. Thank you. I beseech you. Carla Wykoff. Arizona

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:43 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 I administer Anesthesia in a small rural hospital servicing low income hard working people that have benefited from the Medicaid expansion. Our hospital would close otherwise . Block grants are not the answer . I have witnessed the quality of patient care improve because of the ACA & it's quality indicators . It would be going backwards to repeal any of it .

There are many people that have benefited from this program .

Please do not pass this bill but continue to work in a bipartisan fashion to FIX what is wrong with the ACA . Human Lives Depend on it !

Thank you ,

Gemma Rosato CRNA

Gemma Rosato

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham - Cassidy health bill

I am firmly against this bill, as is the majority of Americans and every consumer advocacy group. We heard for years about Obamacare being rammed down our throats, how is this different? One committee meeting? No CBO score? No public testimony? And no public meeting of the President and the Democrats.

Two republican senators received spontaneous applause when coming back to their home states after saying no to the first bill. Will someone ask the Republican senators who voted for this bill how many voters applauded them walking through the airport?

Jim Cisek

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repub Health Care proposal

Please do not support this terrible proposed health care proposal designed to replace the ACA, which has its own problems which can be addressed with alternative solutions. This new Republican proposal is very subjective & offers little factual information to individual citizens about what will actually happen to the cost & content of their health care.

It is absolutely incredible that our Representatives would vote for such a bill without even reading it. For this we offer them health care & life long salaries. The Representatives & Senators who choose health care for us must have the same health care extended to them.

Where does health care for needy children fall in this plan?

As a retired pediatric surgeon I have worked with many congenital anomalies in newborns. Their parents' financial security varies from nothing to more than adequate. None of these families expected a child with such anomalies - often requiring years of care & multiple procedures - & had done nothing known to create them. Very few of us can finance such care alone.

I favor a single payer health care for each citizen not one which can be manipulated by transient governors of questionable interest & abilities for whom service may be a priority or self promotion may be a priority. Single payer too will have on going problems which can be addressed hopefully by a group of committed, knowledgeable, intelligent leaders & physicians working for optimal care for the individual & not politically focused, poorly informed people who want to maintain party approval & re election.

We need desperately to improve costs & provide comprehensive, quality care for each citizen with an emphasis on improved life style, diet, & individual responsibility. Our health care must include physical, psychological, dental, & visual care from conception forward.

The huge quantities of totally unaccounted for taxes going into the pentagon & the huge, financial benefits of a few from ongoing war efforts must be stopped & reduced. Many of these wasted unaccounted for funds could be helpful in supporting quality, health care for all.

Not paying life long salaries to our Representatives & Senators who often seem to focus more on self importance & re election than on well informed service to their constituents. These funds could be applied to single payer health care.

Controlling the cost of drugs & many aspects of health care, supplies by quantities required can reduce costs.

Requiring the Representatives & Senators to use the same health care services as their constituents can also provide additional funds & hopefully a genuine, proactive interest & knowledge in the quality of the health care.

Please do not vote for a health care system just because your party has put it forward. Please educate yourself on the content & demand time to do so before voting on such a life altering health care bill of such poor quality & vague, ill defined benefits particularly for pre existing health care needs.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Regarding Graham-Cassidy

Dear Chairman Hatch, Ranking Member Wyden, and members of the Committee,

I am writing you as a US citizen proud to call New Jersey home, a full-time middle-class worker, a sister, a daughter, and a wife, urging you to reject Graham-Cassidy and commit instead to a bipartisan proposal that brings Americans closer to universal, affordable coverage.

Healthcare is a complex issue comprising 1/6 of our economy, and deserves time and care to get right. While the Affordable Care Act is far from perfect, it has gone a long way to ensuring that Americans, regardless of income level or health status, can truly enjoy the right to life. Liberty and the pursuit of happiness are both impossible in the absence of life.

I wanted to tell you a bit about my experience as a chronically ill 29-year-old woman. I live a healthy lifestyle, exercising at least 90 minutes per day, sleeping 8 hours each night, and eating a healthy diet. I drink only on special occasions, and not to excess. But through no fault of my own, I have Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, a genetic corruption of collagen that causes full-body pain through lax connective tissues, fibromyalgia, another chronic pain disorder that implicates my central nervous system, premature ovarian failure, and severe clinical depression that requires expensive treatment to manage.

Around this time last year, I checked myself into the hospital when my suicidal ideation — an artifact of both my genes and childhood trauma — turned into obsession. I knew that my husband would be devastated if he lost me, and I also didn't want to set that example for my three younger siblings, who also suffer from depression and anxiety. I have lost multiple family members both to suicide and to drug abuse, and many more family members have attempted suicide.

In the hospital, I met Julie, a beautiful older woman who barely spoke at all until I played music from a Catholic Missal on piano for her, awakening old cherished memories and her connection to God. I met a man who only overcame his heroin addiction after his wife died in her 30s — so immobilized by grief, he no longer had the energy to use. I met a woman who, at 22, had already been in jail multiple times, disfigured by a blunt stabbing by a fellow inmate, and had been turned on to heroin use by her mother. *Her mother*. She barely had a chance.

This hospital was only minutes from Camden, NJ, so it's no surprise that the mental health floor accommodated so many people hit hard by the current opioid crisis. What I can tell you is that every soul I met in the four days I spent in the hospital was beautiful. Every soul was deserving of care. Every soul was deserving of my tax dollars to keep safe.

If I had taken my own life instead of going to the hospital that night, I wouldn't have finished my novel. I wouldn't have received my recent promotion at work. I wouldn't have seen my brother marry the love of his life this year. I wouldn't have had the chance to tell you my story.

I live a blessed life, despite my chronic illness. Even with insurance, it costs me about \$700 out of pocket to cover my fibromyalgia medications, my physical therapy, my antidepressants, my chronic insomnia medication, my many doctor visits, and an upcoming surgery I need on my paralyzed colon. Despite all this, I can still run

long distances. Despite my low dopamine, I can still enjoy the love of my devoted husband, my incredible younger siblings, and my three cherished pets. I have a job that I enjoy and that pays me enough.

And I could lose all of it if I lose my healthcare.

Please reject Graham-Cassidy. Please remember me. Please remember Julie. Please remember my husband, Chris, who has Crohn's Disease. Please remember my mother, who has COPD. Please remember my father, who has Hepatitis C. Please remember my brother, who has Celiac disease. Please remember my sister, who has hypothyroidism and is pregnant with her first child.

Thank you,

Natalie H.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy "Healthcare" bill

To whom it may concern,

Please leave the ACA in place and work together to fix any problems with our current law.

As a parent of two teenage boys with pre-existing conditions, I do not want to see our family lose coverage or be on the brink of bankruptcy when our premiums go up with this sham of a bill just so you can give your rich donors a tax break. I'm sure your talking point that I will not lose "access" to my coverage will be your counter argument. Access does not equal affordability. If my premiums go up \$140,000 per year because, God forbid, I develop a metastatic cancer, how exactly are we supposed to have "access" to coverage if our total family income is less than \$140k?

I also understand members of congress are exempt from being enrolled in this replacement bill. If it was such a great bill, you should enroll in it first. That's what leaders do, they lead, not tell others what they should do while they sit on their high perches.

Sincerely,
Travis Ruda

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: DO NOT PASS THE GRAHAM CASSIDY BILL!!!!

I am a self employed breast cancer survivor and the ONLY way that I am able to get health coverage is through the ACA.

PLEASE VOTE NO

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

We are all Americans ! Let's take care of each other with an improvement to Affordable Care . Please kill this terrible bill !

Wright, Kevin (Finance)



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:50 PM
Subject: My statement

For the last time, just fix what;s wrong with the ACA!! Do not repeal!

With gratitude,

Dr. Michele D'Amico, CPC, CELC

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

 [Facebook](#)  [Twitter](#)

*From fear and self doubt to clarity and success!
Live your life by choice, not by chance.*

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:51 PM
To: gchcomments

Good afternoon,

Thank you for giving us an opportunity to share our stories. I am writing for my 2 yr old grandson. Donovan was born with a congenital heart defect (Tetralogy of Fallot). He had open heart surgery when he was 2 months old. He will need another at some point. Without it he will die. In the meantime he has to follow up yearly with cardiology. Aside from his heart, he is a typical feisty two yr old and smart as a whip. I have no doubt he will grow up to do great things, if given the chance. His parents have enough to worry about just praying that trying to be a normal two yr old won't kill him, without adding the extra stress of worrying if his next echocardiogram will be the procedure that puts him over his lifetime cap and gets him dropped from coverage. No middle class family, even working two full time jobs, can afford the amount that their coverage is expected to go up to cover these pre-existing conditions. Make no mistake, they will do whatever is necessary to protect their son and ensure his health, as will we, his grandparents. However, that is money that will no longer be spent in our local economy. It will affect everyone in this way, and we are all just a breathe away from a devastating diagnosis. Health crises do not discriminate. It affected us, an otherwise healthy family, in a heartbeat. My grandson did nothing to deserve this. His mother did nothing to cause this in utero. It was a fluke, an act of God, and there are so many others just like us. It is disgraceful to jeopardize the middle class, the vulnerable, the elderly, the innocent to benefit the wealthy. He deserves better, we all deserve better.

Thank you for listening and considering,
Lisa Hibbard

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not pass the Graham Cassidy bill

I write as a citizen of this country. One who has held a job since she was 14 years old. This healthcare bill is a disaster. This bill will lead to countless deaths. Premature deaths of people who could have lived. My sister-in-law is an example of someone who likely would have died under this law. She came down with a brain tumor when she and my brother were launching their own business. They did not have insurance and because of this, they waited to get her treatment until her tumor was lodged in the optic nerve. Even after they got her insurance, it cost over \$900 per month and she was tossed off plans multiple times due to her cancer. She was tossed off insurance FOR BEING SICK. Why are we even paying for it then???? They paid \$5000 twice per year, out of pocket, for the MRI's she needed. FOR SEVERAL YEARS. They were so relieved when the ACA was launched and they could get her a plan that wasn't completely outrageous nor would throw her off at a moment's notice.

Now you are proposing a bill which is WORSE than what was available before the ACA. SHAME SHAME SHAME. You are going to kill the very people who voted for you. Let me ask you. Do YOU want this plan? Are you going to be FORCED TO DEAL WITH IT? If you were, you would be voting no. And YOU SHOULD. Please, do not murder us, your citizens. We do not deserve to die under these rules. Shame. On all of you who are even considering it.

Laura Christoffels
Citizen for Intelligent Decisions

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators,

I urge you to oppose the Senate's Graham-Cassidy plan and all other plans that repeal the Affordable Care Act, dismantle Medicaid and defund Planned Parenthood.

The Graham-Cassidy plan is a cruel and lethal outrage that would be devastating to women, especially low-income women, women with disabilities, elderly women and women of color.

If the latest version of Trumpcare passes, Medicaid as we know it will end. One-in-five women of reproductive age rely on Medicaid, half of all births in the U.S. are paid for through Medicaid, two-thirds of nursing home patients have their care paid for through Medicaid, and 42 percent of Medicaid spending benefits children and adults with disabilities. What will happen to all of these vulnerable people?

In addition, ending the Essential Health Benefits protections that guarantee women access to vital treatment, such as maternity care, is blatantly unacceptable and discriminatory. An estimated 13 million women could lose access to maternity care through this bill, threatening the lives of mothers and their babies.

The American people strongly oppose this plan and all of its deadly implications. PLEASE vote against this outrageous and unconscionable fraud.

Thank you.

Sara Blumenthal

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Health Care bill

Jesus Heals a Paralytic

¹A few days later, Jesus went back to Capernaum. And when the people heard He was home, ²they gathered in such large numbers that there was no more room, not even outside the door, as Jesus spoke the word to them.

³Then a paralytic was brought to Him, carried by four men. ⁴Since they were unable to get to Jesus through the crowd, they uncovered the roof above Him, made an opening, and lowered the paralytic on his mat.

⁵When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

⁶But some of the scribes were sitting there and contemplating in their hearts, ⁷"Why does this man speak like this? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

⁸At once Jesus knew in His spirit that they were considering this within themselves. "Why do you question these things in your hearts?" He asked. ⁹"Which is easier: to say to a paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, pick up your mat, and walk'?" ¹⁰But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins..." He said to the paralytic, ¹¹"I tell you, get up, pick up your mat, and go home."

¹²And immediately the man got up, picked up his mat, and walked out in front of them all. As a result, everyone was amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

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James M. Grandone
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 2
[REDACTED]@gmail.com

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy Bill currently being pushed through the Senate because ..it does not improve access to healthcare, It does not make healthcare affordable. It cuts public funding that helps people get healthcare and it benefits the ultra wealthy. Please pay attention to the needs of the poor and the middle class, and those of us who have pre-existing conditions. Thank you.

Anne Smith

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Healthcare

It is appalling this bill does not prevent insurance companies from charging more for preexisting conditions or from instituting a lifetime cap.

Please consider the opinions of experts like the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association ("This bill harms our most vulnerable patients"), the American Public Health Association ("Graham-Cassidy would devastate the Medicaid program, increase out-of-pocket costs, and weaken or eliminate protections for people living with preexisting conditions"), the National Institute for Reproductive Health ("the Graham-Cassidy bill preys on underserved communities ... a clear and present danger"), and Federation of American Hospitals ("It could disrupt access to health care for millions of the more than 70 million Americans") and do not allow this bill in its present form to pass the Senate.

Traci Coulter

TCO
Traci Coulter

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michelle Baute <msbprep@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

4 years ago my two children were diagnosed with a rare disease and received bone marrow transplants within 6 months of each other in a different city and state- Cincinnati.
Additionally, my husband was diagnosed with cancer right after this.
If it were not for ACA, we would be bankrupt, homeless and all 3 might be dead because of having to choose between medical treatment and bills is a horrible task.

Michelle Baute
[Redacted]
[Redacted] 2
[Redacted] 3

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repeal Obamacare

My daughter is 36, disabled with an autism spectrum disorder. Despite her earnest efforts, she has only been able to work part time. Without the ACA, she will be a "pre-existing condition," and will never be able to afford private health insurance. Please don't take it from her. Prove to someone that you have a heart!

You know full well that the ACA isn't why health care is so expensive in this country. It's drug prices, drug company and insurance company super profits. Attack the real problems, not a red herring!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy Bill currently being pushed through the Senate because it is a bill that will hurt Americans. We need improved access to healthcare, not a bill that will leave millions more uninsured. As someone with a pre-existing condition, the ACA relieved a great deal of stress over being able to obtain insurance. Additionally, working in the public schools, I've seen how vital Medicaid is to some really vulnerable people. Please do not allow this bill to pass.

Brittany Collier

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: REJECT GRAHAM CASSIDY.

Please please please reject the Graham-Cassidy proposal on healthcare! PLEASE!

Thank you,

Mariah Murray

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Regarding Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

I am appalled at this bill which would (once again) cut health insurance for those who need it most (the less well off) and slash protections for those with pre-existing illnesses.

It is unconscionable that anyone would try to pass such a morally repugnant bill. The fact that it is being rammed through the Congress at the very end of the session without Committee hearings or change for substantial input from the affected parties is disgraceful.

Yours truly,

Cort Johnson

--

Health Rising thanks the Simmaron Research Foundation and Prohealth for their support.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE do not pass this bill. I am a healthy 61 year old woman who could not get health insurance if this passes!

Pre-existing conditions would mean I couldn't possibly get insurance. I remember the 'bad old days' when a minor health condition would either mean no insurance or completely unaffordable insurance.

I am a small business person who cannot get employer sponsored health benefits.

On behalf of others, I am extremely concerned also about those who have Medicaid, coverage for pharmacy benefits, coverage for maternity care.

If we are a nation that CARES for its people, it boggles my mind that we would exclude the poorest among us, the pregnant, the ill.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE do not pass this bill. And stop telling us that it won't hurt people when you know full well that it will-all in the name of ideology and campaign promises-promises that were rejected by most people once they comprehended the outcomes.

-- Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 18
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@com

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED] Drive, Suite 101
[REDACTED] MT 59715

[REDACTED]

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy is a travesty and so is our Republican leadership

It makes me sick the way this bill is being jammed through in secret in a totally partisan manner. 90 seconds of debate? One hearing--in the WRONG committee?! It's patently obvious that our Republican leadership is trying to decimate Medicaid with this bill so that you can give the biggest wealth transfer in history to your rich Koch and Mercer donors. It's going to literally kill people, and harm children and families, and you don't care. Doctors, hospitals, patient advocacy groups, literally EVERYONE with any sense opposes this bill. You should all be ashamed of yourselves. This is NOT what governing is supposed to be.

--

[REDACTED]
(517) 312-1111

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy Bill currently being pushed through the Senate because it strips protections for pre-existing conditions. It will also skyrocket premiums and out-of-pocket costs.

Robin Stelly

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy Bill currently being pushed through the Senate because it does not ensure that people with pre-existing conditions will be able to get affordable healthcare. It will put millions of Americans off healthcare all together. Thus is being done in a rushed way. Every senator needs time to read and analyse the bill and the CBO needs time to do its analysis.

Kristen Dunegan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators:

Voting for this bill is a betrayal not only of the congressional rules you were elected to uphold, but of the American people themselves. Should you do so, you expose yourself as self-serving, partisan, and duplicitous. If you still have a conscience, if you are still able to judge right from wrong, you will not inflict this damage on those you claim to represent.

Dan Gallagher

Dan Gallagher

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Pearson, Beth (Warren); Hurt, Nikki (Markey)
Subject: I strongly oppose GCHJ

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden,

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

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

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal threatens the health and financial security of millions of Americans including older adults, low-and moderate-income families, people living with disabilities, veterans and people with preexisting conditions. It does nothing to improve affordability or availability of coverage for consumers and will likely result in approximately 665,000 Massachusetts residents losing coverage by 2027 and will undermine the financial stability of our health care system and place additional fiscal strains on our state budget. Below I've laid out in more detail my concerns with this proposal and the devastating impact it will have on consumers.

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

This proposal takes away secure coverage from millions, and replaces it only with the possibility of inadequate and temporary coverage. It ends the ACA's successful Medicaid expansion, which has extended coverage to nearly 12 million newly eligible low-income adults. It also eliminates the ACA tax credits that 10 million low- and moderate-income people rely on to afford coverage in the individual market. Although it replaces this funding with a block grant to states, the proposal offers no guarantee that states will provide an alternative affordable coverage option to former enrollees - and indeed the block grant is inadequate to pay for comparable benefits. From 2020 through 2026, block grant funding would be at least 7% (\$95 billion) below projected spending under current law, including a \$5-\$8 billion loss in federal funding to Massachusetts. Regardless, the block grant ends in 2027, leaving states and former enrollees with no help whatsoever. I do not believe it is likely that Congress would reauthorize additional funds for these programs at a later date, because the funds would no longer be in the baseline

of the federal budget. Congress would therefore have to identify and reauthorize a new funding stream – something that would be extremely difficult, if not impossible.

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

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

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

- **Pushes massive new costs onto states.**

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

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

Because federal dollars for Medicaid account for about 20% of state budgets, FitchRatings “believes substantial Medicaid cuts would require states to make material budget adjustments over the next decade and beyond.” And by pulling coverage from so many, this proposal would drive up uncompensated care costs on local communities, state budgets, safety net providers, and hospitals.

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

By repealing the individual mandate and eliminating advanced premium tax credits and cost sharing reductions, this proposal would drive up premiums and cause insurers to exit the ACA’s marketplaces. As

we know from previous CBO projections, repealing the individual mandate alone would increase the number of uninsured individuals by 15 million and cause premiums to increase by 20 percent. Furthermore, by replacing the financing of the ACA's financial assistance with a block grant without any guarantee that states would direct their temporary block grant funds toward financial assistance, this proposal puts Massachusetts residents who currently rely on financial assistance at risk for sharply higher out-of-pocket costs and coverage loss.

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

- **Eliminates critical consumer protections.**

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

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

I believe that everyone should have a say in the decisions that affect their health. With only one hearing scheduled days before a possible vote, and without a full CBO score to properly evaluate the budgetary and coverage loss impacts, it is impossible to have an open and deliberative process that would allow for a true evaluation of and meaningful input on the policies in this proposal that would affect millions of people and one sixth of the US economy. I encourage a return to "regular order," as requested by many members of the Senate and supported by the American public, which would require the opportunity for stakeholders, including industry experts, providers, consumers and state policymakers to weigh in.

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

Sincerely,

Sarah Bainbridge King

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: PLEASE STOP THREATENING OUR HEALTHCARE.

As a citizen of the United States of America,

I implore each and every one of you to stop trying to hurt people who need healthcare.

WORK with your counterparts and take the time to find a TRUE solution to this crisis.

Ripping away people's healthcare is not the answer. Be the people who finally choose to work across the aisle and compromise.

Fix what is broken in the system that is protecting MORE people now then ever before.

Rename it if it makes you feel better, I know as a citizen, I would give credit to those who stand up and protect people's health care by opposing this awful patchwork last gasp bill.

ACA may have flaws, but they can be fixed...In places where it fails, find ways to make it work, in places where it is succeeding, help shore it up and make it better.

Whatever you do, DO NOT HURT the people of this country by being a blind party loyalist and kicking millions of people off of affordable and actual health care.

Too many innocent lives are put at risk simply because your vote may be the one to deny their ability to stay alive. Don't do this.

Peter Pantazis,

American.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Alone

Leave us alone, if you really want to save money, cut your own exorbitant salaries, but leave the truly needy alone.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy Bill currently being pushed through the Senate becauseyou are not willing to accept the same health care for you and your family as are trying to impose on me and my family.

Mary Brown

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Megan Frantz [mailto:mfrantz95@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy Bill currently being pushed through the Senate because it will severely affect the most vulnerable. It is projected to strip health coverage from 32 million Americans. This is unacceptable. Congress should be working towards healthcare for everyone and ensuring that no one has to pick between food or medication. We need to do better.

Sincerely,
Megan Frantz

Megan Frantz

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Senators,

You know as well as I do, this bill is a monstrosity, that makes absolutely no sense. I certainly does not serve the people you suppose to represent. You are supporting the President's vengeance toward everything President Obama accomplished. Think about your chances in 2018. You see, one of these days people will wake up! Would you be kind enough just to fix ACA!

Regarding the proposed tax cuts, please next time don't try to run as a deficit hawk. It is either a bad joke, or hopefully just a bad dream.

Peter Saunders, 69-40 Yellowstone Blvd, Forest Hills, N.Y. 11375

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because healthcare should be right for all Americans, not a privilege. Nobody wants to get sick, no one has a choice. How can any of you live with yourselves, denying healthcare to children. The changes to the law will impact us directly as we have family members with pre-existing conditions. These changes are terrifying and unAmerican. Please do the right thing. Medicare for all!!!

Emma Blair

19382
6106755893

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing to express my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Bill designed to overturn the Affordable Care Act. As the mother of a teenaged cancer survivor, I'm appalled that protections for pre-existing conditions appear to be on the chopping block. I am also concerned about the millions of my fellow citizens who's ability to obtain health care will undoubtedly be jeopardized should this legislation pass. Health care is a right that should be conferred to all Americans -- not just to those on the correct side of the widening income gap. This legislation is a giant step backward for the country.

Sincerely,
Patricia Sisson
Centerbrook, Connecticut

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kimberly Brown - Brown@kimberlybrown.com
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:18 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 allow states to opt out of healthcare and that will affect the most vulnerable people. I am very concerned about this bill being rammed through congress. I would support working on fixing Obamacare in a bi-partisan way.

Kimberly Brown

80516
303-875-1596

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Your careers are at stake

Senators,

If you think your careers are on the line if you don't repeal Obamacare, just imagine what you risk if you rip citizens' healthcare from them. This bill is reprehensible. Do you think that it is a smart move to restructure 1/6 of the nation's economy without having hearings or a CBO score? You would have been outraged if Democrats did this. Furthermore, it is not as if there is not legitimate nonpartisan opposition to this bill. Review the following before making your decision:

- **American Medical Association**: "We sincerely hope that the Senate will take this opportunity to change the course of the current debate and work to fix problems with the current system."
- **American Hospital Association**: "Medicaid cuts of this magnitude are unsustainable and will increase costs to individuals with private insurance."
- **American Association of Medical Colleges**: "We are extremely disappointed by the Senate bill released today."
- **American College of Physicians**: "I am writing to express our strongest possible opposition to the Better Care Reconciliation Act."
- **American Academy of Family Physicians**: "The US Senate's proposed health reform bill contains provisions that would do great harm to patients."
- **American Academy of Pediatrics**: "The bill fails children by dismantling the Medicaid program, capping its funding, ending its expansion and allowing its benefits to be scaled back."
- **National Association of Medicaid Directors**: "The per capita cap growth rates for Medicaid in the Senate bill are insufficient and unworkable."
- **American Psychiatric Association**: "The American Psychiatric Association urges the Senate to reject the troubling and harmful health care reform proposal released today by Senate Republicans."
- **Federation of American Hospitals**: "Most providers and clinicians, including FAH, are deeply concerned by the Better Care Reconciliation Act discussion draft."
- **America's Essential Hospitals**: "Senate leaders today have put ideology ahead of lives with a plan that puts health and home at risk for millions of working Americans and that would badly weaken essential services for everyone in communities across the country."
- **AARP**: "We strongly urge the Senate to reject this bill."
- **American Heart Association**: "The Senate draft health care bill is literally heartless."
- **American Lung Association**: "The healthcare legislation released today falls woefully short of providing healthcare for the 32 million Americans living with lung disease and should be rejected."
- **The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse**: "Anyone who votes for the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 cannot claim to be committed to ending the opioid epidemic."
- **American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network**: "Preliminary analysis of the Senate bill released today shows the proposal could greatly harm millions of cancer patients, survivors and those at risk for the disease."

- **US Conference for Catholic Bishops:** "This moment cannot pass without comment. As the USCCB has consistently said, the loss of affordable access for millions of people is simply unacceptable. These are real families who need and deserve health care."

Sincerely,

Katherine Kendrick

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

As phone lines are busy and voice mail full, i am sending this email to voice my strong opposition to the latest, and in my opinion, the worst "repeal and replace" bill.

it is utterly immoral to proceed with a bill that will provide a tax break for the wealthy while leaving up to 32 MILLION people without affordable health insurance by 2027. Particularly hard hit will be seniors, those with pre-existing conditions, those with early high expenses (premature babies, for instance) or long-term management that allows people to hold jobs and care for their families, women, the poor, the disabled -- in other words, everyone except wealthy young and middle-aged males.

What's worse is that Republican Congressmen asked about the bill have basically said they have to pass something, and that the content doesn't matter so much as the passage, because "it was a campaign promise."

So was protecting the welfare of our nation, was it not? How can Congress give the military \$700 billion and deny ordinary citizens the right to a life free of pain, free of worry that they will lose their lives or that of their loved ones, that they will go bankrupt from medical bills? How is that freedom? What exactly is the military protecting if not the well-being of our nation?

I urge you ALL to vote no and work to come up with an alternative that actually improves people's ability to access affordable health care in this, the richest of all nations, instead of condemning them to either poverty in trying to afford it, or suffering and death when they can't.

Sincerely,
Karen Hollis

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Where do I begin...

This should not be allowed to go forth as something this important, that makes up 1/6 of the economy, should not be rushed as this was. It has not gone through the analysis that it should, has not gone through Regular Order. There will be no CBO score...how can it go through without 60 votes without a CBO score?

Chuck Grassley has said "You know, I could maybe give you 10 reasons why this bill shouldn't be considered," the Iowa Republican said. "But Republicans campaigned on this so often that you have a responsibility to carry out what you said in the campaign. That's pretty much as much of a reason as the substance of the bill."

That is NOT acceptable. It is outrageously irresponsible to pass something so weak on substance that again represents 1/6 of the economy, because they did not manage to come up with a strong bill though they had 7 years to devise it, so, the people have to suffer so they can say "we kept our promise, so vote for me." This is just crazy, lunacy really, and WAY beneath the institution of the Senate. So they can keep their promise REGARDLESS of the meritorious nature of the actual repeal/replace plan, that should be deemed unacceptable.

How meritorious is it - Every medical body is against it. I am sure a current list will be entered by someone at the hearing. One published by Andy Savitt which was current as of 2 pm 9/21 is below. Seriously, with that list, representing all major health care entities in the US from every side of the spectrum, with NOT A SINGLE NOTABLE GROUP coming out in support, HOW GOOD CAN that bill be?? They are trying to skip the step of a thorough analysis by the CBO, but this state of affairs with so many against and none for indicates we should not rush forward with this bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:17 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 health care policy (an opinion I share with the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Public Health Association, the National Institute for Reproductive Health, the Federation of American Hospitals, the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society, the American Diabetes Association, the American Lung Association, the Arthritis Foundation, the National Health Council, the March of Dimes, and AARP). It threatens protections for pre-existing conditions as well as requirements that essential services (like maternity care) be covered by affordable health plans. And it dramatically reduces funding for health insurance and coverage upon which millions of Americans currently rely. The direct impact of this bill on those individuals' physical and mental well-being should be reason enough to defeat it, let alone all of the bill's indirect consequences (children being too sick for school, adults being too sick for work, lost productivity as workers leave their jobs to care for sick family members, over-burdened emergency rooms, excessive health care costs due to a lack of preventative care, etc.).

As for my own family, Medicaid benefits have proven invaluable in our ability to provide our son, who struggles with speech, with the therapies he needs. Those therapies proved transformative not only for him (he's now thriving thanks, too, to Medicaid's support of services he receives in school) but a stabilizing force for our family as well.

This is a lot to throw away to make a political point.

Thank you for your time,
Karen Beck Pooley

Karen Beck Pooley

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Life threatening lung disease

Hello,

Here in Massachusetts my daughter can now breathe easy because she has excellent health insurance via MassHealth. She faces each day with both a life threatening disease and allergy. Thankfully she has all the medication and monitoring she needs to thrive in our community.

Our Republican Governor has written to you with his policy concerns and goodness knows he has skills in this area. I am writing to you to put a face in the numbers and policy, my daughter's beautiful, smiling face. Just one "number" makes a difference ...

Thank you for your service to our precious country!

Jodi Tharan, M.Div.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@dejazzd.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:17 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 healthcare should be a right for the citizens of Pennsylvania as well as for those of this nation. It's shameful that this is being battled in our government. The health of our citizens should be a priority for BOTH sides of the Senate and House! Do the right thing and NOT pass this bill.

Gwenevere Good-Price

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I firmly oppose the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill. This bill will do great harm to millions of Americans, including members of my family. It will lead to millions of people losing health insurance coverage. It will increase premiums generally, end the premium and cost-sharing subsidies that make it possible for low-income Americans to afford health insurance, and allow much higher premiums for older Americans. It will end the guarantee of coverage for people with pre-existing conditions. It will end the ban on annual and lifetime limits for health insurance. It will end the guarantee that important services like immunizations, prescriptions, maternity care, etc. be covered by health insurers. In addition, this bill goes beyond repealing the ACA and makes a major assault on traditional Medicaid by reducing its funding and imposing caps on the program. This will seriously threaten health care for the poor, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

I urge Congress to reject this bill which will have dire consequences for real people – more Americans without health insurance and unable to afford health care, resulting in unnecessary illness, debilitation, and death.

Catherine Barnes

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No

Please vote no on this terrible bill.

Thank you,
Matthew Mahoney

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham Cassidy

You must vote NO. A full Congressional Budget Office Analysis is required for such a impactful bill. How can one possibly allow this to pass without the proper analysis to assess it's impact.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy - please vote NO

Please vote AGAINST this terrible bill! Obamacare is not perfect, but what is needed is a bipartisan approach to fixing it. The key provisions of Obamacare that are most important to my family and me are the bans on discriminating based on preexisting conditions and on lifetime limits. My family is directly impacted by these protections and the impact of this bill could have terrible, life-changing consequences for the health and livelihood of our newborn son. Any bill that does revise to the Affordable Care Act must continue these protections.

I can't believe such an impactful bill would be put to a vote without a CBO score & after only one hearing. I'm equally appalled by the false claims being made by the bill's sponsors regarding preexisting conditions.

For the sake of my family and so many like us, please vote against this bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hope your not throwing grandma off cliff like dems are saying

Having mental illness, I live in Indiana moving back home from North Carolina. I am on Lorazepam and because I am on that no psychiatrist will take me. I have been going and calling my Dr in North Carolina to get my meds. 10 minutes on the phone \$130 a pop. I'm low income and they don't take my insurance and the don't reimburse. It sucks. HELP. I'm a 65 yrs old widiw so am I just going to be thrown away? I don't like to leave my home now and have white coat syndrome.

Love President Trump though and Lindsey Graham.

Maggie Littlepaige

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Richard Wilkes [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:33 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Healthcare Proposal

To the Honorable Senate Committee:

I am a 60 year old man, with type 2 Diabetes (like many others). I am self employed. I am not eligible for subsidies. I am very concerned with the Graham Cassidy proposal and its impact on rates and coverage for those of us on the individual market. Each analysis by third party experts demonstrate that costs will go up for people in my situation. The risk that states can opt out of essential health benefits as well as coverage of pre-existing conditions is concerning.

But my bigger concern is not about myself. It is about my brother Alan. He is developmentally disabled. He has lived for the last 25 years in a group home where his life is full and content. He does not receive Medicaid for his healthcare. However, his ability to live in a group home with his friends, being taken care of by professional staff including personal hygiene including cleaning himself, showering, dressing, walking assistance, food preparation, as well as community based programming per the DOJ consent order, is all made possible through State and Federal Medicaid. As more community based programming is mandated, it will take additional staff to manage and execute. Without Medicaid support, where will the funding come from? He is happy, he is content. I am very concerned for his future as a result of the block grant program being proposed. Not only will the total amount be cut over the next few years, independent analysis by Avalere Health estimates a 15% cut in Medicaid support for the disabled. That is a disastrous outlook. Additionally, as in past proposals, individual states can redirect funding to other needs beyond Medicaid. I cannot support my brother for several reasons beyond the specialized care he requires. State law prohibits me from providing support to his care, unless I pay back all the funds he received since entering the group home. That is not financially possible and would not only compromise his care, but risk my own health and welfare. This is my brother, not a number, not a dollar figure, but an actual person who should be entitled to the happiness and life that we all are.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: don schaefer <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:31 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Pearson, Beth (Warren); Hurt, Nikki (Markey)
Subject: Comments: Senate Finance Committee Hearing on Graham Cassidy-Bill
Attachments: Senate Finance Committee Graham Casidy Hearing.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

As a disabled senior of extremely limited means, I wish you to be aware of my extreme opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal and how it puts my current care, and that of millions of others living under a wide variety of circumstances, in great jeopardy.

I am also discouraged that instead of continuing down a bipartisan path and working on issues to improve the strength and stability of the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) marketplaces, the sponsors of this legislation have put forward a proposal that will:

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

These comments are included and expanded in the attached PDF.

Thank you for your consideration.

Donald Schaefer
Boston, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Timothy Broekhuizen [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:33 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

As a medical professional practicing in an underserved area, 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.

Dr. Timothy Broekhuizen, PharmD
Jenison, MI 49428

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: scott zimmerman [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:28 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

The Graham-Cassidy healthcare is an outrageous self-inflicted tragedy for America. Republicans want to vote in the dark but we see everything.

Scott Zimmerman
Orlando, FL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margot Dirks [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:28 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, September 25, 2017

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

Dear senate finance committee,

Please vote against the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal. States should not have the ability to waive regulations Pre-existing conditions. We are all Americans. Americans living in states that choose to waive these regulations may be forced to not have health insurance and therefore not be able to afford health insurance and quality health care. This is not a third-world country. This is a very wealthy country, we can afford to give everyone the opportunity to have basic healthcare. And give the least fortunate of us a chance to live.

Thank you,

Margot Dirks

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Erin MacCord [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:28 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Please do not go forward with this bill!

It is the worst of the repeal options so far. Healthcare is a national issue which requires national bipartisan discussion, public comment and debate.

American Citizen,
Erin MacCord

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathleen/Dennis Rolla <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:29 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re: Graham-Cassidy bill

To Whom it May Concern:

I and members of my immediate family, extended family and friends rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

I personally have a pre-existing condition...I have had cancer. My husband is diabetic. In my extended family currently is a young musician on ACA who is struggling after having surgery to remove a tumor from his abdomen, a niece who has Crohn's disease and was studying nursing, but is at a point where she needs to attend school full time and quit her job. However, she will probably not do so because of the current insecurity about ACA and all the previous bills as well as this current bill, which would jeopardize her care because of her pre-existing condition. If she leaves her job to study nursing, she would lose her employer based insurance. She can't take that chance.

My Father was in a nursing home. My parents could not afford catastrophic insurance and neither can my husband and myself. I cannot imagine what it would be like to have to have removed my Father from the home because no one in the family could afford to take care of payments.

I have many other stories, but I will stop here.

The ACA had something like 40 hearings and there were many republican amendments added to that. No, they did not vote to pass it, and now Republicans are doing the same thing.

There was in progress a bipartisan effort to fix the parts of the ACA that need fixing and that has been stopped.

Saying good-bye to NO life-time caps, jeopardizing pre-existing conditions which states could opt out of, as well as opting out of the 12 essential services, the expiration of current subsidy payments expiring in 2020, gutting medicaid which includes care for children, maternity and nursing homes for elder care....PEOPLE WILL DIE, including republicans.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort, as was taking place in the Senate and has just been discontinued, to improve the ACA, NOT repeal it.

There are many fearful people in this country right now who do not know what they will do if this bill passes.

Open your eyes, your ears and your hearts!

Sincerely,
Kathleen R. Rolla

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: John Mills [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:28 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy healthcare repeal bill

The current ACA has been a literal life saver for me, do to pre-existing health conditions. The Graham-Cassidy healthcare repeal bill would literally threaten my life.

Please vote down this repeal.

John Mills

Constituent of US Senators for Virginia, Mark Warner and Tim Kaine.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Kelly-Martin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:29 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham - Cassidy Bill: NO!

It is with sincere and quite frankly astonishment that Republican Senators are AGAIN NOT **listening** to their constituents. The Graham-Cassidy bill is unconscionable. It is an attempt to save money for tax cuts to the rich and powerful. It is a VANITY not a SUBSTANTIVE bill. The rationale is: "We must pass it; we promised." This bill and these reasons are the supreme example of non-governance.

We American seniors will fight any attempt, now or in the future, to deny citizens benefits through Medicaid and Medicare.

In the classic words of Sen. McCain, "regular order" and in good faith, bipartisanship: these are the pre-conditions of effective and sound legislation.

VOTE NO to the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Sincerely,

Nancy Kelly-Martin, Ph.D.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David Borrino [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:29 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My Graham Cassidy comments

Hello: I strongly oppose this legislation. We should work to make health care less expensive and more available, but this bill is not progress but many steps backwards.

My life partner, my daughters and I all have pre-existing conditions, and the bill undercuts the prohibition against insurers denying coverage or imposing discriminatory rates on those with pre-existing conditions.

I likely will need Medicare coverage in a few years. Medicare needs to be protected. This bill doesn't do that.

As a former Senate staffer, I find abhorrent the idea that the Senate may vote on this bill without a thorough CBO review.

Please reject this legislation. Thank you.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lynn Fergusson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:29 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing on the Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear members of the Senate Finance Committee

I wish to express my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill being considered at the hearing on Sept. 25. To my mind it does not fulfill the promises made by then-candidate Trump during his campaign. In addition, I fear that if enacted into law, it could throw the health care industry into chaos which will affect a sixth of our economy. This is in addition to the harm it could do to millions of Americans. I believe I am not alone in my opposition, but have the support of countless medical/health care agencies as well as a majority of governors across the country. Even Senator Grassley himself admitted that the only reason to pass the bill is to deliver on a campaign promise (which as I said above, it doesn't really do). This is a horrible bill, and should not be brought to a vote. It is time to set aside partisan politics and work towards a real solution to our health care challenges.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,
Lynn Fergusson
[REDACTED]
Yardley, PA 19067

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laura Lyon [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:29 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Hearing, Monday September 25, 2017

All of my family relies on quality affordable healthcare. My husband had heart surgery just a little over a year ago and I have asthma. We are actually in pretty good health (my husband's surgery was successful) but because of those previous and ongoing issues – we will be considered as having pre-existing conditions – and unless protected from it will be subjected to denial of coverage by excessive premium charges. We are also between the ages of 55 to 60, which makes us vulnerable to the age discriminating pricing of insurance companies under the Graham-Cassidy legislation. In short, the Graham-Cassidy Bill is absolutely going to price us out of ever being able to protect ourselves from financial ruin due to medical events that may occur.

My husband and I currently are using COBRA to get it from my recent long time employer but when that COBRA period runs out I need to be able to purchase affordable healthcare coverage on the exchanges. I am quite willing to pay for my own coverage but it needs to be reasonable in cost and available to me to do so. The work I likely will do in the future will not come with insurance provided as a benefit. Many American's are in that situation – it is not just those with the least resources – it is many every day middle class Americans. Stop trying to shackle us as wage slaves to the largest employers that are willing to provide some coverage. Our economy is stronger when workers can be mobile and take employment with smaller companies and startups. And, please, quit making us vulnerable to bankruptcy and financial devastation because life may deal a medical emergency blow.

The Graham-Cassidy legislation is horrifically bad for my family and many others just like us. Do not pass this legislation. I would prefer to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the Affordable Care Act (ACA), not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Laura Lyon
[REDACTED]

Poulsbo, WA 98370

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carl Goulden [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:30 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
....

Carl Goulden

17340
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mendy K <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:26 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My ACA story

On September 14, 2015 my husband suffered a massive stroke that left him with both significant physical disabilities as well as communication disabilities due to aphasia. As a result he lost his job and our family lost our health insurance. He needs help with all of his everyday activities and I am his full time caretaker. Because of the ACA we were able to buy a silver plan with the help of subsidies for \$44 a month. This has been a lifesaver, and I mean that quite literally. Our state of Virginia did not expand Medicaid, so neither of us qualify. He cannot get Medicare until he's disabled for 30 months. Without health insurance from the marketplace and subsidies to help pay for them we would have never been able to afford this past two year's worth of physical, speech, and occupational therapy. We would have never been able to afford the numerous doctor and specialist visits, the botox that he needs in his immobile arm to control pain without, and the medications he needs to survive without the affordable care act. Without the ACA he would not be alive today.

To take affordable healthcare away from people like us is just plain cruel.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Elizabeth [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:26 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Health Care Bill

Dear Senators,

I am writing you today to urge those of you who support or are on the fence about the Graham Cassidy "Health Care" bill to vote "no" for this newest, sad attempt at "health care" the Republican party.

My mother has a type of cancer called Multiple Myeloma. It's a blood and bone marrow cancer, and she's been bravely battling it for 6 years. Perhaps you recognize it as the type of cancer many 9/11 first responders have or, sadly, passed away from. There is evidence that exposure to chemicals (such as the burning chemicals those brave men and women faced) might contribute to this cancer; my mom grew up in the 1950s Pittsburgh, PA area, where once a month chemical soot was shot out of the steel plant and covered everything in town. Coincidentally, her brother - who had worked in this same plant - died of pancreatic cancer when he was 47 years old.

(Kind of makes you want to revisit protections for our environment and clean energy that doesn't cause horrific and painful diseases, doesn't it? But that's another conversation for another day....)

Anyway, my mom has lost her hair, had a port placed in her *neck* for days so stem cells could be harvested, had those same stem cells shot with chemotherapy and replaced in her body, had blood transfusions, been in and out of the hospital for minor colds that grow to pneumonia. For the past two years, she's been receiving chemotherapy twice-weekly. She takes a truly alarming amount of pills every day, has had to give herself shots daily for weeks at a time, has to be at home to receive deliveries of pills (that cost upwards of \$600 *per pill*).

Yes, her potentially life-saving cancer drug costs well over \$10,000 a month.

That doesn't even take into account the cost of twice-weekly chemotherapy. The doctors bills. The other medications. The home delivery for her drugs (there is no "pick-up at your local pharmacy option").

In December of 2016, her cancer treatment cost over \$106,000.

Please, Senators, read that again. *One month of cancer treatment cost \$106,000.*

One month of cancer treatment cost \$106,000.

One month of cancer treatment cost \$106,000.

One month of cancer treatment cost \$106,000.

Think about it. Say it over and over and over to yourselves. Say it out loud. Talk about it amongst yourselves.

Now consider that November of 2016 cost around \$91,000, and January 2017 cost \$101,000. February 2017 came it at a very reasonable and cheap \$60,000.

That's roughly \$350,000 of treatment *in four months*.

Who the *hell* can afford that? Certainly not a retired teacher and her self-employed, small business-owning husband.

Not other middle class families. Not the impoverished. Not our immigrants (and we *know* how many of you in Congress care deeply about every move our immigrants make). Not our college students, saddled with an average of \$31,000 in debt. Not our veterans or active-duty military.

Perhaps you, Senators, can afford this. Perhaps your House Representative colleagues can. After all, we do live in an oligarchy now, and average middle class people - like my family - are being shut out of the very chambers that decide *whether or not they deserve to live*.

But not every American can afford to have cancer. In fact, I'd venture that more than 90% of us can't. Maybe that includes yourselves, but we all know you have *impeccable*, cream-of-the-crop health care, and that you'll do anything to keep it.

We don't have that, down here in the real world. People rely on the Affordable Care Act just to ensure they get to wake up one more day. Health care in this country is too damned expensive. The pharmaceutical companies are permitted (by our own government, nonetheless) to run amok, getting rich off of our own people's illnesses.

You have a chance to save people's lives. You have a chance to take a historic, well-intentioned, life-saving, but flawed health care bill (the ACA, in case I've lost you) and make it *better*. You have the power to rewrite the parts that need work or need to be fixed. You are in a position to actually *help your own people* for *once*, instead of playing to party lines and embarrassing your constituents and the people you make laws for.

You can ensure that people like my mother don't have to wake up every morning wondering how to pay for the very cancer treatments that are keeping them alive. You can ensure that American citizens aren't suffering. Hell, you *could* ensure that people can actually afford the medications that are keeping them alive. (But you're right, asking you to actually care enough about your own people to help them and protect them from profiteers looking to make a buck off their diseases *is* asking too much. Party politics, and all of that. I totally get it.)

My mom is lucky enough to have health care from her years as a teacher that is covering her. But if she gets dropped due to her pre-existing condition (which is something this Graham Cassidy nonsense *will not necessarily protect*), she is out of luck. Who can afford \$350,000 in four months? Truly, truly think about how much money that is to the middle class. That's probably hundreds of thousands of dollars more than most of us make in a year.

What about the people like my mom, or suffering worse than her, who rely on the ACA to stay alive?

What happened to your empathy, to your hearts? Are you who would vote "yes" really so bitter and angry that you would sentence your own people to death?

I truly believe what goes around comes around, but I hope that none of you ever have to go through what my mother - a woman who is stronger than all of you combined - is going through. I hope you never have to watch your loved ones struggle with disease for years, the way my father and I (a 26-year-old who needs her mom to be around for many more years) have. And I hope that you go to bed at night thinking about the things that you've done to play a political game and garner power that actually hurt the Americans you pretend to represent. I hope that you're deeply, deeply ashamed of your actions and what you are doing to this country.

Finally, I hope that you read my letter and took some of it to heart. I'm tired, so tired, of the games you all are playing with our lives. We elect you to do a job, to represent us, and to take care of us. We don't elect you to kill us, and that's exactly what you are trying to do. We Americans are angry, and scared, and bitter, and you are a huge part of the reason why. Please, please find your compassion, and help us for *once*.

\$350,000 in four months for cancer treatment. Remember that, if you don't remember anything else from this letter.

Thank you for your attention, and thank you for voting "no" for the Graham Cassidy bill.

Sincerely,
Mary Bradway
Rio Grande, New Jersey 08242

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Garrett Sadler [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:26 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy comments

Graham Cassidy should be put to bed and a new bipartisan effort (regular order) to FIX healthcare should be started.

This legislation is obviously not an attempt to make healthcare more accessible and affordable for working Americans. It is instead an attempt to repeal the ACA at any cost.

While I agree that the ACA is imperfect and must be fixed so that more Americans can access and afford lifesaving healthcare, GC is not the solution. Let the damned 9/30 deadline pass and work on a solution that actually helps people in a bipartisan fashion with a normal 60 vote passage.

Until 2016 I had voted republican all the way down the ballot in every single election. Because of your behavior on this healthcare bill and the general disregard for real peoples health and wellbeing I may never vote republican again.

Do the right thing. Take care of the American people. Vote No on Graham Cassidy and on 10/1 begin a bipartisan legislative push to actually fix the problems in the ACA and make healthcare accessible and affordable for ALL Americans.

Garrett S.
Akron, OH

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kendal Jacobson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:27 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept 25

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband was diagnosed with colon cancer at the age of 44. He went through treatment and has now been 5 years cancer-free. This is good news except that, if the Graham-Cassidy bill passes, we will not be able to afford medical insurance because of his pre-existing condition. 1 in 3 people are at some point affected by cancer, this means that just as many people will not be able to afford healthcare if you allow this bill to pass. Also, the efforts to destroy Medicaid is simply a money-grab and does nothing to fix the ACA while simultaneously destroying access to health care and services to those with disabilities or the poor. Please choose to seek a bipartisan solution to FIX the ACA and make healthcare available AND affordable for ALL.

Kendal Jacobson
[REDACTED]s
Austin, TX 78734

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathryn Del Sesto <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:19 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Comments

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Late in pregnancy with my daughter, I developed a heart condition requiring hospitalization and medication at the time, and continued monitoring for the rest of my life. Graham-Cassidy decimates the protection of patients, like myself, with pre-existing conditions. Under the terms of this bill, I could be denied treatment for any heart problem. This bill would almost certainly shorten my life.

"Your money or your life" is the position of highway robbers; it should not be that of a health care system in a country as rich as the US. No one should be afraid that seeking medical help might lead directly to bankruptcy. No parent should ever have to choose between their family's financial health and their child's physical health.

While the ACA certainly has gaps that need filling, removing its limited protections does not seem like a good way to improve the health or security of United States citizens. It seems like a very good way to contribute to the already-widening gap between those who have, and those who don't.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Attleboro, MA 02703

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jim Olness [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:27 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Don't do this

Are you kidding? How can anyone honestly say that it will lead to better healthcare for working class people? Every health organization that matters has come out in opposition to Graham Cassidy. Anyone who votes for this bill should be ashamed of himself.

-Jim Olness

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sally Hoyt <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:27 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Reject the Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I strongly urge you to "Reject" the Graham-Cassidy bill that would dump America's health care bill into the laps of the states. This is literally passing the buck to the states, leaving them to sort through the broken pieces of our health care system. Graham-Cassidy will cost our states \$3.5 billion in lost federal revenues over a 6-year period beginning in 2020. Our Medicaid program will have to be significantly cut back since we were an expansion state under the ACA. Poor people should not be targeted in any health care reform. Please "Revise and Restore" the Affordable Care Act!

Thank You.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Reading, [REDACTED]
Tel: [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ron Williams [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:27 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Title Of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017

Full Name: Ron Williams

Address: [redacted] Crittenden, KY 41030

Although I am "grandfathered" from the effects of this bill (age=74 and on Medicare), my wife has struggled for years getting medical insurance due to pre-existing conditions. Numerous family members also have various health issues that make insurance difficult/impossible to obtain without the provisions of the ACA. The Graham-Cassidy bill is a step in exactly the WRONG direction.

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

Thanks for considering my point of view.

Ron Williams

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elizabeth Preble [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:27 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My comments on the Graham- Cassidy Health Bill

My daughter relies on quality affordable health care through Obama care which has allowed her to work two part- time jobs and be a productive healthy working woman today. The Graham- Cassidy bill would leave her stranded- without quality health care she can afford,

I vehemently oppose this bill and would like to see a bi-paritsan Congressional effort to improve the ACA not repeal it.

Sincerely
Elizabeth Preble

Auburn, Maine

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:27 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

My husband and I (and most Americans) rely on high-quality, affordable healthcare. I have pre-existing conditions that are currently covered by my Medicare and supplemental insurance. Allowing insurance companies to refuse to cover pre-existing conditions would cause me and my husband considerable financial hardship and could lead to serious illness.

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

We need a bipartisan congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. And ultimately I would prefer to see 'Medicare for all.'

Sincerely,

Judith Forman
Los Angeles, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Don Der [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:27 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no on Graham Cassidy

Dear Senators,

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

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

Regards,
Don Raney
Brooklyn, NY

--
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda I Gilbert [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:27 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GrahamCassidy

Cruel. Inhumane. Unconscionable. Unforgivable. Beyond contempt. Pocketbooks over People. What has America become????

Best,
Linda

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:28 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to consider Graham-Cassidy-Heller proposal 9/25/17

This latest attempt to end the ACA is BAD!

Return to regular order and work across the aisle to fix the problems with the current law

That process has already started. Continue it. Don't make things worse for everybody.

Thank you

Colleen Kane

[REDACTED]
West Lafayette. IN 47906

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julie Ogletree [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:24 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Myself and my family rely on quality, affordable health care. I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have a pre-existing condition - a previous cancer diagnosis. My daughter has a history of depression and anxiety. My wife has GERD and other ongoing conditions. My niece had a pituitary tumor. I am also concerned about the affordability of health care in the future for me and many less privileged members of the community. My sister who is self-employed, would be unable to afford health care were it not for the ACA. I think the proposed caps on Medicaid would be devastating for Massachusetts and other states.

I work as a clinical social worker with low income families that would not be able to attain the support with mental health and medical care without Medicaid. I would like to see single payer health care in this country and for us to treat health care as a right, not a privilege.

As a result, I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. All the other industrialized nations provide better coverage at lower costs than the US. Let's make use of their experience.

Sincerely,

Julie Ogletree

[REDACTED]
Boston, MA 02120

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Justine Shakespeare <j[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:24 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Hello,

My family, my friends, and I all 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,

Justine Shakespeare

[REDACTED]
Brooklyn, NY
11205

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rebecca Mani [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:21 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA repeal

I ask that the members of this committee vote AGAINST the repeal of ACA. I work in a hospital and it frightens me to contemplate the very real ways that repeal would do to patients who struggle daily with physical and mental illnesses. They matter. No one should die due to lack of healthcare but they do.. Even now I see individuals who don't fill prescriptions or have tests done due to fear of more debt. Please consider medicine's Hippocratic Oath - first do no harm.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Debra Russo <[REDACTED]@et>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:25 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 becausefirst and foremost, I would like Congress to work together to fix what is not working with the ACA. This law will work if Republicans allow it to work. I'm tired of them putting their party and egos first instead of working for all Americans. This bill is inferior in so many ways. Every healthcare organization is opposed to it. Even BC/BS has opposed it. Any bill needs to go through Committee and the normal process of public hearings. It needs a CBO score! It is expected that 32 million will lose coverage in 10 years. Premiums are predicted to spike 20% next year if this goes through. Ends all subsidies for the exchange. No protection for pre-existing conditions. States can let insurance companies price you out of coverage for pre-existing conditions and they would be able to opt out of coverage. Money taken from blue states and given to red is ridiculous. 20 states are estimated to lose 35-60% of funds to move money from these states. Cuts coverage for low income seniors, children, disabled, and pre-existing, all the most vulnerable! Life time caps are death sentences for those seriously ill, especially at a young age.

I could go on and on, but this is deathcare, not healthcare. The ACA is working, can work better, but Republicans are more concerned with getting Obama's name off of this and putting their name on it rather than concern for the welfare and care of Americans. While they enjoy their excellent healthcare, they subject us to this horrific bill. My pre-existing condition will cost me over \$26,000 a YEAR for coverage. The iMessage this by millions of people and you have a lot of very sick or dead people because we can't afford this. This is shameful, plain and simple.

Debra Russo

19342
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kelly Kenneally [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:25 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham Cassidy

Dear Senators,

My husband has juvenile diabetes. My mother has cancer. My father had a stroke last week. My sons are dyslexic.

This is all stressful, but we don't have the added anxiety of worrying about how to pay for the care and medicine that they need because we have health insurance.

Obamacare certainly isn't perfect. But repealing and replacing it is a big mistake.

I call upon each of you to engage in a bi-partisan effort to fix the system so that it provides the best healthcare to all Americans in a cost-efficient manner. Graham-Cassidy fails to do so.

This means engaging experts and all stakeholders in hearings and a civil debate. It does not mean rushing through a bill that hasn't been properly vetted, scored by the CBO, and is being rushed to a vote to meet a partisan deadline.

Doctors, insurers, patient groups, governors and state Medicaid directors are all opposed to Graham-Cassidy. You can do better for the American people.

Thank you, Kelly

Kelly Kenneally, [REDACTED] Alexandria, VA 22306 | [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Diane Kistner [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:24 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I and so many of my friends and family rely on quality, affordable healthcare. My partner Robert and I are both on low fixed income, and we especially depend on the subsidies insurance companies are given to help us cover our medication costs. Because Georgia did not see fit to expand Medicaid, my underemployed college-graduate son cannot afford healthcare coverage, but he would have been able to do so had Georgia's governor and representatives been less inclined to obstruct "Obamacare."

So I write to you to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I also oppose how much time and money has been, and is still being, wasted on the sloganish effort to "repeal and replace Obamacare" when we have so many other major problems that demand attention. Ronald Reagan's maxim is true only to the extent that the legislative and executive branch lie to, manipulate, and confuse the American people.

We cannot have good governance when our elected representatives will not work together to craft the best legislation possible for ALL Americans. It does nobody any good to demonize large segments of our population to benefit a minority, and I simply do not trust those who care more about what their donors want than they care about the "little people."

I do appreciate that good governing takes time and due diligence and that, too often, partisanship is the enemy of the people. I want to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the Affordable Care Act, to build on the work that's been done so far, and more courage and decency from everyone involved.

Sincerely,
Diane Kistner
Athens, Georgia 30607

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tom Kelley [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:25 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

Honorable Senator Warner and Senator McCain, Please repeal this horrible legislation that was put upon our country by the worst president in history. Former President Obama's ACA has caused my insurance to increase 300% It is arguably the worst legislation of our time. My uncle and former Lt. Governor (rest his soul) Henry Howell would be would be incensed that big government is forcing legislation on the people, having never read or understood that legislations full effect on the American people. I quit being a Democrat when the Clinton's took office. I have voted along party lines sometimes. But since then the Democrats and liberals have ruined and divided this country. I will still always vote my conscience but I can no longer support your aversion to not working with Republicans or our President. I'm sorry but I can no longer support those that do not support the wishes of the many and not the few. Repeal ACA and work together to fix what you and your fellow Democrats forced down the throats of hard working Americans. without even asking what we really wanted.

Thanks for listening.

Sincerely,

Thomas Custis Kelley

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lynn Grant <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:23 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy health care bill
Attachments: Graham.Cassidy health.docx

Attached please find my statement concerning the Graham/Cassidy bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julia Corbett [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:26 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to bill

Please vote no!

Julia Corbett Davis
Managing Partner

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]m
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on the upcoming health care bill (Graham-Cassidy)

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have a pre-existing condition, as do my two daughters. This bill takes away protections for us. Further, it is a bill that hasn't been properly vetted, scored, discussed etc. This is no way to run a country. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Susan Thibadeau
Pittsburgh, PA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: PolarisDiB [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

I'm a freelance video editor in NYC who relies on the ACA exchanges to secure affordable health insurance. From what I've seen of the Graham-Cassidy bill, New York and California states will be severely punished for having large populations to divvy up capped block grants over, despite the per-capita requirement.

If my insurance gets any more expensive, I'm no longer going to be able to afford it. As a young, healthy, middle income earner, I constitute the largest block of customer necessary for insurance to even work. If I can't afford it and drop out of the exchanges, nobody in my age range will be able to -- and the market will crash. Period. My demographic accounts for the largest growing insurance consumer in the country.

This bill stands in the face of literally millions of New Yorkers and Californians who did not vote for the current administration and intend to keep providing the majority of the United States economic gains while also providing the majority of the tax revenue. We may have different ideas on how to go about fixing problems, but our constituency cannot be ignored.

I want to see better health care options for all Americans, regardless of whether they live in a blue state, a red state, or a territory. But these ridiculous partisan bills seem custom designed to punish blue states for not falling in line with GOP power centers, rather than designed to solve the real problems the United States has figuring out how to secure the American citizens' freedom from losing everything because they get sick or get into an accident.

Lastly, this bill is being pushed without regular order, further undermining the system of checks and balances and a society that operates under respect and trust for each other. It looks like it literally just exists to punish 'blue states', as if 'blue states' aren't also citizens of the United States. Passing it is a great way to undermine the very purpose of the United States' founding.

If the Republicans in the Senate want to show great leadership skills and the ability to get something done, they should try actually working with their colleagues and designing a health care bill that serves the American citizens. You know, like the adults they pretend to be.

Grow up and get to work on a real bill that actually solves problems and helps people.

Best regards,

--

-

-Dane Benko

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Brooklyn, NY 11207

Keep creating.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kim Kurtis [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy NO!

Respectfully-

I have Stage IV Endometriosis. It's been a terrible (and invisible disease, in that it's internal) which has afflicted me with indescribable pain. It had also ravaged my reproductive system rendering me almost infertile.

I was untouchable in the old system due to my endometriosis. Priced out of EVERY plan or flat out Denied-Denied-Denied. Thanks to the ACA, I have been able to get coverage. It freed me up to work for myself, but, most importantly, I was able to get treatment and we were finally able to get pregnant after years of struggle. It has been a godsend. Such as it is with endometriosis, it does not go away; it eventually returns after treatments and will continue to ravage my system.

That's just our experience and I needed to share it because while some had it better before the ACA, many of us were really struggling. Having said that, it's obvious the current system needs to be fixed. People are being squeezed by the insurance & pharmaceutical companies and it's a disgrace. This current Graham-Cassidy bill is not the way.

We need to either fix the current system or finally pass Medicare for all, so that nobody has to worry about going bankrupt because they get sick, or their children get sick (such as my friend Claudia's sweet daughter Isabella in Florida currently battling cancer), or they need therapy, or extended treatment. We require our political leaders to work together because what is happening currently in congress is unsustainable. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Kim Kurtis
Indiana, Congressional District 1

Sent via mobile. Please excuse brevity, spelling and punctuation.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christine Schiefer [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on GCH Bill

Good morning,

I'm writing you from my hospital bed, strapped to IVs and being pumped with drugs, the only thing that has been able to diminish my pain in the past few months. I have severe Crohn's disease and am lucky enough to have gotten sick in a time when I can get the treatment I need. If this bill passes, I'll be screwed - but fortunately for me I'm white, privileged, have a great insurance plan, and make a solid income. If I'm going to be in such big trouble, it breaks my heart to think of all the people who are less fortunate and won't be able to keep their heads above water. I'm concerned about my health and my family's health, but I'm more concerned about the millions who will be affected by this change to healthcare. Please, please don't look at all of us as a number. We're not a statistic. We're your friends, family, neighbors. We need you to be our voice.

Thank you.

Christine Schiefer

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol A. Grigsby [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham-Cassidy

I live and vote in Washington, D.C., so I realize I am no one's constituent. But there are real living, breathing people in D.C., and my son, who has a developmental disability, is one of them. If not for the benefits he receives under one of D.C.'s Medicaid waivers for persons with disabilities, he would be in a very difficult position – and so would we. I hope that you are hearing howls of protest in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill from friends and family whom I am actively trying to mobilize in the states you represent, but I must add my own voice as well. Even though D.C. is unrepresented in the Senate, I hope the broader concern of Medicaid supports for people (children and adults) with disabilities will move you to do the right thing and oppose this bill. Although some states will benefit in the short term from the reshuffling of Medicaid funds, over the longer haul Medicaid block grants, and per-capita Medicaid caps, are going to do only one thing: reduce resources for people who need them, including people with disabilities – not to mention many, many others.

Improving on Obamacare is going to require serious, bipartisan effort. Rushing to approve a bill with such far-reaching, and damaging, consequences without full consideration would be unconscionable, and a single hearing such as the one planned for September 25 does not begin to be adequate consultation. This absurd rush to overturn Obamacare has to stop. Human lives are at stake.

*Carol A. Grigsby
Washington, D.C.*

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: kimberly b [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Committee Members,

Like millions of other Americans, my family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. It is opposed by just about every reputable medical, hospital, and patient advocacy group (including the American Medical Association) because it violates the most important part of the Hippocratic oath: Do no harm.

My story with Medicaid is that my widowed mom is in the nursing home of her choice because she wanted to stay in our home state instead of moving out of state to live with us. To honor her wishes, we rely on the Medicaid funds that help pay those costs. Without Medicaid, we will not be able to afford to keep her there; and my husband and I would have to try to find employment in another state, move, and attempt to care for her ourselves. We are not medical professionals and have no medical training.

If we are unable to find out of state employment as people in our 50s, our only other choice would be to force her to come to South Carolina and live with us while we attempt to care for her with no medical training. GrahamCassidy would also devastate our current access to affordable insurance through our employers. With no protections for affordable policies for those with pre-existing conditions, my husband and I would be unable to afford insurance or regular medical care. I am begging the members of the committee to please consider the lives that will be devastated or even end if GrahamCassidy is passed without due process and under the rules of regular order.

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

Sincerely,
KimBaker
Columbia, SC 29212

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alisa Goldschmidt [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Alisa Goldschmidt
Louisville, Colorado

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Mucci [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO GRAHAM-CASSIDY

: 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...My son has had head & neck cancer off & on for 30 years & will NOT make it if this passes. he will die.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.
Sincerely, SUSAN MUCCI
SEDONA AZ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Blackstone [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

So many friends and relatives including myself depend on comprehensive, affordable healthcare. Because of the negative effects on Medicaid, pre-existing conditions, disabilities etc. I think it is imperative to have a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, NOT repeal it.

Sincerely,

Linda Blackstone
San Francisco, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: ctEdwards [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Christopher Taylor Edwards
New York, NY

--
: christopher taylor edwards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Danielle Dreger [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

To Whom it May Concern,

First, thank you for your time reading this email.

Secondly, my family rely/relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My son, Theo, was born at 27 weeks due to severe complications from preeclampsia and HELLP. I was a healthy pregnant 33 year-old until my body began to shut down over the course of 24 hours and I delivered my son via emergency c-section. Theo spent 205 days in the NICU and Children's hospital because of severe lung damage caused by his premature birth, pneumonia, heart surgery, collapsed lung, super bug, and jaundice. Without the ACA, those 6.5 months in the hospital would have bankrupted me and my husband. I am a librarian for Sno-Isle Libraries in Marysville, WA and a YA author. My husband Ian Babbitt is a successful real estate attorney. If Theo hadn't qualified for Medicare we wouldn't have been able to afford his healthcare and he likely would have died. Theo is almost three and still requires many trips to specialists and extra care. The ACA saved us and will save many other babies like Theo.

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

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Danielle Dreger-Babbitt,
[REDACTED]
Seattle, WA 98103

Danielle Dreger-Babbitt

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
I wrote a book!
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hannah Barnhart [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Opposition Letter

As an individual doing seasonal mountain sport work, I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. I am turning 26 this year and I will need the ACA's coverage because my employers do not offer it. I put my body at risk every day at my job, and an uninsured injury would be devastating to me financially. I would also rely on the ACA for dental, eye care, and OB/GYN services. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I and millions of other Americans cannot afford to be uninsured. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Hannah Barnhart
Telluride, Colorado

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Martha Rich
Philadelphia, PA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joan Pedraza [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

The protection of people with pre-existing conditions should not be taken away, my husband is diabetic and has to continue to have his medication.

I beg you to not pass this bill.

Joan McDowell Pedraza
Grand Ledge, Mi
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Wagner [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

I wonder how the greedy rich think people without health insurance should care for their children, elderly parents and themselves. It boggles my mind at the sheer cruelty of their attitude that while they have access to as much healthcare as they want that many others should have none. In Australia where I grew up we have a single payer system which costs 50% LESS than the American system and covers 100% of Australians. The same exists in Canada and Europe. Perhaps Americans should look out at the rest of the world and see if they can learn something rather than being hoodwinked by the drug companies and HMO's.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kae Tegtmeier [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: vote no Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

I urge you not to move forward with the Graham-Cassidy bill. Healthcare does need improvement, but this bill does not address any of the difficult changes that need to be made.

I am hopeful that Congress can work together to develop a bipartisan healthcare bill that addresses some of the key issues, including increasing cost of healthcare, the socioeconomic gap for overall health/recovery, preventative medicine, rewarding evidence-based medicine, etc. Healthcare professionals, including doctors, nurses, and administrators should play a central role in developing this legislation.

The ACA is far from perfect and needs your help. Removing federal protections and responsibility will not move healthcare in the United States forward. We are all counting on you to do the right thing, and I appreciate that it's not the easy thing. We elected you to protect all of us, not just the rich or the healthy.

Thank you for your time and your service.

Kate Tegtmeier

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Title Of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017
Name: Dana Cooper
Redacted Address, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

I am submitting my testimony for Monday's hearing on the Graham-Cassidy Bill. As a taxpayer, I am appalled this Bill is being considered without "Regular Order" and without a "CBO" score. The partisan nature of this Bill is blatantly obvious and the conduct of the Republican Senators who have sponsored this Bill, abhorrent.

From the details I am able to ascertain, this bill would cause millions of people to lose their health insurance coverage and would open a loop-hole with respect to States having wiggle room to charge those with pre-existing conditions a higher premium than others and at a rate as yet undetermined.

I am very angry the Senate is even considering this devastating bill that will slash Medicaid, defund Planned Parenthood and deny much needed health insurance to millions who are already taxed by our system.

I urge you to care for our neediest, our youngest, our disabled, our elderly. Passing of this bill will be devastating to all in our country and I am infuriated that I need to send you this letter to beg you to care about all Americans.

I urge the US Senate to please kill this horrid piece of legislation.

Please VOTE NO on Graham-Cassidy.

Sincerely,

Dana Cooper

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Dudgeon [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: my experience with healthcare

Dear Sirs/Mdames:

Please continue my healthcare coverage, or put me on the same plan that you and all federal employees enjoy. I am curious as to why you are exempting yourself from this current plan you are proposing? If it's good for the "geese" is it not also good for you "ganders?"

My needs: I was diagnosed approximately 25 years ago with Hodgkins Lymphoma, and had a recurrence about ten years subsequent. Since then I have been cancer free, but have several conditions which are believed to be results/side effects of the treatments that I had for Hodgkins. I require periodic followups and medications for all of these, including eight prescribed drugs per day. I am healthy and happy, but would be very unhappy if I had to choose between my health and happiness when I became a "walking pre-existing condition" that would be in jeopardy under your plan. Please stop lying to the American public about how the states will have the ability to price people out of the market.

I do think that it is a shame that we the American public and your constituents have learned more about this latest plan from a late night television host than from any one of you who are supporting this bill. I find it particularly troubling that one of the co-sponsors is not only a physician but a parent of children who have special medical needs. But, of course, he will keep his good health insurance. Perhaps someone should remind him: "Primum non nocere."

CD
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Brian Bideau [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Must Not Pass - This Is Not What American Needs

As I understand it there is a hearing to consider Graham-Cassidy senate health care bill tomorrow. I am against this bill, as are all of the major health organizations including Blue Cross/Blue Shield and AARP. This bill is not what we need.

I have asked my senators Roberts and Moran to vote NO on this bill. This bill must not pass. Vote No on this bill. It is not what this country needs. I agree with John McCain, we need regular order on any bills like this, we need debate and discussion. This bill must not pass.

Brian M. Bideau
10920 Gray Rd
Thayer, Kansas 66776
620 431 8737

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: A. Clark [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare.

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

All Americans should be entitled to good, affordable healthcare that respects women and treats them equally, without penalty or qualification.

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

Ashley Clark
Calverton, New York

I guess that is what is most lacking in the ACA -- the lack of honesty and credibility to the American people for what the program does and does not do.

I urge you to fix the ACA. There is much room for improvement.

thank you for your service

Susan Trumbo
Calverton Virginia

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Trumbo [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: health care

I am the manager responsible for insurance coverages including our medical insurance. We have a small group of 25 covered by Anthem Healthkeepers. The owners of the business are very generous and provide us full coverage on the platinum policy.

Since the ACA we have seen annual increases in premiums on the policy, in addition to those for age. This summer's renewal saw a 25% percent increase in premiums. 5% for age and 20% for rate increases. These increases can not be sustained.

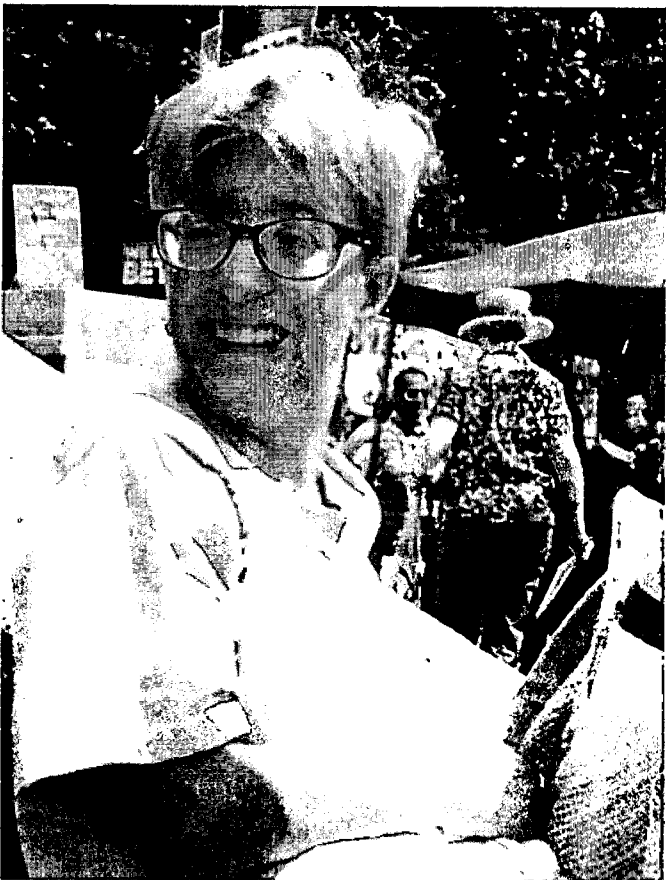
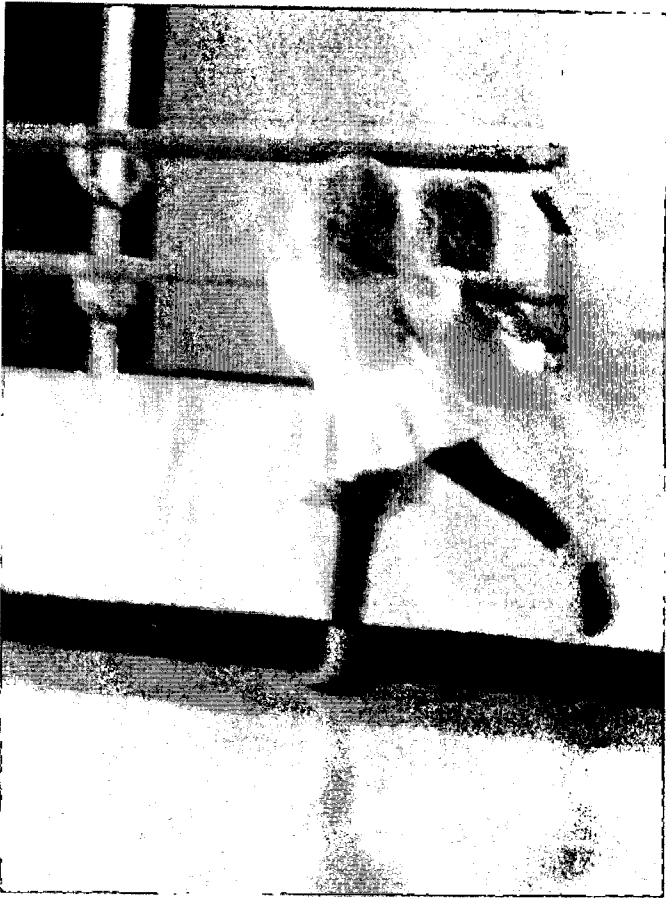
Observations to share:

- 1) When choosing a plan for our group, I must be careful that our Doctors and Specialists participate in the coverage. And thus I am limited to selecting plans from Anthem. Essentially the current ACA program has created a monopoly for Anthem.
- 2) Because we have "good insurance", unnecessary treatment, medicines and tests are regularly prescribed.
- 3) Errors in billing which neither the hospital or insurance seem to care to verify.
- 4) Rates by age regardless of previous medical expenses. There is NO incentive to be healthy. There is no incentive to not use you insurance policy. Thus the overuse and extra tests are done without penalty. Thus people with simple aches and pains are going to the Doctor, getting lots of tests run and running up a bill. Thus the Insurance Company is pushing higher deductibles to share some of the responsibility.
- 5) Medical Profession have a habit of passing patient from one specialist to another to another; each running their own barrage of tests. Yet one has to go back to your primary care Doctor for the results to be explained and a course of treatment determined. It is exhaustive and time consuming as well a duplicated tests are costly. For example, wrist specialist-shoulder specialist-spine specialist-arthritis and pain management specialist. A patient just gets passes around between specialists, none of whom develop a relationship with the patient.
- 6) Allowing children and dependents to stay on a parents policy until age 26 has only served to eliminate the rate benefits for a family policy. All rates now are for individuals. The only benefit is not convenience.

Current ACA has a major benefit in the preexisting conditions being covered. Without a doubt this loophole was a game played by insurance companies. But with preexisting conditions being covered, I agree there needs to be mandatory enrollment in insurance.

I think everyone needs to be honest about the ACA about the fees and rates being paid are paying the costs of others. Also I think the ACA enrollment in Medicaid needs to be honestly explained.





Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maryanne Jerome [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in 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.

Maryanne Jerome
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Boulder, Colorado 80302

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: veronique foster [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: protesting the Graham Cassidy bill

I protest the Graham Cassidy bill. It will put millions of hard working people without health insurance. Does this "Make America Great Again"?

Veronique Foster [REDACTED], Boulder CO 80304

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Billy Wynne [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Wright, Kevin (Finance)
Subject: Friday Health Plans Statement for Record re Sept. 25 Hearing
Attachments: Friday Health Statement re 9.25.17 Hearing.pdf

Good afternoon:

Please find attached a statement from Friday Health Plans regarding the “Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal” hearing on Monday, Sept. 25. Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide input into the process.

Best,
Billy

BILLY WYNNE
Managing Partner, TRP Health Policy
CEO, Policy Hub

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

Connect with me:   TRP Health Policy: 

TRP Health Policy is proud to support those in need

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robert Lane [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mr. Robert Lane
[REDACTED]
Denver, CO 80206
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara A Engel [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony
Attachments: Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal.docx

Title Of Hearing: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017

Full Name: Barbara Engel

Address: [REDACTED] CO 80304

Dear Senators

I think this is a terrible bill, one that will leave millions of vulnerable people uninsured or with insurance inadequate to meet their needs. Disabled people and people with pre-existing conditions will no longer be assured of coverage. Before he finally qualified for Medicare, such coverage saved the life of my own brother, who suffers from multiple ailments, among them lung disease.

This bill breaks my heart. Except for the purely political desire to "repeal and replace" there is no sound basis for it, and the human cost defies imagination.

Yours truly,

Barbara Engel

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christina Foust [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am going on record to say that I oppose the Graham-Cassidy proposal. I believe that it would be unfair to redistribute money from states who were early adopters of Obamacare, to those who didn't.

Thank you,
Christina Foust
Denver

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bruce Krumlauf [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do Not Pass GCH

To Mike Coffman and All US Senators,

Once again you are embarrassing yourself and our country. When are you going to represent the people with compassion and fairness?

Show America that the Republican Party is better than this bill. Fix Obamacare. Quit trying to repeal it.

Bruce Krumlauf
Centennial, CO

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Richard Dash [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Public servants of the Senate,
Please re-examine your consciences and reject completely the G/C bill.
There is no moral or fiscal excuse for such a travesty to even be considered.
Work with the opposition to fix the problems with the current law and thereby serve the nation and the people not
fearful self-interest.
Richard Dash
Boulder County, Colorado

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: B S [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.

B S

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
louisville, Colorado 80027

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jane McPeters [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Health Repeal law is a disaster for Colorado

Since the implementation of the ACA, the percentage of people without health insurance in Colorado has dropped from 16 percent to 6.7 percent. This has been a great economic boon for our state and for our citizens.

Vote NO on the Graham Cassidy bill.

Thanks,

Jane McPeters
Parker, CO 80134

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

The original letter talks about 32 million being tossed off healthcare--just a guess, really, but an informed one. My worry is the sheer stupidity of trying to roll us back to before the ACA, which seems to be the desire of Republicans, since, with few exceptions (Kasich, Romney) seem to have no desire to take care of anyone but the "haves." I'm amazed at how Trump has had the effect of getting his base to vote against themselves & enrich the rich. I'm guessing that they saw their premiums go up, while the poor saw themselves actually getting HC they could afford. That's what happened to us. Plus, with baseline care, we no longer have to pay \$400.00 for a physical. For both of us, prior to the ACA. We started not getting full physicals because of the \$800.00 over and above the part we had to meet before insurance kicked in. Because of this, I was able to catch possible uterine cancer before it had started. My sister-in-law and I had exactly the same symptoms. She had to delay having a hysterectomy because of a broken leg. She developed uterine cancer and went through chemo. Both of us are alive & not bankrupt because of the ACA.

So, do I think HC needs to be reformed. Yes. But what I believe is that it should be allowed to work as the ACA was originally intended to. Keep the mandate and remove the ability to opt out. Expand Medicaid, so we cover more people. Yes, the healthy would pay for the sick, but just like car or home insurance, it would, therefore, be there for you when the engine, your body, housing your soul gives out, because it WILL give out. You can hope and pray it won't, while eating well and jogging. You can pray you won't break down until your old and Medicare kicks in. That certainly was my friend Kay's hope. At 64, she started having symptoms of something wrong. She figured she could wait a year. She made it to that crucial mark, got the HC lined out, only to find out she had renal cell carcinoma. It was untreatable, had metastasized. From diagnosis to death was 4 months. She was dead shortly after her next birthday. The system failed her.

rules here seem to really be, especially under Republicans, rob the poor, give it all to the rich, & let those who make the fortunes for the rich (i.e.the worker) live on the scraps. What fun.

Writing about this is hard, depressing even. Perhaps for you on the finance committee, and others in government, you see our credit card debt, which we paid off completely in 2010, after my mom died, as nothing or bad judgment. The truth is not enough money. My husband's income barely covers expenses, including our mortgage, which will outlive us I'm afraid. Our daughter is helping us on one debt, but emergencies keep it rising back up. Neither of us dare have an emergency, since Dave gets 2000.00 a month take home. I'm a musician still & bring in 300.00 to 500.00, with most of it spent on bills. Our debt now, with sudden medical expenses, home upkeep, & the other catastrophic BS, now stands at over 11,000.00 & that's with neither of us having a major illness. Our debt could easily be handled with one of Tom Price's jet sprees or Trump's Maralago visits. We are one of those families with no savings. Yet you complacently think about politics, playing with our lives, as well as Republica lives in Trump's base who still haven't caught onto the fact that Trump cares only for the win, while Republicans care only for the party, their next election, & whether or not they'll get a nod from some rich guy who's really happy you successfully deprived regular working Americans of life, liberty, & the pursuit of happiness.

Why did I add liberty? As long as workers have to work in a job they hate in order to provide insurance for their families, they will. They'll work on arthritic knees, with damaged spines, with black lungs, & in uranium mines where they might get cancer (my dad did). They'll endanger their lives in oil fields & fracking. They'll even stand by & let the environment be polluted because what they care about is their children & food in their mouths. It's a shame that their lives and health matter less than your own pockets. Plus, you get to retire with us footing that bill too.

My point, in all this, is that we, the people, who provide YOU with healthcare need you to FIX THIS now, & according to those in the know Graham-Cassidy is, as always, a way to give billions to the rich, prop up the medical device industry, & rip away Medicaid from the poor. Please do the right thing, act FOR the people. Vote no on Graham-Cassidy & return to working in bipartisan manner to repair the ACA. 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 keep hearing how we don't want socialistic medicine. I say why not? Are we not a nation that believes in life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness? How can you live joyfully or pursue anything if you live constantly in fear of that which threatens life? Cancer takes the old and young. Heart disease & defect does too. Plus, we have an Olive addiction that's ravaging our country. What about diabetes, both juvenile & adult? That can both kill & maim. What I see in the countries where they invest in HC nationally are countries that, as a whole, have invested in their people. The ACA was an attempt to do that, invest in people. Why do we, a country who explodes into a flurry of giving whenever a disaster strikes, be it hurricane or earthquake, fire or flood, seem to not give a damn where our OWN people are concerned. Even with HC now, we've incurred debts we can't afford because of the ridiculous prices of MRIs (1000.00 a pop, CAT scans (500.00), and other uncovered fees. My husband & I are now on one income because I have fibro, arthritis in my spine, shaking spells, & carpal tunnel in both wrists. We've held onto to our house, barely. Now 65, he continues to work with damaged knees & back because I can't & he has insurance through his employer. The irony is if we had single payer (listen to the insurance companies quake with fear) or fixed the ACA & recognized healthcare AS a human right, he could retire or, at least, get a different job that wouldn't continue to destroy his knees. We're both older, but I'm only 61. Medicare is out of reach for me. Plus, we have prescription coverage, another basic protection in the ACA. We have no insurance cap. The value of that was demonstrated fully to us this year when we both had a tooth break. We have dental insurance, but it has a yearly cap of 1500.00 & covers one cleaning. My husband had to have a "deep cleaning," which isn't covered. He also had to have a bridge, which was a whopping \$4000.00. Our cost was \$2500.00. Mine was \$600.00. We had the \$600.00 because of our income tax refund (yeah. We overpay every year) but not \$2500.00. We used Care Credit, adding to our debt. The caps on dental are breaking our bank. If you allow insurance companies to reinstall lifetime limits (caps), just being born with a heart defect, like Jimmy Kimmel's child, could end the child's healthcare for its lifetime. The insurance company, like our company, could still claim it had "offered coverage" and still be "in compliance," but it would still be able to, effectively, end all coverage. That, after all, was how the "donut hole" in Medicare ripped my mom off every year for thousands before Medicare part D. I was part of mom's healthcare team so I saw that BS firsthand.

One other point, I would love for my son and his family to come home, live stateside. He doesn't because he has kids. Where he is in Germany both the schools & healthcare are free & better than ours. Their children have free schooling clear into college. We bankrupt ours. Part of the reason doctors charge so much is because of the cost to become a physician. The

Please, Act FOR life.

Susan Cypher

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

GRAND JUNCTION, Colorado 81503

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cherie C [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham-Cassidy Bill

- Title Of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
- Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017
- Full Name: Cherie Courtade
- Address: 1801 Bassett St. #506, Denver, CO 80202

Comments:

I am opposed to the Cassidy-Graham-Heller-Johnson Amendment to H.R. 1628, the "American Health Care Act of 2017." The bill would jeopardize health insurance coverage for tens of millions of Americans. It would increase health care costs, decrease coverage, and undermine pre-existing condition protections. It would have a tremendous adverse effect on the most vulnerable Americans including the elderly and the disabled.

As my governor, John Hickenlooper, stated, the bill would "would give Colorado an estimated \$800 million to \$1 billion less a year in federal dollars to cover an assortment of health care needs." This is unacceptable.

Instead, we should pursue bipartisan legislation that will help Americans get the healthcare they need without going bankrupt. Affordable health care should be attainable by all Americans, and this bill will not provide that.

I urge all Senators to reject this proposed legislation.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Adrienne Boese [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham-Cassidy
Attachments: 2017 09 22_SenateFinanceCommitte_Comments_Graham-Cassidy.pdf

Senators,

I have attached a pdf of my letter with comments on the Graham-Cassidy bill and how it would personally affect me. I am one of the millions of Americans with a pre-existing condition. I hope that this letter helps to illustrate not only what I deal with on a daily basis, but also by how much the quality of my life would be impacted with this legislation.

Sincerely,
Adrienne Boese

[REDACTED]
Fountain, Colorado 80817
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Arleta Carr [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:08 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.

Arleta Carr
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Grand Junction, Colorado 81503

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jo Pelkey [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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Jo Pelkey
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Colorado Springs, Colorado 80919

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Belinda Wilks [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.

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Belinda Wilks
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Burlington, Colorado 80807-1403

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

This is a bill the American people don't want and that will harm them a great deal.

Congress needs to stop wasting time and resources on something that is no more than an ideological slap in Obama's face.

Republicans need to stop being poor losers and get on with the business of governing this nation.

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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Tim Orr
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Boulder, Colorado 80304

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Richard Huston [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:10 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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Richard Huston
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Winter Park, Colorado 80482

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pam Sargent [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:06 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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Pam Sargent
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Durango, Colorado 81301

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Wade Wilson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy. You two faced cowardly corporate loving repubict

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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Wade Wilson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Lewis, Colorado 81327

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mark Nepi [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:50 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.

Mark Nepi
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Highlands Ranch, Colorado 80129

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Fiona Garvin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill hearing

Hello,

I and my family are strongly in favor of retaining and strengthening the Affordable Care Act.

I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill, which will set up tremendous inequities between states, make coverage for pre-existing conditions optional, penalize "blue" states' budgets, reduce Medicaid coverage, and remove the individual mandate. A hefty majority of American's don't want this!

I urge Graham and Cassidy to work with their colleague in a bipartisan fashion to improve the ACA and stabilize health care insurance markets.

- Fiona
Garvin
Louisville, CO 80027

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Erik Hvoslef [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in 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.

Erik Hvoslef
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Salida, Colorado 81201

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: George Dickison [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: opposed to Graham-Cassidy

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. This bill would cause millions to lose their health care coverage and would be devastating to those who could least afford it. Massive cuts to Medicaid and the loss of guaranteed coverage for pre-existing conditions is mean spirited and very short sighted. Giving a green light to states to allow insurers to increase premiums for those with serious health issues is unconscionable. This bill will be a moral and economic disaster to the people of the state of Colorado as well as every other state that has opted for Medicaid expansion. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

George Dickison

Fort Collins, Co

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Charly Ellis [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:41 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No no on repackaged thin G-L

No on G-L. Work together!! Both parties. Many voices.
Charlyn Ellis
Lakewood CO 80227

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Lupberger [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy Hearing

Both myself and my family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to share my story. Because I have been uninsured, I have had to put off receiving routine health care for injuries, illnesses, and dental work. As a result, I have had to either pay more later, or I have continued to have health issues because I could not be treated immediately. I have also foregone medical procedures that insurance did not cover, such as my pap smear, because my insurance company did not consider that aspect of women's health urgent enough to cover. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA and eventually create a single payer system, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Sarah Lupberger

Avon, CO

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amanda Zoch [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: public testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. As a woman who hopes to one day partake of maternity leave and as someone with a pre-existing condition, I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Amanda Zoch

Fort Collins, CO

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

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

Sincerely,
Jean Stracy
Denver, CO

Jean A Stracy

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Haney [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Dear Senators,

You work for the PEOPLE of America. Not the insurance companies of America, not the pharmaceutical corporations of America, but the people.

You work for people like my friend Jill. Jill has a seven year old daughter. She also has cancer. Her treatments cost far more than she could ever afford without insurance, and she would not be able to afford that insurance if this bill passes. Are you willing to sit down with that little girl and explain to her that she no longer has a mother because it was more important to allow insurance companies to make a profit? If you can answer "yes" to that question... well, you are the keeper of your own conscience. But if you aren't willing to have that conversation, then you have no business voting for this bill.

Let's all take a breath. Slow down. Think things through.

Taking away 30 million people's access to healthcare is not a good plan. Making health insurance so expensive that it is completely unaffordable for those who need it most is not the right thing to do. Creating a healthcare system that enables people to receive the healthcare they need is. No one wants to be sick. No one asks to get cancer, or diabetes, or to be severely injured. People are more productive, more creative, better members of society, if they are healthy. And having healthcare that's affordable and accessible to everyone is the way to do that.

None of you, Republican or Democrat, need to rush to pass some half-baked healthcare bill just for the sake of passing it. We currently have a system which, while not perfect, is good enough (assuming people stop trying to deliberately cripple it) to give you some time to think, study the problem, and come up with a plan that will help, not hurt, our country.

There are plenty of countries (all the other developed ones, in fact) that have models you could look at. Take some time. Look at what works well in those countries and what doesn't. Take the best parts of their systems and use them as a starting point for with a system of our own. One that puts people's health, not corporations' profits, first.

Sincerely,

Sarah Haney
Denver, CO

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jim Harmeyer [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:17 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. If pre-existing conditions are allowed, the problem is you never really know if you are insured. You pay the premiums, but if you have health problems the insurance company may decide that it is a pre-existing condition and not cover it. A large percent of people that went bankrupt due to medical bills had insurance. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Jim Harmeyer
Dillon Colorado

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathy Hebert [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Kathy Hebert
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Colorado Springs, Colorado 80918

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Matthew Troxel [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Hearing Comment

To: Senate Committee on Finance
Attn. Editorial and Document Section
Rm. SD-219
Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510-6200

From: Matthew Troxel, [REDACTED] Thornton CO, 80241

Re: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing on Monday, September 25, 2017

To whom it may concern,

Please vote 'NO' on the Graham-Cassidy Bill. The bill has been rushed and pushed through outside of the normal, careful process it should undergo. It has not been vetted by experts, and you have not even received an impact analysis from the Congressional Budget Office. This bill has life-or-death consequences for many Americans, and could very well put the financial futures of millions in jeopardy if their premiums sky-rocket. Being "free" in America should mean having affordable access to health care, regardless of pre-existing conditions, and especially regardless of what state you happen to live in. Diverting this money to the States would create a great disparity across America, and does not meet my definition of freedom. Furthermore, there is very little knowledge or assurance as to how States would use this money. Putting the lives of millions in the hands of state law-makers is a very dangerous game. Some States may chose to protect the vulnerable, but others could easily do great harm to their citizens. The best way to ensure that all Americans have access to affordable healthcare is the manage it at the Federal level. I beg you, please vote 'NO' on this bill, and please work as a unified bi-partisan government to find a solution that can improve the lives of Americans across the board, not state-by-state. Thank you.

-Matthew Troxel

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

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

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Maybe we should be freezing their on shore assets until they pay their taxes, just the same that would happen to the rest of us.

doug calkin
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Denver, Colorado 80211

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

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Eric Werner
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Loveland, Colorado 80538

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jacquee Peebles [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: OPPOSE GRAHAM-CASSIDY non-health legislation

I believe in quality, affordable healthcare for all Americans. Because of this, I STRONGLY OPPOSE the Graham-Cassidy bill. In addition my employer, Kaiser Permanente adamantly opposes this legislation as it moves this country backwards. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Jacquee Peebles
Littleton CO 80126

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sophie Schor [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: 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,

Sophie Schor

Denver, CO

--

Sophie Schor

PhD Candidate | Josef Korbel School of International Studies
University of Denver | Denver, CO

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Andrea Rossiter [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:37 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham-Cassidy

Dear US Senators,

We, the American people, are tired with your inability to come together and legislate an effective fix to provide affordable healthcare coverage for all citizens.

Some of you think we are stupid and will swallow your claims that universal healthcare coverage will diminish quality. We see how citizens in other countries prosper and benefit from these programs. In comparison, we see on a daily basis how our own family members and neighbors struggle to afford decent coverage. We know that Obamacare took a big step toward fixing the problem. We also know that you have the knowledge and ability to take the next steps to strengthen the foundation provided by that program to improve coverage and bring down costs. But despite this, we see you actively trying to destroy the progress we have made....actively trying to rob us of the hard-earned benefits we have gained.....actively lying and distorting the truth to cover up the destruction that your proposals will create....actively favoring the interests of the insurance industry for your own economic gain versus the interests of voters whom you are sworn to represent.

The Graham-Cassidy Bill is a disgrace on so many levels. Please do the right thing by repudiating it and everything it stands for. **Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy** and then proceed to come together to make fixes to Obamacare to extend affordable healthcare to your real constituency, the American Citizen.

We are alert, active and watching. We VOTE.

Andrea M. Rossiter
Denver, Colorado
80220
Registered Independent Voter

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karla Stukey [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill

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

Sincerely,

Karla Stukey

Carbondale, Colorado

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bruce Cratty [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.

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 Cratty
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Denver, Colorado 80210

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judith Vanderryn [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

To the committee,

As a resident of rural southwestern Colorado, my family and I rely on affordable healthcare and insurance - we don't have lots of options here. That's why I would like to see Congress make a concerted effort to FIX what is wrong with Affordable Care Act rather than repeal it or replace it with something worse, which is what this latest bill (the Graham-Cassidy bill) is proposing.

As a middle-class self-employed person whose husband is also self-employed, I have been stressed by the increase in premiums for private health insurance that came along with the ACA. We make too much money to qualify for subsidies but our premiums are now more than our house payment, and our deductibles are laughable. So I know that the system needs to be worked on. AT THE SAME TIME, I am frightened by the proposal to return to a time when insurance companies could deny people because of pre-existing conditions - I was denied health insurance because of a mistake that a pathologist made on a routine PAP smear and was unable to get insurance no matter how many people I talked to. And I wasn't looking at cancer or heart treatments, or treatment for depression, as many of my neighbors are.

The main problems with the high cost of healthcare are have to do with the high cost of care for a certain segment of the population, the increase in costs of very specialized treatment (also a certain segment of the population), the ridiculous decision by Congress to not allow for negotiation of prescription prices, and the fact that insurance companies need to make a profit to answer to stockholders. These are issues that need to be addressed in a thoughtful manner, with national conversation and debate in Congress - not this rush to pass a horrible bill that will end up with more people uninsured and insurance and pharmaceutical companies making greater profits.

Please listen to the majority of the American people who believe that healthcare is a right that should extend to everyone - and that should not be a source of profit to those who truly don't need to be making more money. Show the leadership you've been elected for and work on a serious, thoughtful process to address the real issue of healthcare in our country and DO NOT PASS this travesty of a bill.

Thank you,
Judith Vanderryn

[REDACTED]
Durango, CO 81301

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Dan Ward
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Fountain, Colorado 80817

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Holly Dellacasa [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do NOT pass your latest Healthcare repeal/replace

Hello,

I'm writing to ask that the GOP forgo their latest attempt at taking away Obamacare/ACA. As we all know, healthcare is a very complicated issue. Debates need to happen, idea's need to be exchanged, NOTHING should be rushed, and bi-partisanship should be utilized.

Please, please PLEASE quit trying to rush something through, based on a very shallow, immature campaign promise, from someone who knows nothing about government, and is only interested in undoing everything the previous President put into place. These are people's lives we're talking about! This is 1/6 of our economy!

United States citizens depend on you for protection, leadership, and sense of patriotism. This bill goes against all of those principles and will (literally) kill people.

PLEASE, DO NOT PASS IT.

Holly Dellacasa

[REDACTED]
Broomfield, CO 80020

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lind, Camilla B [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Graham Cassidy it will hurt Americans!

Importance: High

Please do not vote for the Graham-Cassidy Bill. It will actually hurt Americans!

Example 1: I recall the dark days when pre-existing conditions such as asthma & allergies, meant I had to pay more for health insurance and had a higher co-pay than my siblings who were lucky enough not to be born with asthma and life threatening allergies!

I do everything within my power to stay healthy but as you know when you have a pre-existing condition it means more doctor visits and routine medications.

The ACA healthcare reform took away the insurance companies' ability to charge some of us higher rates. This in turn helps the economy as we are able to afford our healthcare & medications and that in turn allows us to work/pay taxes and we certainly contribute to the economy!

Example 2: There are a large number of people who did not have health insurance – the ACA healthcare reform didn't go far enough but at least in the states that were wise enough to expand Medicare many people were able to access healthcare! People like my sister & my son, are getting the care they need because they are now on Medicare.

Please do not vote for the Graham-Cassidy Bill. It will actually hurt Americans!

Healthcare for all Americans should be considered a RIGHT. Other countries manage to be healthier & spend less \$ doing it! Respect for human life & dignity should lead one to support Nationalized Healthcare!

Reign in pharmaceutical companies & abolish private for profit health insurance companies and for profit healthcare providers!

Cami Lind

Cami Lind, CIP
IRB Manager
SCL Health-Front Range IRB

[REDACTED]
Denver, CO 80218
[REDACTED]



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marsha Plucker [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

Please!!! Unite in a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it!!
Marsha Plucker
Littleton CO
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: k. f. [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy feedback

This bill would put my life at risk. I have a pre-existing condition that requires me to have tests run every 6 months. Before ACA, I was unable to get insurance to cover this condition, paying out of pocket instead. Now I am employed and happy to receive healthcare through my insurer, but there are people on the individual market who rely on the Essential Health Benefits clause to ensure that THEIR conditions will be covered at an affordable rate. I was pained to hear Senator Cassidy go on TV and lie about what Graham-Cassidy does. It will not protect people with pre-existing conditions, and for that, this bill should be set aside.

Our country will be judged on how we treat our most vulnerable citizens. We have the wherewithal to ensure safety and liberty of all people in America - let's strive to do that. Enough of these self-inflicted wounds.

Katie Farnan
Gunbarrel, Colorado

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tim Adams [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy is the Wrong bill!

I know that Graham-Cassidy bill is up for review and I believe that the bill in its present form is a hazard to our health! My wife has had cancer and if it wasn't to the ACA we would have had serious issues to deal with and this bill would make things worst. Because of her cancer she cannot even get life insurance but she is able to get health insurance because of her pre-existing condition. I believe the Graham-Cassidy bill is wrong and has not been thought through nor has it been properly vetted or discussed. The Senate is all about the 50 votes to pass something and anything at this time and it is wrong! Instead of addressing issues that need to be addressed, the Senate Committee is using a piece-meal approach of what do you need for your State and we will add it. This should not how the Senate does business.

I appreciate you listening to me and a vote NO on GRAHAM-CASSIDY!

Thank You!

Tim Adams
[REDACTED]

Aurora CO 80017

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Gardner, DoNotReply (Gardner); Bennet, Senator (Bennet)
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy!

I am absolutely disgusted that the Senate is trying to rush through another disastrous attempt to repeal the ACA for purely political gain. The Graham-Cassidy bill is even worse than other failed versions of Trumpcare. It will deprive 32 million Americans of health insurance, especially older adults, children, and women. States like Colorado that expanded Medicare under the ACA will be hardest hit, with their funding transferred to the red states of Trumpland. Also suffering will be citizens with pre-existing conditions and those who need mental health or addiction care. Planned Parenthood would be defunded for at least a year, federal protections for people with pre-existing conditions would be eliminated, and insurers and medical professionals firmly join in opposing this bill.

It says a lot that Sen. Gardner claims he is still seeking more info on this bill and that Senator Cassidy either lies or is ignorant of its provisions. These senators should listen to Colorado Senator Bennet and Governor Hickenlooper if they wish to understand how badly states like Colorado will be hurt by this repeal effort. How about starting over with a truly cooperative and bipartisan regular process that works to provide actual health care instead of this sycophantic wealth care bill?

With great concern, Phyllis Endicott, Greeley, CO 80631

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sue Keston [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

There are numerous ways that Graham Cassidy will ruin both Americas health and economy and my own. I have never been more terrified about how a Congressional bill could destroy my health, my business, and my family's health.

1. I have a preexisting condition that requires expensive medication. It would be cost prohibitive without insurance. It is likely I will be denied affordable coverage and would probably not be covered for any issues related to my preexisting condition. This is exactly what happened to me before the ACA.
2. My daughter was hospitalized for 8 weeks last year with a life threatening condition. If this bill was law then, she would have met a lifetime cap at age 24. She will soon need her own policy and will most likely be denied coverage which will prohibit her being able to get the life sustaining medication she needs because without insurance, it retails for \$2400 a month. This bill has lethal consequences my child!
3. I am self employed and have to buy insurance on the individual market at a projected increase of 20%. That is on top of the additional projected \$5000 per year that I will be penalized for having a preexisting condition. I can't possibly charge enough to sustain a business and help with these healthcare costs.
4. My business plan relies on treating clients who may pay through Insurance or Medicaid. This bill will literally impact the viability of my business and that of every independent mental health provider with similar issues. Many people will not get treatment, and I will be forced into seeking other employment.

In addition to the impact of millions losing health care and an established Medicaid safety net, this bill could literally be fatal for myself, my daughter, and mental health clients no longer able to receive care.

Block grants will force rationed care at community healthcare centers, compounding problems for those requiring mental health treatment.

There is no healthcare crisis that requires an immediate fix by September 30. Congress needs to take the time to work on a bipartisan fix that improves healthcare instead of destroying it, and putting millions of American lives at risk.

Thank you.
Sue K
Colorado

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eleanor Lynch [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy

I'm 56 years old. This is a TERRIBLE bill for me, personally. My premiums will rise substantially and my coverage will shrink. Please DO NOT DO THIS.

I will be contacting Senator Gardner of CO directly. This is bad for Colorado and bad for the U.S.

Eleanor Lynch

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sue bartlett [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I am a Republican NO on Cassidy Graham Bill

I am a citizen, hard working employee, and a mother. I am what this country was founded upon. I am appalled that you are taking my families healthcare and in the long run make it impossible for me to retire at a reasonable age.

What have I done to you? If this atrocious Cassidy Graham Bill passes I plan to vigorously campaign against my fellow Republican; Senator Gardner. I will spend all of my time apologizing to Democrats for this short sighted third effort of healthcare repeal.

ENOUGH ,is ENOUGH. Drop this effort and vote NO on Graham Cassidy!

--

Barbara Sue Bartlett

[REDACTED]
Fort Collins CO 8025
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stephanie MacCarragher [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Dear Michael Bennett and Cory Gardner,

You are both senators in my state of Colorado, and I would like to request that you vote no on Monday's healthcare bill, since there will be nothing to replace it, which would be irresponsible and harmful to the citizens you are elected to represent.

Thank you

Stephanie MacCarragher

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: LaVonne Whelchel [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy = NO!

As someone who relies on the ACA for healthcare coverage, I implore you to vote no on this horrible bill. I will likely be one of the estimated 32 million (yes, 32 million) people who lose their healthcare coverage. I am a productive citizen, have paid my taxes, have contributed to society and volunteered to help others all my life. I believe that a just society views healthcare as a right and not as a privilege granted only to the wealthy.

Please stand up for, and represent regular Americans by helping them continue to afford healthcare. "Access" is not the same as affordability. Please vote NO on GC.

Thank you,

LaVonne Whelchel

cc: Senator Cory Gardner - Colorado (mail)
Senator Michael Benett - Colorado (mail)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jackie Bilan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy measure

Dear Senators,

As a white, 61 year old Republican woman I do NOT support the Graham-Cassidy measure and believe it to be very detrimental to our economy and your constituents. It is not supported by Physicians, hospitals or by the majority of Americans.

The ACA should be fixed in a bi-partisan manner and other issues such as infrastructure and education should be addressed. Spending time on the Graham-Cassidy bill makes our Congress appear petty and foolish. Please do not support this bill. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Jackie Bilan

[REDACTED]
Longmont, Co

Please excuse any typos; sent from my mobile device.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mark Onstott [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Gardner, DoNotReply (Gardner)
Subject: Health Care Bill

WTF? Any particular reason the Senate continues to push legislation on health care reform that is totally worthless? Do you hate the American people? Are you afraid of Trump? Are you deep in the pockets of the insurance companies? Or are you simply tired of serving in the Senate and want to be voted out in your next re-election cycle?

Get a spine! Don't waste our time and yours on this effort! Instead - get serious - do your due diligence and pass bi-partisan legislation that will fix Obamacare and give all Americans the same healthcare you enjoy in the United States Senate. Or barring that - are you willing to either have no healthcare yourself or sign-up for the piece-of-crap legislation you are calling healthcare? You decide!

Mark Onstott
Concerned Citizen of Colorado

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathy Woodward [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:28 PM
To: gchcomments

Monstrous the lies perpetuated by @SenateGOP about the Graham-Cassidy bill. No hearings, no public comment, no CBO, back-room deals that will destroy this country. The AMA, health insurance companies, AARP, Republican Governors, the majority of the American public hate this bill. Dump it!

Kathleen Woodward
Broomfield, CO

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jane Feldman [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no on the Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senators:

Please vote no on the Graham-Cassidy bill. This bill will deny health care coverage over the next 10 years to an estimated 30 million Americans. The real numbers are not known, because you are forcing this bill through the Senate without adequate time for the Congressional Budget Office to properly analyze its effects.

This bill is opposed by the Medicaid Directors of all 50 states, by the American Medical Association, the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society, the American Alzheimers Association, the American Lung Association, Kaiser Permanente, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, the AARP, the American Academy of Pediatrics and other similar organizations. This bill will cost states millions of dollars in lost medicaid funds, so that they will have no choice, but to cut benefits, thereby necessarily eliminating protections for pre-existing conditions, and increasing costs for the elderly, veterans, and cancer patients. This bill may be the worst of the attempts to "repeal and replace" Obamacare. Polls show that a majority of Americans now support Obamacare, and we will remember your votes come 2018 and 2020.

Stop lying to the American people about this bill and vote no.

Jane T. Feldman, Esq.

[REDACTED]
Denver, CO 80220
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laura Egger [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I OPPOSE Graham Cassidy

I am a registered voter in Steamboat Springs, CO.

I urge a NO vote on Graham Cassidy.

Steve Schmidt, Sen. McCain's campaign manager, noted the following: Voting for something that touches 1/6 of the economy and affects every American without knowing the cost is antithetical to conservatism.

It would strip healthcare from 1,750,000 veterans covered by Medicaid.

The bill eliminates ALL ACA funding for Medicaid expansion and replaces it with block grants.

Block grants will not adjust for enrollment due to recessions, hurricanes, and the like.

The bill also includes Trumpcare's waivers of essential health benefits.

Please VOTE NO on Graham Cassidy.

Laura Egger
[REDACTED]
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Niederhoff [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

The ACA cannot be fixed by rushing through whichever bill is the fashion of the day. The whole Senate needs to take a breather and actually work together to stabilize the market and reduce costs.

Stop. Being. Ridiculous.

Barbara Niederhoff
Aurora, CO

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Abby Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not allow the Graham-Cassidy Amendment to proceed

Dear Senators,

I am writing to request that you do not allow the Graham-Cassidy Amendment to proceed out of your committee. This bill will radically alter nearly 1/5th of the US economy without proper testimony, hearings or a full CBO score. The bill will eliminate protections for Americans with pre-existing conditions, it will eliminate Medicaid within a few short years and will reduce state funding for each and every one of YOUR STATES by billions of dollars, almost immediately. Do your job and do not allow this bill to come to a vote!

Abby Jones
Longmont, Colorado, 80501
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Abby [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not allow the Graham-Cassidy Amendment to proceed

Dear Senators,

I am writing to request that you do not allow the Graham-Cassidy Amendment to proceed out of your committee. This bill will radically alter nearly 1/5th of the US economy without proper testimony, hearings or a full CBO score. The bill will eliminate protections for Americans with pre-existing conditions, it will eliminate Medicaid within a few short years and will reduce state funding for each and every one of YOUR STATES by billions of dollars, almost immediately. Do your job and do not allow this bill to come to a vote!

Abby Jones
Longmont, Colorado, 80501

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: James [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Comments

The Graham Cassidy bill would hurt my family. My wife has a pre existing condition (as most women will) and we would be hard pressed to acquire health insurance if this bill passes. What is wrong with you for even thinking about making this bill law? Anybody who would vote yes on this has lost their moral compass.

I find it reprehensible that there is no reaching across the aisle to produce a health care bill that would benefit the country. Instead we have to fight tooth and nail to try and defeat a cruel, heartless bill yet again.

Look deep into your soul and tell me this is the right thing to do.

James Morgan
Lakewood CO 80228

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kayla Dodson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

I worked as a school counselor and Medicaid is extremely important for many children to get healthcare so they will be well and able to attend and pay attention in school. This leads to more high school graduation and a better work force. Please don't repeal and replace ACA with the current Graham-Cassidy bill.

Thank you, Kayla Dodson

[REDACTED]
Grand Junction, CO 81507
[REDACTED]

+++++

"Comfort over style is the rule for garden clothes." Tovah Martin, horticulturist and author

+++++

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Janice Kelly [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA and Medicaid

I have 2 daughters, both in their 20s, one receives the ACA with government subsidy so she can afford insurance. She lives with her father and I because here in Colorado housing is very expensive and she was unable to go to college.

My other daughter receives Medicaid because she was born with a birth defect that caused part of her brain not to form. The imbalance has caused severe developmental delays and seizures. She receives diapers, medication, doctor visits, physical therapy and medical equipment from Medicaid. Without Medicaid we won't be able to provide a comfortable life for her, and she currently lives with us as well.

Her father and I have committed our lives to the care of our daughter, but without Medicaid we will have to let the state take over her care which ultimately will cost the government more than allowing her to stay here and provide what we currently have with Medicaid.

We absolutely can't lose Medicaid for her, and you can't allow cuts to Medicaid to fund tax cuts for the rich. We are living at the poverty line and doing our best, please don't make it harder on us. Thank you for listening. Janice Kelly, Loveland, Colorado 80538

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidini bill

Hello!

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. I have worked in healthcare for the last 30 years and have seen how access to healthcare when it is needed not only eases suffering but supports individuals and families become vital contributors to their communities and tax paying citizens! And when not able to access care when needed, circumstances become so overwhelming it can be impossible to climb out.

I have also seen families torn apart and torn down due to medical bills and do not believe families should go into bankruptcy because of medical bills.

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

Republicans say they have to pass something because they said they would....however I doubt their constituents thought that meant, anything, with no constructive replacement. I would like to see some Republican leadership in crafting improvements that can really impact access for all citizens, improve quality and work with the market dynamics to lower overall costs of healthcare spending. This bill does none of those things.

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

Sincerely,
Anne Sevin
Longmont, CO 80504

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gregory Gunter [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No on Graham-Cassidy

Please do not support the worst health care bill yet. Why do you all want to kill this bill? You must be getting paid from someone.

The ACA saved my life and though there are problems, they need to be fixed. The whole program works -- not perfectly, but better than any program before. Primarily because there WAS NO Program before!!!

Please vote no on this egregious bill.

Work together to repair what you think is broken about ACA. Stop calling it O-care since you hate him so much.

We need you to work for US not the corporations.

Greg Gunter
Fort Collins, Colorado

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Braun, Barry [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Braun, Barry
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

Dear Senate Finance committee,

I am a registered Independent in Fort Collins, CO, which is part of Larimer county. While I recognize that the Affordable Care Act is far from perfect, it has done a lot of tangible good, particularly in terms of providing health care coverage to a broad swath of the population who had never had access to it previously. Here in Larimer county, implementation of the ACA has led to a measurable increase in the percentage of people with health care coverage, from 85% in 2013 to the current rate of 95% in 2017, a trend which tracks the statewide increase from 86.5% to 93.5% over the same timeframe (The Coloradoan 9/29/17). Second, the guaranteed coverage for people with pre-existing conditions (which would be subject to state-by-state decision-making under the Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill) is a humane and equitable policy that looks out for people who, through no fault of their own, have health challenges which affect their lives and livelihood.

Both of these hallmarks of the current ACA showcase American values of empathy, inclusion and generosity of spirit that demonstrate who we are as a country. I urge you to reject passage of the Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill. This current version of "repeal and replace" is, in my mind, NOT the way to improve and enhance the current ACA. Thank you for your attention.

Barry Braun

Barry Braun, Ph.D.
Professor and Department Head
Executive Director, Human Performance Clinical Research Laboratory
Department of Health and Exercise Science
College of Health and Human Sciences
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: JONNA ADAMICH [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Vote No on this bill. A bad deal for Americans with disabilities, Medicaid, low income, and pre-existing conditions.

Jonna Adamich
Pueblo, Co
Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Donna Werner [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE NO on the Graham Cassidy bill

I am urging all who can to vote NO on the Graham Cassidy bill. I support the opposition from the large health insurance companies, the dozens of governors, doctors, hospitals, rural health care facilities and the 50 medicaid directors to this horrific bill.

- will make pre-existing conditions vulnerable
- limit reproductive health care
- make pregnancy care and birth care optional
- cause millions to lose health insurance
- increase health care costs for self employed

I am self employed with a monthly payment of \$1225 and a \$6800 deductible, a total of \$21,500 BEFORE my insurance kicks in. How much worse can this get? Apparently, much worse if this bill passes.

I am a postpartum doula, taking care of women and newborns in the weeks after birth. I understand the challenges that can face pregnant families and the need for good insurance and health care!

We understand that there has been bipartisan work towards a bipartisan bill. Why the rush on this one? Is repealing Obamacare really worth the lives and health of our citizens?

Please be courageous and do the right thing. End this health care nightmare.

Thank you.
Donna Werner

[REDACTED]
Boulder, CO 80304

The Calculation:

Donor total: \$400,000,000

Votes required to pass: 51 (Senate) + 218 (House) + 1 (President) = 270

Premature deaths: 18,200 in the first year, 41,600 in year 10

(Those numbers are from: <http://annals.org/aim/article/2635326/relationship-health-insurance-mortality-lack-insurance-deadly> and <https://twitter.com/ShadowingTrump/status/909904546201260032>) (For perspective, America had ~58,700 premature deaths from the Vietnam War over approximately 20 years or about 3000 per year. GCHJ would kill American citizens at a much greater rate and would be an intentional act of its own government.)

- Assuming, very conservatively, 18,200 deaths for each year, total premature deaths = 182,000

$\$8.14 = (400,000,000 / 182,000) / 270 =$ (maximum) value a GCHJ supporter is implicitly assigning to a life lost by premature death because of loss of insurance caused by GCHJ

- Assuming linear drop-off in coverage,

total no. of premature deaths = $10 ((18,200 + 41,600) / 2) = 299,000$

$\$4.95 = (400,000,000 / 299,000) / 270 =$ (maximum) value a GCHJ supporter is implicitly assigning to a life lost by premature death because of loss of insurance caused by GCHJ

Of course, as time goes on, the premature death toll rises and those numbers will tend to 0, but the moral weight upon the soul of the decision to support GCHJ rises. And, as mentioned earlier, these values are exaggerated because donors will certainly be demanding and getting more from GCHJ supporters than just the destructive health care policies. Thus, the figure used for the value of a life ended prematurely (in just the first 10 years) is certainly much less. I hope this helps to give perspective as to what donors are requiring for support and what 'yes' voters are giving in return.

Of course, it's probably going to be much, much worse than those estimates would suggest. Indeed, should each of 50 states have to re-design their health care systems in a few years, there's going to be multitudes of errors (and probably a lot of intentional sabotage and corruption) as connected actors vie for a piece of the pie in those state laboratories of democracy.

We all know why this is happening. Because of the extreme unpopularity of GCHJ and the destruction it will bring; it is clear any politician could easily argue for a vote against it and dedicate him or her self to making the current system better. Such a politician would be rewarded in public opinion if he or she so desired. So let's be clear: GCHJ wouldn't be before the courts if it were not for concern about campaign contributions from a few big GOP donors or groups and their insistence that Republicans impose their dark vision on the country. It is not about freedom for people; it is about freedom for the few to exploit the many and to erode the many's political power in matters of their own economy and political life. That's why this is happening.

GCHJ is a shameful political act of violence upon the American people, upon America, upon our institutions, and upon basic decency. It has been advocated by its authors and supporters with blatant, transparent, intentional deceit. It has been shepherded through the Senate violating the Senate's own traditions for good-faith interaction. Good-faith is a necessary requirement of institutional actors in all institutions lest the institution lose legitimacy and actors lose trust for engaging each other. Every Senator should loudly and proudly reject the GCHJ bill. There is no justification for such a destructive piece of legislation on its merits alone, or for the shameful, un-American process in which it has traveled.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Carpenter Jr., Ph.D

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy Hartwig [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Healthcare bill

Good Day,

I am writing to you today to ask you to vote no on the Graham Cassidy Healthcare bill. This bill is more of a death sentence than a healthcare bill.

I have listened to some Senators state that this bill protects those with preexisting conditions. This is in fact, not true. People like my asthmatic son can be charged higher premiums or have a plan written for them that doesn't cover services they may need. What happens if he can't afford the premiums or his medications? Are you going to cover the difference?

This bill also is detrimental to women's health care. Thousands of women rely on Planned Parenthood. Planned Parenthood was there for me when I was younger and couldn't afford insurance. I was able to get birth control and check ups. I fully support them. Lessening the number of abortions being performed would be more productive if you concentrate on the reasons women have them. Women need affordable easily attainable access to reproductive care. There needs to be stricter laws to deter rapes. There needs to be strong emphasis on sexual education. And supplying proper medical care to lessen medically needed abortions.

As for my own healthcare, I rely on affordable birth control, not for pregnancy. I need to take it in order not to have daily pain from endometriosis. What happens if this is no longer covered for me?

Lastly, so many people are helped due to Medicaid. The most vulnerable of us. How can you sleep at night knowing these people could die due to this bill?

I know that there was a bi-partisan effort to fix areas of the Affordable Care Act. This is what we should be doing. Getting more people coverage. Not taking it away.

There are more important matters here than keeping a few rich donors happy. A healthy happy nation is a strong nation.

Do the humane thing. Vote No.

Thank you,

Amy Hartwig

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Meg Smeltzer-Miller [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote NO on Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

My name is Meg Smeltzer-Miller and I am a voter in Colorado Springs. I have serious concerns about the Graham-Cassidy bill, the latest iteration in the attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act. Though the ACA is not perfect, we have yet to see a satisfactory alternative, and Graham-Cassidy is certainly not the solution.

As a child, I suffered from seizures caused by epilepsy. Fortunately, the condition was (mostly) controlled by medication, which I took daily for over a decade. This is one reason I am deeply opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill: It does not ensure that insurers cannot charge more for coverage for pre-existing conditions. Furthermore, as a woman who intends to become a parent in the coming years, I have significant concerns about the way Graham-Cassidy would affect women during pregnancy, childbirth, and aftercare.

Please stand with the millions of Americans with pre-existing conditions and do not allow the Graham-Cassidy bill to become law.

Sincerely,
Meg Smeltzer-Miller

[REDACTED]
Colorado Springs, CO 80905

--
Love without courage and wisdom is sentimentality, as with the ordinary church member. Courage without love and wisdom is foolhardiness, as with the ordinary soldier. Wisdom without love and courage is cowardice, as with the ordinary intellectual. But the one who has love, courage, and wisdom moves the world. -Ammon Hennacy

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No Graham-Cassidy

I'm am against this new attempt to repeal and replace the AHCA.

My mother is diabetic, in congestive heart failure, has a blood clot behind her right eye that prevents and easy glaucoma surgery. She is a retired nurse on a fixed income and on Social Security and Medicare. She obviously has pre-existing conditions that would preclude her from receiving services.

In 2010, our daughter was born early with a congenital heart defect's. We had health insurance but could not pay the entire amount of her it'll stay and life flight from Mississippi to Washington DC. She was set to have one of multiple heart surgeries when she died at 6 days old. Medicaid was helping to pay her bills and would have been the support we need to keep her alive. Despite having a great jobs with good salaries, and good health insurance, there is no way we would've been able to handle the financial burdens that were going to be put on us. Sadly we never made it that far, but many more struggle.

The States won't enforce as the Feds do. They will put caps and deny treatment preexisting conditions.

I support universal healthcare for all.

Thanks,
Sarah Koeppel

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mara Seaforest [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy healthcare repeal bill

I am against this horrible bill. I live in a state that would almost assuredly remove the protections of coverage for pre-existing conditions and the end to lifetime caps on coverage. I have Type II Diabetes and a genetic blood condition that require regular treatment and a number of expensive medications. I do my part to make healthy choices in diet and exercise to keep my treatment costs as low as possible but without the insurance coverage I have now under the Affordable Care Act, my life would be shortened by many years. I will be 70 years old very soon, but I still work, still pay taxes and am happy to be able to do so. I don't want to lose my medical insurance coverage, which is the key to everything good in my life, and which allows me to continue contributing to my nation as a taxpayer and actively engaged citizen.

Mara Seaforest
Warrenton Graphics
[REDACTED]
Warrenton VA 20188
[REDACTED]
Online at [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stephen De Haan [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

NO cuts to Medicaid. Enough already with this block grant nonsense. The lives of the handicapped depend on Medicaid!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Holly Beavon [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA and Graham Cassidy

My sister has a rare neurological disease. She could be functional again but she needs medical care and can't afford Cobra any longer. She is facing homelessness in a couple weeks. She can't walk and needs a knee replacement too. She will probably die without her meds or health insurance. She is just one of the 30 million. She has been unable to get any public assistance thus far. My hairdresser got an emergency gall bladder surgery thanks to the ACA. The ACA is VITAL for the US. If GOP can't say no to Koch and Mercer etc donations and would rather kill them, they should remember their "Christian" values and eliminate campaign contributions altogether. Vote to get the dark money out. Our lives are more important!

Holly Beavon

[REDACTED] ell

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Twitter [REDACTED]

Facebook [REDACTED]

Marilyn Monroe Impersonator Holly Beavon

Madonna Impersonator Holly Beavon

SoundCloud, YouTube & Vimeo

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah GILLESPIE <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Graham-Cassidy Hearing
September 25, 2017
Sarah Ashman Gillespie
18 Rivers Edge Drive, apt. 501
Tarrytown, NY 10591

I am writing to strongly urge the committee and the Senate to reject the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill. I do not believe it has had anything close to proper consideration. My husband and I are 75 and 64 years old respectively. We also support my 92 year-old-mother. We are walking, talking pre-existing conditions simply by virtue of our age. We are among the lucky Americans who enjoy decent health insurance and Medicare. Nevertheless, it is clear to us that no one is safe from the calamity that will befall us all if insurance coverage for pre-existing conditions is so high that few can afford it or when Medicaid stops providing for the most vulnerable among us.

The CBO has not been given a chance to weigh in on what the bill will cost of but if the independent agencies who have examined it are anywhere near correct in their estimation, GCH will do enormous damage to our nation's health and welfare.

The bill is opposed by both the AMA and America's Health Insurance Plan and every health focused group in-between, it hasn't been vetted, discussed or debated. It shouldn't even be close to coming to a vote at this point.

Please do the jobs you were elected to do and fight to give appropriate and full health care to every American. Use all that good energy to lower medical costs and pharmaceutical costs and fight addiction and not to threaten us with the loss of our health care.

Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robin Sheldon <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: For hearing

Millions of women will lose their access to healthcare if we lose Planned Parenthood as indicated in this bill. The pre-existing condition of being born female is a true handicap under Graham-Cassidy-from our prenatal and maternity needs to wellness exams. Please stop this bill.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Rosenwasser [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill: NO!

Senate Finance Committee members:

I'm writing to express my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill based on the following reasons:

- 1) The legislation does not solve the problem of affordability that the ACA only partially addressed. While the ACA made healthcare affordable for millions through subsidized premiums and the Medicaid expansion-- and by protecting people with preexisting conditions--Graham-Cassidy would likely result in increased premiums for all of those who benefited from the ACA without making health insurance more affordable for people like my husband and me, who purchased insurance on the Maryland exchange but earned too much to qualify for subsidies. Eliminating essential health benefits at the state level to make policies less robust and thus less expensive is not a reasonable or desirable way to address the problem.
- 2) Graham-Cassidy would require states to reinvent a healthcare/health insurance system in two years, with reduced resources. This is impractical and an invitation for chaos in the health insurance industry, not to mention for hospitals and public health services.
- 3) The bill not only eliminates the Medicaid expansion-- a shining success of the ACA-- but it makes fundamental changes in the core Medicaid program that will damage it irrevocably. This is the program that serves the most vulnerable Americans and should be preserved and strengthened, not gutted to clear the way for tax cuts for wealthy Americans.
- 4) Every major patient advocacy organization, hospital organization, the AMA, AHIP, and the 50 heads of each state Medicaid program are publicly opposed to Graham-Cassidy. That unity should give you pause.
- 5) Maybe if the Senate had put together a bill through regular order, working through committees to learn from health policy experts and stakeholders how to address the challenges the ACA has not been able to solve, a piece of legislation could have emerged that would represent the consensus that does in fact exist to improve access and affordability in a fiscally responsible way. Instead, what the Senate has produced is an ideologically-driven effort to obliterate an Obama legacy. Sadly, the series of repeal and replace bills produced by the GOP in the House and Senate do not serve the public good, they're not based on expertise in the field of public health policy, and they would take the country backwards.
- 6) The fact that the Senate is willing to put Graham-Cassidy to a vote before the CBO can provide an analysis of its costs and assessment of who would gain and lose coverage is pure legislative malpractice. That is not the kind of thoughtful, informed leadership our nation desperately needs.

A majority of Americans wants Congress to fix the ACA by providing MORE support for the exchanges. A majority of Americans OPPOSE Graham-Cassidy and other attempts to repeal and replace the ACA.

Please do the right thing: use the responsibility of your office to act in good faith. Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy and commit to a bipartisan approach to improving the system we have in place.

Thank you.

Nancy Rosenwasser
Bethesda, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nicolle Alvarado [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Nicolle Alvarado
Northridge, CA

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ruth Hardy <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill Will Hurt Persons with Disabilities

Many people with disabilities, like myself, are living on the edge. Our fixed income is so low, that it's almost impossible to make ends meet. I'm lucky to have Medicare coverage, but the Medicare part C supplement is increasing again, this year, and with the Graham Cassidy healthcare bill, premium costs are certain to skyrocket. One of the reasons is that the bill allows states to charge more in premiums and co-pays to persons with pre-existing conditions. It is inhumane to target the most vulnerable in our society. Often times, you are condemning those people to death. Please begin the process again, and work in a bipartisan way to formulate a policy that gives fair and equitable health care coverage to all American citizens. Meanwhile, please continue to fund the Obama care marketplaces and Medicaid.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: MC Getting <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not pass Graham-Cassidy

Esteemed Senators,

I urge you not pass the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill. I am particularly troubled by two elements of the bill that have received a lot of attention in the last week or so.

1. I am terrified about the waiver for pre-existing conditions. I live in Pennsylvania, which is currently at a budget impasse. Our credit rating has been degraded. I could definitely envision the state working to entice insurers into our state's economy by waiving the protections for those with pre-existing conditions. My wife suffers from chronic pain and I was born with a heart condition. Thankfully, we are both covered by our employers' insurance, but we are aware that a job change or a loss of employment would be disastrous for us. If the waiver exists and is taken advantage of, we will be at risk for exorbitant premiums that will prevent us from purchasing a house or starting a family and could even prevent us from receiving the coverage we need. Please do not pass a bill that allows states to waive the protections for those with pre-existing conditions.

2. I am also disturbed by the reports that updates to the bill would change how the law is enacted for different states, shifting Medicaid funding and even preserving elements of the ACA for states such as Alaska. The notion that a bill would be crafted to favor one state over another is unconstitutional and reprehensible.

Thank you for taking the time to hold this hearing, but I wish this bill would have seen more public hearings and panel discussions that include members of the AMA and other national health organizations whose members will be impacted by this legislation.

Thank you,
Craig Getting
Philadelphia, PA 19148

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cheryl [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on the Repeal and Replace Healthcare bill!

Everyone should be able to see a doctor and receive preventive treatment. Please consider a Medicare for all type of health plan.

Thank you
Cheryl Church
Anchorage, Alaska

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kate Milazzo [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. My grandfather is on medicaid and my parents are applying for this service. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My grandfather is army veteran who lives in a nursing home. He depends on medicaid to receive healthcare services. I am shocked and appalled that this bill would take away this service to a wonderful man who served his country in World War II and deserves quality healthcare like every American. There was huge protests across the country about taking away medicaid when senators went back to their constituents in July. Millions of Americans depend on it for a variety of reasons. I understand that there are problems with ACA but I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Kate Milazzo

Salem, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tracy McCreery [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Dear Committee:

I am opposed to the most current iteration of health care legislation put before the Senate, the Graham/Cassidy Act. I am opposed for the following reasons:

1. This is a bill that is being pushed forward with no committee hearings, no debate, and no input from the American people. Let us remember, our Senators serve the People. Listen to the People. Continuing in this vein of ramrod, haphazard legislation is in no way good for America or its citizens.
2. The CBO will not have the time needed to assess the costs of this bill. And yet, our Republican-led Senate is in full backing of putting a piece of legislation into law with no assessment. How does that consciously reconcile with implementing a conservative budget? Furthermore, the number of American citizens affected by this legislation is unknown.
3. Giving block funds to states to do what they will leads to several questions. Foremost, and what should be alarming to all, is the situation in which a citizen moves from one state to another for any number of reasons...their healthcare coverage will ultimately affect their decisions and/or life forward. Is this how we want to dictate where and how people move around this country?
4. Continuing to destabilize the health care industry serves no one.
5. The Affordable Care Act is not the end-all. It needs corrections. Please work in a bipartisan manner in order to ensure that every American has affordable health insurance, to ensure that Americans don't go bankrupt because of an illness or an accident. Work to bring down the costs of pharmaceuticals. Reign in the big insurance companies that prey on individuals. Dismantling the ACA will not better America; it will make us sicker.

With most sincere regards,

Tracy K. McCreery
[REDACTED]

Durham, NH 03824

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Heather Whitmire [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My mother is rapidly losing her cognitive abilities, my father is self-employed, without the ACA my mothers condition will bankrupt my family. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Heather Whitmire

Candler, NC

Sent from Whitmire iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara MacKinnon [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

Yes, Obamacare needs reform, but there is no need to throw the baby out with the bath water. Health care reform needs to consist of a bipartisan process with the goal of providing affordable healthcare for everyone and not just so Republicans can say they have fulfilled their campaign promises to repeal and replace.

Shame on President Trump for trying to shame Republicans into voting for this bill by saying that by voting "no," they will be responsible for the continuation of Obamacare. It has been very heartening to hear Senators like Susan Collins say that what matters is the constituents she serves and not how this decision may affect her reputation, at least according to Trump.

It is a terrible bill, hated by many and palatable only to those who have a political and/or financial stake in its passage.

Barbara MacKinnon

[REDACTED]
Palmyra, VA 22963

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Giandi Marchena [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill - Oppose

Dear Senators,

I am emailing to express my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am a speech language pathologist who works with patients with disabilities that at times render them to depend on Medicaid coverage for services to increase their quality of life. This health care bill will not allow them to attend progressive programs that allow them to learn, build new skills socialize and find purpose in their daily lives.

Sincerely,

Giandi Marchena, M.A., CCC-SLP

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: HARVEY Rubin [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

....
This bill will jeopardize coverage, disrupt the healthcare system, have many states unable to maintain adequate Medicaid coverage, increase the number of uninsured, and increase uncompensated care. Is it any wonder that nearly every branch of organized medicine opposes this bill? Every attempt thus far to repeal the ACA has come up with worse plans. The American people deserve better and it is time that people rather than party take precedence.

HARVEY Rubin

15017
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laura Dyer [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: comments regarding the Graham-Cassidy bill

Good afternoon,

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband is a disabled veteran, but the VA has been unable to provide any care for him (quality or otherwise...). Thus, it's been imperative that he stay on my insurance through work, which is supplemented by Medicare. My husband's disabilities are permanent and have rendered him unable to work - and despite this and the lack of care from the VA, he has not regretted his decision to serve our country. With insurance, his care is mostly affordable and improves our quality of life tremendously. Without insurance, he would lose his remaining functionality, and I am worried about what additional consequences there would be.

There are so many ways that we can improve healthcare quality and affordability. The Graham-Cassidy bill does neither. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Laura Dyer
Portland, OR

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Victoria Phillips [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote no on Graham -Cassidy

Like previous ACA repeal attempts, the latest Senate proposal will drive up premiums and cause at least 15 million people to lose insurance coverage by next year. This bill will be disastrous for American seniors, low-income families, and people with disabilities.

While the suicide and overdose crises claim tens of thousands of American lives every year, these proposed funding cuts would undermine the ability of states like Arizona, Ohio, and Alaska to provide quality mental health and substance use disorder care.

Any bill that would make treatment inaccessible to millions of americans is unacceptable is not a healthcare bill.

Please vote NO for the people of this country!

Vicki Phillips
Owner, Animal House Grooming & Pet Supplies Absecon NJ [REDACTED]

VP Fundraising & Marketing
Mid-Atlantic English Springer Spaniel Rescue www.MAESSR.org

Board, Absecon Business & Commercial Development, Inc www.shoplocalabsecon.com

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judy [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable Care Act

The affordable care act, imperfect as it is, gives me peace of mind as a parent ad grandparent
Daughter with juvenile arthritis cannot be denied health insurance
Daughter with mental illness can stay on her parents health insurance until 26
Grandson on the autism spectrum can continue to receive Medicaid services for physical therapy, occupational therapy and devices like leg braces to correct his toe walking.
Before the ACA, all of these were a constant worry. Make the ACA better, don't destroy it.

Judith Geschwindt
Randolph, NJ
Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: KELLY JOHNSON [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I want to make sure the members of the Senate hear my voice and understand that I DO NOT want to see the Affordable Care Act replaced. The Graham-Cassidy bill is not a improvement on the ACA. It is just a political tool so that Republications can say they are getting something done.

I have seen the good the ACA has done for my neighbors. Many more people in my town have benefited than I would have originally guessed.

Fix the problems with the ACA and let's move on!

Kelly Johnson

Point Pleasant, New Jersey

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hedy Grant [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: GCHcomments@finance.senate
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

With each iteration of the bill to repeal the ACA, I despair more over the grievous lack of compassion demonstrated by the bill's backers in Congress.

Their persistence in pursuing passage of this unconscionable and inhumane bill, even with the vast majority of Americans, insurance companies and health agencies as well as the AMA against it, is beyond shameful.

Vote against the latest repeal effort - the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Hedy Grant
New Milford, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stephanie Nasteff [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing on GCH Please vote NO

Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal
Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017
Full Name: Stephanie Nasteff
Address: [REDACTED], NJ 07040

Dear Senators of the Finance Committee,

I am not writing as one of your constituents, but as an American who is gravely concerned about the loss of protection for those with pre-existing conditions. My mother Debbie had her first bout of breast cancer at age 37. She was a single mother of three. Following her treatment & recovery, she found herself to be uninsurable. Because of her inability to obtain insurance through most employment plans, due to her health history, she was forced to take a job that she hated, for the last 18 years of her short life, to be able to be covered by a plan that would pay for her treatment.

She had 3 more rounds of cancer. It metastasized to her lungs, liver, and bones, and took her life at age 56. She never got to meet her 2nd grandchild. She missed my sister's wedding. And, if she had left her job at the time, she would have been bankrupted in the meantime.

Because of the ACA, I am not afraid that my family history could affect my ability to have access to affordable healthcare. But, if it is repealed and replaced with Graham-Cassidy, pre-existing conditions will no longer be covered. And people with metastatic disease will not only lose their lives, their families could lose their security. This is UNAMERICAN. In this country, we take care of each other. We look out for each other. We are supposed to be in it together. This health plan would tear us apart. Please vote NO, on Graham-Cassidy, and work to strengthen the ACA to work BETTER for the American people. You GET to do that. Your position allows you to make change for the betterment of our nation. So please do just that.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Nasteff
Maplewood, NJ

Stephanie Nasteff-Pilato

May you have peace as you navigate your day.

[REDACTED]
Jamberry Independent Consultant
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Liz Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

My name is Liz Johnson. I live in New Jersey and I vote. I also have metastatic breast cancer. I have no family history of breast cancer and had no higher risk for acquiring it. I paid health insurance premiums when I was young and healthy that offset the cost of others who weren't. My situation is just bad genetic luck. I will forever be in treatment and yet am fairly healthy, a contributing member of society. I serve on my local borough council, a nonprofit school board. I pay taxes and my husband and I, both entrepreneurs, pay our entire healthcare costs, from premiums to deductibles and out-of-pocket costs. These are considerable, but we manage. Should this bill pass and I suddenly be saddled with a \$142,000 annual health insurance premium, I will not be able to go on. I am already taking steps, should this bill pass, to settle my affairs and move to a right-to-die state where I will end my life peacefully without having to burden my loved ones with bankruptcy because of the cruelty of your efforts.

Please, let sanity prevail. Do not pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Liz Johnson
Breast Cancer Conscript
[REDACTED]
Frenchtown, NJ 08824

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mo Laikowski [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please don't destroy health care

Please please please put country before party.

Women will carry the burden of their pregnancies, parents will carry the burden of their children's pre-existing conditions, America will carry the burden of being the most impoverished 1st world country.

Don't allow this to happen. There is more to life than money.

Michele Laikowski
Bloomfield, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Merry Brennan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH comments

Dear Elected Officials:

As a resident of NJ, the latest iteration of the health care bill will not serve the needs of a large number of my family members and neighbors. Please do not rush through patches and incomprehensive ideas just to overthrow the Affordable Care Act. I agree that the current law needs review and revision. But it is unwise financially, socially and politically to scrap it totally for another plan that will cause even more problems and financial/health hardships for so many citizens.

I urge you to veto this proposed replacement.

Warm regards,
Meredith Brennan
Belmar, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Deb Turi- Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to Graham Cassidy

Dear Sir or Madam, I am opposed to passage of this bill, and maintain that it would be harmful to most Americans. I am an Oncology social worker, working for CentraState Medical Center, in Freehold, NJ; where I have devoted my life to helping sick and elderly patients. I worked in the field of end of life care/oncology prior to passage of the ACA, and can give testimony to those that died due to being excluded for their pre-existing conditions. This is not some random concept. I have the faces, and stories forever ingrained in my mind. Please do not allow passage of Graham Cassidy. it is a travesty. Most sincerely, Deborah Turi-Smith

[REDACTED]

Freehold Twp, NJ, 07728



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kecia Watts [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Bill

Hello:

My name is Kecia Watts and I live in Bayonne, New Jersey. I am a normal American living an honest life. And like most NJ natives I am brutally honest. In 2009 when I was 43 years old I was diagnosed with breast cancer. After two surgeries, radiation treatment and medication I am now in remission. I also have a good job that provides health insurance. I pray everyday that the cancer stays away, but what if it returns? And what if I lose my job?

Pre-existing conditions and unemployment equals sure death if this bill is passed.

I honestly don't understand why anyone with family and friends, any human being with any compassion would want to cause harm to another person. No one asks or wants to get sick. No one deserves to be denied proper health care.

Like I said, I'm brutally honest.

PLEASE DO NOT PASS THIS BILL.

Thank you for your time.

Kecia Watts

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Janice McGowan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill which will eviscerate protections for low-income and sick Americans. Eliminating the Medicaid expansion will leave millions of people without quality healthcare. And allowing states to decide for themselves whether they will require all policies to cover critical health needs such as mental health, maternity, and prescription drugs is legislative mal-practice. I listened to a recent expert on Louisiana health needs report that about 400,000 people in LA received health insurance through the Medicaid expansion. Of those 14,000 were screened for colon cancer with colonoscopies and 4000 patients had polyps removed that might have developed into cancer. That is just in Louisiana! How do you decide that low-income people should just die of treatable conditions?

You swore to uphold the Constitution which states that its purpose is to "promote the general Welfare" of the people. You cannot pass this bill and uphold your oath.

Janice McGowan
[REDACTED]

• Ocean NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laura Hennessey DeSena [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re: Graham Cassidy Bill

I am appalled that I have to fight yet again to save healthcare for my fellow Americans by contacting my senators and the senate finance committee. It is clear to Americans that GOP senators are not representing the interests of their constituents but only those of their big donors. It is unconscionable that sick people have faced this anxiety of losing their healthcare again and again. They are ill and their bodies are already under enormous stress. I have no words to express the level of cruelty inflicted on my fellow Americans by GOP senators. This is also exhibited by red state senators who are distributing favors to these states and taking from other states -- what is this exactly? What kind of governance is this? It is not credible governance it is irresponsible, unjust, and reprehensible.

The midterms are awaiting the vulnerable GOP senators and no amount of Koch money that can buy advertising can ensure individual votes.

Save our ACA. Protect Americans healthcare. Your bill is not a healthcare bill -- it is a donor wish list.

--Laura DeSena
[REDACTED]

Sparta, NJ 07871

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jen Hutchison [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

The Graham Cassidy bill is the epitome of what's wrong with the federal government. It puts the interests of the wealthy and powerful corporations ahead of the welfare of the people.

I urge you to pause, listen to health policy experts, hospital groups, patient organizations, and people and abandon this bill.

Lord knows our system needs improvement, but we need to take the time to write a bill that makes sense, isn't opposed by 88% of Americans and won't threaten to bankrupt citizens and hospitals. Stop this Graham Cassidy nonsense before people are irreparably harmed!

Jennifer Hutchison
Sparta, NJ
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Regina Lotito [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

To whom it may concern:

I don't understand why there is an attack on Americans and their right to healthcare. I don't understand why you can't find a reasonable solution to the issues you have with Obama Care. Yes, Obama Care needs to be adjusted, it does not need to be obliterated!

Why is it okay for the taxpayers to pay for your very well endowed health care plans but you refuse to help us, the taxpayers with our health care plans? If this goes through or any of the solutions you have thus far tried to put up for a vote. My husband and I will either die or not be productive citizens. We want to be healthy. We want to work. We want to be productive and by taking away any opportunity to have affordable healthcare, takes this all away.

Why do you hate us? Why do you choose to torture your own citizens? Why can't everyone in the Senate, House and White House work for ALL Americans not just rich ones or yourselves. Please bring hope back to America. Please bring our country together again. Please let us keep our health and our healthcare, is that too much to ask?

Thank you,
Regina Lotito
Beach Haven, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: sfc hearing statement

I have auto-immune diseases, it's the gift that keeps on giving if you have one you might as well have three. That turns into a lot of expensive prescriptions. They are all chronic diseases; not going to kill me, but I can't get rid of them either. One, ulcerative colitis, is the beast that beats the crap out of me both figuratively and literally. I've been fighting it for 16 years and my son was diagnosed three years before me (at 17 months old), so I've been battling it and insurance companies a long time. In the early years we had insurance through my then husband's employer. Every year our premiums went up like crazy and I had to fight for what we needed. The ACA passed while I was in the process of getting divorced and it was a godsend in my planning. I was able to stay at my job (at the time I was a paraprofessional in Toms River schools) with no benefits and later return to working for small non-profit organizations that also did not offer benefits. I paid \$630/month for CORRA just for me until the ACA was enacted, but I would pay whatever I could afford for the insurance I need. I don't have tv service or a smart phone, I prioritize paying for my house and my insurance! Again, the ACA was a godsend in having maximum outlay amounts so I could live with a known budget.

I've never been in a real remission, but for 16 years I had left-sided colitis that was controlled with the help of some expensive drugs and I was happy to be functional. If I had an insurance plan that didn't include prescription coverage I might as well not have insurance at all. I've been looking for a job with benefits, but now that might not even be helpful in the future. For me prescriptions are the definition of "essential". With the threat of losing my coverage hanging over my head for months my health took a bad turn. With a congress actively trying to kill me I got sicker and sicker. I lost 60 pounds, by the time a friend dragged me to the hospital, I needed 3 pints of blood and countless k-packs and fluids on the first day. They started me on IV steroids, but found now I have pan-colitis that can't even be controlled by steroids. After 5 days and with my numbers still dropping they gave me another pint of blood and let me go home. There was one last new drug I could try, but I had to wait a 6 weeks to get a port while we appealed to the insurance company to cover the drug (my plan didn't include infusions).

Unfortunately, my second loading dose of my new therapy was last Friday; the same day it started to seem like Graham-Cassidy could pass. The medicine never had a chance to work, I'm again in a full blown bloody flare. Insurance companies being able to raise premiums for those with pre-existing conditions would price me out of insurance. This bill would sentence me and thousands of others to death. Please don't take health insurance away from over 30 million people, it is something everyone needs at some point in their life.

Be well,
Sharron Greenberg
Toms River, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: GAIL E MORRIS [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Tom Grady
Subject: Medicaid...allows my 33 yr old son to stay out of a nursing home.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/11/us/a-mother-lifts-her-son-slowly-from-heroin-abyss.html>

Senate,

This NY Times article tells our story which is now a 16 year saga of healing, exhaustion, pain and hope.

It has been very difficult to both work and care for Alex.

Medicaid helps me help Alex. It is bare-bones health access but it is keeping us on track and healing.

The Graham-Cassidy Act and the AHCA both would make life for the disabled even more brutal than it already is as

neither legislation appears to understand the utilities of medical access for the disabled community.

We believe passing Graham-Cassidy would create dangerous environments for the disabled and have the potential of making many homeless.

We ask that the Senate embrace a more prudent legislation that has input from the disabled, chronically ill,

And other in the medical field with experience and acumen.

Our lives are at risk,

Gail Morris
Alex Conte
NJ 11 CD

[REDACTED]
Sparta NJ 07871
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: LISA KULP [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I totally oppose this bill and urge the vote to defeat and resist this bill.

Lisa Kulp

Moorestown, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jack Reilly [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy repeal

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.

John V. Reilly III
East Hanover, New Jersey
[REDACTED]

September 21, 2017

To the Members of the Senate Finance Committee,



This is my only child, my daughter Stephanie. She was born with renal failure and later diagnosed with autism and initially wasn't expected to survive.

Although we were told she would need a transplant around age 6 or 7, she lasted until her teens. However, she had complications and now has 5 life threatening conditions (renal failure, gastrointestinal/ menstrual hemorrhages, seizure, adrenal insufficiency.)



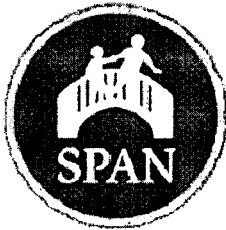
Both my husband and I work fulltime (I work from home) and are trained in First Aid/CPR, emergency Diastat, and subcutaneous/intramuscular injections and we carry around 2 rescue meds for resuscitation. Stephanie has both private insurance and Medicaid and has benefited greatly from the protections of the Affordable Care Act as well as Medicaid. We are deeply concerned that the Graham-Cassidy bill will cut Medicaid, Home and Community Based Services, and create wait lists for services. We are also concerned with allowing discrimination based on pre-existing conditions, loss of dependent coverage, reinstatement of lifetime/annual caps, and rescission of policies. We almost lost our home due to medical debt and unpaid leave when she was born.



Stephanie is currently attending Mercer County Community College part-time with a nurse. We want her to be as independent as possible. Please don't take her dreams away.

Lauren Agoratus

[REDACTED]
Mercerville, NJ 08619



Statewide Parent Advocacy Network

██████████
4th Floor
Newark, NJ 07102



FAMILY VOICES®
... keeping families at the center of children's health care

Empowered Families: Educated, Engaged, Effective!

SPAN & Family Voices-New Jersey comments to the Senate Finance Committee for the Hearing on the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

September 21, 2017

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill. Family Voices is a national network that works to “*keep families at the center of children’s healthcare.*” The NJ State Affiliate Organization for Family Voices is housed at the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN), NJ’s federally designated Parent Training and Information Center, Family-to-Family Health Information Center, Parent to Parent USA affiliate, and chapter of the Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health. The Family Voices Coordinator also serves on the Board of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (Mercer-NJ) and the Progressive Center for Independent Living. She is also NJ’s representative (volunteer) of the Caregiver Action Network, representing caregivers across the lifespan.

While SPAN provides information, training, technical assistance, parent to parent support, advocacy, and leadership development for all NJ families of children ages birth to 26, our priority is on children at greatest risk due to disability, special health care or emotional needs, poverty, discrimination based on race, culture, language, immigrant status, or economic status, or involvement in the child welfare or juvenile justice systems. Thus, we are particularly concerned with ensuring that the needs of children with special healthcare needs and their families are adequately addressed in federal, state and local policies and practices.

We understand that this hearing is to gather information on state flexibility and fiscal burden. At SPAN, our priority is serving the needs of children, youth, young adults and families, especially those who face the greatest challenges. Thus, we value access to affordable, high quality care over state flexibility and relief from fiscal burden. We also note that we strongly believe that there should be consistency nationally, particularly given mobility across states. The proposed legislation will result in inequity of healthcare across states. We remain concerned with annual/lifetime caps and note that rescinding policies will increase medical debt and bankruptcy, not improve our economy (according to Families, USA 60% of bankruptcies are due to medical debt.) We are deeply concerned that this bill is a total repeal without replacement. Millions will lose coverage, Medicaid will be cut and transformed in negative ways that will hurt low-income individuals, children and families, including in particular those with disabilities and special healthcare needs, and those with pre-existing conditions will be harmed.

We are very concerned that if states (including but not limited to New Jersey) lose Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP) for Medicaid, they won't have same amount of funding to provide services at their current levels, levels which are already inadequate to meet children and families' needs.

We acknowledge your expressed concern with the individual mandate but note that, without it, there will be adverse selection. The individual mandate is critical to ensure that the health insurance marketplace includes young and healthy as well as older individuals and those with disabilities and special healthcare needs. This individual mandate is similar to the requirement for individuals to “purchase” retirement insurance via Social Security. Further, it is in the public interest to require all Americans to have health insurance, as health insurance is a cost-effective way to ensure that people have access to health care when and if they become ill or develop a disability or special healthcare need.

Regarding reduction of fiscal burden, we don’t see the Graham-Cassidy bill doing this for consumers as premiums will increase, plan values decrease, and cost-sharing increase. In addition, we do not think that insurers and health companies should get tax breaks which are being offset by cuts to Medicaid. Lastly, we are concerned that there will not be access to coverage as people with pre-existing conditions, disabilities, or the elderly will not be able to participate in the market due to pricing.

We acknowledge that the Department of Health and Human Services is charged with providing essential human services such as Medicaid, Medicare, and better access to private coverage. HHS responsibilities include mental health treatment, services to older individuals, and direct health services delivery. However, we remain deeply concerned as current proposals to amend the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Medicaid demonstrate that Essential Health Benefits are no longer being seen as necessary and the critical safety nets of Medicaid/Medicare are under attack. Access to private coverage will be also affected by allowing pre-existing condition exclusions, 6 month waiting periods, annual/lifetime caps, and rescission of policies. Repealing the ACA has nothing to do with the cuts being proposed to Medicaid, other than the expansion population. According to the AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics), 37 million children are covered under Medicaid. In addition, there are over 60 million covered for mental health or substance abuse per the APA (American Psychiatric Association), and their data shows that the opioid epidemic is rising in every state. There is nothing in the proposed legislation that will improve health coverage or health care, and many components that will negatively impact health coverage and health care and endanger the lives and health of millions of Americans.

We understand that consideration is being given as to whether HHS rules advance or impede priorities in the areas of stabilizing markets, affordability, returning regulatory authority to states, streamlining/flexibility, reducing burden, and identifying regulations that reduce jobs. In the area of *stabilization*, adverse selection due to the elimination of the individual mandate will destabilize the market. With regard to *affordability*, people with pre-existing conditions or the elderly will be priced out. And work provisions for Medicaid are unnecessary as 75% of people on Medicaid work; the rest are children, disabled, and the elderly. In relation to *returning authority to states*, access to healthcare shouldn't be based on where you live; state waivers will complicate issues and also affect service delivery due to state budget deficits. In the area of *streamlining and flexibility*, this terminology is being misused in order to provide fewer services. Regarding *reducing burden*, instead of starting at the beginning it seems more efficient to revise as needed what is already in place under the ACA. In regard to *job reduction*, homecare for elderly and direct support professionals for people with disabilities will be impacted resulting in the loss of home care jobs (estimate between 305,000 and 713,000 jobs lost) due to Medicaid per

capita caps per the Center for Consumer Engagement in Health Innovation. In addition, this is in violation of the Supreme Court Olmstead decision and returning more people to more costly institutional care rather than providing home and community based services which is movement backward not progress.


We acknowledge that HHS previously solicited comments on the “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Market Stabilization,” to affect premiums, “curb abuses, lowering prices, and reducing adverse selection. We support *lower premiums*; however the CBO (Congressional Budget Office) will not be able to complete a report in the timeframe. Premiums will rise for all, especially for the elderly or disabled. Regarding *curbing abuses*, the percentage of Medicaid fraud is extremely low – and the majority of fraud is perpetuated by providers as opposed to patients. It is unconscionable to cut this program as a trade-off for tax cuts for the wealthy. Finally, for *adverse selection*, this will actually be increasing due to the elimination of the individual mandate. Further, high-risk pools for those with pre-existing conditions will be unaffordable and states using this model have already demonstrated that this tactic fails.

While HHS claims that it has initiated these steps to attempt to address stabilizing the market, affordability, and affirming the traditional authority of the States, the reality is that the market will be *de-stabilizing* due to high risk pools and adverse selection. We disagree that there will be *choice* if consumers can’t afford health care as all should have access and if consumers can’t get affordable coverage due to pre-existing conditions or lack of affordable options that provide Essential Health Benefits. We also disagree that this will address *affordability* as premiums are rising and others will be priced out due to their condition or age. We are very concerned with *state options* as this will allow annual/lifetime caps and rescission of policies otherwise.



Please note that the largest major medical group (American Medical Association), patient/provider groups (ALS Association, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, Arthritis Foundation, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Family Voices, JDRF, Lutheran Services in America, March of Dimes, National Health Council, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, National Organization for Rare Diseases, Volunteers of America, WomenHeart), and even insurance groups (Blue Cross Blue Shield plans and America's Health Insurance Plans) are opposing this plan as it will negatively impact women, children, people with disabilities, and the elderly resulting in a sicker, more costly, American populace. Please consider our constructive comments above in response to your request for information.

Sincerely,



Diana MTK Autin
Executive Co-Director, SPAN
Email 



Lauren Agoratus, M.A.-parent
NJ Coordinator- Family Voices 
Email 

To empower families and inform and involve professionals and other individuals interested in the healthy development and education of children, to enable all children to become fully participating and contributing members of our communities and society.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Melissa Weiss [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

I am writing in regards to the proposed Graham-Cassidy bill for changes to the ACA. Without a CBO score, how can we know how this will affect the economy? Research says that around 30 million Americans will lose their existing coverage. Who is this bill helping? The ACA has received exponentially more support after the 2016 election, and this proposed bill is not in the interest of the majority of Americans.

Medical treatment is expensive in the United States and the risk of 30 million people losing their coverage will result in the needless pain, suffering, and death of many. I have tested positive for the BRCA1 mutation, making me more likely to develop breast cancer. Without insurance, I will have to pay \$6,000 for my yearly breast MRI. This is the cost of several months rent for me. If I cannot pay for my MRI, I will have no idea if or when I develop this cancer. And if I do get breast cancer, where will the money for my treatment come from? If I lose my insurance and cannot pay the new high cost for the type of plan I need, I certainly won't be able to pay out-of-pocket for treatment.

This is a no-brainer. Do not roll back the ACA.

Thank you for your time,

Melissa Weiss
Jersey City, NJ

I am a mother of an otherwise healthy child, who developed asthma this past year. She now has a preexisting condition. My husband has intermittent gout. Another preexisting condition. As for me, my preexisting conditions are many, and with some estimates, my out of pocket costs will skyrocket to cost my family and additional \$30,000 per year. Yes, that is thirty thousand dollars more per year for my coverage alone, even with private health insurance through my husband's employer. What? That cannot be right, but without hard numbers and a CBO score, what am I to believe? Can you assure me that I will be able to afford coverage without breaking my bank?? Can you assure me that if my elderly mother has to be placed in nursing home care that she will be covered by Medicaid? Where are the assurances and where are the numbers?

I could go on and on with a seemingly unending barrage of reasons why this bill is harmful, but I am sure you have heard it all by now. I am urging you to be among the Senators who know that this bill will devastate many of your constituents. The ACA needs to be fixed, not nixed, and the voices who speak out to get that done will be held in high regard by their constituents. You have seen the throngs of Americans who protested, you see the poll numbers, you can imagine the props you would get if you were among the few who actually insisted on knowing the repercussions before voting for an unknown commodity. My own House Rep, Rodney Frelinghuysen, voted Yes in the House for their ACHA bill, stating that the Senate would fix it and never let it pass unless it was improved. This is your chance to improve it, and it seems that pressure and fear will make this or break this. If you truly support this bill, then standing by it after scoring and debates in regular order should pose no problem. If you fear that, then you truly cannot stand firmly behind this sham of a bill. I believe that your promise of repeal and replace was interpreted to mean that it would be improved, not just removed. It is a grave disservice to pass a bill that is unvetted, untested, and unscored, and I hope that in light of the concerns of your constituents, this vote will be halted until the monetary cost and the cost to the quality of life can be evaluated fully.

And as a matter of record, both my husband and I are registered Republicans, but will always vote independently based on actions and votes such as this one. Protect the least among us.

With great hope, I remain,

Joi Squillace, PT
Denville, NJ 07834

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: J SQUILLACE. [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCHJ Bill

Dear Finance Committee Members,

I am writing to you today to urge you to consider a NO vote if the Graham/Cassidy/Heller/Johnson Bill should come up for a hasty vote on the floor prior to the September 30 deadline where a 51 vote majority could potentially pass this rushed and hushed bill, without having gone through regular order. John McCain had called for regular order with the last attempt at repeal/replace, apparently falling on deaf ears. This vote will directly affect one-sixth of our economy, and voting prematurely just to put a notch in a win column, will ultimately lead to our demise in many ways.

While I could list bit by bit, piece by piece, criticism by criticism, fact by fact, in this email, I believe you already know the downsides to this cruel bill. So, let me just highlight some of my grave concerns.

1- EHB will be stripped and those of us, like me and maybe you or your loved one, will be tossed aside, as our preexisting conditions will render us unlikely to afford our 'accessible and adequate' policies, which will neither be adequate nor accessible to those who already struggle to make ends meet. Women will be unfairly targeted with limitations in services and prescriptions. And Planned Parenthood is again on the chopping block because of an inability to understand that essential health services for women are provided at these facilities.

2- Medicaid coverage- while there is surely waste, fraud, and abuse in this system, it also covers the least of us. I have several friends and family whose children are covered in programs, and my elderly relatives were covered in nursing homes once their savings were depleted, but were still in need of constant medical care. Removing this federal program, and phasing out funds can be likened to those Death Panel threats that were once shouted about during prior healthcare debates. Every single Medicaid Director of every state has come out against this devastating and unsustainable plan. Every one of them. Never has a bill created 100% unity like this.

3- CBO scoring has not been completed. We understand the rush, but if the plan were as good as you say it is, then surely there would be bipartisan support. Patty Murray and Lamar Alexander were on a path to this....and were shut down because of this panic in the Chamber.

4- Where is regular order? Debates on the floor? Listening to the experts who would testify and make this a better bill is clearly not a priority. Most of the medical associations and hospitals and big insurance companies have come out against this bill.....why are so many legislators not listening?

5-Big money and donations should not sway this vote.

6- Doesn't pass the Jimmy Kimmel test as outlined by Senator/Dr. Cassidy. Nor does it pass muster from significant numbers of medical organizations, like the NMSA, ACA, AHA, et al, or Hospital administrators in urban/suburban, and rural areas. This will gut services.

6- Saving face. 'nuff said. Promises were made to make it better, not worse.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jessa Barnes [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Bill

To the Senate Finance Committee:

Hello. I am writing as a concerned citizen about the Graham/Cassidy bill. As someone in the infamous "1%" who has had their taxes increased due to the ACA, I want you to know that I STILL STRONGLY SUPPORT HEALTHCARE ACCESS FOR ALL AMERICANS. I am willing to pay my part to make sure that people don't die because of lack of access or overwhelming financial burdens. For me, it is part of the social contract to help those less fortunate than myself.

Furthermore, I find it reckless and irresponsible to force a vote on this bill before a complete CBO analysis has been completed and shared with the American people. Decision that affect millions and one sixth of our economy should not be politically motivated. We are talking about people's lives and livelihoods. When every major medical groups comes out in opposition to a bill, shouldn't we listen? We need public hearings, town halls and information campaigns, not back channel deal making.

I know people personally that are living in fear. Fear that they won't be able to afford the care that literally keeps them alive.

Now is the time for people of conscious to do the right thing. Not the politically convenient thing.

Thank you,
Jessa Barnes
Maplewood, NJ 07040
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alice Siegel [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I am very concerned that the proposed legislation would have a very negative effect on the services and supports available for individuals with intellectual disabilities in the community. The providers in the United States have worked diligently over the past 30 years to bring people out of warehoused institutions, and into full productive lives in the community. In addition to paying for health care, Medicaid also funds group homes and day programs for individuals who are now active members of our communities. The capping and block granting of Medicaid will relegate the service for these individuals to the bottom of the list, as the funds will not be able to stretch to everyone who needs the assistance. Please vote no on this bill.

Alice

Alice Siegel
Senior Vice President
The Arc of Bergen and Passaic
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robert Neil Sandberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

The process for considering this bill goes against the way a democratic government should work. There has been no formal debate and the vote is scheduled before there can be CBO scoring. At the least, the vote should be pushed back until the CBO scores the bill.

Beyond that, the content of the bill seems to be about taking coverage away from millions of Americans, especially those most needy (Medicaid) and creating procedures for denying those with pre-existing conditions.

The fact that basically every medical and health related organization in the country has come out against the bill shows how disastrous it will be.

I urge every Senator to vote against the bill.

R. N. Sandberg
[REDACTED]
Princeton, NJ 08540

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julie Maloney [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:08 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE NO - CASSIDY GRAHAM HEALTHCARE BILL

As a compassionate American, I urge a VOTE NO on the CASSIDY GRAHAM HEALTHCARE BILL. Do not subject Americans to fighting for their lives, living with illness with no relief. Work with the full cooperation of both parties to create a bill worthy of all Americans. It is time legislators do their job and walk away from the insanity that has become the norm. Healthcare must move beyond politics.

Julie Maloney
NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tom Eagan [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:52 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please reject Graham-Cassidy "health care" bill

To whom it may concern:

The US Senate must reject this disastrous piece of legislation. This bill would have no tangible benefit to those Americans who most need health care. Millions will lose coverage, either due to pre-existing conditions or being priced out of coverage. Please do the right thing and preserve health care for millions of Americans.

Note that I promise to oppose any Senator, House Rep, or Presidential candidate who supports this horrible legislation.

Thank you for your time,

Thomas A Eagan

[REDACTED]
Lambertville, NJ 08530

Gail Frizzell

[REDACTED]
Branchville, Nj 07826

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gail Frizzell [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Sir or Madam,

When I became a mother thirty-two years ago, I did not know that the infant in my arms would need the intensive, exhausting care of a newborn for the rest of her life. I also knew nothing of the support services that she would depend on to survive as an adult.

Lauren is my only child, my husband is elderly, and soon I will be as well. We have no one else to provide Lauren's care, except for the caregivers we can hire with the Medicaid- based budget Lauren receives from the state. Without that support, the only option guaranteed for Lauren is institutionalization. Lauren is a bright eyed, sweet young woman who, despite her many challenges, enjoys her life. Now, that life is threatened by potential cuts to Medicaid.

We have come far in the development and design of supports for individuals with developmental disabilities. A cut in Medicaid funding would relegate us to a return to the mass isolation, the warehousing in institutions, of individuals, like my daughter, who have done nothing to deserve such barbaric treatment.

To continue to live her life in the community, Lauren needs to be fed, bathed, dressed, transferred, and transported to the activities that make up her day. She has seizures, scoliosis, and kyphosis. She needs competent, caring people to support her. She needs dependable, accessible, stable services to sustain her.

It is my job as her mother, to develop an adult life plan for Lauren that will enable her to survive in a world without me in it. If appropriate supports are not available to her now and in the future, she will be sentenced to death. She will not be able to survive in a world without me in it, and, because of my physical inability to provide her care after many years of doing so, if her services are cut or eliminated, she will not survive tomorrow.

I beg our legislators to carefully consider ALL of the ramifications of the decisions that they are making. The Graham-Cassidy bill will decimate Medicaid and the Medicaid waivers through which my daughter's supports are funded. Supporting the Graham-Cassidy bill is akin to sentencing an innocent young woman – and the thousands of other individuals like her – to death, punishing her for no crime other than being the vulnerable, innocent person that she is

Thank you,



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Philip Taylor [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:37 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please reject forcefully and soundly the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill. The Graham-Cassidy bill will hurt a lot of innocent people and seeks to punish the parts of the country that have vibrant economies and attendant higher costs of living.

- What purpose is served by punishing the people of NJ, NY, CA, and MA for having historically strong economies and developed higher costs of living?
- What purpose is served by throwing 32 million people off of insurance?
- Why do you want to create more instability by having no no funding after 2027?
- What problems does this bill solve?

I have no idea what the purpose of this bill is, but it just seems like it's going to hurt tens of millions of innocent people and punish the most economically vibrant sections of this country. Why do you want attack our strongest economic centers and take away tens of millions of people's healthcare?

Please vote no.

Respectfully submitted,
Philip Taylor

Phil Taylor
[REDACTED]
Hoboken, New Jersey 07030
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:40 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy

To you all-
PLEASE vote NO to Graham/Cassidy and stop this cynical and cruel attempt to deprive Health Care for MILLIONS of Americans.

Rosina F Rue
[REDACTED]

Jersey City, NJ

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tom Lyle [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:11 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL

Dear Sirs and Madams,

I have multiple sclerosis. Some of my medications cost upwards of \$3000 a month. If you make any changes in the ACA, please make them fixes and improvements that will help those on disability (me!) and who have very little income (me!). It seems to me that all the proposed changes and solutions do not benefit anyone who has a condition such as mine, and will only make it more difficult for me to LIVE. Do not make any tax breaks, or credit type changes -- because I pay very little in taxes to begin with (although I pay some, this country is not giving me a free ride). These changes you propose are for those who are upper-middle class at least, 1 percent'ers at best. Please, the ACA is what is keeping me alive, and a tax paying, productive member of society. Don't do anything stupid. Please. I am typing this with voice assisted technology. Do not make it so I can't even speak to make this possible. I don't want to have to use an electric wheelchair run by my breath. I can now speak. The MS has affected my limbs, my bladder and bowel, neuropathic pain, cognitive changes, and loss of control of my fine motor control. It is getting worse. the monthly charges on Medicare have co-payments that are practically unaffordable, plus the stupid donut hole is just maxing out credit cards. Please don't take away my ACA health care, only make improvements, not changes to help the wealthy.

Thank you,

Thomas Ostrow
New Jersey
07040

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judi Knott [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:01 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Heller Healthcare Bill: No thank you

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

Please listen the voices of the millions of Americans who are opposed to the GCH Repeal and Replace bill. Fewer than 25% of Americans support this bill, the vast majority of us are dependent on the protections and coverage that the Affordable Care Act provides.

My family is covered in an Employer Based Plan. It is NOT inexpensive, but it is comprehensive. We are able to visit our doctors for our annual visits, get our vaccinations, get recommended tests including bloodwork to screen for cholesterol and diabetes, mammograms, pap tests, and other standard tests that provide preventive care and allow us to remain healthy. These Essential Health Benefits should be available to all Americans, regardless of income.

Some of the negative impacts of GCH include:

- * A projected 20% increase in EVERYONE'S Health Insurance plan, whether you are in an Employer Plan or buy through ACA--as a result of ACA, healthcare costs have gone up approximately 3% a year--GCH will blow this slowdown in rising costs away.
- * An increase in medical bankruptcies as families can't afford to pay bills due to the stripping away of annual and lifetime caps
- * An increase in unemployment--as hospitals lay off staff, or close, as a result of this bill--hospitals will need to look for ways to save \$, often cutting nursing and health aides, which are expense lines. Some rural hospitals will have to close due to the burden of caring for an indigent population.
- * A ripple effect of increased healthcare costs as hospitals shift the costs of bad debt onto those who are able to pay.

These are just a few of the FINANCIAL impacts of this bill. This morning I listened to Rep Tom Reed of NY, a member of the problem solvers group in the House. He talked about looking at the costs of medical care. We rarely talk about this. Why is medical care so expensive in the US? GCH doesn't do ANYTHING to address the rising costs of medical care, and, instead, will shift a greater burden onto those of us with insurance coverage.

This bill is cruel. Please don't support this bill.

Regards,

Judi Knott
Summit, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: N. West Moss [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:03 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: pro ACA

I am begging you not to destroy our health care system. We have elected you to protect our needs, to make our lives better, to give us a chance to thrive. We need healthcare that is affordable in the country, and while the ACA is not perfect, it must be fixed, not exploded. Please, do your patriotic duty to this great nation and protect the people you have vowed to serve,

U. S. Citizen and proud American -
Nanette West Moss
New Jersey .

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Smalley [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:03 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

To Whom It May Concern:

I troubles me deeply that a bill is being fast tracked through the senate with no debate as to its pros and cons and without the impact of cost or people it may affect.

I do not agree with health care insurance being shifted to the states. The federal government is trying to relinquish its responsibility in this area.

I do not agree with the elimination of Medicaid and Medicaid expansion and putting the burden on states. For those individuals with pre existing conditions, insurance companies will jack up the prices just because these individuals may demand a higher level of health care.

If this bill is just to repeal the Affordable Care Act as republicans have carried on about for many years and this is your answer, you are a sorry bunch of legislators.

Vote no!!!! Health care is a right not a privilege.

Barbara Smalley
Green Brook, New Jersey

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rebecca Spence [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:38 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject Graham Cassidy

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Graham Cassidy bill. I live in New Jersey, a state that is one of the worst hit by the consequences of this bill. But I write as an American who is disgusted by what this bill attempts to do. I support Medicaid. I support healthcare as a right, not a privilege. I support strong guarantee of affordable coverage for people with pre-existing conditions. That is only achievable with the individual mandate, and certainly won't happen with Tom Price calling the shots!

We are not stupid. We see what this is. It is a political ploy to score some points with donors. It is terrible for the American people. The American people have made their voices heard over and over and over again on this, and our supposed "representatives" in this "representative government" are ignoring us.

Kill this bill.

And then someday, when grown ups return to Washington, I hope we get back to mending the ACA on a bipartisan basis.

Rebecca Spence
New Providence, New Jersey

Sincerely,

Marc McKenzie
Hillsborough, New Jersey.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marc McKenzie [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:40 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy is a farce. Enough!

To whom it may concern,

I would like to apologize in advance for the brusque and angry tone of this comment. This bill is a farce, and a dangerous one.

I depend on the Affordable Care Act to survive. So do millions of other Americans, including military veterans, across all 50 states. Graham-Cassidy is going to do a great deal of harm to all us, and many of us may lose our lives if this bill becomes law.

This bill does not have a CBO score, and yet there is a push to vote on it. Many organizations and insurance companies are against it, and yet a few cowards want to vote for it. Why? What for?

Let me ask a question to Senators Graham and Cassidy: Are you fine with the fact that your bill will destroy lives and the economy? Do you even care? If the answer is no, then you two are no better than cruel, inhuman monsters who just want to stick it to the previous President for passing a bill that has saved millions of lives. You do not even want regular order and all of your claims that this bill is an "improvement" are all lies--every last one of them. The fact that the Medicaid directors of every state and that major insurance companies have rejected this--as well as a bipartisan group of Governors--means that this bill is garbage.

Senators Graham and Cassidy have even resorted to lying--no, let's call it for what it is--*bribing*--holdouts with foolish promises that fall apart when exposed to the light of truth.

If Senators Graham and Cassidy want to pursue a true, *bi-partisan* effort to fix the problems of the ACA and give Americans affordable healthcare, they are welcome to it. But no, they ran to push out this cynical, toxic pile of garbage that is designed to hurt everyone, and perhaps cause deaths.

And of course, they made sure that it would not affect them personally. That is cowardice.

And finally...what will be the effect of Graham-Cassidy on the national economy? This bill wants to radically reorganize 1/6 of the US economy and there has been no CBO score about that. Senators Graham and Cassidy can't even give a proper figure, but experts have said that the economy would collapse. So not only are Senators Graham and Cassidy going to destroy lives, they will also destroy the economy.

There is no rational excuse for this bill except possibly one: Senators Graham and Cassidy are two incredibly callous and uncaring men who just want to hurt as many people as they can. To use a popular quote, "Some men just want to watch the world burn."

Graham-Cassidy must be rejected. It must not be allowed to become law. It must be thrown into the trashbin of history, and Senators Graham and Cassidy should be seen as pariahs.

End this farce.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lia Romeo [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:42 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy and the ACA

Hi, I am writing to strongly object to Graham-Cassidy and to urge you not to repeal the Affordable Care Act, as many Americans rely on the ACA for life-giving care.

Sincerely,
Lia Romeo
Hoboken, NJ

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Janet Davis [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:55 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham-Cassidy bill

I am urging the Senate Finance Committee to vote NO on Graham-Cassidy bill. If passed, the bill will strip coverage from millions of American citizens, shred guaranteed coverage for pre-existing conditions, and hurt the most vulnerable among us.

Janet Davis
[REDACTED]

Morristown, NJ
07960

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: L Home [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:35 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My disabled son will be impacted

Dear Senators:

I have a 44 year old son who has an Intellectual Disability and a Mental Illness. He is dependent on Medicaid for almost all of his services. He currently lives in a Supported Living Apartment and receives services through DDD NJ. Although he is able to work part-time, that does not even begin to cover his expenses even with his SS and Survivor Benefits.

Without Medicaid:

1. He could not afford health coverage. This would mean he would be dependent on Hospital Emergency Room treatment.
2. He could not afford his prescriptions. This would mean his behavior and health would deteriorate and he would no longer be able to work.
3. He would lose DDD NJ eligibility. Without that, he would lose his budget for staff coverage. That would mean he could not get to nor afford his various social programs, he would not have help with grocery shopping, cooking or cleaning. That would mean he could not maintain his apartment, and eventually he would lose his Section 8 funding. Then he would be homeless.
4. He would lose his independence, which we have worked so hard to achieve.

As you can see, this is not just a monetary issue. Cuts in Medicaid have a spiral effect which have very real impacts on individuals.

I am a retired widow and on Social Security. I have recently downsized and could not take him back home to live with me.

The goal has always been to have the disabled "be part of the community". Currently he lives in an apartment in the same town in which he works. He has friends and activities and a life in that town and county. Without the supports he currently has, he would lose all that and God only knows what would happen to him. Worst of all, he wouldn't understand why he could no longer lead the life he has now. If Medicaid is cut back or put in block grants, the funds providing his support are in extreme danger of being eliminated or drastically cut back.

I pray that you vote NO on this latest attempt to cut back on Medicaid. More information, discussion, and hearings are needed before rushing to pass a bill.

Please pay attention to the disabled community. They are people, too.

Sincerely,
Linda M. Home

[REDACTED]

Red Bank, NJ

07701

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

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Corinda Bravo [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:35 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fwd: 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

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Merrily Riesebeck [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:39 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill !!!

Dear Senators -

This bill must not pass!! My husband and I are in our 60's and have multiple health issues. In my case, I have a blood disorder (hemophiliaC), ulcerative colitis, heart disease, and asthma. My husband is diabetic. All of these conditions are manageable with medication and treatment, and we remain productive and relatively healthy with medical care.

We have both worked our entire lives, paying our taxes, and our medical premiums faithfully. We've saved for our retirement and live a comfortable life THAT WE DESERVE after 40 years in the workplace.

We have retired coverage through my employer and my husband also has Medicare. We pay a LOT in premiums and deductibles, but can afford it. If this law passes, my employer may discontinue the retiree health coverage, and I am not eligible for Medicare for another years.

I also assist my 31-year old son out financially, as he has many medical issues (Fibromyalgia, TMJ, sports injuries, etc). Although he has coverage through his employer, the premiums and co-pays are very high and he earns "only" less than \$50,000 a year. He cannot afford his medical costs as it is - and this legislation would further exacerbate the financial impact of his medical costs.

If this law passes, all three of us will have significant financial impact. As seniors, our premiums will further skyrocket and our pre-existing conditions (all genetically linked - not "caused" by our behavior and habits) will enable insurers to penalize us. My son's many preexisting conditions make him extremely vulnerable to increased premiums and losing coverage.

This legislation is destructive and negatively impactful to MILLIONS of people. Millions will LOSE their coverage entirely, and people like us - hardworking citizens who have earned a comfortable retirement - will be significantly impacted financially.

This is WRONG! Do your jobs and help people instead of destroying lives and hurting people.

Thank you,
Merrily Riesebeck
[REDACTED]
Millburn, NJ 07041
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Max Gray [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:42 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not pass Graham-Cassidy Bill

Hello,

I am writing about the proposed Graham/Cassidy bill for changes to the ACA. Surely by every measure, this is not a good bill.

First, I ask Congress not to hold a vote on this bill that will affect 1/6 of the American economy without a CBO score. How can you vote on a proposed legislation without fully understanding how it will impact the lives of Americans?

Second, I am very concerned about language in the bill that allows states to loosen protections for pre-existing conditions.

Thirdly, I am distressed that monies to Medicaid will be reduced so drastically, making costs for seniors and the disable to skyrocket. My family will be directly affected by this provision, as one of my parents suffers from a form of inherited Muscular Dystrophy. Our extra costs for care will cause her to potentially lose their coverage or their livelihoods. My efforts to keep my parent well will no doubt bankrupt me and my sibling.

Please do not pass the Graham/Cassidy bill. Instead, please return to regular order. Let's work on improving the existing law with bipartisan committees, and a vote that requires all of Congress to work together for a solution.

Thank you.

Max Gray
Coalition Building Manager
NJ-08 for Progress
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: familyvoicesnj [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:13 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: comments on Graham-Cassidy bill
Attachments: family story-hearing-final.docx

Please see the attached comments regarding how my medically fragile child would be impacted by the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Lauren Agoratus

[REDACTED]
Mercerville, NJ 08619

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: McRae, Calista <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:17 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Strongly oppose Graham-Cassidy

To the honorable members of Congress considering the Graham-Cassidy bill:

I write in vehement opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill. The AARP has come out against this bill. The American Medical Association is against it. All 50 Medicaid directors have come out against it. The American Cancer Society is against it. Health insurers are even against it.

I am against it because it so clearly threatens the average American: nearly all of us, at some point in our lives, are going to need expensive medical care. No infant brought a pre-existing condition on themselves. No one asks to get cancer: cancer hits those who live healthy, abstemious lives. And worst of all, this bill hits those we should protect and respect the most--the elderly, who have contributed to years for this country.

While I am one of the increasingly few and lucky Americans who has insurance from my job, my younger sister does not. She has worked constantly since she got her associate's degree. She hurries from one part-time job to another, saves what she can, and works as hard as she can. Her situation is extremely typical of blue-collar Americans in every state: there are simply not as many jobs that give their workers health insurance. Annie, my sister, depends on the ACA: when she got pneumonia, she was able to be treated. When she was badly burned in an accident at her kitchen, she was able to be treated. Without the ACA, one hospital visit will not simply wipe out the small amount of money she has saved, but throw her into debt.

Please don't vote for this bill. Pursue a bipartisan solution and protect your constituents.

Respectfully,
Calista McRae

--

Calista McRae
Assistant Professor of English
Department of Humanities
New Jersey Institute of Technology
Newark, NJ 07102

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Ceccon [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:22 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GrahamCassidy

Dear Senators,

I am a pediatric rehab nurse and the adoptive mother of a multiply disabled 12 year old. This bill, and its decimation of Medicaid, would be disastrous for my patients and my daughter.

Extreme preemies, too fragile to eat and breathe at the same time. Babies who survived being shaken and abused. Children with brain cancer, or massive strokes. Children with head injuries due to a car accident, or hit while riding their bikes. Children with congenital abnormalities. Young teens paralyzed after a diving accident or football injury. Older teens in comas after car accidents. I've cared for them all. All these children have required intensive rehab and complicated medical services for many months and years, and many end up relying on Medicaid. Where will their parents turn, if this terrible GrahamCassidy bill passes?

Our daughter is covered by my husband's excellent health insurance through his employer, but she has Medicaid as her secondary insurance. Her Medicaid has been a lifesaver for us, as it covers the countless hours of physical, occupational, and speech therapies, the surgeries, and some of her asthma meds, that are not fully covered by BC/BS.

Our daughter will need ongoing medical and social support as an adult. She has an armload of pre-existing conditions already. In 2026, will be 21, and my husband and I will be in our late 60's. Where will we turn, if this terrible GrahamCassidy bill passes?

Please, we beg you abandon this devastating bill, and instead, strengthen the protections provided us by the ACA. We need our healthcare.

Nancy Ceccon, RN
Toms River, NJ
Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anthony Tedesco [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:23 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy healthcare bill comments

A copy of this letter is being sent to Senators Booker and Menendez

I have many objections to this atrocity of a bill.

The first is the sneaky undemocratic process being used to try to ram it through. Msrs. Graham and Cassidy are behaving like thieves in the night, and spreading misinformation along the way. This bum's rush is aimed at preventing due consideration of so important a measure. The public needs to hear the full data on the effects of this bill from the Congressional Budget Office, and the voices of all the stakeholders need to be heard. This rushing of the bill through, using the tragedies of hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Marie as a smokescreen is dastardly, to say the least. The tactic is straight out of George Orwell.

Second, the bill as it is written will deprive an estimated 32 million of our fellow Americans of the opportunity to obtain affordable health care insurance. Mind that these are our most vulnerable citizens, children, seniors and disabled. Mind that every measure that helps these people in their hour of need is shredded. When people have to choose between medical attention and food, or taking their medications and food, the general health of these 32 million Americans will suffer. This is hardly the American way, to leave our fellows in the lurch.

Third is the economic effect that this bill will have on a sector that is 1/6 of the national economy. The uncertainty, the transfer of expenses and the resulting economic distress will have a severe negative impact on the economy. A dislocation of this magnitude could very well lead to another recession or depression.

Fourth, this bill will put severe stress on the national healthcare infrastructure, as people once again have to use emergency rooms for primary medical care. On top of this, the 32 million people whose choices between food and medical care has suffered will generally become more unhealthy, leading to an increasing use of emergency medical facilities. It will lead to additional lost time from work, which these, the lowest paid sections of the economy can ill afford.

Fifth, the combined effects of the objections I have mentions will weaken our nation, economically, socially, and politically, at a time when we need all our strength to deal with the natural disasters that seem to be coming with ever increasing frequency. I'm sure that our enemies will gloat over the passage of such an ill considered measure

Thank you
Anthony Tedesco

[REDACTED]
Lakewood NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Connell [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:45 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: DO NOT PASS Graham-Cassidy

This bill is the WORST of all the repeal-and-replace approaches yet.
Congress doesn't even understand the details yet.

Our country is the ONLY ADVANCED COUNTRY in the WORLD without universal health care. embarrassing and an outrage...

We know it is just a way to raise money for the tax cuts.

DO NOT PASS.

Nancy Connell
[REDACTED]
Berkeley Heights NJ 07922

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jackie Marabella [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:52 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Please help save the ACA!! This Graham Cassidy bill will literally hurt millions of people. We need our care and the protections of the ACA!! Please don't let money come before our lives. Please help us!!

Thank you!!

Jackie Marabella

New Jersey

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: elainea needham <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:02 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: DO NOT REPEAL REPLACE THE ACA

To Whom It May Concern

Please do not repeal and replace the ACA, particularly with the Graham-Cassidy proposal. It would cause extreme hardship to every member of my family. I have a 26 year old son with cerebral palsy, and a 25 year old son with asthma. If the repeal takes place, neither of my boys will be able to get adequate health care, despite the spin that is being spewed. Either the pre-existing conditions clauses and/or the out of reach premiums and/or caps will prevent them from affording the health care insurance they so desperately need. Both my husband and I work, our boys are in college and will also work, but we cannot support them if the ACA is not available. One medical incident could easily bring financial disaster to our family.

Clearly, repeal and replace has nothing to do with the quality of health care for the American public or improvement of our medical system. It is strictly a political strategy to appeal to a small number of constituents that support the power structure currently in place.

It is time for the people running this country to take health care seriously and improve the system, save money and provide better services. It is disgrace that our wealthy, first world nation lags so far behind our peers in this area.

PLEASE DO NOT REPEAL AND REPLACE....I will support all efforts to repeal and replace every member of the Congress and Senate who votes for Graham-Cassidy.

Respectfully,
Elaine A Needham
<[REDACTED]>
Madison, NJ 07940

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anne DiNapoli [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I am opposed to the Graham Cassidy bill

At 60 years old, after being treated for breast cancer at age 49, I am now being treated for bladder cancer. Between my second and third surgery for bladder cancer, my 61 year old husband collapsed and had to be rushed to the emergency room. Thankfully, he did not have any serious problem that caused this to happen, but even that minor issue cost us over \$1,300 out of pocket (for just a few hours in the er) and we have very good medical insurance. We don't know yet what our out of pocket costs will be for my treatments, but obviously they will be significantly more than that.

I understand that the Graham Cassidy bill will not allow insurance companies to deny me coverage, but the Graham Cassidy bill will not protect people like me from having to pay exorbitant insurance costs to receive life saving treatments. By allowing the states to decide if insurance companies can charge more for people like me, and to set a lifetime cap too low to cover necessary tests and treatments, the Graham Cassidy bill will result in deaths from conditions that otherwise would be cured and/or managed.

This bill must not pass. I wish to register my strong opposition to it with this email.

Anne DiNapoli
Freehold, NJ 07728

I pray that someone addresses the issues as such in the current form of the Affordable Care Act. I also pray that those reforms are sensible and not nearly as non-sensical and exclusionary as this bill appears to be. The American people deserve better.

Sincerely,

Nina Narang
Proud New Jersey Resident

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nina Narang [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment

Good evening,

Words cannot express how disappointed I am in the Graham-Cassidy bill, and in the continued efforts of elected officials to disenfranchise a huge swathe of the US population who rely on a sane, civilized, and compassionate government to maintain proper order and ease public suffering. This bill will cripple the weakest, poorest, and sickest among us, as well as many of us who are otherwise economically inhibited by the unchecked power of the pharmaceutical and insurance industries which have such an obvious and gratuitous hold on our elected representatives. It will institutionalize even more malaise into an already behemoth and ailing system.

This bill will damage the protections that the Affordable Care Act has given our young people and those families and individuals who are the least able to sustain their medical realities. This bill will damage the Medicaid & Medicare programs, which were once leftist and radical but are now shining pillars of good American policy. The work of the CMS reflects the character of a nation striving to care for its people. The American people chose the Affordable Care Act as a beginning point for a curb on corporate greed and the start of a reasonable conversation on why we are all poor, sick, and returning to a standard of living that puts Americans today in a weaker position than known in modern industrialized nations. Inequality is great than ever. Social mobility is decreasing over time. The water of Flint and many other American communities are filthy and toxic. Our national landmarks are being pumped for energy that will choke our lungs and destroy our natural ecosystems. Coastal communities are being scrubbed away in the face of a government that is too tentative, bumbling, theocratic, and aged to conform to the realities of how climate change will affect the physical wellbeing of our people, the sustainability of our food sources, and the prosperity (and basic existence) of our coastal urban communities. We are living in a time that requires leadership with the exact opposite nature than the majority of American politicians have presently imagined, and the wellbeing of us all is inhibited for it. None of this is hyperbole.

Perhaps most importantly, this bill does nothing to curb the exorbitant costs of American medical care, which again, is an issue I do not believe will ever be truly addressed due to the financial health of these industries and their close, incestuous friendship with powerful American legislators and fellow industry leaders. It is a testament to the character of these wealthy, powerful American people that they can rail "for the people" when it suits their campaigns but cannot have the conviction to admit to the dirty truths we all know are at play. This is not an issue of partisan politics but of the system at large. I don't believe in "the swamp" but it is obvious that there is something rotten in the state. But I digress.

I have nothing redeeming to say about the Graham-Cassidy bill. Plainly, its passage and the passage of bills like are a ridiculous concept to me. There is nothing redeeming about legislation that strokes the ego of despots and men with deep pockets; legislators whose private insurance, paid for by my taxes, ensures that they and their families will not feel the pain of those 30+ million Americans affected by the embarrassment that is Washington politics. I believe that the legislators involved are aware of these realities and either simply do not care or do not have the moral and ethical gumption to say so.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Edgardo Sanabria-Valentin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:35 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

Dear members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I ask you to oppose this nightmare of a bill, which strips access to healthcare to so many people who need it. Do not bring this to a vote before an OCB review and without plenty of discussion. The ACA needs improvements, not repealing and replacing with something worst. You are elected to represent us, your fellow Americans, do your job!

Best,

Edgardo Sanabria-Valentin, PhD
Resident of NJ and Citizen of the US

--

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Juliette Lantz [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not consider passing Graham -Cassidy

The Graham Cassidy health bill that is currently in the Senate would be a complete disaster for all citizens in the United States states, and for the citizens of New Jersey in particular. Every analysis that unfolds paints a more and more dire impact on children, seniors, and those with severe illness. One wonders-who does it possibly help? There are very few families that do not face serious or even catastrophic illness at some point. The cost to people's lives, the cost to the economy, the cost to democracy are all catastrophic. How can such an irresponsible, procedure-free, cruel bill even be considered? What shame has the US Senate brought upon itself? Govern for the people, or please get out of government. You are elected by your constituents, not hired by big money and big business.

Abandon this bill, and get back to the serious business of the bipartisan efforts to repair the ACA that have been ongoing.

Juliette Lantz
Madison, NJ

Please, please, PLEASE do not let families like mine fall off the cliff because of health care needs. That is something that should not happen in our country, and it doesn't have to. Please vote to save lives and keep families stable.

Thank you very much for your sincere consideration.

Carolee Marano

[REDACTED]

Cranford, NJ 07016

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carolee Marano <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Representatives:

Thank you for your service, and for this opportunity to request you to vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy Bill and to instead start focusing on bipartisan efforts to improve the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Any law that would take away healthcare that is affordable and working for as many as 33 million Americans is simply unconscionable, and threatens to create a wave of family destabilization that will have far-reaching, costly consequences.

Healthcare that is not affordable does not give people choice. It does the opposite. Not only does it eliminate choice, but it most certainly will put many individuals and families who encounter illness into unnecessary, destabilizing crisis.

Personally, my husband and I are both educated, long-time professionals who have enjoyed a comfortable middle-class life. After a catastrophic illness, my husband became disabled. Had it not been for protections under the ACA, I would not have won the battle for crucial and indicated treatment that was being denied by the insurance company, which he ultimately did receive as a result of my advocacy. We never could have afforded the care he needed on our own, even with modest resources and help from our family. My daughter was away at college, I was battling with the insurance company for hours at a time while trying to function at work, and the fear of having my daughter and I both being derailed as my husband needlessly declined was agonizing. The ACA provided for an external insurance appeal process that ultimately led to my husband receiving the care he needed. Today my daughter is a college grad working at a good-paying job in her chosen field, I took a new job in my field to help us navigate my husband's income loss, and my husband continues to improve and recently has been able to ease back into part-time employment in spite of his disability. There is no doubt whatsoever that my husband would not have had the outcome he has had without the ACA.

With these threats to repeal the ACA, we live under the dark shadow of pre-existing conditions, which both of us have, and the worry that an unforeseen, catastrophic illness could happen again and decimate us. I have no doubt millions of decent, hard-working Americans are living with this fear as we face yet another unwanted effort to repeal the ACA.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Scott Morse [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill comments

Hello,

I am writing to express my grave concerns regarding the Graham Cassidy bill which Republican leaders are currently trying to force through the Senate without serious hearings or a full score from the CBO.

I have been shocked and appalled by the repeated Republican efforts to repeal and replace the ACA throughout the year. Each time, there were inadequate hearings, no effort to involve Democratic senators in the process, and CBO scores which indicated that millions of Americans would lose their health care coverage. The Graham Cassidy bill is no different, yet Republican leaders stubbornly push onward, blindly looking for a "win" without stopping to consider the repercussions of their actions.

Simply put, this latest bill is just plain bad. The bipartisan Medicaid Directors from all 50 states agree. (http://medicaiddirectors.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/NAMD-Statement-on-Graham-Cassidy9_21_17.pdf) 63% of Americans think that we should keep what works with the ACA and fix what doesn't, rather than repeal and replace it. (<http://www.savemycare.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/NationalResults.pdf>) And while there is no CBO score or analysis of the bill at this time, all initial independent analyses point to millions of people losing their coverage and costs increasing significantly.

[REDACTED]

If the Republicans do manage to force this legislation through the Senate by the most narrow margin possible, it will surely be a Pyrrhic victory. This short term political win would go against the will of the American people, hurt or kill millions of citizens in the long run, and hopefully lead to significant Republican losses in 2018 and beyond. I can only hope that this effort will fail, and Republican leaders will begrudgingly work with their Democratic colleagues to fix the ACA for the benefit of all Americans.

Thank you,

Scott Morse
Oaklyn, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margie Donlon [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:01 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Graham-Cassidy

I am a physician (MD) and I am imploring you to vote NO on this bill.

As a physician, I work tirelessly to advocate for my patients and their families. This bill would HURT them.

We need true reform of our health care system - but Graham-Cassidy is moving backwards.

Obamacare is not what has failed us -- the freemarket health care model has failed us. Why? Because for-profit insurance companies do not work in the best interest of the patients. They work for their shareholders.

We need physician-led reform of our health care.

Stop playing politics with our health -- especially our children's health.

Sincerely,

Margie Donlon, MD , MPH
Monmouth County, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kelly Baker <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:25 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to Graham Cassidy

Greetings,

I'm writing today because my family relies on ACA for quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham Cassidy repeal.

Currently, I work as a freelance editor/writer, and my husband works for a small start-up company. For the last couple of years, we've relied on ACA for insurance for our family, which includes an eight-year-old and a four-year-old.

Last week, our four-year-old complained about his leg hurting. We thought he might have bumped it, but he hadn't fallen. Then, he started limping and refused to climb stairs or climb into my SUV. When I attempted to carry him on my hip to give him a break, he yelped and started to sob. I called the pediatrician for an appointment, once I realized that a limp is always something their office recommends having checked out.

I handed over my insurance card when I took him to pediatrician. He sat in my lap while we waited, which is unusual because he's usually too busy to sit still. The PA looked over his leg, but called in the pediatrician for an evaluation. The doctor explained that he needed x-rays to determine if something was wrong with his hip or if it was toxic synovitis, inflammation of the hip joint that can sometimes occur after another virus.

I handed over my insurance card when we arrived at Radiology Associates for his x-rays. They x-rayed both of his hips for comparison. As we waited longer and longer for the results of his x-ray, I began to worry about what they might have found. Finally, a nurse from the pediatrician's office called me to explain that they found an anomaly on his left hip, not the one he said was hurting. He now needed an ultrasound too.

I handed over his insurance card once again when we arrived at the hospital for an ultrasound, which was to determine if fluid was gathering in his right hip and to check on the left hip too.

The ultrasound revealed no fluid on the right hip, but the left hip caused the attending doctor concern.

I reminded the pediatrician's office of our insurance when we arrived the next day for a recheck. The anomaly in his left hip might be Legg-Calve-Perthes disease, which is a childhood disease in which the blood supply is for some reason interrupted. If untreated, the bones in the child's legs are prone to breaking and not healing properly. If untreated, a

child could later develop hip arthritis or hip problems later in life. This could lead to a hip replacement surgery. My kid now has to see a pediatric orthopedist to determine whether he has this disease or not. I'm not sure what treatment would include, but I'm worried that it might be hip surgery.

I gave the info on my insurance card to the pediatric orthopedist's office when I called to set up my appointment. She reminded that their office was two hours and thirty minutes from where I live, and I explained that I know. But, I had to get an appointment because I can't risk my smart, fierce and kind kiddo having hip problems now or later.

Every time I used my insurance card, I was grateful for ACA. I was grateful that my family has insurance. I was grateful that my kids won't go without healthcare because their parents don't have jobs that come with insurance. I was grateful that they have healthcare. I was grateful that we all have healthcare *right now*.

Every time I used my insurance card last week, I was terrified too. I was terrified because I wondered how much longer I would have insurance if Graham Cassidy passes. I wondered what would happen if my youngest kid gets labeled with a preexisting condition and what that might mean for him being insured the rest of his life. I was terrified that soon my kids might not get the healthcare they need. I was terrified that millions of Americans would also lose their healthcare too. I was terrified that something we all need might no longer exist.

I'm writing today to oppose Graham Cassidy. I'm writing today to urge you all to oppose Graham Cassidy too.

ACA is not perfect, but it guarantees my family has access to much-needed healthcare. It guarantees that millions of Americans have access.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. I'm sure that millions of Americans agree with me. Will you stand with us? Or will you take our insurance away?

Sincerely,

Kelly Baker
Tallahassee, FL

--
Kelly J. Baker, PhD
E [redacted] Education
Author of [redacted] Pieces,
[redacted] an,
[redacted] ning!,
Twi [redacted]
St [redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Deborah Little [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health bill

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

This latest version of the Republican replacement of the Affordable Care Act is another travesty. While some of the harms are pushed down the road, harm will be felt and you should be clear and honest about that.

There is decades of research showing that block grants, especially when they are CUT, cannot provide adequate services, including health care. This is a cover for cowardice - Republicans do not want to take the blame for depriving Americans of access to minimally adequate health care so they just push the responsibility down the road.

While there are problems with the ACA, NONE of the Republican proposals help to solve those problems. This bill is not an example of governance - it is an example of destruction and betrayal of Americans. Shame.

--

Dr. Deborah Little
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Garden City, NY 11530

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AlterNet (<http://www.alternet.org>)

The Nation (<http://www.thenation.com/>)

The Rachel Maddow Show (<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/26315908/>)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carla Brandy <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Bill

If you are truly servants of the American people, you will not allow this reprehensible bill pass. This bill is shameful and disgusting and is going to hurt your constituents. Shame on you if you vote yes.

Carla Brandy

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Ingle <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: What healthcare means to me

To Whom It May Concern:

We discovered our daughter had a congenital heart defect at our 20 week ultrasound. This was followed by close monitoring, a variety of tests, and a decision to temporarily move from our home in Virginia to Philadelphia to deliver our daughter. She stayed for 3 weeks at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and then we were able to come home. During the time we were at home (we returned to CHOP 3 months later for another operation), she was closely monitored and on medication. She experienced complications during her next surgery, and our beautiful 4 1/2 month old daughter spent the next 6 weeks in the ICU on life support. The doctors tried tirelessly to save her, but after multiple procedures, it became clear that she would not recover. We made the unthinkable decision to take our daughter off of life support 4 days after Christmas Day 2016.

Both during and after our hospital stay, we received a huge pile of EOBs. It quickly became clear how expensive her hospital stay was...of course, we would've paid any price to have our daughter survive. Still, it's tough for the dollar signs to not weigh on your mind, even as you sit by your baby's hospital bed. However, I was comforted by the knowledge that my insurance has a catastrophic yearly cap: \$11,500. While this is still a serious expense, we knew that this amount was feasible for us to cover and CHOP has payment plans if needed. Additionally, I was comforted by the fact that, should she survive, she would still have health insurance for the future. I couldn't imagine a scenario in which we fought so hard to keep her here, only to lose our health insurance for her ongoing needs.

I wasn't a heart mom until the moment I was. And I'm thankful that the policies in place allowed us to give our daughter every single chance to survive, without financially ruining our family in the process. No one ever wants something tragic or traumatic to happen to their family. Even more, many actively think it couldn't happen to them. Until it does. And in that moment, when your world is crashing down around you, you are thankful for things like health insurance that you KNOW will cover what needs to be done to save your loved one...or you.

This matters so much to millions of people in this country. Childhood congenital heart defects alone affect 1 in every 100 kids. The magnitude of those affected by the current proposal is difficult to wrap my head around. To think that CHILDREN and their families would be left without coverage for no reason other than they were born with a heart defect is simply unimaginable.

Human beings deserve health care. Denying coverage to millions of Americans for the benefit of the richest Americans is downright despicable. Shame on those who have tried repeatedly to take away health care from their neighbors. We as a country are better than this. And I hope nothing more than to have this reflected when the current proposal FAILS. I am happy to share any additional information. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I could be helpful in any way.

Sincerely,

Sarah Ingle, heart angel mom to Lauren Elizabeth

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: L Sherburne [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

Dear Committee Members,

I am concerned about the current GrahamCassidy bill, that is before the Senate. It does not appear to do anything to improve health care in our county, but rather to give choices to those that can already afford it and strip it from those who can't. It does nothing to fix, change, or alter some of the real concerns that I have for our system or to provide any assurances that the ones that will gain are the health care providers and insurance companies. It is not a bandage on a system that is bleeding, it is opening up a huge hole and passing the problems on to another party/the states. Where is the will to work together and solve this issue. It is not cheaper to let people become deathly ill before treating them, it is costing us, the citizens, more in the long run.
Laurie Sherburne

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:18 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

This bill is inhuman! Vote No! Don't take away our healthcare. Don't harm the sick, the poor, the children, and the elderly! Stop the Bill! Stop it in its tracks! You work for people...Save the people! Don't turn the US into a Third World Country! We need your help! Have a Conscious!

Sincerely - Concerned US Citizen,

Holly Dauphin

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Janine Riveire [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: comment on Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

I strongly oppose this bill.

I strongly oppose any legislation that does not specifically protect persons with pre-existing conditions .

I strongly oppose any repeal of the Affordable Healthcare Act.

I am personally affected by two pre-existing conditions that fortunately are not chronic. I personally know 26 people who would lose access to affordable health care if this current bill were to pass. Of those 26, at least 17 would be driven to bankruptcy within 2 years by the cost of their medications alone.

Dr. Janine Riveire
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]S
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]a
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]du

"Music is therapy. Music moves people. It connects people in ways that no other medium can." ~ Macklemore

FALL 2017 OFFICE HOURS: face to face — Tuesday 10-1130; Wednesday 3-4; Friday 12-130.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Harris,Rodney D [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I urge all Senators to vote no on this terrible piece of legislation. Stop voting for your party and vote for the betterment of the American people!! Graham-Cassidy is a vote for the Republican Party and is an awful bill with no concern for the people of this country especially for those of us in rural America! Vote no

Thank you,
Rodney Harris

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Wanda Halbakken [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repeal of Obamacare

It is appalling that you Republicans would attempt to rush this bill through for a vote simply to prove a point which would that you have to repeal Obamacare.....come hell or high water! It seems that bipartisan involvement to improve Obamacare would be much more beneficial for all involved, where you would be working FOR the people rather than for the administration's ego.

I remember listening to the radio one day when a Republican Senator was on stating folks need to work and buy their own medical insurance like he does. Talk about being out of touch!!! Nothing like getting the good insurance government employees are offered. How about slashing his medical benefits to save money?!

If Trump is so for the middle class how could he possibly sign a bill such as this! It has gotten all so ludicrous it's no wonder everyone isn't out on the streets demonstrating!!!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Erica Binelli [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:45 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy "healthcare" bill

To Whom It May Concern,

Healthcare is in quotations since this bill in no way provides healthcare to Americans. This is a way to give tax breaks to the rich, and by doing so, creating death panels on the state level. Children born with birth defects, children with cancer, women with cancer, any human suffering from a disease or illness should not be in financial peril while fighting for their lives; deciding whether to have a roof over their head or food on the table - or to buy medication or have treatment. It's unconscionable the lies you disseminate for the sake of passing legislation. Seriously, you all say you are christians...would Jesus turn his back on the sick or less fortunate? No. So I wonder how your spiteful actions would be seen by your almighty? Why don't you ask yourself these questions? Have a little introspection, empathy and altruism? How about do the job we pay you for, work in a bipartisan manner to fix the ACA in the interim and then actually work on a path to universal care? You work for us, Senators. We the people do not want this travesty of a bill.

Stand on the right side of history. Don't strip millions of insurance, which would be nothing more than a death sentence to so many.

Thank you,
Erica Binelli

Sent from my iPad

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Bonuck [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: On Graham-Cassidy Bill

This bill, like previous proposals, would make huge cuts to and place caps on the Medicaid program, end the Medicaid expansion and marketplace subsidies in the ACA, and allow states to waive protections for people with pre-existing conditions. This bill would be devastating to people with disabilities and their families, women and children, seniors, low-income Americans, and threaten access to community living, employment opportunities, & educational supports. Our University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) is part of a national network OPPOSED to this bill. We urge Congress to reject this bill and to remember that PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES MAKE UP 1/6 OF US VOTERS. (<https://smlr.rutgers.edu/news/projecting-number-eligible-voters-disabilities-november-2016-elections-research-report>).

Karen Bonuck, PhD

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

Check out our Sleep Health Literacy website page:

[REDACTED]

"The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." Theodore Parker, Unitarian Minister, 1810

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: STEVEN schneider <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

Dear Patriots,

Please do not get rid of the ACA, please repair and fix it not get rid of it.

Do you realize that there will be suffering on a massive scale, like Death Panels. The ones you thought were in the ACA. Only you are the ones responsible for millions of people suffering.

Please vote for Medicare for All.

Thank You,

Steven J Schneider

Disabled Viet Nam Vet

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gozo Rabat [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: AGAINST GRAHAM-CASSIDY, et. al.

America cannot afford to go down this particular healthcare road.

Our household feels to frustrated, embarrassed, humiliated and disgusted, by how the current, Republican-led Congress completely ignores those who disagree with them. (Heck, they can't even agree with themselves. And yet they dismiss the rest of us.)

The Founding Fathers relied on a combination of patriotic good faith and of compromise. The current Republican Congress spits in the eyes of our Founding Fathers.

A law which has, as its only real purpose, to strip one person's name from the name of the law, is beneath contempt.

REPUBLICANS HAD SEVEN YEARS TO PREPARE A BETTER HEALTHCARE PLAN.

It was all a lie. They had no plan.

It is hard to rein in one's disappointment at how low the once-Grand party has come.

((;\$; -)}™

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy graham bill

I writing to you to not vote for this horrendous trumpcare bill!!!!!! Why can't the republicans work with the democrats to tweak Obamacare and fix its problems???? Instead of taking away services for we the people??? My son has autism and gets services. We will not be able to afford these life saving therapies without our Obamacare insurance. Please do what's right for the people!!!!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for the record on #Graham Cassidy

This bill is an atrocious assault on the healthcare and needs of our most vulnerable American citizens. Compared to the exhaustive detail and care of the ACA bill, it's insultingly lacking. Please don't kill our care, try BIPARTISAN work with Democrats in Congress to fix the flaws in the Affordable Health Care act, including the flaw that is allowing the President and Republicans to defund and otherwise sabotage it.

Valerie Mackey
Berkshire Hathaway
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Debra LaBar [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GrahamCassidy

I have three elderly (90's) law abiding family members that worked and paid taxes all their lives and you want to take away Medicaid and put them on the street because they now have no money for nursing homes. Who are you looking out for if not these most vulnerable members of our society? Handicapped folks? No. Poor people? No. Veterans? No. Children? No. Yourself, the Republican Party and rich people? YES!

Make sure that all of the horrible effects of this dreadful bill are made public ASAP!

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dana Vindedzis [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not repeal ACA

Why can't the senate work in a bipartisan manner to fix the parts of ACA that aren't working well? It's not right to even consider an ACA replacement without full bipartisan vetting and CBO analysis. Get it together. You work for us - the American people.

Dana Vindedzis

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tualatintobi [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Defer this terrible bill!

This is a horrible bill designed to deprive millions of health care, and for many, their lives. The impact on the country would be devastating.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maryellen Schwartz [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Save healthcare

Members of my extended family rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. They did not have a preexisting condition until they got cancer (2) rheumatoid arthritis (1) and childhood diabetes. I have been lucky enough to have minimal need for health care for maternity, and my children have been relatively healthy though they did have strep throats and earaches and asthma as kids. We had and continue to pay for our insurance and are happy to buy it even though we have paid in more than we received. If we need it someday we deserve to not be cancelled and if we are just the part of the population that covers our other loved ones so be it. We will be the lucky ones. The purpose of insurance is to cover those who need it. Improve the ACA.

Sent from my iPad

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathy Bradley [mailto:k55@col.com]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: stop this bill!

I am appalled and ashamed that my senator has proposed a bill which will harm thousands of his constituents, including my daughter, and tens of millions of the citizens that he took an oath to serve – all in the name of partisan politics, political posturing, and corporate profit. To allow the sick, the poor, the elderly, the disabled, and children to suffer for his own personal agenda is unconscionable. This bill must be stopped!

My adult daughter was diagnosed with a reproductive health condition after graduating from college, while she was working part-time before beginning graduate school. She requires the hormones contained in contraceptive pills to treat this reproductive health condition, which is unrelated to preventing pregnancy. She is prescribed “birth control pills” as the medically indicated treatment.

Because she worked part-time at the time of her diagnosis, she was not eligible for health insurance from her employer. Her condition, if left untreated, would result in long-term, chronic health problems that would impact the quality of her life and would require expensive interventions for the rest of her life. Because of her strenuous academic curriculum in graduate school, she could not work full time and complete her studies. Therefore she did not have, and could not afford, health insurance of her own. Because of the Affordable Care Act, she was able to remain on our health insurance policy after she graduated from college, and throughout her graduate school program, until she completed her degree and secured full-time employment. She was able to receive the medical care, treatment, and medications she needed to secure a healthy future. She now has health insurance through her employer. The ACA provision prohibiting exclusion of pre-existing conditions in coverage is essential for her. She continues to manage her health well with her own policy. Additionally, her ability to secure coverage for her reproductive health needs as mandated by the ACA is essential to her managing this health condition – which, again, is unrelated to pregnancy prevention, though it is treated with “contraceptive” medication.

To allow employers to refuse to cover reproductive health, or to de-fund organizations that support women’s reproductive health, is an unconscionable and deliberate subjugation of half the population of the country.

Kathy Bradley

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GC Health Care Bill

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. It's time for this government to discuss, review and revise Obamacare care. Do not simply repeal and stick the American people with a subpar bill that will destroy the lives of so many folks who rely on Medicare.

Thank You,

Karen Mulholland

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bill Kohlenberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

To whom this may concern, this bill is totally without compassion and irresponsible. Disgusting!!!! Please reject!!!!
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cathryn Woodland [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA n American welfare

Dear Committee Members:

This is the time to illustrate to Americans that you are true to your oath to protect the interests of everyday Americans. Covering to the interest of the incredibly wealthy will destroy the lives millions of honest, hard working Americans who REALLY love their country n fellow Americans. We ALL know how CEOs of insurance companies are benefiting from the erosion of benefits to the insured and this began long before the adoption of The ACA! We know hospitals are closing because poorly insured in rural areas don't have adequate insurance to meet the costs of operation. And we know many are not aware of the suffering they themselves will endure without affordable, comprehensive healthcare. It is your responsibility to protect them and not political interests.

Please address the issue of overpriced medicines n procedures that benefit only a few. Please address the greed that is destroying our country. Every industrialized nation offers benefits to its citizens. How can we call ourselves the greatest land of opportunity when we throw millions off healthcare to line the pockets of the wealthy without being hypocritical? There are many issues to address: waste, fraud and GREED.

I pray your conscious, knowledge and love of our country will guide you in an honest effort to provide low cost n effective health care for Americans.

Sincerely,

Cathryn Woodland

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cathy Rundell [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO TO GRAHAM/CASSIDY "HEALTH CARE" BILL

I vehemently oppose this bill. Please stop it in its tracks. Three strikes — not more attempts at repealing ACA and taking healthcare away from millions of Americans. Tell the GOP to stop wasting our tax dollars on their vendetta against Obama.

Thank you!!

runcatrun LLC
GRAPHIC DESIGN + PHOTO ART DIRECTION

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laurie Knox [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Monday's hearing

Please vote no on this bill. I can think of so many reasons why we cannot pass this healthcare plan. My late sister would have passed away so much sooner without the care she was given. Her Parkinson's (PSP) required special care by a neurologist, speech and physical therapy, and many emergency visits. without good healthcare, she would have been considered a pre-existing throwaway. Her life would have ended long before it did. My cousin, who suffers from the worse form of epilepsy, would not receive the wonderful care he gets now and he does not deserve to be treated as if his life does not matter.

Our country needs to continue to be seen as a place that cares about everyone, no matter what their disabilities or needs are. Please listen to all of the people in this country who will lose so much if this healthcare bill is adopted.

Thank you.

Laurie Knox

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Given kerrens [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No to Graham Cassidy Bill

Please vote No for Graham Cassidy bill. I have a preexisting condition and will have it until I die. I'm retired and everything is more costly now that I'm on a fixed income. Think about the little guy and helps us not hurt us. Thank you again.

Barbara Kerrens

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Glase [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repeal of the ACA

My husband and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have a minor, yet pre-existing heart condition that under this act could give an insurance company an excuse to charge an exorbitant premium. More importantly, the misplaced logic per Rick Santorum that if no one in your family has a pre-existing condition, why should they have to buy insurance that would cover that contingency is beyond stupid. There is no other word for it. This is how car insurance, home insurance, and any other risk mitigation process works. The pool of healthy subscribers spreads out the risk for the entire pool. Just because you never had a car accident doesn't allow you to not buy car insurance. You may be healthy today or not have a pre-existing condition, but you or a family member could certainly develop one tomorrow. The public overwhelmingly supports the ACA if they are asked the question using that term. Only if asked if they want OBAMA CARE repealed do they answer in the negative. That speaks more to ignorance than legitimate reasoning. This is nothing more than a selfish, narrow-minded attempt to destroy Obama's legacy, and has nothing to do with improving accessibility, affordability, and much needed control over prescription drug costs. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it, but I honestly have long given up faith in this Congress to do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Linda Glaser

Ada, Michigan

Linda Glaser

[REDACTED] k
[REDACTED] 1044
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Diane Glowacki <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Latest Republican Health Care Plan

The Republicans in the Senate have shown their true faces. Their donors have been in charge for a long time. They do not care about their constituents or this country. They are all hacks, bought and sold. They are a disgrace. Health Care is a right that Americans deserve as much as the people in Canada, France, and so many other countries have. It won't be right until the profit motive is taken out and restrictions are imposed on prices for hospitals, doctors, drugs etc. The Senate Democrats need to speak out loud and strong against these draconian Republican greedy agendas.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rochelle Martinez [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Message to Senate Finance Committee

Dear Senate Finance Committee:
Dear Esteemed Senators:

I have been calling and emailing my Indiana Republican Senator Todd Young all week. I have not always been able to leave a message as his voicemail box has been full numerous times.

I **totally oppose** the Graham/Cassidy non healthcare bill whereas my Senator Young says he's "Still thinking about it."

I pointed out in my email message yesterday—what's there to think about?? The decision for what's best for his constituents (Americans) is clear !!! The best is to oppose the Graham/Cassidy bill.

I am a retired public school teacher and a breast cancer survivor. If this non healthcare bill passes, even if I am able to find insurance, I will not be able to afford it. My children have families of their own. Are they to be saddled with paying my healthcare and going bankrupt? And what of their family's healthcare needs? My little granddaughter has had a rough year. She fell and broke her elbow, requiring surgery and numerous doctor(s) appointments. Six months later, she had to have her tonsils and adenoids removed. All of this is "normal" childhood illness' and accidents—yet at this point, with the Graham/Cassidy bill—she may already have reached her lifetime insurance cap. She is seven years old. What choices are you leaving the future Americans and those of us, who have worked hard to help build this nation?

We must ask ourselves, who are we as a nation that would take away healthcare from 32 million people? As a nation, we can afford \$1.45 trillion for a F-35 fighter jet, but can't afford healthcare for its people?? Is this really about healthcare or muting GOP donors threats??

What is our mission statement for the United States of America? Who are we as a nation? Does this bill reflect your personal individual mission statements?

I'll do my part, please Members of the Senate Finance Committee—do yours and **SQUELCH this HORRIBLE** non healthcare punishing bill!

Thank you

Sincerely,

Rochelle D Martinez

6th Generation American! (and that's just My mom's side—my Dad's side was already here to greet them!)

Graham/Cassidy non healthcare bill:

- *Cuts* coverage for up to 32 million + Americans
- *Eliminates* Medicaid funding for low-income families and seniors
- **Every major medical organization** (AMA, American Cancer Society, American Heart Association etc is **Opposed** to it
- *Guts* protections for pre-existing conditions
- Insurance companies can charge more for patients with pre-existing conditions

- For example, someone with asthma could be charged an estimated \$4,320 more in premiums, while a pregnant woman could be charged \$17,320 extra.
- Guts Women Healthcare and Family Planning
- Gives a \$20 billion tax break to the medical device industry
- Eliminates employee mandates and cost-sharing subsidies
- Millions of Elderly will lose nursing home and home healthcare coverage
- Block grants will decimate state budgets
- Lifetime caps on medical care will be reinstated
- Transfers tens of billions of dollars from mostly blue states to red states
- The Vote takes place prior to a thorough CBO analysis
 - The CBO said it will take “at least several weeks” for it to put together a comprehensive report

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rebekah Bossov [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill

All of you ran on repeal and replace and promised or led voters to believe you were going to fix the system and make healthcare affordable for all.

Then you go about cutting Medicaid for those who will desperately need assistance, say that pre existing conditions are included but then make it possible for insurers to deny coverage or make rates so high people can't afford the coverage.

How can you call yourselves our representatives when you don't listen and go everything in your power to hurt us.

Voting yes to this bill is a crime. Would you vote for it if you were required to have the same coverage?

Shame on you.

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Claudia Schafer <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare - not Wealthcare

Dear Senator Graham - This bill is not, as you have said, a stop to the "march towards socialism." Rather - it is just another weapon in the class warfare so many of the GoP insist on waging against the poor and middle class.

It is a huge step towards a caste system in which large numbers of Americans will be working multiple jobs, and yet still unable to afford proper healthcare, or many other things once considered reasonable manifestations of the American Dream.

This should not have to be said, but apparently - you guys just don't get it: people are not poor by choice.

The vast majority are far from lazy, and work harder than any of you in your Ivory Towers. Our culture is now rigged against them, and you want to keep taking that to the farthest extent possible.

You don't want them to have affordable healthcare, you don't want them to have a livable wage, you don't want them to have social programs, and you want to take all these things away so that that you can continue to live a very comfortable life in the pockets of all those billionaires to whom you're so dedicated. Perhaps indebted would be a better word.

If you want to say that's not the case, then how about you and your compadres sign on for whatever type of healthcare bill you manage to pass?

p.s. New York and California take the biggest hits? Really? Who do you people think you're fooling? Since when is Congress in the business of using legislation to carry out vendettas against states who did not vote for the current president?

Since Trump. That's when. Is that the bill you want your name on? Shame on you!

--
Claudia Schafer

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Janice Brady [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy

I am writing to urge you not to pass the Graham Cassidy Bill. We don't know yet what the costs will be but we do know millions will lose their coverage. This is being rushed through. Please stop this bill so we can get a bipartisan permanent solution to health coverage.

J R Brady

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Brenda Bloxom [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I'm confused. I thought Republicans were Pro-Life. You don't believe in abortion...that is your belief...and I respect that. You believe that a child has a *right to be born*. That being said, let's say a child has a pre-existing condition, would you deny coverage simply because the parents cannot afford to pay for your so-called "healthcare" plan? Once that child is born, doesn't he/she have the *right to not die*?

Brenda Bloxom

You either fight the rise of fascism every where, including the ballot box, or you don't.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marilyn Michaels [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: HEALTH CARE

PLEASE DO NOT VOTE FOR THE GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL.

My husband has cancer and is only alive because of the treatments he is receiving.

If this bill is passed, he will die because he will no longer be able to afford the treatments.

PLEASE DO NOT VOTE FOR THE GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL.

Respectfully,

Marilyn Michaels

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kris Short [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

This is so heartbreaking. This bill CANNOT go through! So many people will be effected. I am a social worker in the mental health care field and my husband has been diagnosed bipolar. This is not a good thing. Please don't let this bill pass.

Kris M. Short

"The world is changed by your example, not by your opinion." ~Paulo Coelho

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Caryn Brandel [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:43 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.

Caryn Brandel

20814
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Deb Mensinger [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Frederick, Julia (Warren); Pearson, Beth (Warren); Laurie Marks; Anna
Subject: Our Family's Healthcare Plea
Attachments: OUR FAMILY'S HEALTHCARE PLEA, September 25th Edition.odt

To the Senators of the Finance Committee:

Attached is our plea, written by each member of our family, for consideration of the Graham-Cassidy repeal of the Affordable Care Act. We would like to see that the ACA is strengthened in a bipartisan manner, rather than a single party repeal and replace effort that will cause hardship and even death to so many Americans. We are pleading with you all to vote nay on this healthcare bill. Senator McCain's statement provides insight and wisdom for his colleagues to follow.

Our economy is improved by having healthy people in the workforce. It is also improved when the medical industry is healthy. The future of this country is improved when children grow up healthy. The country and our economy is also improved when we can prevent the proverbial forest fires rather than stand in the blaze with a shovel and a hose.

I realize that you are very busy, but we would appreciate it if you took the time to read the attached comments written by our family. My family has been through so much since I became ill, and each of us has our own medical issues, but I will not survive if Graham-Cassidy becomes the law of the land.

Thank you for your consideration. And thank you for adding our comments to the permanent record. What we have written is so very important, and we are all willing to give up our privacy because this issue is so critical to our family as well as so many others.

I wish you wisdom and an open mind,
Deborah L. Mensinger
Laurie J. Marks
Anna S. Williams

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rose Hughes [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Personal Story, Improve DO NOT Repeal ACA/ Medicaid

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare that is provided to our Mother. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My siblings and their spouses are all over 65, live in different states, are on limited incomes and Medicare ourselves, so through the provisions provided through Medicaid, that enable our mother to receive proper care is incredibly important to our day to day lives.

I know many others with similar stories, and I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Rose Hughes

Paducah Kentucky

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patricia Hoffman Miller [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senate Committee Members:

Graham-Cassidy is a cruel bill and will affect millions of Americans. In addition, re-configuring 1/6th of America's economy will have a destabilizing effect on the nation's economy as a whole.

This bill must not become law.

Respectfully,

Patricia Hoffman-Miller, Ph.D.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joan and Ed [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

My family depends on ACA. I believe ACA should be improved upon and its faults corrected...not repealed.

Joan Callaway

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy Mueller <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA Must Stay Law

Dear Committee,

Over 30 million American citizens will lose their healthcare coverage under the proposed healthcare bill and you are allowing almost no debate, nor transparency about what is in the bill. Even the President has very little understanding of what this is going to do to common Americans. It will diminish the health and welfare of our people and it is unconscionable. **DO NOT PASS THIS BILL, REJECT IT!**

Thank you.

--
Amy Mueller
Parent and CFO

--
Amy Mueller
Theater Artist/Parent/Person

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Keep the ACA

Dear Madam/Sir:

I rely on the affordable health care. 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. Too many hardworking americans like myself rely on this.

thank you for your time

~Govinda Rosling

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to Graham-Cassidy bill

This is not healthcare legislation. It is another dangerous, senseless attempt to repeal the ACA. The GOP has tried and failed on 60+ attempts. You are wasting our time, our money and you should be ashamed of yourselves. You do your constituents and all citizens a huge disservice.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kris Strakna <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to **improve the ACA, not repeal** it. Quality, affordable healthcare is a right for all Americans, not a privilege for a few wealthy people.

Kristina Strakna

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: carol desrosiers [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: vote no on the Graham Cassidy Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members:

Please do not pass the Cassidy Graham bill. As a retired couple in our 50s we are very concerned about losing, or not being able to afford, our health coverage due to pre-existing conditions and changes to required coverage. We are also concerned for the health and well being of our intellectually disabled nephew who relies on Medicaid and care about the future of women's health, maternity care and their own choices about reproductive health. After a lifetime of good medical coverage, we are so disenchanted having to fight again and again to maintain a good level of care now that we have to pay for it on our own. It's sad to think that we would possibly have to look for a way to re-enter the workforce to maintain coverage (and potentially take jobs away from younger workers). Please protect people like us and the tens of millions of others who would be affected negatively.

This bill will hurt those who are vulnerable in our nation...those with disabilities, pregnant women, low-income women and those with pre-existing conditions.

Please return to regular order and require that Congress work together to pass a bill that will positively impact most Americans and not tear the rug out from under their healthcare.

Carol and Alan Desrosiers

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Teather Sundstrom [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill must die

This bill does not help the average American. Please do not push this forward in your pursuit to end Obamacare and instead fix what's already there.

Sincerely,
A concerned citizen
Teather Sundstrom

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jbart68196 [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy-Graham bill

"Fulfilling a campaign promise" by voting for the Cassidy-Graham bill is nonsensical if a very small (practically insignificant) percentage of the voters want it. Who do you represent? Shame on you if it is the few wealthy campaign financiers that are pulling your strings!

Vote No! Find consensus across the aisle.

Judith Bartlett

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hilary Martin [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA repeal
Attachments: Screenshot_20170922-140807.png

Stop trying to repeal Obamacare. Work with the Democrats and repair it!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pamela Waiolena <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: US Health Care System

Aloha:

Our US health care system needs a TOTAL REVAMP. Trying to do things like opening up Medicaid etc., are SORRY ATTEMPTS of putting a bandaid on a GUSHING WOUND !!!

Why don't you folks **WAKE UP...disengage the pharmaceutical companies from our medical system and look at the European countries that have VIABLE healthcare systems that have been in place for decades.** Get the pharma hands out of the doctors offices, off of the TV ads, etc. and start to **CARE FOR THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY !!!**

When the government accepts the belief system that corporations are people WE HAVE LOST OUR GOVERNMENT!!! PERIOD !!! FACT !!!

Enough pussy footing around. **GET REAL.** Take the wall street bull by the horns and throw it out of Washington, D.C. Get rid of the lobbyists who line the politicians pockets and promote their individual greed.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH AND TOO MUCH STINKS !!! I can SMELL YOU FOLKS all the way over here in Hawai'i!!!! Just remember that what you do comes back to you. If you actually care about the people **SHOW IT BY YOUR ACTIONS !!!** Build a healthcare system like the ones in England, the Netherlands, etc.

In Love and Light,

Pamela Wai'olena 

LOVE is the TRIUMPH of IMAGINATION over intelligence!!! H.L. Mencken

Be your *Authentic Self*.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julia Wilson [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Proposed health Care bill

Please **do not vote** this new rendition of the health care bill, in to law . I am a senior and thankfully do not have serious health problems , however I work hand in hand with my insurance to Continue to stay as healthy as I can . The Affordable Care Act afforded me to buy extra insurance to cover most health possibilities .

Also I understand *Many* people, along with me, will be knocked off any kind of insurance, with this new medical draft . Unfortunately , if this new plan is voted in I doubt I will be able afford any health insurance .

Kind Regards, Julia W Wilson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

My family and I rely on affordable, quality medical care. The passage of this bill would undermine our varied medical needs. Women's health, pediatric visits and medically necessary surgeries and procedures are vitally important. DO NOT VOTE FOR THIS SO-CALLED TRUMPCARE Graham-Cassidy Bill. Defeat this bill in the name of millions who need affordable medical care.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Al DuBruck & Laurie Williams [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Act

To the Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

My family relies on affordable, quality health care. I was born with hereditary hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (an autosomal dominant condition that is entirely genetic and affects 1 in 500 people). This is the disease known to cause sudden cardiac death - even in young children and in pro athletes. I did not bring this disease upon myself, but I do have to live with it as best I can. My wife has multiple autoimmune conditions and is a breast cancer survivor (whose mother and maternal grandmother also had breast cancer). I am 58 years old, as is my wife. If the Graham-Cassidy act becomes law, my wife and I will be financially ruined and affected on many other fronts. This bill is by far the worst of the three attempts to repeal the ACA. I would like to see a bi-partisan effort to improve and not repeal the ACA, followed by a bi-partisan effort to create universal, single-payer health insurance coverage for all Americans.

Sincerely,

Al DuBruck

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eleanora Yaggy [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: upcoming health care bill

I am very opposed to the upcoming bill. There is no information about it; no way to know how many would lose insurance; whether pre-existing conditions would eliminate that person from getting insurance. There are so many other problems I can't go through all of them

It would be wonderful if there could be a bi-partisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA...not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Eleanora Yaggy

PS it might be a good idea if Congress would abandon their own health insurance and join the rest of the country in whatever insurance plan they devise!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: sara sugihara [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: medicaid cuts

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

thank you
SARA SUGIHARA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Downs [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare act

My husband and I rely on the ACA. I oppose Graham- Cassidy healthcare proposal.

Carol Downs

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bennie Hively [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> on behalf of Bennie Hively
[REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

The Graham/Cassidy legislation cannot guarantee protection for those with pre-existing conditions, it is more expensive and fewer will be covered and “is not a viable replacement for the Affordable Care Act”. The Graham/Cassidy repeal has not been properly vetted, nor has it been through the proper procedures to be considered at this time. The Graham/Cassidy repeal of the Affordable Care Act is an insult to every American. All Americans deserve the right to “affordable healthcare”.

Please vote no on this legislation and save American lives.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Sent from Windows Mail

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cindy Bohse [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because healthcare is too important to be a political pawn. The current plan to vote in the Senate with no CBO score and virtually no debate and the have it rushed through the House with no debate seems crazy for something as important as Healthcare. This can mean life and death. This is 1/6 of the economy. The fact the the AMA said it does not pass the do no harm test. The fact the AARP warns of age taxes and higher premiums. The president of the AAP says he is fearful for his patients and the uncertain future they would face under this bill. I could go on and on listing organizations who have looked into this bill and believe it to be dangerous to the health and future or the people of this country.

Cindy Bohse

19004
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Weismann [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing

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

Thank you,
Barbara Weismann
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kay Oppenheimer [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Insurance Bill

I am writing this because all phone lines are busy. I want to express my profound disgust with this "new" Health Care Bill that is being touted by the GOP. This is inhuman and in no way takes care of the millions of people who depend on affordable health care. Fix the ACA, and/or create a Single Payer System.

This has gone on way too long. Enough already.

Think about the American people for once!

Kay

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rei Jackler <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Members of the Finance Committee:

Throughout my twenties, I relied on quality, affordable healthcare made available through Covered California. Working multiple part-time jobs, my employers intentionally kept my hours at 20 because they knew employees working 21 hours had to receive benefits according to California law. As a result, while I worked more than full time, I had no coverage. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My coverage under Covered California in the last three years has been instrumental to my recovery from complex childhood PTSD. As a former foster care youth, I needed professional help to recover. Therapy made available through my affordable plan under Covered California made it possible for me to afford care, which *enabled me to overcome my trauma and pursue my career*. My recovery enabled me to get married, move to MA, and begin my career as an Early Childhood Educator. Without help, and without the ACA, I would not be so lucky. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Sarah Jackler

Medford, MA

--
Rei Jackler

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cindy Landis <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable Healthcare

My family patients 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,

Cindy Landis

Minneapolis, MN

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rare Beauty [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

I was healthy until 2006, when four carjackers held a gun to my sons head. I got out and fought them, and was seriously injured.

I was told I could not get insurance for my left leg and right arm, and that the insurance I COULD get for the rest of my body would cost thousands a month. I went without.

As soon as I heard the ACA had passed, I cried tears of joy.

I am now ill, but I have insurance, and I am being evaluated. Please don't take this away.

Don't victimize me, and millions of other crime victims, again.

Our lives depend on it.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: J. Ferner <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not support Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

Please do not support Graham-Cassidy. As a self-insured person with a pre-existing health condition, this bill is far too vague about how insurers will be able to charge or offer coverage to someone in my situation. I am not alone in this concern.

The idea that waivers can be granted, or that insurers can determine an "affordable" cost for insurance is unacceptable. Who defines "affordable"? Is it a percentage based on income? and what kind of coverage does it really afford us?

Please consider not only those of us who will suffer most from this bill, but look at the Insurers and related groups who are against the bill. Please listen to the pleas of everyone who will be directly and indirectly affected.

While the ACA is not perfect, it is about as good as it can be on the subject of Pre-Existing Conditions. Graham-Cassidy completely undermines this good.

I could go on at length about my personal story, what I pay per month now to the one insurer available in my county (Pima County, AZ), and the fact that the largest hospital in the area (Banner/U of A) with the premier cancer center, does NOT accept this insurance. I could tell you that I pay a high premium for what amounts to catastrophic health insurance while paying out of

pocket for all of my doctors, none of whom accept the insurance, but there are tens of thousands of people with similar stories. I could also remind you that your constituents will remember your votes come re-election time. You have heard all of this. I ask that you take it all to heart.

Please do the right thing for all of us and for the country. Put party politics aside. Do not support Graham-Cassidy. Go back to the drawing board and come up with a plan that really serves the needs of the citizens who elect all of you.

Sincerely,

Jodi P Ferner

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marcia Appell [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:01 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

I am opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill for a number of reasons including loss of pre-existing conditions. Please improve ACA with the Democrats.

Thanks 🙏
Marcia Appell
Teacher

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Bell [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:20 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

It makes no sense to pass this bill without a complete understanding of its financial impact on Americans. Please do the right thing and wait! Why not start fresh in a bipartisan effort? It will take time, but in this vital matter, there really are no points for speed. Please put the needs of the people above the politics of the day.

A very concerned citizen,
Susan G. Bell

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cliff Mintz [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I staunchly oppose the Graham Cassidy bill making the rounds in the senate.

It is not good legislation for America and Americans.

Congress must work in a bipartisan manner to either fix problems with the ACA or craft new legislation that provides greater access to affordable healthcare to ALL Americans

Clifford Mintz PhD

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathleen Quinn [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy debacle! KEEP THE ACA!

As a registered nurse, now retired, I saw FAR too many people suffer needlessly because they had no health insurance!
KEEP THE ACA!
Kathleen Quinn, RN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pam Gates [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

I am lucky enough to have healthcare through my employer but other members in my family must rely on the ACA for coverage. I have thoroughly read the details of the coverage up for a vote and cannot say strongly enough that this is a bad bill that cuts coverage to those who need it the most. This should be a bi-partisan issue that should receive the full attention of Congress, not just some members. I agree that the ACA can be improved upon but this version not only doesn't improve coverage, it will cut coverage for millions and millions of people. Do not bring this to a vote. Do your jobs and take the time to craft a bill that truly provides healthcare benefits for all at a reasonable cost.

Pam Gates

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Donna Narey [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA
Attachments: image2.JPG; ATT00001.txt

Dear members of the Senate Finance Committee,

As a mom to 12-year-old Cole, I am writing to ask you to please oppose the Graham – Cassidy Bill now before your committee. This legislation, which would eliminate Medicaid as a federal entitlement, would be devastating for me and many families I know. My son Cole has Down syndrome and Autism and relies on Medicaid funds for critical support.

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Donna Narey

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: RJ Moore <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO! to Graham-Cassidy

You know the details. This latest incarnation of the GOP effort to harvest the fruits of Koch bribery at the literal expense of human lives is just another weird proof that these are unapologetically evil people.

Kill it, not citizens.

RJ Moore

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Katy Joyce [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for the Record, Re: Graham-Cassidy Bill

The Graham-Cassidy Bill is not a healthcare bill.

Fix the ACA and make it work for everyone. Stop calling it Obamacare; that will make you feel better.

Stop punishing the American people as vindication for something you were actually involved in debating, before it was implemented.

Look at the amount of support the ACA now has and the amount of people who want to keep it and have Southern states embrace it. It's over 80%.

Thank you for putting country over party and doing what is right for ALL Americans, not just the ones you choose.

Thank you,
Katy

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Freeman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

IMPROVE THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT!!!
DO NOT REPEAL.

Nancy Freeman

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Why i oppose the Graham Cassidy bill

My sister depends on the affordable care act so she can work part time despite her chronic health conditions without having to resort to going on disability and not work at all. I also work with people with disabilities who depend on Medicaid for their health needs so they can live as independent and productive lives as possible. Please do not take away health coverage for millions of Americans were trying to lead as healthy and high functioning lives as possible.

Sincerely,

Bettina Mayer
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Clinton Hall [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for the Record, RE: Graham-Cassidy Bill

To the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my extreme dissatisfaction with the Graham-Cassidy Bill. I encourage all senators to vote no on this piece of legislation.

This bill would strip healthcare from millions of Americans and impact those with pre-existing conditions the most. Yes, the legislation text certainly says that states which opt out must include "how [that state] will maintain access to adequate and affordable coverage for individuals with pre-existing conditions." However, not only is this *extremely vague*, but using this sentence to claim that those with pre-existing conditions will still have coverage is intellectually dishonest.

Graham-Cassidy also rescinds the individual mandate and this results in less money for health insurance companies and therefore less money to cover people with expensive, pre-existing conditions. To say that, without the individual mandate, health insurance companies would still be able to provide across-the-board coverage for people with pre-existing conditions, is simply to show a lack of understanding how the US healthcare system works.

This bill is a disgrace and its authors should be ashamed of themselves for trying to pass such dishonest legislation. I encourage all senators to vote no on this immoral, heartless bill.

Healthcare should be a right, not a privilege for those with the means to afford it. Why should a child born with a congenital malformation have to suffer through medical bill after medical bill? Is it their fault for their birth defect?

It is time for Republicans to move on and begin working with Democrats to fix any issues that remain with the Affordable Care Act; sabotaging the ACA, as the GOP currently is, does nothing to help *actual people with real medical problems*. For a party that is so "pro-life," I think you should start caring more about people who are actually alive and less about a clump of cells.

All the best,

--
Clinton Hall

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maryanne Wilson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because
....
It will deny millions of Americans the healthcare they need

Please vote NO on Graham-Cassidy bill

You were elected to represent us not issue death sentences to us!!!

Vote NO

Maryanne Wilson

19038
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Hearing Comment

To: Senate Committee on Finance
Attn. Editorial and Document Section
Rm. SD-219
Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510-6200

From:
Sage Sollie
[REDACTED]
Boulder, CO 80301

Re: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing on Monday, September 25, 2017

To whom it may concern,
Please vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy Bill. The bill endangers the lives of more Americans than than every act of terrorism and casualties of every single war the United States has ever fought combined. The 32 million people who are at risk of losing coverage are not just a faceless statistic, they are our friends, family, neighbors, and voters. We need to be expanding health care as a human right, not literally killing people by taking it away. If you believe this bill is a good idea, I have to ask- how close would you have to be to those people who will lose coverage before believing it is a problem? Would you tell them to their faces that their lives are less important than staying loyal to the Republican party policies? Would you turn them away from a hospital because their condition was too expensive to treat? If you had to meet each of those people and look them in the eye, would you still be fighting to take away their health care? Lives are at risk, and I implore you not to murder 32 million people. Thank you.
Sage Sollie

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Adam Kovitz [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:57 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because EVERY CITIZEN deserves to be healthy and to be cared for should circumstances arise.

Taking this assurance away from them does more harm than good - most U.S. Citizens are highly resentful of our Legislative body having little reality on the plight of the common man (or woman). It's way too easy to make such health decisions for so many when you, yourselves have your own Congressional health system.

Your own "ivory tower" decision making has only led to more inequality between those who have and those who have not. It is a blight upon our society and it has got to end.

Perhaps YOU should try living off of Obamacare to get a better understanding of how it must be fixed (not repealed and replaced).

Adam Kovitz

19056
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Cattan [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:56 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: repealing Obama ACA

I writing to go on the record about the repeal of the ACA.
i lost my job and was diagnosed with breast cancer in the same week.

without the ACA i would not be able to get treatment for my cancer.
I would also, never be able to get insurance again if they allowed insurers to deny coverage to people with preexisting conditions.

seems a bit unfair. i have paid a significant amount of money for health insurance for my entire life.
they have rarely reimbursed me for anything, and now that i have a life threatening condition, if you repeal the ACA
i will be completely cut off.

karen cattan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: linda moorman [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:56 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Dear Finance Committee,

I have many concerns about all of the ACA repeal efforts and have repeatedly contacted by NE members of Congress who always vote against my wishes. This new bill seems even worse to me. I care about the people who will lose insurance and those who rely on Medicaid but none of this personally affects me and my family. What does affect us is our fear that we will eventually be priced out of the market once the states decide that insurance companies will be able to charge whatever they want for those of us with pre-existing conditions and will also bring back lifetime caps.

We are fair skinned people who came of age in the 70's before sunscreen was recommended. Both of my sisters had malignant melanoma in their 20's. Both are fine but regular check ups are essential and since cancer is a pre-existing condition, both could be dramatically impacted. I have regular melanoma checks given our family history but wonder if I will be able to continue to do this if this bill passes, given that essential benefits will no longer be required. I don't trust my overly conservative governor to ever do the right thing, either, so don't want my state to be in charge of healthcare decisions at this point.

My sister-in-law was diagnosed with ovarian cancer last year. So far, she is doing well but if this bill passes, will her pre-existing condition make it financially impossible for her to get the treatment she needs if the cancer comes back? Who knows? We don't because this bill is being shoved down our throats without hearings, without a CBO score and without bi-partisan input. I agree with Senator McCain, we need regular order.

Please do not allow this bill to pass. Healthcare is too important for this bad bill. What does it say about us that a talk show host talks more eloquently and has more knowledge about this issue than most of Congress? It says that you may not be doing your due diligence on this important issue. Please do the right thing and do not pass this bill.

Respectfully,

Linda Moorman
Omaha NE

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christine Molinero [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:55 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

Dear Senators:

I urge you to remove your healthcare bill from consideration and work with Democrats to develop a more humane bill.

I am involved with South Sudanese who came here as refugees. Many are typical of our fellow citizens who must rely on Medicaid to provide health care for their families. The preventative medicine and dentistry I see happening on a regular basis helps keep poor people of all ages healthy and productive, making our communities stronger.

Living in eastern Massachusetts is very expensive: housing, heating costs, food, and, certainly, health care. Wages are not keeping up by a long shot. We expanded our Medicaid of necessity. Massachusetts stands to lose the ability to cover a substantial number of those who need MassHealth if your bill is passed.

Please reconsider what you're proposing.

Sincerely,

Christine Molinero

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tracy Bacon [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

Dear All Members of Congress:

Please vote NO on this new attempt to repeal the ACA (Obamacare)

Fix what we have, don't repeal it.

When the entire medical community is against this, it is not a good plan

You cannot take away protections for those with pre-existing conditions. EVERYONE has a pre-existing condition. It is called life. If insurance companies are granted the right to not insure or to price those people out of the market, very few people will qualify for insurance.

Vote No please.

Thank you.

Tracy Bacon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Erin Rafferty <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

Dear Committee,

I have a "pre-existing" condition, and my health care is the only way I can function, hold down a job, and give back through my taxes. I have to put quotes around pre-existing because I think every human I know has some pre-existing condition--it's just being mortal. At the moment, I'm fortunate enough to have mostly employer-provided health insurance; It's mostly because I pay more deductibles, co-pays, etc. every single year. However, if I were to lose my job and this Cassidy-Graham healthcare repeal bill was law, I would have to leave this beautiful country. You see, I have a strong will to live, and if my country doesn't care enough about its citizens to make sure we're ALL covered, then I need to survive somewhere else.

It's ironic because ptsd, depression, and anxiety are supposed to mean you DON'T have a good sense of self or a strong will to live. However, I am well treated right now. Those are the key words: "right now." If I were to lose access to my psychiatrist, therapist, and medications.....well, the truth is, that would jeopardize my life. I'm just a regular American who likes waking up and feeling the sun on my face. Please don't take that away from me.

Sincerely,

Erin Rafferty

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elizabeth Zinkann [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:17 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Heller Bill

To the Senate Finance Committee:

Hello,

I want to offer my comments on the Graham Cassidy Heller bill.

It is a cruel austere bill which will take away insurance, security, and destroy lives. It brings back high premiums for people with pre-existing conditions. It cuts Medicaid payments, hitting those who can least afford to be hit. It adds an age tax for those who are 60. It takes money AWAY from the states. But you know all that.

I'm not sure that you realize just how many people this will hurt. By my calculations, it will hurt over 90% of the people. (I calculated that by checking how many people would be priced out of insurance, those who would get taxed for living to 60, those who have a pre-existing condition, etc.) The fact that this bill allows companies to raise premiums as soon as someone gets sick defeats the very purpose of insurance.

Although the CBO has not released any figures yet and they will not release the full report before it is voted on, we can pretty well guess some of the figures. Repealing ACA will cost trillions. People will lose jobs that the ACA created. Taking money away from the states will result in many incomes going down. That in turn will give Federal and State governments less taxes. No matter what party you are in, the little guys (like me) pay our taxes.

We are talking about lives here - some of them just children. PLEASE do not let this pass.

HHS should also be forced to stay open on weekends. They are trying to murder ACA by shutting down access during the enrollment period.

Thank you for caring,

Elizabeth Zinkann

Montgomery, Illinois

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: CHerron52 . <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:18 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Please vote no...this "healthcare" bill will put older citizens in jeopardy. Too old to find a decent job, yet not quite old enough for Medicare. We may have the most advanced Heath care technology in the world, but most of us can't afford it, we can't afford basic health care.

Carol Herron

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: nancy mellon <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:07 PM
To: gchcomments

I look for a gradual bipartisan Congressional effort to continue to improve the ACA. There is no point in repealing it. Health care should not be a an adolescent partisan football match. Every effort should be adult and constructive. Please stop the silly oppositional and unworthy nonsense foisted by a few irresponsible individuals. Thank you.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beth Robertson [REDACTED] n>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy Healthcare

Hi,
My name is Beth Robertson -- I am a small business owner in California and have been a happy recipient of healthcare through the Affordable Care Act for the two years I've been in business for myself.

My business is growing and I'm finally able to realize my dream of owning my own consulting group. But I'm still struggling as any new business owner does... so I need affordable health care. My family is a healthy family and we pay into the system so that we can be covered should something bad happen. We have tightened our family budget so we are able to try to make this dream a reality...

If I can't get healthcare from an individual marketplace that is affordable for my family of four, I will have to give up my efforts to grow my business and get a job with a corporation. And since I've been on my own for two years now, I think I will have a hard time getting a job with that gap in my employment.

I would like to see all members of congress make a bipartisan plan to fix what's not working with the ACA. I do not think it should be repealed.

Please take into consideration the lives of so many Americans who rely on this affordable option for health insurance.

Thank you very much for your time
Beth Robertson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: John Madigan [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: senator@feinstien.senate.gov; senator@harris.senate.gov
Subject: OPPOSE Graham-Cassidy health care bill

Two whom it may concern:

I write to express my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy health care bill currently being considered by the finance committee. I oppose cuts to Medicare and block-granting of Medicaid funds to states because the resulting budget pressure will take care away from those who most need it and, often consequently, are least able to afford it, which is simple cruelty. I oppose allowing states to opt out of Obamacare's protections for those with pre-existing conditions for much the same reason.

Furthermore, as a person living with a severe disability, the Graham-Cassidy bill directly threatens my freedom and liberty, and that of many other Americans. Medicaid is the sole provider of the in-home support that keeps disabled Americans in their homes and communities, able to work, contribute, and participate; realize their potential; live full, free lives; often, to live at all. The Graham-Cassidy bill would take that support away, condemning millions of Americans with disabilities to forced institutionalization - that is, imprisonment - for the "crime" of having a disability. Aside from depriving our country of disabled American's abilities and contributions, it would be a gross violation of their inalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Thanks,

John Madigan
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jessica Noel Stelzer <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy public comment

My family of 4 (2 boys under 5y) relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. We have been able to go to the doctor & also take our children without worry any time there was something wrong. I cannot afford market rates of insurance.

My uncle was without health coverage when he was diagnosed with cancer 3 years ago. ACA expanded medicaid gave him access to treatment and his cancer is now inactive, if never cured, and he is healthy & strong. He would probably not even be alive now without the Obamacare benefits.

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

Sincerely, Jessica Stelzer

Oakland, CA

--

[REDACTED]
jessica stelzer

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marilyn Kamp [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

my family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with affordability is that my income is just adequate, but with heavy medical bills due to several diagnosis I have, I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Stan Kamp

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Diane Miller [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care bill

Vote against this bill and keep the ACA.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Fran Moore [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because my daughter with cancer and health coverage through the ACA stands to lose affordable health insurance for her and her family. My other daughter has special needs and she stands to lose funding for services such as job coaching, and supplemental health coverage through medicaid.

Thank you,
Fran Moore

Fran Moore

19006
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Naomi Spinrad [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no on Graham-Cassidy

I am strongly and unalterably opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill, which would hurt far more Americans than it would help. I urge all members of the committee and the Senate to vote against it.

Every healthcare stakeholder - doctors, nurses, insurers, hospitals, patients - has opposed this bill. I urge all members of the committee and the Senate to vote against it.

There will be no CBO score by the procedural deadline, so none of you can say what you are voting for. I urge all members of the committee and the Senate to vote against it.

There's more to say, but surely this is more than enough.

Naomi Spinrad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ellen Wersan [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable Health Care

My husband and I are seniors not yet on Medicare. We already pay over \$15,000 per year in premiums for a plan with a \$10000 deductible. The proposed plan would allow premiums for seniors to rise even more. Do not accept a plan that is harmful to seniors - we have worked hard throughout our lives and contributed much to the economy and well-being of this country. We should not be the victims of a political crisis in which compromise has become impossible. The ACA needs fixes, but do not make it devastating for the citizens of our wonderful country.

Ellen Wersan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patrice Riley <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please protect my health care for my depression and PTSD

Hello,

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

My story with pre-existing conditions and disabilities is that I have suffered from PTSD and depression for many years and rely on health insurance to cover the cost of the prescription drugs (Zoloft) and EMDR therapy that have proved essential to managing my condition.

My boyfriend suffers from bipolar disorder and relies on health insurance for his daily medication to manage his condition. He's high functioning and working full time at a job without benefits, and right now we are trying to figure out how to factor the cost of Obamacare into his monthly bills so that he can maintain insurance. We live in the Bay Area of California where rents are astronomical and as the NYTimes reported last week, 59% of Californians surveyed are considering moving out of state due to the cost of living here. We are already strained financially, with the access to care that we do have. If that care is taken away or restricted, we will be potentially unable to access the care we need, unable to work, and just potentially dependent upon other social services, i.e. unemployment, food stamps, MediCal.

Additionally, my cousin in Massachusetts also suffers from bipolar disorder and he's barely functioning. He can't hold a job and requires care and supervision from my uncle. I don't know what he would do if he could no longer afford his medications.

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

Thank you,
Patrice Riley

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gordon, Rochelle [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Do not ask for a vote on this horrible bill that will hurt millions of people. If you hate the ACA, then fix it and make it better, don't destroy it and millions of people in the process.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gaston Vadasz [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:12 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Don't repeal/replace the ACA! The Graham-Cassidy bill is a broad-scale and deep disaster for the country – that's your country and mine, your family and mine. The new bill does not cover people well enough to be called "healthcare". It basically says: "we couldn't care less about health". For example, "You got cancer again? Sorry, you've hit your lifetime cap, there is no further coverage, and if you cannot afford treatment (which only wealthiest can), just go and die". The fundamental concept and purpose of insurance is to pool the resources of all, to help pay for the relatively few, if and when they need it. We have mandatory car insurance, and health insurance should work the same way, for the same reasons.

The proposed plan does not cover pre existing conditions, women's health needs and decimates funding for Medicare and Medicaid. And premiums will increase beyond the current astronomical rates. Approval of this legislative proposal would inflict harm and sacrifice people's lives in the callous attempt to deliver on ill-conceived and crassly pandering campaign promises playing to the biases of the basest part of the Republican base.

We can all see the outlines of the disastrous outcome, but the strategy to turn the plan into law, tries to prevent proper objective evaluation by the Congressional Budget Office, in order to avoid a storm of objections before the vote comes. Quit sneaking legislation past the normal legislative process – the behavior of the congressional leadership is both shameless and shameful. Accept your responsibility and work to make affordable healthcare a right in this country, not a privilege accessible only to the wealthy! Get input from all sides and let the non-partisan CBO evaluate it.

Gaston Vadasz

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Charter ██████████
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:10 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

Please do not repeal and replace the ACA. It is the best thing that has happened for my family and so many others. I have my own insurance thru my employer but being able to keep my children on it until they are 26 is so needed. I have 2 daughters. They are 21 and 18. Both in college now and both have preexisting conditions. One has had a rod put in her spine at age 16 and the other had surgery on both knees and has scoliosis. Both have chronic back pain and so do I. I have had scoliosis since the age of 14 and now have spinal stenosis, DJD and DDD with one prior shoulder surgery. The three of us are preexisting conditions and will have a hard time getting coverage at some point or wont be able to afford it if the ACA is repealed. I'm thankful for the coverage I have now and for the parts of the ACA that apply to my family even while having an employer based insurance. I work for a hospital and I know so many patients that would be severely affected for the worst with this bill. The patients who would never have treatment if it wasn't for the ACA. They are so grateful for the ACA.

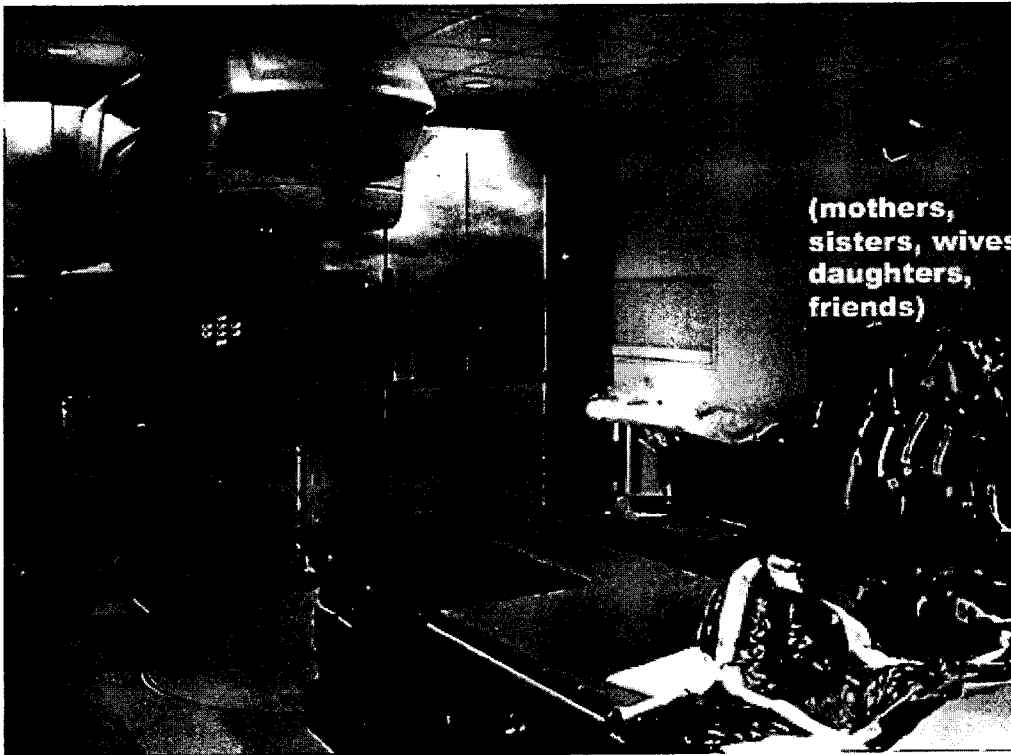
Thank you,

Cindy Conder

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sherie Wolpert [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:02 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: preexisting conditions



This is a photo of my radiation mold for breast cancer . In the back are the hanging molds of other women waiting for them to come in to receive their radiation. Look around you. 1 in 4 women you see will have this preexisting condition. MAKE BETTER ASSURANCES THAT I (AND 1 IN EVERY 4 WOMEN) AND OTHERS WILL BE PROTECTED IF WE LOSE OUR INSURANCE. DON'T LEAVE IT UP TO THE STATES.

Repeal and Replace was YOUR idea, not ours. American just wants a fix, not a replacement.
Sherie Wolpert

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Diane Bourque [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:02 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

I have health insurance. But can any of us be sure that we won't lose our job, have an accident and be unable to work, be diagnosed with cancer, have a parent who develops Alzheimer's, have a child with special needs or come face to face with some other situation in which we need assistance. I'm not. And congress shouldn't be either.

Diane Bourque
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carole Petrillo <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:01 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. Do the work it takes to create a health care plan that is for every American. Politics should have nothing to do with this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely, Carole Petrillo

Thetford Center, VT

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Toni Bell [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:33 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal would leave working poor with uncertain healthcare. My son has a B.S. Education, in middle school science and math. While he applies for permanent positions, he works as a substitute teacher AND as a part time dishwasher at a restaurant. He works more than full time hours. Neither job has benefits. If it weren't for the Medicaid expansion, he would have no healthcare. While he is relatively healthy, he has hereditary polycythemia, putting into the "pre-existing conditions" group. Brandon is only one example of my loved ones who benefit from the PP-ACA. Improve the ACA, don't pass this new and cruel G-C-H-J bill.

Toni Bell

17815
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Liz Rahner [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham Cassidy bill!!

Hello,

My name is Elizabeth Rahner and I am a social worker and graduate student of public health and behavioral health at the University of San Francisco.

I'm writing to implore all Senators to vote NO on this immoral, misguided piece of legislation. In order to move the health of our nation forward, we need to provide more coverage for more people!

Not only is it problematic that there has been no public discussion on this legislation, but it would be heartless and cruel to take away coverage for people with pre-existing conditions. Additionally, to vote on this prior to a CBO report demonstrates short-sighted cruelty and the pits of the nasty political games.

Please vote with your most vulnerable citizens in mind. They represent my clients, my friends, and my family members who rely on public coverage and have pre-existing conditions. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jamie Krakar [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Like Other ACA Repeal Bills, Cassidy-Graham Plan Would Add Millions to Uninsured, Destabilize Individual Market

This is an awful bill. It would destroy insurance coverage for millions of Americans. Please kill this bill! As a tax-paying American citizen who owns my own business, I buy insurance through the ACA, and I don't want it replaced with something that offers me no coverage. I'm in a better position than many, but I have pre-existing medical conditions, and before the ACA I couldn't afford insurance. Repealing the ACA just for the sake of repealing it, without something commensurate to take its place, is heartless and unintelligent.

Regards, Jamie

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ellen Hollin [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:19 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

I am writing to express my profound disappointment that this bill is even close to passing. My son is 34 years old. He has cystic fibrosis, obviously through no fault of his own. He is a college graduate, a teacher, a coach and for the past nine years he has been living at home unable to work because of this insidious disease. How would you like him to survive - our deductible could go up to over \$150,000, his premiums could double or more.

People with preexisting conditions are American citizens who deserve healthcare.

Why don't you do things right? Bring in all of the parties, medical professionals, financial analysts, healthcare providers, insurance providers and yes, some of the patients themselves. Explore all options and come up with a system that helps people.

You need to look in the mirror every single day and say that you will do what is right for all Americans, not just the wealthy.

Ellen Hollin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margaret Bauer [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:19 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: REVISE, don't repeal

I am fortunate: relatively healthy and able to afford the co-payments, etc. of the health insurance I get through my job. But a few years ago, I had a health scare, and when all the bills came in, I was shocked. My deductible was eaten up by just the ambulance ride. I wondered then, what do people without savings do? And if it had turned out that that illness was the beginning of the need for continued treatment, how long would my savings have lasted?

Since then, I've had a better understanding of how horrendous it is that the US, believed by many to be the greatest country in the world, a country that espouses certain human rights, does not believe in the right for all, regardless of wealth, to receive affordable health care--free when they cannot afford it at all.

Please don't support this new attempt to repeal the ACA. Please stop wasting your time trying to repeal. Just focus instead on studying what other countries do and implement single-payer in the USA.

Thank you,
Margaret Bauer

--

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: karen garrison [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:19 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

Health Care should be available to everyone, not just our wealthy Americans. This current plan confirms the Republican Party's corruption, showing its complete lack of principles by pandering to the Alaska Senator and its other special interests. Come live among the working poor, as I do. My best friend works full time helping children with autism maximize their productivity. She relies on the ACA to control her pre-existing conditions. If you repeal the ACA, you will severely impact her, her client, their respective families...

Sincerely,
Karen Athan
Observant Constituent of the United States of America

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:20 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

This bill should not be rammed through under reconciliation. It should be scored debated and presented under normal senate rules. The large number of people impacted makes it critical that it be done in a orderly manner. A majority of your constituents which includes all those who work in healthcare, healthcare organizations, a number of governors, all 50 of the Medicaid administrators, a number of businesses oppose it. Their opinions matter. When only a small percentage of the population wants this it should grab your attention. This specific bill helps no one but the major donors to the Republicans. Not an improvement. The ACA does need improvement so improve it. Don't throw it away

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sharon Cook [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:13 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ·NECESSARY AND MANDATORY CARE FOR THOSE WITH DISABILITIES

It is actually impossible for 90% of persons with disabilities to take care of themselves alone.

JUST THE HELP OF A QUALIFIED PERSON TO COME IN AND TAKE CARE OF A DISABLED PERSON IS EXTREMELY COSTLY. OTHERWISE, WE WILL HAVE JUST ANYONE OFF THE STREET COMING IN WHICH WILL RESULT IN ALL TYPES OF ABUSE FINANCIALLY AND OTHERWISE TAKING PLACE.

I REQUEST YOUR SINCERE OPPOSITION TO THESE CUTS.

Ms. Cook

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lynn Heady [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

If passed, the Graham/Cassidy health care plan will negatively impact over 30 million Americans. Please do not be responsible for this injustice!

Lynn Heady
[REDACTED]

As with any journey, who you travel with can be more important than the destination.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ben Dewey [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:03 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No On Graham-Cassidy Bill

I'm writing to make my opposition of Graham-Cassidy known. This bill is against the interest of our communities and citizens. It will make healthcare harder to get and more expensive.

Thank you,
Benjamin Dewey

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ilene Feinman [REDACTED] n>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:02 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA Repeal

This an ill planned, shoddily constructed, deeply harmful bill opposed by all health care organizations, most citizens, and many many of your representative colleagues.

There is no clear understanding of its benefits for the American people or its costs.

It is a sham. How shameful if the Senate passes this. But these effects will come home to roost in the elections to come when poor people and middle class people respond to the grave injuries of this travesty.

Ilene

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Arlene Schlosser [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:02 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

This is a bad bill. It does nothing about controlling costs and less money therefore means less insured. A medicaid buy in would be preferable. Saw Cleveland Clinic CEO on TV and he makes a lot of sense. There are a lot of good ideas out there, you just need to listen to real experts and not your big dollar donors.

I have no doubt that Republicans passing it will cause their long term defeat in Congress. McCain is doing you a favor, the rest of you need to follow his example.

--
Arlene Schlosser

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Melissa Dobar [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:01 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Please this is NOT the answer. And this is NOT just a budget item! Healthcare legislation that so impacts every single American, deserves regular order and process. How many parts of this bill are social policy ? Please remember the human beings; people; Americans that this will effect. You are threatening livelihoods and lives for what seems like a political move more than a solution benefitting our people. Our Senators need to work together thoughtfully to create a better American health care system and not destroy what we have. Fix it. Support the markets that need assistance. Recognize the people who will be denied insurance are workers, taxpayers, caretakers and who you are elected to serve. This newest attempt to repeal and replace is not good for Americans. Please believe we can achieve something better. Thank you -
MDoobar

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judian Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care bill

Please do not eliminate the Affordable Care Act! Before the ACA I could not get health insurance even though I am fairly healthy and run my own business. Because I am in my early 60s, no insurance company wanted me, or if they did, they had outrageous rates. You all have health insurance and don't have to worry about these issues because we pay for it for you. Do not take our health insurance away from us! I vote and I will never forget if you callously take away our access to good quality health insurance. And I don't mean poor quality (cheap) insurance that covers very little or else has a cap. Don't treat us like we're fools.

Thank you,

Judy Smith

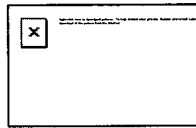
Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Niki Baker [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for the Record : Graham-Cassidy Bill

This bill is not just a slap in the face, but a possible death sentence for millions of Americans.

THIS BILL SUCKS.

Niki Baker



[foreignspell](#) | [shop](#) | [pinterest](#) | [insta](#) | [fb](#)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: William Kilmer [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Murder-

Graham-Cassidy is murder.

Forcing people -your constituents- to decide either to die or bankrupt their family and calling it a "healthcare" bill is worse than a cruel joke.

Do tax cuts for anyone justify this? Much less tax cuts for those who need them least?

William A. Kilmer

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: nancy [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Monday's Graham-Cassidy Hearing

Dear Committee members,

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare and understand that healthcare assures life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, especially for people with disabilities. Being pro-life means having the resources needed to stay alive and isn't the same as being anti-abortion. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. This should also lead to successful implementation of the Bernie Sanders backed bill of Medicare-for-all.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bev Groner [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: please do not support this bill

I am writing to describe my experiences with Medicaid as a former supervisor in Adoption Services. Many of the children coming into foster care, and then later becoming eligible for adoption, had needs that could wipe a family out financially. Without this safety net many loving families today would not exist. If we remove this important safeguard, we are in effect creating a situation where only economically upper level families would be able to adopt. (And I will add, there werent many of these families coming forward!) If you allow preexisting conditions to rule out or escalate the cost for insurance there goes the baby who might have been born drug affected but through early intervention has caught up with their peers.

This bill covers too few people- and honestly, if this were the health insurance you were offered, I think you would feel that way too. Thank you for your time,
Bev Groner

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Deb Parr [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill

I am contacting you today to state my objection to this terrible bill which I believe could cause the death of thousands.

You were elected to protect and serve your constituents. Since the election, I have seen no examples of this. The needs of the American people should be put above your petty, partisan politics.

Protecting healthcare is my number one issue for the 2018 and 2020 elections. Everyone I talk to is saying the same thing. Many are becoming politically involved for the first time.

The latest polls show that 69% of Americans are against your terrible bill. If you truly represent us, you will listen and stop this legislation now.

Thank you,

Deborah Parritt
Independent Voter

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Crystal Cawley [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

My family and friends need reliable, affordable health care. Most of us had little or no health care before the Affordable Health Care act passed. Please do not repeal and replace the ACA with the latest bad idea, this time the bill from Senators Graham and Cassidy. The ACA is not perfect, we know that from experience, but it is a step that moves us toward affordable health care for all Americans. It makes more sense to revise and improve the ACA through bipartisan efforts and I think that is what should happen next.

Thank you,
Crystal Cawley

[REDACTED]

Attention is the rarest and purest form of generosity.
Simone Weil

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sheryl Rajbhandari [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy bill

As a taxpayer I'm a believer that everyone is entitled to healthcare. I urge you to vote NO. I will be keeping track of this vote as I have done others and will use it as my guide for funding and supporting future candidates.

Thank you!

Sheryl
[REDACTED]

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: pbelford1 [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Disability Act

Please do not let them do away with the disability for those who count and desperately need this care. Many will be devastated if it fails.

Sent by an LTE device on Consumer Cellular

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gordon, Andrea [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: [REDACTED]

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 STRONG 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 does not always guarantee 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.

Help change our system to make it more caring and fair, not more biased and difficult to navigate. Help save literally millions of lives.

*Thank you,
Andrea Gordon, MD*

The information transmitted in this electronic communication, including all contents enclosed and/or attached, is intended only for the person or entity to whom it is addressed and may contain material that is confidential, privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure. Any review, re-transmission, copy, disclosure, dissemination or other use of, or taking of any action in reliance upon, this information by persons or entities other than the intended recipient is prohibited. If you received this information in error, please contact the sender and properly destroy this communication and all copies thereof.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: deborahjost [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Please do not let the GOP repeal the Affordable Care Act . The Graham Cassidy bill

Would

take away Healthcare From about 30 million people. It would Not cover pre-existing conditions. There would be more uninsured veterans and children. There would be massive cuts to State funding. AARP, Ama, Blue Cross Blue Shield And many key groups oppose it. It does not follow Senate due process. It has a discriminatory age tax in that people over 50 would pay five times more than others.

Deborah Yost

Sent from Samsung Mobile.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Bill

I'm concerned about the Health Care Bill that the GOP is trying to jam through eliminating healthcare for 30 million people! I'm also extremely worried about losing the option for pre-existing conditions and as well as Medicaid cuts! This bill is heartless and will kill people!!!!' Shame on the GOP for trying to bribe senators in order to get their votes!!! Shame, shame, shame for their deception!!!!

Pamela Amundson

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Rickert [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:03 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

John McCain is right. The only way we will get lasting, fair and effective healthcare, is through a process that engages both parties.

The current plan does not offer most Americans affordable healthcare. Passing this repeal effort will damage the Republican Party - not to mention the millions of Americans who need healthcare.

Vote NO and listen to John McCain-work toward a true solution to this critical issue.

Carol Rickert

Sent from my iPhone

requirements to provide preventive services without cost-sharing, and other protections. These waivers are similar to the House bill's "MacArthur amendment" waivers. When CBO analyzed those waivers, it concluded that in parts of the country, people with pre-existing conditions "might not be able to purchase coverage at all," and in states accounting for half the nation's population, plans would be able to go back to excluding services like maternity care and substance use treatment.

- Women's health: Like prior Republican bills, Cassidy-Graham specifically targets access to women's health care services by barring states from reimbursing Planned Parenthood for preventive health and family planning services for people enrolled in Medicaid.
- **Because it is being jammed through so rapidly, CBO will not be able to provide a complete analysis of the Cassidy-Graham plan. But it's clear that the plan would take coverage from tens of millions of people – just like every other ACA repeal bill.**
 - The plan's effects would be identical to the earlier Senate repeal bill, causing 15 million people to become uninsured next year and driving up premiums by 20 percent.
 - After 2020, when the plan's cuts to Medicaid expansion, ACA subsidies, and the underlying Medicaid program would take effect, coverage losses would grow. A Brookings Institution analysis concluded that at least 21 million people would likely lose coverage.
 - By 2027, the plan would cause 32 million or more people to lose coverage, just like earlier plans to repeal the ACA with no replacement. Once its block grant funding ends, the Cassidy-Graham proposal is virtually identical to those plans, except that it also cuts Medicaid for seniors, people with disabilities, and families with children.
- **The Cassidy-Graham plan would destabilize the individual insurance markets by dramatically increasing uncertainty and shut down bipartisan efforts to strengthen them.**
 - The plan would leave 50 states and DC to devise their own market rules and financial assistance programs — absent any federal guidance, guardrails, or infrastructure.
 - That means insurers would have no idea how the individual market would operate in 2020 or beyond, and it could be years before they knew what risk pools would look like.
 - In the interim, insurers would almost certainly impose very large rate increases to reflect the uncertainty, and some would likely exit the individual market altogether.
 - By 2027, when the block grant funding is eliminated, the individual market in much of the country would be at risk of collapse, as CBO predicted would occur under earlier proposals to repeal major ACA coverage provisions with no replacement.
 - For these reasons, a group of 36 current and former insurance commissioners from more than 20 states concluded the plan "would severely disrupt states' individual insurance markets, with sharp premium increases and insurer exits likely to occur in the short term and over time."
- **Senators Cassidy and Graham are also pursuing the an even more rushed, secretive process than we saw during previous rounds of the ACA repeal debate.** They've been negotiating changes to their plan behind closed doors and now aim to jam it through both the House and Senate within just days of releasing the new version – before policymakers and the public can understand its implications.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: adam bindert <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement of Record- RE: Graham- Cassidy Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Do not vote yes for this bill. It is dangerous for America. As an American with a preexisting condition I would be negatively impacted if this bill became law. I'm currently on a medication that costs \$11,000 without insurance. I have "good" insurance and it was still a fight to get this medication. Please do what is right for America DO NOT VOTE YES for the Graham-Cassidy Bill. Keep the Affordable Care Act safe!

Best,

Adam Bindert

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kevin Kopjak <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

The Graham-Cassidy Bill will be catastrophic for millions of people and the future of our country. Please do not allow it to pass.

kevin t. kopjak
vice president, public relations and marketing charles zukow associates
[REDACTED] • san francisco, [REDACTED]
(o) [REDACTED] (m) [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Deborah Sale Butler [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject the Graham Cassidy Bill

Instead of trying to win political points, we, the citizens, want our representatives to do their jobs. Kill this bill and get on with the REAL WORK of reforming healthcare, if that is your intent. If it merely the goal of the GOP leadership to "win" at something, there are plenty of us ready to ensure that your next win will not be at the polls. This is not the way to go.

--
Deborah Sale Butler

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: Adele Riffe [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Health Bill

To Whom It May Concern -

I am not directly affected by the possible loss of Medicaid, but I know plenty of people who WILL be affected in a MAJOR way!

*Take the homeless man who comes to the soup kitchen where I volunteer. He is a former Vietnam vet, who is just now getting the help that he needs with anti-psychotic medication.

*Or the woman who is working 3 jobs because her husband left her with two small children, one with a rare form of lymphoma and lots of medical bills.

*Or the elderly woman, a diabetic, who will be kicked out of her housing if she losing her Medicaid benefits. She cannot pay for her housing and her medication, too.

These people are not the only ones who will be left with no hope if the Graham-Cassidy bill passes!

I would welcome a BIPARTISAN Congressional effort, complete with proper vetting, to improve the ACA. Please do NOT repeal it in this most heartless of manners!

Thank you,
Adele Riffe

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Daniel McCarthy <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Pearson, Beth (Warren); Hurt, Nikki (Markey)
Subject: My Opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

As a physician who cares deeply about the ability of America's patients to access the care they need, I write in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill to replace the ACA. This bill is just as bad as the ACA repeal efforts that came before. 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.

Daniel J. McCarthy, M.D.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sue McPeek [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: McConnell, Senator (McConnell)
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

Dear Sirs,

I am against ratification of this Health Care Bill. I have an idea....make sure that whatever bill is ratified, members of Congress have to abide by those decisions for their own families. No exceptions. This bill doesn't pass the smell test. I have a cousin with pre-existing conditions. His parents rely on good health care for his survival. Please don't sentence him and others like him to death.

Sue McPeek

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Thornbush Catering <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy

The cost is too high. American people do not want this plan! We need our healthcare! Fix the ACA!

Jill Weiler
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bridget Hester [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: testimony

My son Joseph was diagnosed with having ADD ,OCD,and cognitive disability.Throughout his childhood he struggled ; diagnosed at 3 years old. When his father and I divorced it virtually left me in a financial crisis, leaving me with bills and no medical insurance. Than a friend suggest I should get my son on SSI. It took some time,finally he was approved. My son is now 20 and has a job couch through Portal Industries and a case worker through Care Wisconsin. These programs are essential for his development as a young man,and beyond. My daughter who is 6 was diagnosed with Autism at 3.She is getting ABA, Speech/Language, OT, PT,and Care Wisconsin benefits. As for her father well,he moved back to England where he is from, again no support. To take these services away from Children and Adults who need this, is almost criminal, unjustified. I can't even fathom who would even think of taking these wonderful services away. This is for adults and children so they can do things for themselves ,ex. my daughter non verbal, can speak with sign language, and is talking and using her words now. I beg,maybe beg is a strong word,I implore you, please don't take away and fight for Medicare and Medicaid. Fight for "our" rights. Thank you for hearing from a proud, single mother of her children out.

Thank you,

Bridget Hester

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: elizabeth storie [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Gch

Dear Senator Cruz and Cornyn,

I am imploring you to reject the GOP Graham-Cassidy Health Care bill. Although I do believe the local government knows the needs of its constituents better than the Federal Government, our state government has not been the best stewards of our health care dollars in the recent past. Our state government, in its fervent effort to rid the land of abortion rights has decimated the healthcare options for poor and underserved women. It has made a shamble of our state run clinic and allowed many medically underserved sectors to go without preventative medical care.

I believe that the Affordable Care Act was a starting point and the GOP needs to work on making it better, not dismantling it. I believe that without mandating coverage for people with preexisting conditions, the state and the insurance industry will work together, as they always do, to ensure the least amount of people are covered with the smallest amount of medical benefit. Leaders have said that they are being fiscally responsible, however it is a known fact that individuals who have health care coverage will seek more preventative care so that their chronic conditions will be managed as a wellness model versus an illness model. Speak to the MD's who have been seeing these patients, they will agree, prevention is the only model that will work with many preexisting conditions. It costs a lot less to have well visits and yearly lab monitoring than it does to be seen in the Emergency room with out of control diabetes.

Please remember, although Texas is a red state, the health of our citizens is not a partisan issue. You both need to work within your party and with the Independents and Democrats to come up with a better plan. This bill is garbage and you both know it. I am keeping track of how you are voting on every piece of legislation that comes before Congress. I will be voting in the next election and will do my best to vote everyone out of office that does not listen to the people you are elected to represent.

Elizabeth Storie

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kelli Harrington [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill must GO

The Graham-Cassidy Bill is a travesty for the nation, especially for our most vulnerable citizens. The strength of our country lies in the compassion we show to our citizens, and this bill is the antithesis of compassion. Please, please consider those with pre-existing conditions, those living in poverty, and all of our fellow Americans who need affordable healthcare to survive. If the Republican Party claims to be Pro-Life, it cannot in good conscience support a bill that would be a death sentence to so many of its constituents.

Please kill the bill, not Americans.

Sincerely,
Kelli Harrington

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judson Everitt [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

As a concerned citizen, I write to express my strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill. I have three main reasons for my opposition:

- 1) It is inhumane - if this bill becomes law, it reintroduces a serious risk that people could be priced out of their health insurance due to preexisting medical conditions.
- 2) It is widely opposed by healthcare experts - there is overwhelming opposition to this bill among healthcare professionals, including the American Medical Association and the Federation of American Hospitals just to name two of many.
- 3) It is economically irresponsible - if this bill becomes law, it would disrupt and reorganize one-sixth of the U.S. economy without even receiving a CBO evaluation.

Both the Graham-Cassidy bill, as well as the process by which its advocates are trying to pass it, are reckless. Please do not do this!

Sincerely,
Judson G. Everitt, Ph.D.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Adelman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Trumpcare bill

It would be unconscionable to pass this horrible bill, effectively taking away healthcare from thousands of people.

Please do not pass it.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:44 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for the Record, RE: Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Please stop using people's lives as pawns in your attempts to gain political "victories." Looks at the experts who have come out against this bill. If the American Medical Association, the American Cancer Society, Medicaid representatives from all 50 states, and numerous other organizations (I urge you to type in a simple Google search for these groups to see the volume of them) are speaking out against the bill, it is a bad bill. You are not the experts on healthcare, and my patients rely on the ACA to stay alive. Healthcare should NOT be a for-profit system. No one person's life has any more value than another's, and your bill marginalizes the most vulnerable and those in greatest need among us. It is cruel, it is the antithesis of American values, and it breaks my heart day after day to look into my patients' eyes and to have to genuinely question their chances of survival and a good quality of life if their health coverage is taken away in an act of political bravado by a group of rich, white men (who ironically enjoy the benefits of government-funded healthcare). Have compassion and integrity, be willing to put people's lives over political points, and vote against this cruel bill.

Thank you,
Tom Besade, MM, MS, CCC-SLP

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marcia [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED].com>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:10 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing 9/25/17 @2pm

The current healthcare bill you are considering is going to threaten the lives of millions of Americans,
My husband and myself have pre existing health issues. The states will be able to raise our rates and co-pays , or just refuse to c

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sheila Clancy [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:09 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

As a Registered Nurse with almost 60 years of experience I demand that Congress put aside their partisan pettiness and consult and be guided by the experts meaning people who actually provide health care and enact a workable single payer health care system for the United States.

Get tax breaks out of the health care bill.

For many years I was unable to afford health insurance with my nurse's salary as my children's father did not see fit to support his children. At that time I was paying over 49% of my salary to the government in taxes. Yes I still have my pay slips to prove it.

Make the Military fiscally accountable. We should be spending our money on our own citizens not on bombs. Health Care should NOT be a for profit industry.

Nurses are the backbone of Health Care, very underpaid as most are women, the fact that Insurance managers and pharmaceutical managers are paid obscene amounts of money is so far beyond disgraceful there are no words for it.

The job of members of Congress is to REPRESENT the citizens of this country. We need Congress to do the job they were hired and are being paid to do by the citizens not the bribes they accept from those who will profit from denying health care to their fellow citizens.

Members of Congress need to vote NO on the present bill that will cause so much damage, Congress refuses to allow women to use birth control but is willing to murder so many of our citizens.

We need to get single payer soonest.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amelia Miazad [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Test

--
Amelia Miazad | [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kim Bateman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Improving ACA

Please take the lead from McCain and open this up to debate and compromise. We need a solution that will stabilize health care and stand the test of time. Kim Bateman, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: nicole st. clair [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not repeal the Affordable Health Care Act

Dear Senators,

Please vote no on the Graham Cassidy health care bill which will repeal the Affordable Health Care Act and cause millions of people to lose their coverage. Lack of health insurance is extremely dangerous. Before the Affordable Health Care Act I was without health insurance for many years. I am very lucky that I happened to remain in good health. If I had gotten injured or seriously ill I would be in major debt now. I am lucky enough now that I work for my City, and have decent health care, but many Americans depend on the Affordable Health Care Act for their coverage just as I once did. We should not put their lives in danger by repealing it. Please demonstrate that you care for the well being of the American people who it is your job to serve and vote no on the Graham Cassidy bill.

Thank You.

Nicole St. Clair

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Katz [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

I am a volunteer literacy coach in an inner city elementary school in Seattle. My first graders are a diverse group of white and black, Christian and Muslim, Mexican and Filipino, Vietnamese and Ethiopian and about 2/3 are poor. They depend on the ACA for health care for their immunizations, dental check-ups, asthma medication, injuries and infections. If the ACA is repealed or weakened, these future adult citizens will suffer greatly. Please preserve it, for their sake and for the sake of our whole country.

--
Linda Katz

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Debbie Darwin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy bill

This bill will take healthcare away from 32 million innocent people. This is like a death sentence to many of them.

We need AFFORDABLE healthcare for everyone, including women, children, elderly, sick and healthy. This bill is a disgrace and a short term solution. What happens when this bill reaches its maturity? What happens to those people?

My eight year old grandson has a heart issue, a pre-existing condition. What will happen to him? What will happen to the many who have pre-existing conditions? I would say that if you are over 40 years old, you have a pre-existing condition of some kind. For me, I have a spinal cord injury, my husband has diabetes. If we were not on Medicare, what would we do? You are leaving these people with no other choice but to die because they cannot afford healthcare.

Please, we need a bipartisan plan that will work for America. Not something put together in two weeks. You are the ones who need healthcare as you are lacking in empathy and compassion. I am not sure there is any healthcare bill that could help you.

Debbie Darwin
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Paula Walton [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: HEALTH FOR YOUR CONSTITUENTS

For God's sake do your jobs. WE ARE YOUR JOB.

You have health care. Think about it. If you had to go to the doctor. Just go to the doctor. Nothing more with no health insurance. If you are honest with yourselves, you would be nervous.

What if it was just a sore throat and turned out to cancer. Happens over, and over.

Why are you doing this disgraceful thing.

Leave us alone. Leave us to life with health insurance.

And, I loathe every one of you refluckicans. You are disgusting, vulgar people.

Paula Walton

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] CO 80226
[REDACTED]

Most especially loathe Cassidy, Graham, (Graham, what a putz.) Cory, Cory boy.

That marble mouthed Kentuckian. I will never visit the state of Kentucky. Not a single minute in the state of that horrible, evil pig.

Loathe you all

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robert Lyons [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:46 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: UnAmerican 'Health' care act

I am firmly OPPOSED to this GCH act.

Instead of giving Americans a true change and a chance for affordable health care (we are lagging behind so many other developed nations in this regard, its quite pathetic to think that America is a leader of any sort on the world stage anymore), what I see in the GCH act are: tax cuts for the wealthy, gutting medicaid, exempting those with 'pre-existing' conditions--I could go on, though these are sufficient reason alone to drop this bill. This is horseshit. This all serves to enrich the rich and fuck over the poor and the vulnerable.

ATTN Senators Murkowski and Rand: vote no, if you consider yourselves patriots and representatives of the democratic peoples' trust. Shout out to Senator McCain for standing up for his people and his beliefs against enourmous political pressure.

Please do not take any sweetheart deals in exchange for your vote, this is not what you are paid by the American people to do. You would be betraying the American trust we have instilled in you as temporary representatives on our behalf. If you choose the gravy train over the underground, you are making the wrong choice for your political careers.

I am a jaded American these days. I don't believe that any of you are truly working for the people, or their good. You are all complicit in bribing and scamming each other for personal motives of profit and power, and I don't see how any good can come out of that.

Can I get a little help representing true American voices out on the hill?

Robert Lyons
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Everett WA 98204

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rebecca Winstead <win[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

No. Just. No.

This bill is a disaster. How can a finance committee have an opinion on a bill with no budget? Have you all had time to read and analyze it? Has it been vetted? Bi-partisan support? If you answered "No" to any of these, than I believe you know what your answer needs to be.

In the words of the broken drug war... Just Say No.

-Becky Winstead

84321

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lolly Schenck [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Health Care Bill

A heartless, ugly hateful bill. Why can't you people have a little compassion for the millions of Americans who need decent healthcare that they can afford?? Why are we practically the only civilized country without decent health care for all citizens?? You Republicans should be ashamed of yourselves.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ellen Toplin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:18 PM
To: Sandra Fryer; gchcomments
Subject: Re: Health Care Bill

great letter- can I share without saying your name!

On September 22, 2017 at 6:11 PM Sandra Fryer <[REDACTED]> wrote:


Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

I am very concerned about and opposed to the new health care bill that is currently before the Senate for the following reasons:

- It unfairly targets states that accepted reimbursement for expanded Medicaid
-
- The money distributed to states will not be enough to cover Medicaid needs which covers many people in nursing homes, physically and mentally challenged and developmentally disabled children and adults as well as people who do not have jobs or have low paying jobs that do not offer health care insurance - I have an autistic adult grandson who depends on Medicaid for many of his services.
-
- I do not believe that those with pre-existing conditions (a category into which 3 of my four children fit) will be adequately and affordably covered. One of my children just lost his job and has challenging health issues and another who started her own small business has been able to purchase good affordable health care insurance from a reputable company through the Affordable Health Care Program
-
- I believe that the lower cost insurance plans to which many senators keep referring will be inferior, have higher do-pays and deductibles and cover far less than the type of plan my daughter (the small business owner with a pre-existing condition) has now because of the Affordable Health Care plan.
-
- Those who are pushing the current bill talk about the penalties for not signing up for health care insurance in big dollars rather than the fact that the fine per person is very minimal which is why most people who think they won't need insurance pay it. Then when these same people have a real problem they go to the emergency room which impacts the cost of health care for everyone else.
-
- I object to charging higher premiums to adults who are not yet eligible for Medicare being as they get older - most of them have paid for health insurance for years even though they did not use it much and it should be there for them at an affordable rate as they age.
-
- Having taken advantage of a health savings account through work, I know it will not be helpful to everyone - firstly you have to be able to afford putting aside the money; secondly the paperwork involved to get the money reimbursed is too complicated for many people. How do we know that the amount they are allowed to put aside or the tax break will be adequate to cover their higher deductibles and co-pays?
-

- We have a decent income but it does not increase every year and we do not have enough to take care of our adult children's health care.
-
- We cannot take advantage of the tax loopholes that the very wealthy can -but see our paying taxes as the patriotic thing to do to invest in the future of our country and the well being of those who live here. We feel this way in spite of the fact that the members of the house and senate don't have to worry about having good health insurance and their salaries are automatically increased a good % every year - then many vote against it after they have already have the guaranteed increase so they can tell the voters they did so.
-
- I know that those of you who look toward their conscience and what is good for the people of this country rather than what will enable the lowering of taxes for the **very** wealthy will in good conscience not support the current bill

Thank you for your consideration.

Sandra Fryer


Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lois <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Please do not pass this bill! John McCain is right, a bill that will affect 1/6 of the American economy is not something that should be done without bi-partisan support. It is unethical and just plain wrong to play political football with the healthcare of millions of Americans!

Thank you for your time,

Lois Poole

Arizona, USA

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol McKinny [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy Bill

Title Of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017
Carol McKinny

Members of the Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing, I am in opposition to this bill Here is my story.

In 1999, my husband was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. In 2002 we were forced to make the difficult decision to uproot our family and move across the country to maintain healthcare coverage. The fear of not getting coverage because of a pre-existing condition was the overwhelming reason to move 2000 miles away with 3 small children. My husband and I both work full-time in professional jobs. We are upper middle class, but loss of coverage due to pre-existing conditions would still be devastating. Don't lie to yourself or the country that this horrific bill protects people with pre-existing conditions. Cash strapped states will be forced to be the bad guys, but the horrible end result will be the same for my family and millions more. This bill is bad, the process is bad, the motivation is bad. End this and start solving problems the right way.

Sincerely,
Carol McKinny

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jill Bishop [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill. I support a bi-partisan effort to fix the existing system. Feel free to rename it!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carolyn Goldhush <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Submitting testimony - see attached
Attachments: Testimony_Goldhush_Graham-Cassidy-Heller-JohnsonProposal.docx

Attached find my testimony of how the Graham-Cassidy bill with unduly effect my life -- and the lives of millions who share my medical condition.

Thanks for your time and attention.
Carolyn Goldhush

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Doris Schiller <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:14 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: save aca

Please do not allow insurance companies to return to setting high rates for pre-existing conditions. As an older adult this would price me out of obtaining health care.

Thank you,
Doris Schiller

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cheryl miller [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017, 4:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Protect Children's Health and Medical Needs, Especially Premature Babies who Later Grow Up

To The Senate Finance Committee,

Please consider the plight of children who were born premature in this country. Under the Lindsay-Graham bill you are considering, prematurity is considered a "pre-existing condition." My son, who was born 28 weeks at 2 lbs. and who dropped to 1 lb. after one week and needed heart surgery, is now a thriving 12-year old, honors student, violinist and All-Stars baseball player (closing pitcher and short stop.) However, he has a "preexisting condition" due to his extreme prematurity designation at birth and accompanying "lung disease." Under this bill you are considering, my son, like many children who were once premature, would not be given an equal opportunity as others to access health care at an affordable price when they are older. And without affordable healthcare, these children are thus born into disadvantage.

Regardless of your dislike of Obamacare, please focus on fixing what doesn't work -- and not hurting the lives of those most vulnerable. Please, as a member of the Senate, see your main job as the upholders of our Constitution and providing equality and equal opportunity for our children.

Thank you.

Cheryl Miller

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Fitzgerald [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not repeal ACA

My family members have relied on the availability of insurance and will not be eligible for coverage under the proposed plan. Do not repeal. Fix problem areas.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Theresa Potter [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:02 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care: Graham-Cassidy bill

Please vote AGAINST this bill.

Any "at risk" population, ie, elderly, infants, people with disabilities, people with chronic health issues will be left out in the cold as far as health survival.

Our Health Care Industry is 1/6 of our economy.....think about it. The Graham-Cassidy bill equals economic disaster.

Respectfully,

Theresa Donahue-Potter

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeff Bymers [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for the Record, Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

THIS IS A HORRIBLE, EVIL BILL THAT WILL TAKE AWAY HEALTHCARE COVERAGE FROM MILLIONS. DO NOT VOTE FOR IT.

--Jeff Bymers

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Louise Z <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Currrent GOP health proposal.

NO on making health care available only for the rich. EVERY PERSON NEEDS ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AT REASONABLE COSTS. It needs to be available and affordable to all. We are the richest nation in the world and history. Other nations can afford to fund healthcare for everyone and we need to do this also. Children should not die for want of medical care, their developmental needs should not be ignored because the 1% wants a tax break that is negligible to their life style, their ability to have housing, clothing and food. Elders should not have to choose between food&shelter and medical help. Women should not be penalized for reproductive needs and care. EVERY BABY today is created by male sperm and female eggs; that means ALL REPRODUCTIVE AND CONTRACEPTION NEEDS should be covered for and by both genders. Health care is a human right..... and like clean water for drinking it needs to be available to all.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ann Buki <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:28 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

....
it which will repeal the ACA marketplace subsidies and federal funding for the Medicaid expansion in 2020; create temporary block grants for states that end in 2026, when states can use the funds for a wide range of purposes; repeal the individual and employer mandates; create a waiver program for states that would allow insurers to charge people more based on their health and cut benefits like maternity care; and place per capita spending limits on funding for the traditional Medicaid program.

This bill would hurt our most vulnerable people, and is another mean-spirited, disgraceful attack on them.

Ann Buki

19341
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:29 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Healthcare for the Citizens of the United States is nothing to play with. I lost my first husband to Brain Cancer in 2009. Even with Insurance I went bankrupt after he died. It has taken me all this time to recover from that. Now I am faced with the same situation with my current husband who has been diagnosed with Dementia. If the Republicans are allowed to gut healthcare in the manner in which they seem bent on doing I will have no options when my husband digresses to the point in which I am able to care for him by myself. I am 56 years old and I see myself working for the rest of my life to ensure that I can afford to take care of him. This is unacceptable. The filthy rich are making decisions that will prove to make them richer and will harm the lives of the majority of American Citizens.

Sincerely, Sandra K. Quinn-Allwein

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE device

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Terry bell [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:24 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

" I know Rand Paul and I think he may find a way to get there for the love of the party"
Trumps Saturday morning tweet concerning upcoming vote . What about working together for the love of the people!!!
Fix what needs to be fixed! Stop trying to replace and repeal . Work together, agree what is and isn't working... Trust
American citizens when you work together things get done! United We Stand!

Terry Bell

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:23 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

To Whom it May Concern:

As you gather to discuss the Graham-Cassidy Bill, please ask yourself if this is truly the measure you want to put into place if you and your family members were bound to these changes to the availability of medical coverage within the United States.

As a retired teacher in Texas, my medical insurance totters on a ledge, dependent upon further funding by our state legislature. When I checked into the availability of other medical policies within the state of Texas, I was shocked at the limitations and expense of the policies. As I enter my sixties, I may find myself without medical insurance for a period of years, which could be catastrophic.

My husband and son, both self-employed, gained decent insurance under the ACA for the first time in fifteen years. They, too, will probably drop coverage under the Graham-Cassidy Bill. These men are the insurance companies dream client as they've almost never even used their policies. By undermining the ACA (or in the case of Graham-Cassidy destroying it entirely), they won't be able to afford coverage.

Every move the Republican Congress and White House makes to undermine healthcare within the United States pushes independent voters like us away from the GOP. My vote now goes straight ticket in order to protect the basic right for medical coverage. That didn't happen in the past.

Single payer/Medicare For All will become a political reality within months as the voters will select a new Congress and White House in response to bills such as Graham-Cassidy.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Abrams Chapman

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alexis Cottrell [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Trumpcare!

How about this? From now on, keep your children and grandchildren in mind when you decide to play Russian roulette (how apropos) with our lives. Is this the kind of coverage they deserve? Of course not. So why should the rest of us settle for your shitty bill? So you all can get a tax break? Yeah, no.

Be decent human beings for one moment of your lives and vote NO on trump care.

Alexis Cottrell

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tametha Tracey <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:24 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Reform

It's irresponsible to force a vote on the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill before the CBO can even complete its analysis. SHAME ON YOU!!

I am a woman who is still in her reproductive years, but I am reading articles that pregnancy could be considered a preexisting condition. Do you know what is scary? Being pregnant and not knowing what, if anything, your insurance will actually cover. When I moved from California to Missouri, due to my husband's job change, I was forced to change jobs myself. In California, I had been employed for 5 years at the same company, and my pregnancy was not a preexisting condition. But when we moved to Missouri, and I got a new job, I couldn't get a straight answer from my new insurance company as to whether my pregnancy would be covered. I had to pay for my medical insurance PLUS paying for COBRA, just to be safe. With Obamacare, I wouldn't have to worry about being financially ruined due to hospital bills related to a preexisting condition of pregnancy. HUGE RELIEF!!!

I am a mother of two adult children who both have ADHD and who are on my medical insurance. One son is studying to be a doctor, and he intends to be a surgeon. He will, obviously, be in school for many, many years. I am thankful that Obamacare allows him to be on my insurance during most of his schooling, much longer than would have been possible prior to Obamacare. Do you know how much the ADHD meds cost for my children? Without insurance, it is almost \$2k for a 90 day supply for the two of them. They would not be able to afford those medications, if I changed employers, and if preexisting conditions were again allowed as a way of discriminating against covered members.

I am, obviously, not rich. Do you have any idea what it's like to be forced to consider whether you should pay for your children's medication, or their college?? I have good children. They are both Eagle Scouts. They have goals in life. But they both have the neurological condition known as ADHD. This makes it difficult for them to sit still and focus during college lectures. Without the medications, they would fail out of college. With the medications, they will do well in school. One son, as mentioned, intends to become a doctor. The other intends to become an engineer. Do you see where I'm going with this? With medication, they will be highly productive members of society. Without medication, the trajectory of their lives will be much different. Does this help you understand why it's so important to me that the states (and the insurance companies) not be allowed to discriminate based on preexisting conditions?

Let me tell you another story. Many years ago, I had a next door neighbor with rheumatoid arthritis. She was young, maybe 30 years old. She was married with 2 small kids. She worked as a bank teller. Obviously, she was not rich either. She decided to change jobs. She got a job at a different bank, still as a bank teller, but she had better benefits, and she also got a higher salary. The problem was that she had a preexisting condition. She was forced to pay for COBRA for an entire year, because her new employer's medical insurance company REFUSED to pay anything on her rheumatoid arthritis. Let me put that another way: SHE WAS FORCED TO PAY FOR DOUBLE INSURANCE FOR AN ENTIRE YEAR BECAUSE SHE HAD A PREEXISTING CONDITION. How many of us could afford to pay for double insurance for an entire year? I certainly

couldn't. It was a huge strain on that family, and I don't honestly know how they accomplished that. I just know that it was morally wrong, and that it never should have happened.

Allowing insurance companies to discriminate based on gender, or preexisting conditions is immoral. Please do not allow us to go back to those very bleak times. Please do not allow the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill to become the law of the land.

Sincerely,

Tametha D. Tracey

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Candice Crigler <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:18 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I oppose this bill because it will mean people like me, living with Multiple Sclerosis, will be left uninsured and unable to afford medication. The average MS medication is 60,000 a year. You can not allow these people to go without medication. Without medication these people could suffer paralyzing spasticity, the inability to control bladder or bowel functions, vision impairment and hearing loss, and in some cases they may be unable to breathe without assistance. This is the reality for hundreds of thousands of Americans. These people are not less than or undeserving. Most of these people have jobs and are productive tax paying members of society. At this moment I am fortunate enough to have spousal benefits through an employer but this may not always be the case. We cannot afford to be dropped or have our benefits rise 16,000 - 20,000 a year because you don't want to fix the ACA. Please do not allow Americans to be harmed by passing this bill. Work together to fix the ACA for the good of this country and not for the good of the Koch Brothers or any other billionaires that want to see people suffer.

Thank You,
Candice Crigler.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Corinne Russell [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:18 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: health care

I have Medicare (I am 68 and worked 35 years+) and a supplemental insurance policy through my former employer. Changes made to ACA (Obamacare) will not impact me personally. But I have many, many friends and family who have benefitted from the coverage expanded by Obamacare. And before Obamacare I had friends who died from treatable illnesses because they did not have insurance and adequate financial resources to get the medical care they needed.

Affordable health care should be a human right in the United States.

Corinne Russell

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cklimchuck [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:18 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

I am a retired educational administrator with knowledge of family needs. I'm a mother, grandmother, care giver and legal guardian of a Down's syndrome brother. I also have MS that's currently well controlled. The cuts of GC would be devastating to family, women, the elderly and disabled and others I know. Instead of repealing and replacing, those we've placed in office should be working together to ensure that health care is available and affordable to all in each state. Fix the problems without destroying the good.

Colleen klimchuck.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Uhlich [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote NO on this disastrous bill

My name is Jennifer Uhlich. I am a fourth-generation American. My grandfather and great-uncle served in WWII, my great-uncle was a policeman, and my father served in Vietnam, where he was exposed to Agent Orange and has suffered long-term effects of PTSD. He and my mother worked all their lives as a carpenter and a publishing associate respectively.

A few years ago, my mother was diagnosed with multiple myeloma. Soon after my father was diagnosed with diabetes. Neither one of them wants to be a burden on the system, but the cost of my mother's chemotherapy treatment is \$19,000 per session. My mother gets by with a supplemental insurance policy attached to her Medicare that she pays hundreds of dollars for each month. The copays for their different medications run several hundred dollars more each month, and my mother drives 150 miles for her weekly chemo session. Their primary income now is Social Security.

This bill will devastate them financially, and it will kill my mother. I cannot understand why it is even on the table? The principle of insurance are that we pool our resources and the sum becomes greater than the parts. We already do this in all other walks of life: we pool our tax monies to pay for road, police, fire, our military, and yes, all your salaries. Yet there seem to be those among you who think that a smaller salary means you have less right to live--or perhaps that it's easiest to bully, molest, and even murder those with the least access to protection. The GOP wants to trade our lives for a Koch brothers payout and tax breaks for themselves and their friends. It's obscene. If I believed in Hell I would know exactly where every supporter of this bill are going when they die.

My mother is a person. My father is a person. They have inalienable rights and the wealthiest nation in the world would murder them for individual profit. I was raised to believe in the innate fairness of our democracy, in the equality of opportunity, in our civic duty. Anyone who supports this bill is un-American and should be treated as such.

With regards,

Jennifer Uhlich

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Emily Blank <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Please do not end Medicare as we know it. Block grants will be insufficient to care for all who need it in the future. Also, many have pre-existing conditions through no fault of their own, and cannot afford exorbitant premiums.

Sincerely,
Emily Blank

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sara Eldridge [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:39 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose Graham-Cassidy

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have a pre-existing condition, Hashimoto's thyroiditis, which is an autoimmune disease. I can easily manage it with medication and regular check-ups. Under the Graham-Cassidy bill, I would likely need to pay higher premiums because of my health condition. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

--
Sara Eldridge

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Terry Bible <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED].com>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

Please Keep the ACA, **NO to TrumpCare**.....Terry M. Bible

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Vicki Hanson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

At a time when this country and indeed the world is facing devastation from climate change super storms, the first thing the heartless GOP decides to do is rip away health care from the most vulnerable of our countrymen. We need and can afford to expand Medicare so that we have universal healthcare. We need health care not wealth care. Pre-existing conditions are a part of life for millions of hardworking Americans. My daughter suffers from psoriatic arthritis. It is a disease that has plagued her since she was a teenager. It is insidious in its devastation to her spine and her joints and the very lining of her stomach. Her medication, which would cost over \$6000.00 per month without coverage, can only arrest the damage. There is no cure. Her everyday is filled with physical pain and suffering. She has bad days and better days but NEVER ANY GOOD DAYS. As a parent I am heartbroken at the actions of the Senate and any elected official who supports this atrocious bill. We should be funding expanded healthcare and scientific research not wasting our time and money defending our human rights. History will judge us all based on how we treat every one of God's creatures. Start standing up for the American people whom you claim to represent instead of the wealthy donors who put you in office. I am tired of supporting rich people with the 40% in taxes that I pay every year while the Uber rich and multinational corporations pay nothing. VOTE NO ON GRAHAM CASSIDY. VOTE YES ON UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lee Viorel [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:42 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH

Dear Sirs:

Please provide the references to the section of the bill that protect those with pre-existing conditions from paying higher premiums. Please also provide the CBO scoring for your bill.

Lee J. Viorel

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Lee J. Viorel
[REDACTED]

Lowther Johnson Attorneys at Law, LLC
[REDACTED]

Springfield, MO 65806
[REDACTED]

Fax: (417) 866-752
[REDACTED]



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Disclaimer

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

I'm asking that there be no support for this bill as it not what is needed for the American public. It is time to put aside the "sides" and come together to create a bill that supports your constituents. It is embarrassing to be one of the last countries to not have healthcare for all. Shame on you for putting politics ahead of the American people.

Michelle Gayette

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Angel Desai <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject Graham-Cassidy's "health care" bill

32 Million Americans could lose coverage, radical change to Medicaid and diminished funding for every state.... you give it **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.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Wendy [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for the record

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

This bill is a joke. If Republicans truly wanted to improve the health care system in the United States, they would work with their Democratic colleagues. They would include women. They would find a bipartisan solution instead of harming their constituents to placate their millionaire donors. This Graham-Cassidy-Heller bill is an insult and a very real threat to the people of this country.

In short, it sucks.

Sincerely,
Wendy Hector

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laura Blair [mailto:laurablair@...]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Terms you can understand...

I am a gainfully employed, tax paying, home owning, middle class citizen of the United States. I also have a pre-existing condition I've had since I was roughly 10 years old. I have asthma. I take daily medication to control my asthma. One of those medications costs nearly \$300 a month and there is no generic alternative. I have been on this drug since 1999 and the patent has not expired, so there are no alternatives. This medication keeps me fully functioning, breathing normally, and out of the emergency room. I already take the maximum FSA available to cover medical expenses and as of this month, I've met my \$3000 insurance deductible already. I'm maxed out.

This the Graham-Cassidy bill will cost me another almost \$5,000 a year and who knows whether an insurance company will want to cover me. My case is small, inconsequential compared to someone with cancer or a congenital heart condition or a mental illness. If you have no compassion for the lives of people who have to choose between food and medication or medical treatment, then let me put it into Capitalist terms you can understand.

When my health care costs skyrocket, when more of my income has to go to covering medication and such, there is less of my money that goes into our consumer economy. I eat out less. I no longer impulse buy. I keep my car until it dies rather than getting a new one. You say you are for a strong economy and putting money back into the pockets of the middle class but I call Bull Shit! The economy is run on the backs of the lower and middle class. The people who shop at Target and Walmart, who eat at chain restaurants and visit local bars, NOT the 1%. The decisions you make keep taking money OUT of the pockets of the average worker.

This bill is horrible. If you vote for this bill, you are horrible too.

Laura Blair

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lucinda DeWitt [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:39 PM
To: gchcomments; Menendez, Senator (Menendez); info@corybooker.com
Subject: No ACA Repeal!!

One year ago I moved across the country to help take care of my aging parents. I was able to do this because the Affordable Care Act allowed me to get health insurance in a new state (despite my own pre-existing conditions) and the Advanced Premium Tax Credits made that insurance affordable on my reduced income. PLEASE do NOT take this health insurance away from me and millions of others. If I get sick and have no insurance, how will I help take care of my parents?? GrahamCassidy and all the other variations of Trumpcare do nothing to improve on the Affordable Care Act. All they do is give tax breaks to the rich. PLEASE remember the rest of us!

Sincerely,
Lucinda DeWitt
Whiting, NJ 08759

--

Lucinda DeWitt
[REDACTED]
Whiting, NJ 08759

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Hardy [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Linda Hardy
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Matawan , New Jersey 07747

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robert Graver [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:58 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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Robert Graver

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Vincentown, New Jersey 08088

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Caren Veder <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:58 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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Caren Veder
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Franklin Twp, New Jersey 08873

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cynthia Mullineaux, [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

Dear Members of the Committee,

I ask you to do all in your power to not advance the Graham-Cassidy Bill which aims to repeal the ACA. I am just one of the millions of Americans counting on the ACA to hold the line with insurance companies on pre-existing conditions and lifetime caps.

I am a 45 year old seemingly healthy woman who had to have triple bypass this May as a result of a heart attack I had on my son's 7th birthday. It turns out several arteries in my heart suddenly tore resulting in a blockage that caused my heart attack. This condition is not common but can reoccur in people who experience it. Even with insurance I am looking at unfathomable bills and the prospect of an insecure insurance market due to efforts to repeal the ACA.

We all know that lack of health insurance is a leading cause of bankruptcy. Under Graham-Cassidy American families stand to lose coverage and will be at risk. The ACA makes sure people like me cannot be denied due to pre-existing conditions and does not let them impose lifetime caps. I now understand just how serious those issues are. At the relatively young age of 45 I now am a walking pre-existing condition that any insurance company can deny if the ACA is repealed. As the bills continue to come in I wonder, "If not for the ACA would I have already reached my cap?"

These issues are very real and personal. They can be made political, but they shouldn't be. I ask you to remember that there are people impacted by the decisions you make. Please set aside the political and remember the personal.

Sincerely,
Cyndy Mullineaux
Haddon Heights, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rengin Konuk [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Rengin Konuk
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Princeton, New Jersey 08540

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Denise Waldron [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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Denise Waldron
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

West Collingswood, New Jersey 8107

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alissa Douglas [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Our Senators need to vote against this abomination. We do not need to be Repealing the ACA, it needs to be fixed by a bi-partisan group of people. The Graham-Cassidy bill would end Medicaid expansion, cost-sharing payments for purchasers on the individual market, and protections for people with preexisting conditions. It is unconscionable that Republicans would cut off productive bi-partisan talks to try to push through a very UNPOPULAR healthcare law while bypassing the CBO scoring process. We cannot let this pass. It is going to ruin so many lives.

Alissa Douglas
Homewood, IL

Sent from my iPhone

RORY, age 12

ABOUT RORY: Rory loves to draw and is quite good at it. A lover of anime, she taught herself to sing a song from her favorite movie -- in Japanese!

RORY'S DIAGNOSES: Rory has Autoimmune Encephalitis. Her own antibodies mistakenly attack neural receptors, impairing brain function. She fell sick suddenly at 6 years old and stopped walking, talking, eating and sleeping. It took two years to get a diagnosis.

CURRENT MEDICAL NEEDS: She's currently "on maintenance" and taking immune suppressants -- the same medicine people take after an organ transplant. The medicine, which is generic, has a cash price of more than \$700 a month. Without it, her disease could relapse.

WHAT DOES ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE QUALITY HEALTHCARE MEAN TO YOU?

Without access to affordable quality healthcare, my child's medical cost could top \$16,000 a month. (That doesn't include medical travel costs. We have to drive from Indiana to North Carolina to see specialists.) When the disease is active, she needs monthly IVIG, which is an infusion of donor antibodies, and it's very expensive!



HOW HAS THE ACA AND/OR MEDICAID HELPED YOU?

Because of the ACA, we don't have to worry about yearly or lifetime caps or pre-existing conditions.

HOW WOULD THE PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE HEALTHCARE BILL AFFECT RORY?

Rory's illness is in remission, but because it's autoimmune, it could return anytime. With healthcare coverage, Rory has access to life-saving treatments and the chance to live a happy, productive life. Without those treatments, she could die.

Through it all Rory has been a profile in courage. **She's my hero.**

Submitted by Alicia Halbert, Rory's mother (Indianapolis, IN 46220)



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Greenberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Health Care Proposal and the ACA

Thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts:

1. No legislation should be presented for a vote without GBO analysis, without public comment and legislative debate. All legislation should be scrutinized to make sure that, if the legislation passes, it won't have a detrimental effect on Americans. There has been no public comment period, no legislative debate and it is being reported, that the legislation will come to a vote before the GBO publishes their analysis.

2. The rabid desire to repeal the ACA, is not about making the lives better for Americans. Every version of this legislation would do incredible harm to millions. There are so many ideas rolling around about why repeal is so important: 1) the desire to undo anything and everything that happened during Barack Obama's tenure as President; 2) free up millions of dollars to pay for huge tax cuts that would only benefit the rich; 3) keep the marginalized and middle class in a position of powerlessness; 4) just a vindictive desire to hurt as many people as possible. Despicable.

3. I am on the ACA and the subsidies and not being rejected for pre-existing conditions has allowed me to have health insurance and receive the care that I need for a bad back and hip. I am 64. Most of my adult life I have been healthy and my premiums were used to help others not as lucky as myself. Today, I am grateful I can get the care I require.

4. We are supposed to be the "greatest" country in the world. But we are not. Leaving our citizens at the curb, without healthcare, without the opportunity to receive great education, without adequate housing is horrible. I want us to be a country who works tirelessly to make sure every child and every adult has the opportunity to be the best that they can be. We have a long way to go to achieve this goal.

I'll stop now. My hope is that you will receive millions of comments.

Thank you again.

Karen Greenberg
Solvang, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patrice Sallans [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy legislation

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

The Graham/Cassidy legislation does not guarantee protection for pre-existing conditions. It is more expensive and fewer Americans will be covered. Every American deserves quality, affordable healthcare and this bill will make that unlikely for those who need it the most.

Please do what is best for the citizens that you represent and not your political party. I respectfully request that you vote no on this legislation.

Thank you,

Patrice Sallans
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alison Mundy [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Please vote against this harmful bill! Bad for Americans.

Thank you.

Alison Mundy
[REDACTED]
Oakland, CA 94610

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: dianne krikler [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I OPPOSE the Graham Cassidy bill

To Whom It May Concern:

My mother relies quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with Medicaid, pre-existing conditions, disabilities, affordability, is that my mother is on Medicaid and has several pre-existing conditions. She is wheel chair bound, has dementia and is in a nursing home.

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

Sincerely,

Dianne Krikler

New York, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laura Baldwin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill

The Graham-Cassidy bill will hurt millions of Americans. In a country as wealthy as ours, we should be able to provide healthcare for everyone. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Someday, I hope that we can have universal coverage with a single provider like so many other countries have successfully implemented. In the meantime, please work to improve the ACA.

-Laura Baldwin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sam Salganik [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Stephen Brunero; Arcand, Erin (Reed); Crosson, Aida (Whitehouse)
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal
Attachments: Letter to US Senate Finance re Graham Cassidy Sept 2017.pdf

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

Please find attached comments regarding the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson healthcare proposal.

If you have any questions or problems receiving this submission, please feel free to contact me.

Sam

--
Samuel Salganik
Attorney / Health Policy Analyst
Rhode Island Parent Information Network

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

This email is not intended as formal legal advice. No attorney-client relationship exists between us unless we have signed a retainer agreement.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kim Hedges <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no on Graham-Cassidy

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare, every week of my life. Because of this, **I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill**. I have some very basic pre-existing conditions--I'm not even talking about cancer or heart disease or anything--but even those simple conditions would exclude me from healthcare plans on the exchange. And forcing people to live without healthcare is absolutely cruel. Such behavior is un-American.

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

Kim Hedges

San Rafael, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Ann Ward [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing.

Good Day.

I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I, like most people, rely on affordable and attainable healthcare.

This Wednesday I'm having bilateral knee replacement - I'm only 47. I am forever a "pre-existing condition" before the ACA I couldn't afford and frequently couldn't get insurance due to my knee issues, thanks to ACA and it's pre-existing condition clause I not only have insurance and am able to have my issues taken care of.

ACA needs tweaking not repeal. We need to involve WOMEN and Democrats.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email -

Sincerely, Carol Ann Ward

Chicago, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lynn Liston [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

I am writing to you about the proposed Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill. Surely this bill is not good for America.

With regard to giving States control over medical support funding, well, I am from Michigan and I know from sad experience that States do not always administer their block grants as intended. Michigan took its block grant for welfare to work and wasted it by funding programs not related to the intent, and by using it for programs that benefited middle class, financially capable students at private schools. The money actually spent helping the poor who needed help getting off welfare and into self-supporting work was significantly diminished and did not reach all the qualified candidates it could have helped if the State had spent this money wisely and in accordance with the stated goals. In short- goal not met, and someone not entitled pocketed money. I can see this happening when States are given a large grant for medical care- I don't believe it's going to help to have people living in different states getting different levels of medical care and I believe some of the monies will be misspent in poorly managed or frittered away in non-profitable programs.

Regarding allowing insurers to significantly increase their rates, this does mean that some people, the elderly, the disabled- will they have to choose between paying insurance fees and eating or worse, dying?

This bill is not good for America. It is going to reduce the overall health of Americans and impact on our economy in a very negative way. Sick people don't work and pay taxes! Sick people don't buy things! People paying huge insurer fees don't buy things because they have no money left over! People who can't afford it will not pay high insurance fees, or obtain expensive medical services, or pay for expensive drugs. This bill will have a very negative impact on our economy as people are either too sick or over-burdened by health costs to contribute to the economy.

It's important to look at the big picture. When you cripple a people, you cripple their country. It's that simple.

Thank you for your attention-

Lynn Liston, Michigan voter

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Stein [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

Hello,

I am a mental health clinician and I work with several people that rely on quality, affordable healthcare. I also know several people in my community he would be very hurt should healthcare not be made available to them.

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,

Lisa Stein

Petaluma, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carole Slucki [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: cls1a25@aol.com
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill.

My family relies on quality, affordable health care. Several members have pre-existing conditions that would deny them quality, affordable health care. 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.

Carole Slucki
Los Angeles, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sunshine Stevens [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

PLEASE do not wage war on the women of America. The Graham- Cassidy bill is heartless and short sighted. And, when you target people like my family with pre existing conditions (and uterus) you put a financial target on our backs. We cannot survive another out with cancer without reliable care. I am begging you to not throw us to the wolves.

Please take this into consideration when you review the financial implications.

Thank You
Sunshine Stevens

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Borucki [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:46 PM
To: gchc0mments
Subject: Statement For The Record, Re: Graham Cassidy Bill

Good Afternoon,

I'm writing to express my deep concern over this latest bill, that again, is threatening the lives and health of millions of Americans. As an expecting mother and someone who has spent much of my adult life to working with vulnerable populations, this bill terrifies me. I've seen first hand how nothing more than a medical bill can snowball into a much bigger financial catastrophe for those who can't afford it, often leading to homelessness or death. Before Obamacare, I've watched my mother, who was previously uninsurable due to a preexisting condition, get treated like garbage when attempting to pay for her care out of pocket, and experienced the same treatment myself when I had a job that didn't offer insurance. This is how people end up letting smaller, preventable issues turn into something much more serious-it's not for lack of trying, but because most doctors won't even accept a patient who pays out of pocket, let alone at an affordable cost.

The fact that GOP lawmakers are once again trying to push through a bill without a CBO review or any sort of thoughtful research says all we need to know about where their priorities lie. If those supporting this bill truly cared about the needs of their constituents over spiting Democrats, they would do their due diligence and wait until they have all of the facts. Charitable organizations and private citizens are already stretched too thin and should not have to pick up the slack every time the government decides not to do their job. I strongly urge anyone who is considering voting for this bill to consider what kind of value they actually place on human life. For a "pro-life" Senator to vote yes on such an egregious slap in the face to Americans (including those in your own voter base), that would be the height of hypocrisy.

Thank you for your time.

Jennifer Borucki
Chicago, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Freytsis Maria [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposing the repeal of the ACA

I am a Certified Nurse Midwife working with a Medicaid insured population in New York City which includes many immigrants and people of color. In my state black women are 12 times more likely to die of pregnancy related causes than white women and black babies are 7 times more likely to not survive the first year of life. If we ever hope to end this inequality and ensure health care for all people we must work on improving the ACA, not repealing it. Pregnancy and well woman care as well as mental health care are essential services and should be covered by all insurance providers. I am writing to urge you to put down the Graham - Cassidy bill and instead work on a robust bi-partisan solution that puts women, children and the most vulnerable in our society, first.

Maria Freytsis, CNM, MPH
New York City, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Steph Taline [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re: Graham-Cassidy hearing

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have been employed full-time since 2008. I could not afford medication, doctor's appointments, glasses, and most preventative care with my doctors without the ACA. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Sirabian

Brooklyn, New York

--
Stephanie Sirabian

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joanne Silva [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

My husband and I, as well as our son and daughter and their families, depend on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband has transverse myelitis and, because this is a pre-existing condition, could never get affordable health insurance without the ACA. The Republicans and the Democrats in Congress need to work together to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Joanne Silva

[REDACTED]
West Hills, CA 91307

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anna Moench [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear reader, if you exist,

I am strongly opposed to the Graham-Cassidy Bill. This bill does nothing for Americans. It's cruel. Stop this insane, costly circus of partisan garbage. Make the world better, not worse. If you don't have an improvement to the Affordable Care Act, leave it alone.

And just so you know, an improvement would be something that covers more people, not fewer. It would cause premiums to go down, not up.

I'm defining "improvements" as things that help people, not hurt them.

Another definition that I'd like to clarify for you—I'm using the word "people" to mean human beings, not corporations.

Thank you for reading, if you did.

--
Anna Moench
University of California, San Diego

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Virginia Peck [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:53 PM
To: gchcomments.
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Please do not pass the Graham Cassidy Bill. This bill opposed by almost all major healthcare groups including doctors hospitals and other health care providers. It has not been scored by the CBO and threatens the health care of millions of Americans. While the ACA needs to be fixed, passing this legislation is not it. It simply passes the buck to the States and pits Americans against one another. Stop this partisan nonsense now! Do you jobs and craft reasonable legislation instead of simply trying to get something passed so you can go home and claim you DID something.

Virginia Peck
Jeffersonville IN

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laurel Bell [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill! NO!

I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill! I am a registered nurse and I have seen so many of my patients gain access to healthcare through the ACA.

I am a single mom of two daughters and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Laurel Bell Perotti

Santa Cruz, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mira Kamada [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on ACA repeal

The majority of health care professionals across the country stand against the latest scheme by the Senate Republicans to strip health insurance from millions of Americans. Why are we being jacked around by corrupt, self-serving politicians instead of listening to health care experts? I am shocked by the callous disregard for our health by the Republican politicians in D.C. There is overwhelming evidence that their latest plan to repeal the ACA would be a disaster for millions of Americans--and yet they persist against all common sense and the will of the majority. Fix the ACA and move us toward single-payer, Medicare for All insurance. Every American deserves health care, not just the rich cronies of corrupt politicians.

--
Regards,
Mira Kamada
Fine Art & Graphic Design
[REDACTED]

Visit me online at:
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Brouillette [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: RE: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill because it will leave millions uninsured and lacking other medical needs. Aside from this, people will still need healthcare and the only options will be charity hospitals and emergency rooms which are still paid by taxes and they can only handle so much. Most are overcrowded already.

Mary Ann Brouillette

5
Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sylvie Anacker <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments for 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, Sylvie Anacker

Woodside, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Paula Siegele [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband, daughters and I all have preexisting conditions. We cannot rely on the states to continue to protect us from exorbitant rate hikes. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Paula Siegele

Lawrence, Kansas

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hunter Wallof [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:58 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.

Hunter Wallof

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Point Reyes Station, California 94956

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:58 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Don't Repeal ACA

I would like to see everyone come together to make ACA better, not repeal it. My 30 year old son has been in the hospital for the last three months due to heart failure and lung problems....he needs ACA. Repealing ACA would mean his death sentence. Thank you!

Gail Tremaine
San Jose, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Emily Navetta [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable Care Act

As a healthcare provider, repeal of the ACA would damage families, patients, and the health care infrastructure -impacting recent improvements treating behavioral health, substance use disorder, chronic care and integrated services. It is short sighted to assume proving less treatment will yield better outcomes, and those failures will need to be accounted for by taxpayers at some point. Isn't it better to pay out less now, while improving people's health and lives, rather than always paying for a crisis?

I am in staunch opposition to Graham Cassidy.

Thank you for your attention,

Emily Navetta
Groton, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lynn Lizarraga [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

The Graham-Cassidy will harm millions of people, and it will not even have the benefit of a Congressional Budget Office analysis. Passing this bill would be cruel and irresponsible!

I'm proud of my AZ Senator John McCain for standing firmly against this selfish and cruel push by the biggest political bully of my lifetime.

Lynn Lizarraga
Yuma, AZ

I'm making a bouquet, thanks for being one of the flowers!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mrs. Barbara Longo

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]errick, NY 11566

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patrick Williams [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.

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.

Patrick Williams
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Chicago, Illinois 60645

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: mike Kappus [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:58 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.

mike Kappus
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

San Francisco, California 94116

genes did. For the sake of my life and that of my future children, I need that to continue to be the case. Thank you.

Written by Claire Ziolkowski

From Claire's mother: Please don't pass the Graham-Cassidy bill. My daughter's life is dependent on continuing health care coverage. How anyone can in good conscience pass a bill knowing that millions of people will suffer as a result is beyond me.

Mary Joan Cepla


Vernon Hills, Illinois 60061

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Joan Cepia [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

What follows is a speech that my daughter gave at a town hall presented by Representative Brad Schneider in July, 2017.

Just over a year ago I was diagnosed with a genetic mutation called Neurofibromatosis Type 2, which causes benign tumors to grow on my nerves. I have almost as many tumors as I do fingers and toes. My doctors discovered this mutation because I started going deaf in my left ear and had periodic numbness that spanned the entire left side of my body and would last for hours. As a result of this mutation, I had a brain tumor so big it was causing my brain to swell and constricting blood flow through my brain. I also had tumors on the nerves in both my ears, causing my increasing deafness. I did nothing to cause this mutation, nor did my parents. It happened because cells divided to produce my human life and something somewhere went wrong.

I was 25 at the time of my diagnosis and in my second year of graduate school. I only had healthcare because of the ACA, because I was able to remain on my parents' insurance, which allowed me to seek specialists for my mutation, manage its effects, and have a successful brain surgery on a tumor that threatened my life. Because of the mutation, the tumors already present continue to grow, and new ones continue to form. I have already received 6 weeks of daily radiation to stop the growth of two tumors. I will, hopefully, be going through more radiation this summer to stop the growth of a tumor inside my spinal cord before it begins to affect my mobility. I will have to continue this for the rest of my life. If a cap is allowed to be put on how much insurance companies have to pay for a specific illness or for medical care over a year or a lifetime, if insurance companies are allowed to decide which preexisting conditions they want to cover and which don't qualify as "essential health benefits," if states are allowed to request lower coverage, i.e. lower cost healthcare, if the sick are charged more for the already devastating reality of their illness, I won't be able to get cochlear implants to give me back hearing when I eventually go deaf, I won't be able to get the radiation I need to stop my tumors from growing to an unmanageable size, I won't be able to prevent the tumors in my spinal cord from claiming my senses and mobility, or, I'll have to pick which aspects of my life are more important to me.

What is more, I just got married. My husband has a full-time job and has worked full-time since graduating college. I just finished graduate school and am starting a job very soon. We are hardworking Americans who were dealt a bad health card through no fault of our own. We take personal responsibility very seriously, but no amount of personal responsibility will allow us to cover my healthcare bills if the Senate bill goes through. The joy of preparing for married life and beginning our lives together has been hugely overshadowed by fears of how we will make it work if I lose healthcare or if rates go up and coverage decreases, let alone if we have children who inherit this mutation...it's a 50-50 chance. No married couple should ever have those fears.

I don't agree with every part of the ACA, but I am able to stand here in front of you, alive and relatively well, because the ACA dictates that insurance companies can't screw me just because my

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:59 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Many in Montana rely on affordable healthcare. After reading up on the facts. I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. It will hurt many people in our state. I wonder why we can't see a sane bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Too much is at stake to play political games! I believe we have to come back together as a UNITED States Of America.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Vidrine [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

I am writing in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy health care bill. This legislation does nothing to improve access to care, to lower costs, or to fix any of the issues with the ACA. It simply reverts to a system in which only the wealthy can access health care, shifting the risk and the burden to states (which cannot afford the massive federal funding cuts), to providers, and ultimately to the sickest children and families.

Sincerely,

Sarah Vidrine

[REDACTED]
Cary, NC
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: DIANNA JOLLY [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Can you absolutely 100% guarantee that not one single American with pre existing conditions, regardless of the state they live in, will not have an increase in premiums, will not have a cap on benefits or be denied benefits if this bill passes?

Dianna Jolly
Charlotte, NC 28205
Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jack Baker [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

At this point, I'm not sure there's much that I can say that will sway any Republican against this bill. Your party has decided that most Americans don't matter. Your party would choose to harm Americans as opposed to actually creating well thought out legislation to create a health care system worthy of this nation. All to score a "win" for your side as well as pave the way to lower taxes for those that need the least amount of help. Other advanced nations of the world have chosen to view healthcare as a right and have taken steps to protect their citizens. The people of those nations pay less for healthcare and have better results than here in America. You brush that away by calling it "socialism" and disputing facts.

You claim that this bill will provide choice when all it will provide is chaos. Pushing healthcare off on the states will result in 50 different systems all with different coverage. You say the states know better how to allocate resources than the federal government. This will all fall along partisan lines and you know it. Democratic states will try to take care of their people and Republican states will throw their citizens to the wolves, while Republicans in the federal government will do their best to undermine the work of the blue states.

You say Obamacare was forced through when it was available for review for over 30 weeks. Obama offered you the chance to work with Democrats to craft the bill, which was based on Heritage Foundation ideas and implemented by Mitt Romney. Your side made 160 changes to the bill and then none of you voted for it. There was over 169 hours of debate over 25 days. You have 20 hours scheduled for your current joke of a bill.

This country deserves better than this charade. You will hurt and possibly kill people with this bill. Do you care? I'm pretty sure I already know the answer.

Jack Baker
Mebane, NC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Meghan yoho <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repeal of ACA

I am a resident of North Carolina, which stands to lose billions in federal medical spending--odd, for a so-called red state with no Medicaid expansion--and was able to start my own business when the Supreme Court upheld the ACA. My then-self-employed husband has type-1 diabetes and my job provided the insurance for our family. With the essential health benefits ensured by ACA, I could start a business without fear of going bankrupt trying to keep his diabetes under control and prevent further complications.

Repealing those essential health benefits means my family stands to see our premiums increase by more than \$5000 annually; with family histories of cancer and cardiovascular disease, though we're both in good health, we face higher chances of developing those serious, terminal diseases. Our children's college funds would be drained if we have the misfortune of falling ill. We would lose our house and it still wouldn't cover an annual premium should we be unlucky enough to have metastatic cancer.

Repealing ACA in favor of Cassidy-Graham will hurt families like mine. We cannot continue to work for small businesses without the EHBs in place and would need to find jobs with benefits. That is no easy feat in this economy. Cassidy-Graham hurts people and business. It would be a disaster for us.

Sincerely,
Meghan Yoho
Charlotte, NC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lynn H [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GC is unconscionable

Taking away health care from 32 million people would be an unconscionable act of cruelty in the name of amoral ideological nonsense.

The GOP may well be signing its political death warrant. I hope so. I know a healthy democracy needs a principled opposition, and the GOP had shown over and over again it utterly lacks principles except devotion to tax cuts for the wealthy, and to deliberate cruelty to people not their donors or their benighted base.

So it's time for the GOP to be voted out of power and perhaps be replaced by a truly principled party that gives a damn about all Americans.

Do
Not
Pass

this monstrosity of a bill. If it passes people will die from lack of health care.

GOP the nation is watching.

Lynn Hauka
North Carolina

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: andy trot [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: graham-cassidy

I do not support or agree with this bill. I want our senators and representatives to follow regular rules and procedures to work on a bipartisan fix/improvement to the affordable care act. We should not be short circuiting regular rules in the senate to simply respond to high dollar republican donors like the Koch brothers, et. al..

Walter Trott
resident of NC

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Emmy Boyd [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Richard_Burr@burr.senate.gov; Thom_Tillis@tillis.senate.gov
Subject: Public Comment Re: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am writing to submit my public comment **against** the Graham-Cassidy bill that will be heard in the Finance Committee on Monday, September 25th.

I am 24 years old and a transplant of North Carolina from Tampa, Florida. I have a college degree, minimal student debt, and a well-paying job that comes with a 401K and insurance. While I am the picture of American Post-Graduate Success, the passage of the Graham-Cassidy would put me in physical and financial ruin.

My mother died from breast cancer when I was 12 years old, in 2005. Through the process of grieving the loss of my mother, I was diagnosed with an eating disorder at 14, and severe depression and anxiety at 15. On top of that, I am a woman of reproductive age and have begun the process of genetic testing to determine my risk of also being diagnosed with breast cancer. **In short, I am a walking pre-existing condition.**

In a matter of years, just as I am getting my life started, I could become a pre-existing condition. And my story isn't unique. **There are literally millions just like me -- some who are not nearly as fortunate as I have been -- whose lives will be thrown into a tailspin because of this bill.**

If this bill passes, I will no longer be able to afford the medication I desperately need to be a functioning member of society. I will not be able to receive genetic testing, which could cause me to miss the chance to take preventative measures to save my life. I very may become diagnosed with breast cancer, which I will not be able to afford to treat because I was deemed uninsurable long ago.

This bill is not only bad policy, **it is a message to young folks like me that will not even have a chance to achieve the American Dream that has been promised to us for years.**

This bill will have real and devastating consequences. I urge you to stop this terrible piece of legislation from moving one step further.

Sincerely,

Emmy Boyd
Raleigh, North Carolina

--

Emmy K. R. Boyd
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: The Engaging Educator [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Vote No

Hello Senators-

My name is Jen Brown. I live in Winston Salem, NC and grew up in Milwaukee, WI. I urge you to vote no for myself, my husband and my parents.

My parents are hardworking Milwaukee business owners. 10 years ago, my dad had a massive heart attack that changed his life. Complete with stents, heart meds and a better diet, he's alive and well today. Under this new plan, they wouldn't be able to afford increases because of his preexisting condition. They would be bankrupt.

One year ago, my mom had what she thought was a bug bite. A week later, she was in the ICU with MERSA and Sepsis. She almost died. Hospitalized for over two weeks, with a home nurse after that for almost two weeks, the cap that ACA contains is the only reason they aren't bankrupt today.

My husband, in undergrad, stopped a sexual assault. The would be rapists proceeded to let the girl go, and beat him so badly that he has low bladder control and will probably be on medication the rest of his life. 4 years ago, he almost killed himself from depression because of this. Mental health treatments helped him get back on his feet and be incredibly happy and healthy. He now works for a museum in NC, working with kids on the autism spectrum and students through Winston.

And me? Every month I would get so dark, so depressed, so upset. Last month I almost took my life, hitting myself with a board so hard that my legs were bruised for weeks, my hand was fractured and I tore through my heel pad. I was diagnosed with PMDD, and depression. I've been on Zoloft for almost a month now, and this is the first time in years I haven't wanted to hurt myself or thought that I'm just not worth it. I now have a preexisting condition. Healthy until you aren't. And now I'm finally healthy again.

One day, my husband and I want to have kids. We work in public service-him at the museum and me helping people interview for jobs and focus their communication skills. We don't make enough to cover the increase. Please, vote no. The ACA has done SO much for my family. It's saved us from bankruptcy, saved my life. If I wasn't insured? I wouldn't have seen my doctor. Without those wellness visits? I wouldn't have known what was happening with my body and I fear what would have happened this month, or next or next.

Please, vote no. Please, have compassion. Please, work together with Democrats to make things better, not worse, for the American people.

Best,
Jen Oleniczak Brown

Sent from a tiny, futuristic computer. Please excuse typos.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tamie Stewart [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA replacement

I literally would have died without the ACA. Through the ACA, I was finally able to get reasonable health coverage.

Through routine medical tests, it was discovered that I had endometrial cancer. Luckily, it was caught early and the cancer (and my uterus) was removed with a complete hysterectomy.

Without affordable healthcare, I wouldn't have had those tests and the cancer would have spread and I would have died. There is no question about that.

This country desperately need affordable healthcare.

This Graham Cassidy bill is bad for America and for Americans.

Tamie Yukiko Stewart

[REDACTED]
Cedar Creek, TX 78612

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: NA NA [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Please do not believe that this bill is the answer. There is no such thing as a perfect system, but for the past several years, for the first time in many, I have affordable health insurance. For the last 45 years I have worked full time, and I have never taken a single welfare check, unemployment check, or food stamp from the government.

From what I have read of this bill, since I have pre-existing conditions and am older, I will mostly likely have to lose my insurance because they either won't write me (like they did before ACA) or the premiums will be untenable. Given my current health issues, I would likely have to quit my job and go on welfare in order to get Medicaid in order to survive. THAT is untenable.

I don't presume to have the answers but I do know ACA has been a Godsend, and Graham Cassidy will do more harm than good.

Joyce Martin

New Orleans, Louisiana

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ann Flaherty [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No on Graham Cassidy Bill

Senate Finance Committee Members,

Please be vigilant in protecting our most vulnerable neighbors. America's constituency is made up of an eclectic group that includes people with disabilities, people who rely on services provided through Medicaid.

Why Republican legislators has taken a stand against this population cannot be fathomed. Even the majority of Republican Party members are against this action.


Block grants with little oversight will become muddied in states like North Carolina where we have to fight for every service.

Our teen with IDD relies on Medicaid services and is on a waiting list for many of the supports he needs. This waiting list is made up of thousands of people with disabilities. Passing this bill will make it impossible for many of them to realize some semblance of meaningful living.

Who are you to decide that their lives are not meaningful enough to provide adequate, if not comprehensive, supports and services?

Remember, every one of your constituents knows some with a disability. And we ALL will be voting.

Ann Flaherty
Harnett County, NC

--


Ann Flaherty
[REDACTED]
Sanford, NC 27332

[REDACTED]
Ph: [REDACTED]
Fx: [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: timothy mcentire [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote "No".

Vote "no" for the regard of human beings and not just repealing something. Vote "no" because life is more important than money. Vote "no" because of what Jesus would do, not your constituency. Vote "no" because a guy like me who is the Executive Director of a nursing home can see what this will do to every face I see every single day who depends on me and my staff to keep them safe, well, and protected. I come to work each day to keep them well, safe, and protected. You should too.

Tim McEntire, BS MA LHA
Oak Grove Health Care Center
[REDACTED]
Rutherfordton NC 28139
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone 7+

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Debby McGovern [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy

Over the past 7 years we have listened to the Republicans talk about repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act. Yes, there are things that are terribly wrong with the bill as it exists but much of what is wrong is because Republicans have set about starving the bill as it exists.

As an insurance professional, I understand that insurance works when there is a large group and the risks are shared among all. There is no reason to think that this legislation will improve anything that people are dealing with today. Hospitals, which are required to attend the emergencies that present are reimbursed for those emergencies under the ACA but with repeal they will again be called on to handle these emergencies without reimbursement and the closing of small rural hospitals will grow, making healthcare virtually unavailable.

It is unreasonable to assume that states, with block grants for healthcare will choose to make sure that pre-existing conditions, lifetime maximums, essential benefits will be available, AT AN AFFORDABLE rate. Many states, (Republican) did not expand medicaid so why would they provide coverage now? And it is the most ridiculous argument that the states which did expand Medicaid are using the most resources, of course they are and South Carolina (Senator Graham's state) could have expanded Medicaid but did not. So now, the idea that this bill will strip the states who were actually concerned with the health of their citizens is craven.

This is too important for the Republican party to push through without any support of those in the Democratic party is nonsense. This should be thought out and implemented with the full knowledge of the American electorate.

Deborah McGovern



Pinehurst, NC 28374

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Betsy MacMichael [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My concerns about the Graham Cassidy Bill
Attachments: DC StoryPics31717JanieFinal.pdf

I am deeply concerned about the impact this Bill if passed will have on people with developmental disabilities, such as my daughter Janie, who is 25. She benefits greatly from a modest amount of long term services and supports through the Medicaid waiver. Such services help her be more independent, volunteer in the community, and live in a regular apartment as opposed to a licensed, costly group home. Block grants and capitated services will not work for people like my daughter. Please help this devastating bill not pass. I am attaching a short story about my daughter that elaborates more on these points. Thank you for your assistance. Betsy MacMichael [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jessica Stringer [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:14 PM
To: gchcomments

I am a 30-year-old resident of North Carolina who will make a decision in a few years to either have children or not. It's a hard decision that should be made with a lot of factors in mind. Sure, everyone has seen the costs related to raising a child and sending them to college, but never did I think that such a cruel health care plan would make that decision for me. Republicans care so much about the unborn when it suits them – but they don't think for a minute how many folks like me will not be able to have families if this bill passes. I cannot afford to have a family if it passes with the rates insurers will be able to charge for delivery of a health baby.

Shame on you, Republicans, for considering this bill for me and also for the millions of Americans that will lose coverage.

Jessica Stringer
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

From: Betsy MacMichael, Durham NC, 27701; [REDACTED]



My daughter, Jane, is 24 years old, and experiences cerebral palsy, developmental disability and is also legally blind. **We raised her to work hard, be independent, believe in her abilities and contribute to her community -- just like her big sister.**

Unlike her sister, however, Jane needed structural support through programs like Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Medicaid and others to help build the scaffolding of success.

Jane has been enormously successful, thanks to hard work, tenacity... and Medicaid.

Jane graduated from UNC-Greensboro's Beyond Academics, a post secondary education program an hour's drive from our home, having never slept alone when she first left. Medicaid provided:

- *Daily support workers* to build targeted independent living skills, including financial management, food shopping and prep, and health communication skills
- *Physical health care* that effectively treated phlebitis, several infections, and a burn

Now, she lives in an apartment with a housemate also with disabilities.

Medicaid is cost-effective. These modest Medicaid waiver supports keep Jane out of a costly, licensed facility.

Jane has two jobs. She works at Bull City Veterinary Clinic wiping down exam tables and de-furring waiting room seats, and the Durham Animal Shelter socializing kittens for adoptions. Medicaid provides:

- *Accessible transportation* to her work
- *Pre-Employment supports* to build job skills and achieve greater independence

She gives back to her community. Jane is a two-year member of the Durham Citizens Emergency



Response Team (CERT), where she is trained to mobilize with First Responders to assist during catastrophic events. She also trains First Responders to efficiently and effectively meet the needs of the disability community during times of crisis. In her remaining free time, she also volunteers at a local community center, purchasing and organizing the food they prepare to make lunches for program participants.

- *Medicaid waiver services are an investment in the community.* A fraction of the cost of congregate care, and Jane is not the only one benefitting.

Without Medicaid?

- *Costly, segregated living environment:* Janie would likely live in a more restricted, costly setting, doing less, contributing less, certainly not working. But even funding for these settings would be uncertain.
- *Compromised health, crisis care:* Jane requires a skilled level of support and health care to maintain health and reduce costly, often avoidable health crises.
- *Parental unemployment or underemployment:* We parents both work hard and hold full-time, managerial roles in two local businesses. Without Medicaid we would be forced to limit our participation in the workforce to support Jane's needs. But how long will that last? We are *aging caregivers*.
- *Financial instability.* We have built a solid plan – including significant investment of our own resources – to ensure Janie will have the supports she needs to be successful. But even with years of living frugally, saving when we can, and preparing to take care of daughter long after we die, Jane still needs health coverage and daily supports, something only Medicaid can provide.



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stella Sieber [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Health Care Plan

Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I have been a bilateral above-the-knee amputee since July 2001, when I was struck by a car while acting as a Good Samaritan. I continue to work full-time, and lead a local active amputee support group. I am writing because the Graham-Cassidy Health Care Plan will hurt me and all individuals living with limb loss/difference in the United States. Let me state the importance of this issue clearly: *I will not vote in the midterm and next presidential election for any Representative or Senator who supports this bill.*

I have studied the effect of this bill since it became public. The impact it would have on amputees like me would be catastrophic.

- 1. Graham-Cassidy will allow insurers to assert annual and lifetime caps on prostheses.** Currently, all 50 states consider prosthetics an essential health benefit, but that would change under Graham-Cassidy. In states where prosthetics lose essential health benefit status, amputees will be subjected to annual and/or lifetime caps that render the insurance we pay premiums for useless. This will put the devices that we depend on to take every step and to open every door financially out of reach for many amputees. Alternatively, insurers can simply choose to offer policies that provide no coverage for prosthetics at all. This amounts to tacit federal sanctioning of discrimination against amputees. It is unacceptable.
- 2. Graham-Cassidy will permit insurers to discriminate against individuals with pre-existing conditions.** While Senators Graham and Cassidy insist that the prohibition against pre-existing condition exclusions will remain in effect under their proposal, they ignore the fact that the bill simultaneously gives insurers the right to charge higher premiums to people with pre-existing conditions. I urge you to look beyond the political spin and examine the actual *effect* of this change. People like me will suddenly see their premiums explode because we have a pre-existing condition; for many Americans with limb loss, this will be a financial burden they simply cannot bear, and they will fall into the ranks of the uninsured, unable to receive *any* prosthetic care and treatment. Not only is this bad from a moral and ethical standpoint, it is also a shortsighted economic decision. *Because of* our current access to quality prosthetic care and treatment, millions of amputees in the U.S. live active, productive lives. Relegating us to crutches and wheelchairs will cost the government money in the long run.
- 3. Graham-Cassidy will result in an explosion of uninsured Americans.** While current indications are that the Senate majority is willing to put this bill up for a vote without a CBO score, The Commonwealth Fund has published a preliminary analysis of the effects of Graham-Cassidy. It concludes that over the next 10 years, more than 30 *million* Americans will lose access to health insurance as a result of this ill-conceived proposal. Again, this is not acceptable.

I cannot say it strongly or plainly enough: Graham-Cassidy is bad politics, bad politics, and it will do incalculable damage to Americans with disabilities generally and amputees like me specifically. Instead, I urge Congress to follow the bipartisan efforts of some in the Senate and of numerous state governors: work together to fix the issues that everyone – Democrat, Republican, and Independent – freely acknowledge exist with the health care system.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my point of view on this critically important issue. I will be watching and voting in 2018 and beyond based on what happens in Washington over the next week.

Very truly yours,

Stella Sieber

Durham, NC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: demetrue [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:43 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham Cassidy bill!

I have diabetes and my mom is 79 on medicare with cancer. We may lose coverage in NC and we can't move. Fix ACA or move to single payer, universal coverage. Millions of people are going to lose health insurance and many will die. That's not the America I grew up in. We. Are better than this.
Mrs. Demetra Dunlop

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Wanda Curley [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not oppose or cap Medicaid

To whom it may concern:

I live in North Carolina and am the son of a 25 year young man with severe autism. He has made progress through the years mainly due to behavioral therapies and interventions, many of which were paid for by community services funded through Medicaid. I implore you not to agree to any further cuts or caps to Medicaid services. The harm that you will bring to so many individuals like my son is just incomprehensible. I urge you to work on a bipartisan effort to increase services to individuals with autism who so desperately need them. If services are cut or capped at this point, I fear we will see a tsunami of sorts down the line. As an advocate for families, I can assure you that if we don't expand services, we will be looking at much higher costs of institutional care down the line, which will be much more expensive and less cost effective than the services they so desperately need now.

Respectfully yours,
Wanda Curley
[REDACTED]
Greensboro, NC 27410

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ellen Bashore-Elley [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:38 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I am very concerned about proposed cuts to Medicaid for people with disabilities.

People on Medicaid, including those with lifelong disabilities have extremely limited access to health care as it is.

Once a person turns 19 they no longer have dental insurance to cover things like routine teeth cleaning. Even though studies have shown that regular dental care is beneficial at keeping the entire body healthy.

Medicaid doesn't pay for speech therapy, even though people with disabilities need to be able to communicate to advocate for their own health and well being, and yet avenues to improve their speech are cut off and must be paid out of a very small pocket

The Innovations waitlist is very long, and it is not a first come, first served system. If funds are cut people who have been waitlisted for years are forced to wait even longer to get access to services they need. This potentially places them in vulnerable situations while they wait.

North Carolina can and should do better for its most vulnerable citizens. Those who have supportive families do their best to provide for their loved ones, but the on-going costs for medical care, adaptive equipment, and child or adult care often puts the rest of the family at risk for falling into poverty as well.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,
Ellen Bashore-Elley

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Emily Farmer [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:36 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Amendment

Senators:

As the mother of a son with type 1 diabetes, as the mother of a daughter with autism, as an RN who has seen first hand what the lack of health insurance does to people's access to health care, I am begging you to think first of the people and vote against the truly awful Graham-Cassidy amendment.

Because of health insurance, my son has been able to get the care he needs for his diabetes and has now just been awarded his PhD from Columbia University. He is a productive member of society who I know will give back so much more than he has received.

My daughter spent the past 6 years at the state hospital but, because of a Medicaid Innovations Waiver, is now able to live in the community with supports. She is volunteering twice a week delivering meals for Meals on Wheels and three times a week visiting with seniors at a low income retirement home. She hopes to have a part time job in the future.

Please think of my children and so many others like them who count on access to health care to live. Think of the seniors who depend on Medicaid for nursing home care. Please, speak up for us by voting No on the Graham-Cassidy amendment.

Sincerely,

Emily Farmer
[REDACTED]
Emerald Isle, NC 28594

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Johanna Reedy <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:59 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Johanna Reedy
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill and medicade cuts/caps

I live in leland, nc and have a teen with autism. Im asking you to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill and work in a bipartisan way to improve access to health care, including autism services and Medicaid so my son can be successful w the necessary supports. Please stop recent bills that have cut and capped Medicaid. Thank you.

JoHanna Grönroos Reedy

[REDACTED]
7041 trailhead rd
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alexandra Drown [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:02 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Comments

Good Morning,

My name is Alexandra Drown. I live in Marshall, NC [REDACTED] I am a person with autism and also a professional who works with people with all types of disabilities. I care deeply about health care and supports for all people with and without disabilities. Many of the people I serve depend on Medicaid services to live and enjoy life in the community. It is less expensive to live in the community with supports than in an institution. Many people I serve work, volunteer, and give back to their communities in many ways and rely on Medicaid supports to do so.

I myself am able to live in the community without Medicaid support. However, though I have worked full-time for many years, I am not provided health insurance by my employer. I have relied on the Affordable Care Act to be able to obtain quality health care. Without subsidies, I would be unable to afford health care.

I am asking that you oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill, oppose bills that make cuts to Medicaid, and work in a bipartisan way to improve access to health care.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Alex Drown
Independent Living Specialist
Disability Partners
[REDACTED]
Asheville NC 28806
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Diamond, John [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:59 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: PLEASE VOTE NO

This bill will not provide sufficient safeguards for folks with pre-existing conditions. It has too many cuts to Medicaid that will not be able to be addressed well by individual states. These issues and their ramifications cannot be understood in the short time frame and this bill has not been properly vetted. In the midst of a deadly opiate epidemic and major mental health shortages for the needs of children and adolescents, this is a very bad time to destabilize our system. Please VOTE NO, and consider ways to work TOGETHER and truly improve healthcare.

John M. Diamond, MD
Professor and Head
Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine
Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University
[REDACTED]
Greenville, NC 27834

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Greenville, NC 27858

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dan Coulter [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:57 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Concerns with the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

FROM:

Dan Coulter [REDACTED]

TO:

Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I'm writing in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill. I'm particularly concerned about the bill's potential effect on people on the autism spectrum. My son and I both have Asperger Syndrome. I'm fortunate. I was able to have a successful corporate career that provided my family with health insurance. Because unemployment is exceptionally high for people with autism, relatively few of us have access to healthcare offered by employers.

In 2003, I left corporate life to run a family business with my wife making educational videos for people on the autism spectrum. We work closely with people on the spectrum and with professionals and organizations who support them.

This proposed bill would have a devastating impact on health care for many individuals and families dealing the autism, especially those who depend on Medicaid services as a healthcare lifeline. I can't imagine passing this bill would have good consequences for anyone.

For much of my corporate career I worked in public relations, including serving as a media relations director and national spokesperson for the company with the most widely held stock in the United States during the late 1990s. In that job, I offered counsel to executives on the probable public and media responses to proposed actions. The backlash to the negative consequences of this bill, should it pass, will likely be broad and deep. The country is looking for bipartisan solutions that help Americans, particularly Americans who are not wealthy enough to make health insurance a non-issue. Your actions on healthcare will be remembered in the coming mid-term elections and beyond.

I hope you can work in a bipartisan manner to craft federal healthcare policy and programs that will benefit all your constituents, including those dealing with autism.

Respectfully,

--

Dan Coulter
Coulter Video

[REDACTED]
Winston Salem, NC 27104

[REDACTED]
coultervideo.com
[Coulter Video on Facebook](#)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:58 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy bill and defend the access to care for people with special needs NOW

Dear Respected Members of the Finance Committee,

I live in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. I have a beloved 15 year old daughter with a diagnosis of Autism and I am a professional in the autism field. Like many family members of people with Autism, I care deeply about health care and supports for people with autism, including Medicaid. Many families in your districts depend on Medicaid services and long term supports to live in our community.

I am requesting that you do the following, as your constituent:

- Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill
- Oppose bills that make cuts to Medicaid
- Work in a bipartisan way to improve access to health care, including autism services and Medicaid.

Thank you for the hard work that your committee does.

--
Jen Minnelli, M.S., CCC-SLP
Social Thinking® Provider

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
I dwell in possibility.
-Emily Dickinson

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:56 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Graham-Cassidy

To the Finance Committee,

I live in Charlotte, North Carolina and as a professional in the field of Mental Health, I work with a number of clients and families who utilize Medicaid. These individuals depend on Medicaid to get the therapeutic and community interventions needed to maintain stable and healthy lives. The cuts in the Graham-Cassidy bill are callous and unnecessary. They make already vulnerable populations even more vulnerable and less likely to live the full life that we all envision for ourselves and our loved ones.

As a mental health professional and as a concerned citizen, I ask that you oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I ask that you consider ways to improve access to quality, compassionate care as opposed to creating more barriers to healthcare. I ask that you utilize your ability to protect those less privileged than you, particularly when protecting them causes you no harm.

Sincerely,

Rolanda L. Mitchell, PhD, LPC, NCC
School Based Program Manager
Family First Community Services, LLC

[REDACTED]
Charlotte NC 28211
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

www.familyfirstcommunity.com

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] n
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:12 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy-Graham

Senators,

The bill you are pushing, in an attempt to fulfill a flawed campaign promise, is BAD!!

Everyone who cares about healthcare agrees. The AMA, AHA, ANA, AARP, and many, many other experts are begging you not to do this to our healthcare.

Work in a bipartisan fashion, using regular Senate order, and take the time to get this right. Millions of Americans and 1/6 of our economy depend on you.

How do you think it's going to look when 2 out of 3 nursing home patients lose their Medicaid? What about medically fragile children? Images of the despair and suffering will be the centerpiece of Democrat campaign ads. Everyone will blame you, even the President.

Thank you,
Katherine White
Clayton, NC

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Launa Kendle [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Dear Sirs,

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare, as do many people I know, both Republican and Democrat. I am a cancer survivor with my one year re-check next week. I have the same breast cancer my Grandmother and cousin died from. The Republican party's attempt to dismantle coverage of pre-existing conditions scares me, my family and my friends...and we all vote!!! 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, Launa Kendle

Charlotte, NC

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lori Olivet [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:37 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Hello,

I am writing about the proposed Graham/Cassidy for changes to the ACA. This is a terrible bill.

I ask that Congress not hold a vote on this bill that will affect 1/6th of the American economy without a full CBO score. How can you vote on legislation without fully understanding how it will impact American's lives?

I am very concerned about language in the bill that allows states to loosen protections for people with pre-existing conditions. Familie already struggling to deal with managing and fighting diseases like cancer will be hit extra hard and many will not be able to afford the care they need.

It is predicted that close to 30 million people will lose coverage under this bill, this is not better than the ACA! People will die because of this bill!

This bill is no more than a tax cut for the wealthy and it's beyond reprehensible. Please do not pass the Graham/Cassidy bill. Instead, please work in a bipartisan fashion to fix the problems with the ACA!

Thank You,

Lori Olivet
Chapel Hill, NC

--

Lori Olivet
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rett Saslow <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:29 PM.
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with pre-existing conditions is that my wife likely will have no coverage next year if ACA is repealed. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Everett B. Saslow, Jr.

Greensboro, North Carolina

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Junekwilliams [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

I live in North Carolina, am a senior and have Medicare. My niece is not a senior, she is a small business owner. When we moved to North Carolina from New York 10 years ago, she was unable to obtain health insurance because of family history and pre existing medical conditions. She was hospitalized before the ACA was law, and ended up paying 70,000 for her hospital stay. By the grace of God we did not go bankrupt but I know that bankruptcy due to medical bills has been the #1 cause of personal bankruptcy in the USA. 2 1/2 years ago she was diagnosed with Ovarian cancer stage 3C. She knew we made to much money to get any kind of government help, but how grateful we both were that she could get coverage at all. As she obtained coverage via the ACA she and her doctors have been able to focus on helping her rather than the money. She is alive and is about to participate in an immunologic trial at Wake Forest Baptist Hospital. I do not believe she would still have been alive to participate in this trial were it not for the ACA. I know the ACA needs to be fixed. We need the help of Republicans, Democrats and Independents. Please. please, please stand up and do the right thing.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Adrienne Hollifield [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

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

My son has a congenital heart defect, a bicuspid aortic valve. Because of this preexisting condition, he would not be able to get healthcare were it not for the ACA. It was not his fault that he was born with a defective heart. He deserves to be able to get insurance with a reasonable premium.

There are problems with the ACA, but instead of repealing it, I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA. Once again, DO NOT repeal the ACA; just make it work better.

Sincerely,
Adrienne Hollifield

[REDACTED]
Black Mountain, NC 28711

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anna Hurt [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no!

I'm a single mother of two daughters in NC. They voted not to expand Medicaid for adults, both my daughters have coverage through Medicaid and I have Obamacare.

Prior to the ACA I had no healthcare. Without my care under the ACA I would not be able to afford healthcare, have access to care or my medications I take daily.

If you care at all about the millions just like me, and those in much worse situations you must vote NO on Graham Cassidy and allow the ACA to continue.

Anna Hurt

[REDACTED]
Bahama NC 27503
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

bridge for me to my community, to work, to a meaningful life. I much prefer being a productive member of society rather than sitting at home and watching TV.

I sincerely want to thank you for listening to me and my story.

Here is a link to a video I just created about my story:

[REDACTED]

--
Bryan G. Dooley
Board member NC Council on Developmental Disabilities
Board member of Disability Rights North Carolina
Participant in Advancing Strong Leadership
Board member and volunteer at The Adaptables
NC Partners in Policymaking Class of 2014
Huffington Post Accessibility Blogger: [Observations From Below](#)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bryan Dooley [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:59 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA Repeal

Good afternoon. My name is Bryan Dooley, a proud resident of Lewisville, North Carolina. About 5 minutes northwest of Winston-Salem. I come before you today to express my concerns about the efforts to repeal and/or replace the Affordable Care Act. While I appreciate you keeping several provisions, I have great consternation towards the proposal to limit the funds toward Medicaid by turning the program through a per capita cap or block grant system.

Since birth, I rely on Medicaid funding to pay most of my medical bills; physical, occupational, and speech therapies; dental work; assistive devices, including the chair I am riding in and the computer I am using to talk to you. One of the most important of all is the services funding my personal assistant.

I graduated summa cum laude from Guilford College with a major in history and a minor in English. This would not have been possible without the help of Medicaid to help fund my personal care assistants, along with a litany of other crucial services for my basic daily tasks.

Since graduation, I have been appointed by former NC Governor Pat McCrory to the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities. I am also on the board of Disability Rights of North Carolina. Through these positions, I am improving the lives of my fellow citizens with disabilities. Without Medicaid, I would not be as productive as a leader in my community that I aim to be.

Other civic engagement activities that I am also involved in, with the help of Medicaid includes being on the board of The Adaptables Center for Independent Living, Teaching a local disability advocacy class called DATA (Disability Advocacy Training in Action), and I'm also the social media content provider for a local law firm.

Per capita caps or block granting might sound like a cost-saving measure, but it's been shown to reduce funding to states over time. And ultimately people. People like me. I don't know about you, but I don't like having someone else tell me what I can and cannot do. But, if there is a reduction in Medicaid funding, this college graduate will be told to embrace idle isolation. States will be forced to reduce services, services for me that are a lifeline not to leisure but to meaningful participation -- a

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rosemarie Lanaro [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

I am terrified and appalled by this pending bill. I cannot understand how stripping people of insurance and not allowing the protections of basic essential coverage is a benefit to the citizens of this country.

Sending block grants to the states with no model for implementation is simple a recipe for chaos.

I would like to see the Senate and Congress work together to improve the implementation of the ACA. Without that bill I would never have been able to afford insurance at all. When I was accepted with my pre-existing conditions I was getting quotes that were above my monthly income. The ACA mad insurance affordable. Yes, premiums increase but all reports I have read show that the increase is at a lower rate than pre-ACA increase. Sabotaging the bill has worked to de-stabilize the system. It is morally repugnant to me that government officials would use people's healthcare to gain political points in this way.

I have heard of no organization that supports this bill, all the major health organizations have spoken out against this. Blue-cross confirms that people with pre-existing conditions will lose coverage so those officials saying otherwise are dealing in outright lies.

I oppose this bill and want a bipartisan commission to resolve the issues with the ACA

Thank you,
Rose

=====

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Raleigh, NC
27613

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Sanders [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:57 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care bill

Anything less than full coverage for all Americans is unacceptable. Removing prenatal care while advocating against abortion is tantamount to willfully killing thousands of children. That is illogical.

Karen Sanders
[REDACTED]
Kernersville NC 27284

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Meg Pferdekamper [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:21 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Strong disapproval of the Graham-Cassidy bill

Good morning, I am writing to voice my strong disapproval of the Graham-Cassidy bill. This bill will strip healthcare from millions of Americans and is a huge step backward for our country. Many people who could not afford health coverage before the ACA are now able to get the healthcare they need. This number includes my mother in law, who is now in remission from throat cancer after months of treatment that would have bankrupted her without health insurance. On behalf of the many many people who would be sick or dead without the ACA, I urge you to reevaluate all opposition to this essential program.

Thank you,
Meg Pferdekamper
NC-5

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stacy Staggs [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:26 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy-Graham cannot pass
Attachments: 0906172308.jpg

I am a voter in North Carolina, constituent of Richard Burr and Thom Tillis. I am also a terrified mother of two NICU miracles, one of whom has ongoing medical complexities that require us to carry Medicaid coverage secondary to employer benefits.

I have spent years navigating our healthcare system. I have spent months imploring my Senators not to support such reckless legislation, only to have them and their staffers show concern during our discussion, then turn around and vote in support of the prior versions of ACA repeal efforts.

Rather than appealing to anyone's emotions, I will remind you that this version of ACA repeal has simply not been properly vetted. It has not followed necessary procedural steps and an issue as critical as this demands a more thorough review.

Your constituents across the entire country are telling you, loud and clear, that we cannot allow this to pass. Will you listen? Will you represent your voters? Will you thoroughly consider legislation?

In solidarity,
Stacy Staggs
NC voter
Medicaid mother

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sandy McMillan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:41 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Kay McMillan
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Finance Committee,

My daughter, Kay, is a 22 year old student at North Carolina University. She will graduate in December 2017 with a 3.99 in Political Science. She lives in off campus housing with 2 roommates. She belongs to a service sorority, Omega Phi Alpha. I am so proud of her! Sound pretty typical?

Kay has cerebral palsy. She is unable to walk, speak, dress, bathe, or feed herself. She uses a power wheelchair to get around campus and a computer that helps her speak. She lives with two roommates who handle her overnight care and a team of workers to help her during the day that are provided by home and community based supports through Medicaid. All her medical expenses, from the wheelchair and computer, to her medications to control her muscle spasms are also paid for by Medicaid. If the Graham-Cassidy Bill is approved, I know she will lose her home and community based supports. I am not sure what will happen with her other medical expenses under Graham-Cassidy.

The future for Kay is very bright. Once she graduates, she has several employment opportunities that will reduce her dependency on "the system." Her goal is to no longer require SSI and utilize the buy-in feature for Medicaid which would allow her to pay her own medical insurance. She will still require the home and community based supports to allow her to live and work independently. If she loses these supports, this plan is no longer by feasible. She will live at home with mom and dad until the time comes where she will have to live in an institution. It's my understanding that the costs of institutionalization far exceed the cost of supported living. Also, since her cerebral palsy is a pre-existing condition, her options for healthcare are nonexistent.

The cap plan for Medicaid at a state level would mean a loss of \$9 BILLION to North Carolina. I understand that most governors, including Republican ones, are against this bill for these reasons. Please take a long hard look at the picture below. This was taken during a summer internship that Kay had working for the National Disability Rights Association in DC. This is someone who will be devastated by this bill.


should not have to worry about where or with whom—or even if-- I'll get chemo in a few months, but I am. We cannot afford the potential surcharge for metastatic cancer, nor can we afford the real costs of cancer treatment.

Our family has always paid for our health care; we don't expect a free handout. It's in our DNA—work hard and pay your own way. What we do expect is continued timeliness of treatment and access to quality care at a price we can remotely afford. I desire the same health care as cancer-fighting politicians like the late Ted Kennedy, former President Jimmy Carter, and Senator John McCain. I want to see my daughters graduate high school in two and five years. I need my health care for a fighting chance to make those milestones, and I'm holding the elected officials we sent to Washington accountable for just that. Please don't discriminate against those of us with pre-existing conditions. We are not to blame.

I am a Conservative, and I support change to the Affordable Care Act; however, allowing states to assume the majority of financial risk and determine whether or not to lift the pre-existing exemption on current and new policy holders only insures that in a state like NC, I am left with the unfortunate decision to be bound for complete financial ruin because my insurance surcharges and premiums will completely wipeout any cash or assets we have, or discontinue my treatment and face those associated consequences. We cannot afford the \$142,000 surcharge on top of premiums—that is more than our annual income. But we cannot afford NOT to be insured; one chemo treatment is billed at \$51,500, and I have those every 21 days. Yet, we make too much money to qualify for ACA subsidies. What is a small business owner with metastatic cancer to do?

The astronomical costs of pharmaceuticals regulated by drug companies that lobby and line the pockets of politicians and greedy insurance companies who stand to profit—again—from reform measures are. Instead of singling out the sick, the small business owners, and the middle class, let's find a way to provide for us common sense health care reform that gives us the opportunity to get better, to continue providing jobs in local communities across America, and to build a dream that we desperately want our children to embrace and believe in as well.

Erin W. Sipe, NC



Have a joy-filled day!
Erin W. Sipe

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Erin Sipe [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: North Carolinian Opposes Health Care Bill As Written
Attachments: Healthcare Letter to Editor.docx

September 22, 2017

Dear Members of Congress:

As a newly diagnosed metastatic breast cancer patient and wife, teacher, and mother of two, I am deeply concerned about the loss of my grandfathered insurance policy effective January 1, 2018 and even more anxious about the proposed health care repeal bill that threatens to ruin financially our middle class family and small business. Our income level does not allow us to benefit from Affordable Care Act subsidies, our monthly premiums have tripled in six years, and we are preparing for a more than doubling in our deductible and a minimum increase of 15% in our monthly premiums that currently surpass our mortgage payment.

How have we come to a place where our family has to decide between sending our two daughters to college or me foregoing life-extending treatment and entering hospice care so my family does not have to incur financial ruin due to my pre-existing health condition? We downsized homes last year in anticipation of health care increases; however, we did not realize that my “cured” breast cancer would return. If states are given the freedom to choose whether or not to exempt or nullify pre-existing conditions for those with medical insurance, then metastatic cancer patients like myself have much to lose and little to gain.

I am not a statistic; I am a 41-year-old wife, mother, and teacher. I’ve never smoked, I’ve always exercised and eaten healthy, yet I now have stage IV breast cancer in my liver. I’m the granddaughter of two World War II veterans and the daughter of a retired school teacher and a general contractor. I was salutatorian of my graduating class, homecoming queen, a NC page to our local representative in Raleigh, and editor of our yearbook. I moved my voter registration to the city of my college residence while studying to be a teacher so I could vote in person in my first presidential election. I married my high school sweetheart, and we’ve reared a beautiful family while giving back to our community through the blessings of our small landscape business. We’ve believed in and lived the American dream by working hard, planning wisely, and praying fervently.

At no fault of our own, everything we’ve worked for now stands in the balance of Washington bureaucrats who feel no personal effects of the laws they stand to pass—all because of the crossroads of health care reform and the timing of my cancer’s return. I want to continue to see my medical team, a network I may lose come January 1 as my grandfathered insurance policy will be canceled and new policy networks are still unknown until November. These are the people who saved my life almost seven years ago with my first cancer battle. I

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cynthia Coleman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

This bill is a disgrace, please vote no and work on a bipartisan bill that can span across more than one administration.

Thank you
Cynthia
North Carolina

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David Stewart White [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Small business supports the ACA

As a North Carolina small business owner, I depend upon the Affordable Care Act to help provide health benefits for my employees. Without health care, employees cannot be effective. And the ACA gives a boost to those employees and to small businesses that cannot otherwise provide employee health benefits.

Do NOT repeal the ACA and do NOT approve the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Heather Ferguson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:43 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. Heather Ferguson

[REDACTED]
Charlotte, NC 28212
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jerry Kaptis [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Jerry Kaptis
Subject: Opposed to the Graham Cassidy bill

Hello,

My name is James Kaptis, and I am a constituent for Senator Burr and Senator Tillis, living in Mooresville, NC. I want to let you know that I am opposed to the Graham Cassidy bill and any legislation that reduces Medicaid services for individuals with disabilities. I have an adult son with autism, and he live many others depend on the Medicaid services for daily living support. These individuals cannot afford to lose the Medicaid services and have no ability to advocate on their own. Please do not support legislation that impacts individuals with disabilities that cannot take care of themselves and cannot afford to lose the Medicaid services they receive today.

Sincerely

James Kaptis
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Mooresville, NC 28117

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

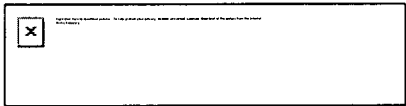
From: john Alspaugh [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repealing the ACA

I strongly urge every Senator and Representative to vote against the Graham Bill. We have a serious Opioid Epidemic and access to care is already strained.

- We oppose this bill because it would jeopardize access to life-saving and effective treatments for addiction.
- This plan weakens states' efforts to address the current crisis of drug overdose deaths.
- This bill would disproportionately harm communities of color and others whose access to coverage and treatment is already restricted.

My personal email is [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

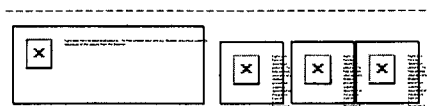
John R. Alspaugh, MRE, LPC, LCAS
Licensed Counselor



[REDACTED]
Moganton, NC 28655
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Please show your support for Burke Recovery by using Amazon Smile!

- [REDACTED]
2. Choose "Burke County Council On Alcoholism Inc" as your charity of choice.
 3. Shop for anything and a percentage of your entire purchase will be donated to to Burke Recovery!



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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gillian Gremmels [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: devastating

Graham Cassidy would be devastating to my family. My husband and I both have preexisting conditions under the very broad range defined in the bill. Our health care costs would skyrocket. Please help, don't hurt, the American people. This bill does catastrophic harm. Thank you.

Gillian Gremmels
Concord, North Carolina

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nathan Marvelle [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Comments

Members of the Committee-

Among my many concerns about the Graham-Cassidy bill is the removal of protections for people with pre-existing conditions. My daughter has a heart defect and I don't want her to live her life concerned that she will not be able to afford health care insurance and risk bankruptcy or worse because of a condition she was born with. This is not an issue that should be allowed to be decided on a state by state level. Further, I am very concerned about the number of people that would lose insurance as a result of this bill - these are the most vulnerable people in our society - the sick and poor.

Finally, its unconscionable to me that our Senate would vote on this bill which affects 1/6 of our economy without a full report from the CBO on its effects.

Thanks,

Nathan Marvelle
Durham, NC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kay McMillan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Finance Committee,

My name is Kay McMillan and I am a 22 year old North Carolinian. I'm a senior at North Carolina State University. My major is political science with minors in nonprofit studies and accounting. My GPA is 3.99. I had a summer internship at a nonprofit in Raleigh. Sounds like a pretty full life?

One more thing that you should know about me: I have cerebral palsy, which is a pretty significant physical disability, so I require help with most of my daily living functions, such as eating, bathing, dressing, you name it. I AM TRULY GRATEFUL FOR MEDICAID, and I am gravely concerned about the Graham-Cassidy Bill because Medicaid plays a significant role in my life!!

Not only does Medicaid cover my doctor appointments (I have several specialists), my prescriptions, all of my durable medical equipment (wheelchairs, walkers, communication devices, shower chairs), but it allows me to have personal care assistants (PCAs) to help me for about thirteen hours a day. Having in-home services and PCAs enable me to live independently, almost get a college degree (I graduate in December), go to work, and be a contributing member of society (that is a whole goal, right?). If the Graham-Cassidy Bill is passed, I will lose my personal care services and I am uncertain what will happen with my other medical expenses.

I don't know if I would have accomplished what I have without the supports that I have received from Medicaid. I will take that back, I would probably be in a nursing home or another kind of institution without Medicaid to get the personal care that I need, which would be more expensive in the long run. Being institutionalized decreases the quality and outlook on life for people with disabilities. Please don't take our country back to the 1800's with institutionalizing people with disabilities. Medicaid saves lives. Please consider this sobering fact and all of think of the lives who will be devastated by this bill.

--

Kay McMillan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robert Clough [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

To the members of the Senate Finance Committee,

As a citizen of the state of North Carolina and the United States of America, I urge you to vote against the Graham-Cassidy bill that would repeal ACA. This bill is not so much good legislature as it is a political football that has the potential cost of risking the lives of millions of Americans. As has been clearly noted by analysts, there are many pre-existing conditions that the bill would not cover. This bill would spark a healthcare disaster in this country, burdening our already overtaxed medical system even more as thousands of people can't get regular, reasonably priced health care for their their conditions. True health care reform must be bipartisan and it must be comprehensive. Graham-Cassidy represents yet another hastily-constructed, ill-conceived piece of legislation that benefits no one. Please do the right thing and vote against it.

Sincerely,

Robert Clough

Plaquenil I take so that the autoimmune diseases don't wreak havoc on my immune system is \$600/month for a 30 day supply. On bad days, I take 2 a day. There's absolutely no way I can afford a \$26,000/year fee just for insurance (insurance that most likely isn't going to cover anything I need as a chronically ill person, and therefore, is basically like throwing money down the drain).— Quite frankly, there's absolutely no reason why I should have to. Under the ACA, I pay \$400/month for my insurance (and I receive a \$1 tax credit). That is affordable - \$26,000 is not.

This new policy hurts the poor and the chronically ill, and it's frankly the most abject cruelty I've ever seen in a healthcare plan. It takes away our ability to still live regular lives as chronically ill people. It hurts families, and it will certainly hurt the economy. Just because I am chronically ill doesn't mean I don't contribute—and it certainly shouldn't make me less important as an American.

And lastly, Senator, please know I'm not asking for free healthcare. I want to work. I want to contribute to the economy and my family, and so do my friends who have preexisting conditions. We want to be afforded the same rights as everyone else. The ACA gave me that. It also allowed many of my self-employed friends—other writers, business owners, etc.—to embrace new career paths, and my other chronically ill friends were able to receive medical treatment for the first time in their lives.

The ACA changed my life, and it probably saved my life, too. Please remember people like me when you're voting, because we need that protection against raising costs for the chronically ill to live. And I know I'll certainly be remembering it in the voting booth. My life should not be a bargaining chip.

Thank you so much for your time, Senator.

Sincerely,
Erica

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bella Nouveau [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My ACA story

To whom it may concern:

I am chronically ill with three autoimmune disorders (rheumatoid arthritis, fibromyalgia, and Celiac's disease, among other preexisting conditions). Prior to the ACA, in my early 20's I went 2 years without health care or proper treatment because I could not get insured--every private insurance company took a look at my diagnosis (then just the rheumatoid arthritis) and quoted \$15,000+ deductible for insurance that would cost double what I made in a month, and covered nothing. To date, eight years later, I am still paying for the damage two years without anti-inflammatories did to my body.

Before the ACA, I worked jobs that were far too stressful on my body, solely so I could have medical care. I didn't have a choice – I had to deal with the pain, and the side effects (such as tendinitis in my left wrist) because I needed the insurance. Back then, I couldn't even get into the high risk pools—the same pools that are suggested in the replacement bills suggested by the GOP. Not only are these pools usually underfunded, but the wait is very, very long, to the point that chronically ill people have died waiting for treatment. Make no mistake, high risk pools are not a solution.

But even more concerning is the fact that Graham-Cassidy allows states to waive the protections for preexisting conditions that the ACA introduced. The essential health benefits as defined by the ACA are no longer included, including maternity care, prenatal care, mental healthcare, prescription drug coverage (a huge thing for chronically ill people), or preventive care. This puts chronically ill people again at the mercy of insurance companies. It means, in essence, insurance companies can feel free to charge people more who are sick—the very same people who need insurance. It also brings back lifetime caps, which are horrible for the chronically ill. Say for instance, you get cancer—you can blow through a lifetime cap in under a year, and never be able to receive treatment again.

Please understand how catastrophic this will be for people like me. Under one of the proposed plans by the GOP, I would pay \$26,000 a year at the very least, with a surcharge of 625% just for my rheumatoid arthritis. I suspect this will be more under Graham-Cassidy, due to the way it is written. This is not affordable, and it is not fair in any way shape or form. What this basically means is that I will have to choose between bankrupting my family so I can get proper medical care, or going without treatment.

I am 30 years old now, Senator—with proper medical care and affordable prescriptions, I can hope to live to 90. Without access to my doctors or my prescriptions, my life will be shortened prematurely. My diseases are not curable, but they are maintainable, only with proper access to care and treatments. If nothing else, I will have to lead my life in immense pain, for no other reason than I can no longer afford my insurance or medical care. Forcing me to go without these things is not freedom, and it certainly isn't a better option. My husband should not have to bury me early because a wealthy corporation wanted to make more money.

The ACA gave equality to the chronically ill, and to those with lower income, or those who were self-employed. With the ACA, I was FINALLY, FINALLY, FINALLY able to achieve my dreams: I work from home, doing the job I've always wanted to do: writing books. I get wonderful medical care from the Duke Hospital system (one of the best in the country) and I began treatment with a new fibromyalgia medicine that greatly decreases my flare-ups and improves the quality of my life. I've started a second company, again working from home. I now make twice what I used to make in my old job. My health improved, because I'm able to work flexible hours.

Now, we've bought a house in Durham, and we are trying to start a family. I was excited for my future, until talk of the repeal of the ACA. My new fibromyalgia medicine is very, very expensive without insurance. The

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Golden [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please oppose the Graham Cassidy proposal

I am writing to express my opposition to the Graham Cassidy proposal. It would reduce healthcare coverage, increase premiums and out of pocket expenses for millions of Americans. It would enable states to discriminate against people with pre-existing conditions. In short, Graham Cassidy healthcare is disgraceful and un-American.

The Affordable Healthcare Act has made great strides to protect and support the people. I challenge you to improve it! Until then, vote "no" for the Graham Cassidy proposal.

Sincerely,
Sarah Golden
Charlotte, NC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Costanza Knight [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

To Whom it May Concern:

In terms of health care, Graham Cassidy is not the plan American needs.

Thank you,

Constance Knight
Hendersonville,NC

--
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stephen Lehrman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:18 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. Stephen Lehrman

[REDACTED]
Chapel Hill, NC 27517

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Meredith Stone [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:22 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.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Cary, NC 27513
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: robchris [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:06 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Objection to Cassidy-Graham

Importance: High

Dear Senators of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my objection to Cassidy-Graham. I am a physician who works exclusively with individuals with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities (IDD) including Autism Spectrum Disorder(ASD). Cassidy-Graham or any healthcare reform bill that makes such large cuts to Medicaid has enormous repercussions for individuals and families with IDD. From direct healthcare access to in-home and community support via Medicaid Waiver services, Medicaid is essential to not only keeping people healthy, out of ERs, and out of hospitals, but also for keeping families functioning. For example, waiver related services allow parents to keep working and prevents them from becoming overwhelmed emotionally (leading to parent mental and physical health concerns) due to the demands of raising many children with IDD/ASD. Cuts to Medicaid will translate into fewer support hours available, fewer individuals served, and will indirectly lead to parent health decline, increased failed marriages, increased family member suicide rates, parents forced to leave work to care for their loved ones, and increased dependence on other programs such as SSI/SSDI. In North Carolina, families currently wait 7-10 years for a waiver "slot". Can we afford to make this any worse? Few senators truly appreciate the essential value of these Medicaid services that go beyond traditional healthcare functions. Please work in a bi-partisan manner to alter ACA in a way that keeps its strengths and limits its weaknesses. Children and adults with IDD/ASD and their families should not be the victims of political dysfunction.

Thank you for your attention in this dire matter.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Christian, MD, FAAP
[REDACTED]

Chapel Hill, NC
27516

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elisa Pollard [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: regarding the Graham Cassidy proposal

Dear Chairman Hatch, Ranking member Wyden and distinguished members of the committee:

I have thought often of the aphorism "Act in haste, repent in leisure."

A decision as monumental as health care, one that impacts every American and designates such an enormous portion of the collected tax base should NEVER be rushed to a vote. Please hold hearings. Inform the public and the medical community of the changes and the logic behind the changes. If state and local governments are to receive the financial decision making for all healthcare for the state, bring the governors into the decision making process. Hear from hospitals across the country.

Rushing to vote on an artificial deadline, rushing to vote to "fulfill a promise" to repeal and replace does not override the promise to uphold the constitution and to serve the will of the people.

Medicaid impacts the lives of children I work with every day. Lifetime caps and pre-existing condition riders will become a death sentence for many Americans.

I do not doubt that your committee and the Congress at large are more than capable of finding solutions to the current healthcare situation. Bring your colleagues together and find a bipartisan solution that reassures and satisfies the needs of our nation.

The system of checks and balances never intended to rely on the average American to spend hours of every day afraid and calling, writing and faxing representatives.

Of the people, for the people, by the people. Are you still the people of this country?

I urge you to reject the Graham Cassidy proposal and return to regular order.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to be heard.

Elisa Pollard
Voter in North Carolina
Educator since 1993

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jim O'Hara [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please reject Graham Cassidy and return to proper procedures

To the US Senate:

I would like to urge as many senators as possible to vote against the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill. It is an absolute disgrace that the Senate is going to vote on a bill without getting a full CBO report on its effects. Disgraceful too that so many lies have been told about what this bill will or will not do. There is NO reason to vote for a bad bill just because you promised to do something. Obamacare should be improved, or replaced by something better, but NOT by something far worse.

Yours,
Jim O'Hara
Chapel Hill NC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sara Bausch [REDACTED] m>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham Cassidy

m recovering from surgery right now. Yet again, I have to call and beg the GOP not to vote for yet another poorly thought out disastrous attempt to gut our health care system. Thom Tillis and Richard Burr - you are not representing the people of North Carolina with this bill and they know it.

I hereby request that SUPPORT the HELP Committee's bipartisan bill to stabilize insurance markets as long as it includes essential benefit requirements and a federal reinsurance fund.

I OPPOSE Graham-Cassidy! It destroys Medicaid as we know it and allows states to waive essential health benefits and explicitly allows insurers to spike your premiums after you get sick. This is actually even worse because it takes 8.7 billion from NC to prop up other states. We don't have enough problems? Our state health statistics are abysmal and you want to take more Money from us? How can our Senators say that they represent our best interests after that?

SUPPORT "regular order" and moving health care through a thorough committee process that includes input from ALL sides. You don't get to make decisions that benefit none of us without a fair and open process. This is 1/6 of the economy and you don't get to reform it without a freaking CBO score.

Please enter both my comments about Graham Cassidy AND my comments about Tillis and Burr into the record. Polling shows less than 30% of NC supports this yet they are in support because they don't care that it will cost our state millions and actively hurt North Carolinians. They are poor representation and we deserve better.

Thank you
SARA H Bausch

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeannie Newman [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

I have read through the bill and done my homework. While the ACA definitely needs to be fixed, the G-C bill is not the way to do it. I cannot believe that the Senate wants 32mm people to lose their health insurance or for vets (1.5mm), the elderly, the sick, and the mentally ill to lose their benefits as well. I understand wanting to give power back to the states, but not this way. You are asking them to do more with less, which means that there will be huge cuts. The waivers are particularly problematic as they will allow insurance companies to charge more if you get sick or if you have a pre-existing condition; the surcharges would be horrendous and unaffordable. Waivers also permit companies to not cover essential benefits. When you see that they do not have to cover prescriptions, emergencies, hospitalizations, pediatrics, addiction services (including opioids), or behavioral health, etc., there is not a lot left to cover.

There is much talk about "access" to insurance, but access means nothing if it is not affordable. I have "access" to yachts, private planes, and penthouses, but I sure cannot afford them. As a woman over the age of 50 with pre-existing conditions, projections are that my premiums will go up 500%. I cannot afford that along with rent, food, and car. Additionally, I work in pediatric hospice. Most of the children are on Medicaid (at least 80%). If that is cut, what are these children, who are already dying, going to do without those services they need to have a good, painless, and peaceful death? What are you doing to them and their families?

If this bill is so good, then why doesn't Congress try it out first and report back to us? Why on earth would you want to even consider uninsuring so many people? Would you want you or your children or parents to go through this? How is that good for the country?

Please work to fix the ACA, not kill it....and us.

Thank you.

Jeannie Newman
[REDACTED]
Morrisville, NC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alirio Estevez [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

My name is Alirio Estevez and I live in North Carolina. I am strongly against this Graham-Cassidy bill since it will eliminate protections for sick Americans; it will leave millions of Americans without health insurance which will leave them bankrupt or even lead them to death.

Have some compassion. Choose compassion.

Sincerely,

Alirio Estevez
[REDACTED]

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Martinez-Gallardo, Cecilia [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:57 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to Graham-Cassidy

Dear committee members,

I write to you as a concerned mother of an amazing 5-year old who depends on YOUR vote for her health. At 2 days old Emilia had a brain hemorrhage and now lives with cerebral palsy, visual impairment, and epilepsy. Emilia's depends on Medicaid funding for the services and interventions that she needs to access a meaningful education and cuts/caps to this vital source of funding would hurt special education in vital ways. Moreover, without a FULL guarantee of protection for preexisting conditions and lifetime/annual caps, her ability to access the health services she needs for a full, healthy life is at grave risk. I fight hard for this girl every day but today I need YOUR help -- please do your part in the fight to protect so many like her that already face so many obstacles.

Please vote NO on repeal!

Cecilia Martinez (NC)



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alana Iannello [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:46 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Medicaid funding
Attachments: Virues-Ortega (2010).pdf; Zachor et al. (2007).pdf

Good morning,

I am a Board Certified Behavior Analyst with the Autism Society in Charlotte, NC. I am writing to express my grave concerns regarding the proposed Medicaid cuts. I have been working with children with autism for the last 14 years in different capacities, many of which have been funded through Medicaid. I cannot express through email the significant benefits I have seen from the services that these children have gained through services like the Innovations Waiver and now Applied Behavior Analysis. I am now serving families through in-home ABA therapy. Giving these children the intensive services they need at a young age drastically reduces the need for intensive services later in life. Autism is the largest growing disability category across the country and Applied Behavior Analysis has the strongest research base for providing the skills that our clients need to gain functional communication and independent living skills. Please see the attached research articles supporting this science. We have to commit to endorsing services for this ever growing population of people affected by autism. 1 in 54 boys born today in North Carolina will be diagnosed with autism. This is a national epidemic that knows no racial or socioeconomic boundaries. This is an issue that affects everyone in this nation and we need to stand up and provide these services to those in the most need. I would like to ask that you:

- Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill
- Oppose bills that make cuts to Medicaid
- Work in a bipartisan way to improve access to health care, including autism services and Medicaid.

Thank you for your time and your support!!

Alana Iannello, MAT, BCBA
Clinical Professional
Autism Society of North Carolina

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 800-337-6040
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Thank you in advance for your compliance with this notice.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Heidi Marks [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:32 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Brian D Marks, DC
Subject: Vote No on GC or take no vote

Proud American citizen, mom, wife, corporate employee. DO NOT mess with my fellow citizens healthcare. Work to strengthen Affordable Care Act.

Vote NO on crazy, detrimental Graham-Cassidy or don't allow a vote at all!!!

Heidi Marks
Durham, North Carolina

Sent from my iPhone

So, along with the long range funding cuts proposed in Graham Cassidy, here is what else is coming. The demand and need for direct care staff, in aging and disabilities, is going to rise dramatically, especially as baby boomers like me enter the latter stages of their lives. And the need will rise for children and young adults with disabilities, because many elderly parents have kept adult children with disabilities with them for years. The crisis is that there will not be enough people for those positions, and certainly not at the current pay grades. Demand will fuel pay raises, or inability to meet demand will lead to shoddy care. These could be our parents, our children, ourselves. (Which is another reason the limits on immigration are so crazy, because immigrants are filling many of these jobs.)

There is a huge need for bi-partisan work on problems with the health care system and with long term care. There is also a huge need for both sides to get out of dogmatic positions, and the most crazy one at the moment is the overwhelming compulsion of the GOP, evidenced in Graham Cassidy, to repeal "Obamacare." There has been no good reason articulated, leaving what seems to be the real one, to save political face with donors and voters. For the sake of saved face, they are willing to put millions of people in health care risk, without the courage to work the bill through regular order so that everyone can learn more about its details and potential impact.

I urge the Finance Committee to take the time to do the work to explore the true impact of the Graham Cassidy bill, or, better yet, start with some courage, heart and wisdom to invite and commit others in the Senate to something we rarely see: honest and hard bi-partisan work on the problems in the current system, ways to fix it, and ways to be cost effective in doing so.

Bill Gaventa, M.Div.

Summer Institute on Theology and Disability, [REDACTED]e/

SITD Facebook [REDACTED] disability/

Editor: Gleanings [REDACTED]

National Collaborative on Faith and Disability [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

Telephone [REDACTED]

Summer Institute on Theology and Disability 2018: June 11-14. Raleigh, North Carolina

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stacey Kraftchick [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:30 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy ACA repeal-- Vote NO

As a mother at 51 years of age with pre-existing conditions, I am horrified and scared every moment. What will happen to my 14 year old son's dreams and potential contribution to this country if he cannot attend college and must care for a sick parent without adequate health insurance coverage.

Graham-Cassidy is even worse than what was previously proposed and failed. I cannot trust that a block grant will be at all sufficient and there is no detail around what would be approved as adequate and affordable access to health care. Any state would have the power to abandon caps and increase costs for older Americans and those with pre-existing conditions.

You must instead see that stabilizing the ACA exchanges and mandate to ensure a large pool of payors into the system is the only way!

Senator Burr, I am your constituent at 27106. Can you imagine the productivity lost in your state as a result of the many millions who are like me, frozen with terror over this continued attempt to push tax cuts for wealthy on the backs of Americans of moderate means?

Stacey L. Kraftchick
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jan Boike [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:26 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy health care bill

Our daughter receives care under the North Carolina Medicaid waiver. She has a chromosome abnormality and has severe autism, mental retardation and a seizure disorder. At 33 years old, she functions at less than a 2 year old level. The Medicaid cuts under Graham Cassidy will devastate our family.

We strongly oppose any cuts to Medicaid funding for people with disabilities. Please pursue a bipartisan approach to healthcare instead of this ill advised bill.

Sincerely,
Jan & Dean Boike
Matthews NC

Desert Storm
Raleigh, NC



Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Scott Mettler (Avison Young) [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:41 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Scott Mettler
Subject: War Veteran against Graham Cassidy

Dear Senators,

I am a War Veteran from North Carolina. I thank God that I have a great job and that I have great healthcare insurance through my employer. I know of many Veterans, however, who are not so lucky, and I surely don't mind paying a little extra on my part to help my brothers and sisters in arms who were willing to sacrifice everything for the well being of ALL OF US.

I don't believe that the proposed Graham-Cassidy Bill embraces the spirit of providing for the general welfare of the United States, and it certainly doesn't provide for the adequate care of our struggling Veterans. In fact, per a Forbes report, repealing the ACA will result in a significant increase in uninsured veterans (5.8% to 9.1%), and that it will put an undue strain on an already overwhelmed VA Healthcare system. Veterans will suffer more and will have less access to quality care under Graham-Cassidy than they do now under the ACA. I understand that the ACA isn't perfect, but at least it's goal is to improve care across the board for all of our citizens and our loyal Veterans.

Unfortunately, Graham-Cassidy doesn't appear to share the same goal. Not only does it fail the trending "Jimmy Kimmel Test", but it also fails the mandated "Federal Government has a generally unquestioned obligation to provide health care to Veterans Test"!

I hope that you will do your best next week to represent and support my brothers and sisters in arms who proudly displayed our great flag on their shoulders and willingly put themselves in harm's way to protect the American dream for all of us. FOR ALL OF US.

We all have enjoyed the fruits of our Veterans' sacrifices. Are you now willing to stand up and fulfill your campaign promises to support our Veterans? Or will you shamefully buckle under the pressures of wealthy corporate donors (Koch Brothers, Mercers, etc) and a corrupt Trump administration that is desperately seeking to take credit for any type of "win" in order to retain the remnants of its shrinking extremist base? Are you actually ready and willing to abandon your principles, your countrymen and your constituents, only to kneel before a delusional demagogue who would thoughtlessly toss you to the wolves in a heartbeat? Really?

I pray that instead you will muster the STRENGTH and the REVOLVE to work for improvements in the quality, the availability and the affordability of healthcare for our selfless Veterans, and for ALL Americans. Please don't allow yourselves to be intimidated or tempted, or to take the easy way out.

Please don't vote for the Graham-Cassidy Bill and leave our struggling Veterans behind to fend for themselves.

Are you willing to take a stand?

PLEASE REMEMBER that they took a stand for YOU.

They took a stand FOR ALL OF US. us

We Veterans have a code. We are Warriors who stand by that code, and We don't forget!

Yours Truly,
Scott Mettler
LT, USN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patrice Ebert [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham - Cassidy bill

Please do NOT vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act! Voting for this bill just to keep a campaign promise without considering the results it would bring to the nation is absolutely ludicrous. No planning, no forethought! Is this the way to govern our country? I think not. Millions would lose medical insurance and many healthcare jobs would be lost. Please be rational about this.

Patrice Ebert
Charlotte, NC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carrie Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement

Dear Senate Committee on Finance,

I am a small business owner who struggles with a mental health disorder. I could go on and on about my story and my struggles, but would it matter to you? Maybe. Maybe not. So I'll keep it brief. Please don't let me become a statistic. One of the millions who are left uninsured because I have a preexisting condition ... or because there will no longer be essential benefit coverage. Please allow Obamacare to continue and then work with the Democrats to make necessary changes to it. This will help keep me in business and contributing to your economy.

Sincerely,

Carrie Smith
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jo Rizer [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

The American people and every major health care organization in the country reject the Graham Cassidy amendment. It will hurt the most vulnerable in our population and effects 1/6 of our economy. It would be irresponsible for the committee to hold a hearing on this amendment that is just for show. We deserve better from you, our elected representatives.

Please cancel your hearing or schedule multiple hearings so that you can hear from all sides - don't rush this most important issue.

Jo Rizer
[REDACTED]
Charlotte, NC 28203

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laura Holley [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Richard_Burr@burr.senate.gov; Thom_Tillis@tillis.senate.gov
Subject: Cassidy-Graham bill

Hello Senators,

So, the ACA (aka Obamacare) is facing this final, surprise attack, called the Cassidy-Graham bill. Some are excited: the bill, if passed, would transfer authority over healthcare mandates from the federal government to each of that states. Thus, my state of North Carolina could determine what is best for its particular residents, and same for all of the other states. Thing is, who exactly is North Carolina, in terms of making those determinations? The sitting governor? We here in NC, who went from McCrory to Cooper, should see quite clearly how subjective that would be - and potentially a ping-pong ball getting inefficiently revamped each and every time there's a new governor? (In each state? What a complete waste of time and MONEY.) Or would the healthcare determinations ultimately be decided by the legislature(s)? If so, then, for us in NC, that means the illegally gerrymandered body, rendering all of their decisions suspect as well.

And, a question about the underlying assumption, that the citizens' healthcare needs and priorities vary from state to state (thereby making the states' in the best position to know what's best for their own distinct set of citizens) - is this even valid, to any substantive degree? I don't know of any state where its citizens are free of cancer. To my knowledge, Alzheimer's or the common cold pay no mind to geographical borders.

I have multiple chronic conditions. As I write, my gut is awash in pain and nausea: my 49-year-old colon is sub-par and, as a result, I get diverticulitis. Just this Monday, an ultrasound discovered a sizable growth in my thyroid, concerning enough that I have to get it biopsied. If it is cancer, then I read I can expect an immediate cancer surcharge (\$142,650 - per *year*!) on my health insurance policy. Now, I don't know if what I read is accurate; do you? Even if the thyroid nodule isn't cancerous, I'll likely need surgery still, because the growth is so large that it causes me to sometimes choke when I eat or drink (unavoidable activities). And that's not all; last week I had another ultrasound, to check up on my uterine fibroids following my most recent gynecological exam. Those results weren't fabulous either (the largest fibroid is the size of a newborn baby's head - a *head* - and that's just one of them!) But I had to tell my gynecologist, no, I can't consider that surgery at this time, because I may need to have this other surgery, on my thyroid, since that may be actually life-threatening.

That's just the very recent stuff. Doesn't even touch on my other assorted chronic conditions that I've been contending with for a decade-plus.

Humans rely on healthcare in every state. Healthcare is a national issue. Please vote NO on the Cassidy-Graham bill; thank you.

Laura Holley,
One of the very many pro-ACA Americans
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jo Ann Hallmark [REDACTED]<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

I am writing to go on record as vehemently opposed to the legislation proposed by Sens Graham and Cassidy. I lost a son in a car accident in 2015. If it hadn't been for the ACA, my family would have not only had to pick up the pieces of our hearts and learn to live without our precious son/brother, we would have also been bankrupted by the medical bills incurred trying to save his life. The same year I had two surgeries after being diagnosed with breast cancer. My oldest son had surgery after being diagnosed with testicular cancer. My husband has a rare auto-immune disease. I stood in line at my pharmacy behind a man filling prescriptions that cost \$700.00 for one month. He could easily pay that bill, but wondered aloud what happened to people who didn't have the resources. "They don't get better", the pharmacist told him. It is time to stop worrying about getting re-elected and start worrying about the well being of the citizens of this country. It is unbelievable that we spend the most money in the world to get the 34th rated health care. Return to the bipartisan efforts to improve the problems that exist in the ACA. Fix them, and then try to figure out how to get affordable health care to EVERY person in our country.

Jo Ann Hallmark
[REDACTED]

Blowing Rock, NC 28605

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kellar, Penelope [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No!!

I strongly disagree with the recent attempt by Graham and Cassidy to condemn the American people to a life where they must choose between the basic necessities and healthcare. How out of touch are you people anyway? To say this ill-conceived bill would cover preexisting conditions is a lie: If you cannot afford the premiums, you aren't going to be covered! My husband spent 7 days in the hospital in July--the bill was \$45,000!!! We have 3 insurance policies; we have the money to pay for them but we are not like most people in the country. We are the fortunate ones. That bill would bankrupt most people. Get your heads out of your bank vault for long enough to think about people who are not rich! What are they supposed to do? Just die? Please come to your senses and stop being political prostitutes for once. You are enemies of this country--not representatives! Do NOT pass this bill.

Penny

ICF | 2635 Meridian Parkway, Suite 200, Durham, NC 27713 USA

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cindy Nelson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Trumpcare

This is a bad bill! I want the same health care that the Senators get. Make Obamacare better; don't remove the best parts.

I am a voter from NC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christine Audette [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:57 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

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,

Christine Audette

Hendersonville, NC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kelly Theisen [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for the Record, Re: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

This bill is terrible. No, just no.

Sincerely,
Kelly Theisen, Ph.D.

--
Kelly E. Theisen, Ph.D.
Postdoctoral Research Scholar
Dept. of Molecular and Structural Biochemistry
North Carolina State University
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Betsy Crittenden [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:33 AM
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. While I am on Medicare and a gap policy, I have family members with both disabilities and pre-existing conditions that would be severely harmed by this bill, and therefore I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Crittenden

Chapel Hill, NC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Brandy Donaldson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:26 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. Brandy Donaldson

[REDACTED]
Mooresville, NC 28115
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: CannanHyde [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am totally opposed to this shocking bill that is being rushed through. At least wait til the CBO analysis comes through. Why can't we have a bipartisan bill? This one makes no sense. Why are the Republicans against health care? Cannan Hyde, NC Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: aiar Shai [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill -- VOTE NO

My health relies on affordable healthcare. The Graham-Cassidy bill would hurt me directly. I oppose it. I have a genetic condition that endangers my heart, and I would not be able to afford medical care for it without the ACA. There should be a bipartisan effort to IMPROVE the ACA, not repeal it.

-- Heidi Frost
Durham, NC 27713

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Junekwilliams [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

I live in North Carolina, am a senior and have Medicare. My niece is not a senior, she is a small business owner. When we moved to North Carolina from New York 10 years ago, she was unable to obtain health insurance because of family history and pre existing medical conditions. She was hospitalized before the ACA was law, and ended up paying 70,000 for her hospital stay. By the grace of God we did not go bankrupt but I know that bankruptcy due to medical bills has been the #1 cause of personal bankruptcy in the USA. 2 1/2 years ago she was diagnosed with Ovarian cancer stage 3C. She knew we made to much money to get any kind of government help, but how grateful we both were that she could get coverage at all. As she obtained coverage via the ACA she and her doctors have been able to focus on helping her rather than the money. She is alive and is about to participate in an immunologic trial at Wake Forest Baptist Hospital. I do not believe she would still have been alive to participate in this trial were it not for the ACA. I know the ACA needs to be fixed. We need the help of Republicans, Democrats and Independents. Please. please, please stand up and do the right thing.

3. Graham-Cassidy will result in an explosion of uninsured Americans. While current indications are that the Senate majority is willing to put this bill up for a vote without a CBO score, The Commonwealth Fund has published a preliminary analysis of the effects of Graham-Cassidy. It concludes that over the next 10 years, more than 30 *million* Americans will lose access to health insurance as a result of this ill-conceived proposal. Again, this is not acceptable.

I cannot say it strongly or plainly enough: Graham-Cassidy is bad politics, bad politics, and it will do incalculable damage to Americans with disabilities generally and amputees like me specifically. Instead, I urge Congress to follow the bipartisan efforts of some in the Senate and of numerous state governors: work together to fix the issues that everyone – Democrat, Republican, and Independent – freely acknowledge exist with the health care system.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my point of view on this critically important issue. I will be watching and voting in 2018 and beyond based on what happens in Washington over the next week.

Very truly yours,

Robert V Russell

[REDACTED]

Chapel Hill, NC 27516

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bob Russell [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

September 22, 2017

Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

My entire left leg and pelvis have been amputated for ten years now. I'm divorced, 70 years old, and live alone on social security. I am writing because the Graham-Cassidy Health Care Plan will hurt me and all individuals living with limb loss/difference in the United States. Let me state the importance of this issue clearly: *I will not vote in the midterm and next presidential election for any Representative or Senator who supports this bill.*

I have studied the effect of this bill since it became public. The impact it would have on amputees like me would be catastrophic.

- 1. Graham-Cassidy will allow insurers to assert annual and lifetime caps on prostheses.** Currently, all 50 states consider prosthetics an essential health benefit, but that would change under Graham-Cassidy. In states where prosthetics lose essential health benefit status, amputees will be subjected to annual and/or lifetime caps that render the insurance we pay premiums for useless. This will put the devices that we depend on to take every step and to open every door financially out of reach for many amputees. Alternatively, insurers can simply choose to offer policies that provide no coverage for prosthetics at all. This amounts to tacit federal sanctioning of discrimination against amputees. It is unacceptable.
- 2. Graham-Cassidy will permit insurers to discriminate against individuals with pre-existing conditions.** While Senators Graham and Cassidy insist that the prohibition against pre-existing condition exclusions will remain in effect under their proposal, they ignore the fact that the bill simultaneously gives insurers the right to charge higher premiums to people with pre-existing conditions. I urge you to look beyond the political spin and examine the actual *effect* of this change. People like me will suddenly see their premiums explode because we have a pre-existing condition; for many Americans with limb loss, this will be a financial burden they simply cannot bear, and they will fall into the ranks of the uninsured, unable to receive *any* prosthetic care and treatment. Not only is this bad from a moral and ethical standpoint, it is also a shortsighted economic decision. *Because of our current access to quality prosthetic care and treatment, millions of amputees in the U.S. live active, productive lives. Relegating us to crutches and wheelchairs will cost the government money in the long run.*

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gwen Clemens [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:04 PM
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. Don't throw the baby out with the bath water. The health of Americans should be more important than political agendas.

Sincerely,
Gwen Clemens

Hot Springs, NC 28743

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Wendy Moore <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham- Cassidy Bill

As a healthy person in her late 30's who had state employees insurance, I never gave affordable healthcare a thought until other factors, such as North Carolina's decline when it came to funding public education, and insurance and inflation became too much for this single woman. This is why, as an educator, I have moved abroad. Since I've been in a country with Universal Health Care, I have realized how incredibly expensive healthcare is in the USA.

While I educate embassy children from the US and other countries, I have needed healthcare here. I am so thankful I had my medical emergencies here: where I can rely on quality, affordable healthcare. I would love to come back and teach in my home country, but factors like this (and subsequently the lack of public education funding) keep me from coming back. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Knowing that my emergency appendectomy last year, with a 4 day hospital stay, a ruptured appendix, laparoscopic surgery, MRI, ambulance, and follow up care cost \$6,000(without insurance) here. My co-pay with my insurance was \$250 because I had a private room. This is a first-world country as well. Knowing our healthcare system and the lack of affordable care in the states, I know I would still be paying off a massive debt of well over \$17,000 because even with insurance, health care is not affordable for public employess, or for anyone else.

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

Let me be excited to come home.

Sincerely,

Wendy Moore

Registered Voter in Brevard, North Carolina

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Becky Whitaker [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. As a government contractor, I am not eligible for an employee healthcare plan and must rely on the ACA to buy my own health insurance. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My insurer, Blue Cross Blue Shield, has come out in opposition of this bill. It would cost my home state of North Carolina \$8.7 billion in Medicaid funding. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Whitaker

Sanford, NC

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jackie Mac [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No on healthcare

Senator Grassley's words epitomize everything that is wrong with this bill.

“You know, I could maybe give you 10 reasons why this bill shouldn’t be considered,” Grassley said. “But Republicans campaigned on this so often that you have a responsibility to carry out what you said in the campaign. That’s pretty much as much of a reason as the substance of the bill.”

Campaign promises are far less important than substance and impact on the lives of all Americans. What was that campaign promise intended to accomplish--to “repeal and replace” or to pass a more effective, accessible, and premium friendly plan? The bill falls flat on the latter. Repeal and replace, without substance, for the simple purpose of keeping a campaign promise is negligent. You can do better than this.

Prior to your vote, I would like you to explain the ramifications of this bill and answer the following questions for me and all your constituents:

1. How does this bill impact the State you represent?
2. How will the State Legislature respond? Will they request a waiver from preexisting condition and coverage limits?
3. How many Medicaid lives are at risk?
4. How many will lose coverage?
5. How will premiums be impacted?
6. What will be the cost of having a baby? For treating malignant cancer? For treating babies born with disabilities?
7. If this Bill passes, how will the \$400M from the Koch brothers be distributed?
8. What is the CBO score in terms of coverage and cost?
9. How much time has been allowed for public debate?
10. Is this the best you can do? Can you be proud of your vote?

This bill is not what the public wants; they have made their voices heard. A recent poll shows that 52% want to see the ACA continued.

Do the right thing. Vote No. Take the time necessary to write a bipartisan bill.

Jackie MacLeod

[REDACTED]
Letter sent to my Senators

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Orah Raia [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: PLEASE VOTE NO on the health care bill

Hello,

I have a 32 year old son who has been on the waiting list for the Medicaid waiver in North Carolina for over 7 years and we're told we have another 4-5 years before he can get supports. He and thousands of others CANNOT afford to see this bill pass. We cannot have the most vulnerable citizens in our country be left without health care. PLEASE impress the importance of voting no on this bill.

Thank you,

Orah Raia
Cary, NC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bert Borngesser III [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:22 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.

Bert Borngesser III
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Raleigh, North Carolina 27609

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

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Paula Quirin
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Cary, North Carolina 27518

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joanne Heckel [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:17 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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Joanne Heckel
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Clemmons, North Carolina 27012

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

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

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David Lussier
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Aberdeen, North Carolina 28315

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Americans have consistently made it clear that we want more comprehensive and better care, not attempts to reduce/remove it. 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.

Stacey Lundy

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Salisbury, North Carolina 28144

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

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

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Jennifer Angyal

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Gibsonville , North Carolina 27249

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stephen Boletchek [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.

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Stephen Boletchek

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Apex, North Carolina 27502

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: patricia lowder [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.

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patricia lowder
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

mt pleasant, North Carolina 28124

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Biddle [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.

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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.

I feel very strongly about NOT voting for any health care reform, especially this present version which hasn't been explained and discussed BEFORE any vote is taken.

Barbara Biddle
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Cary, North Carolina 27513

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Edelstein [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.

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Susan Edelstein
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Cary, North Carolina 27511

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

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

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Susan Hardin
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

STATESVILLE, North Carolina 28677

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Moldoveanu [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.

Carol Moldoveanu
[REDACTED]

Winston Salem, North Carolina 27106

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jack Smith <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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Jack Smith
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wilmington, North Carolina 28405

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: kicab castaneda-mendez [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

chapel hill, North Carolina 27517

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David Smith [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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David Smith
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Durham NC, North Carolina 27707

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mitchell Ward [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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Mitchell Ward
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Greensboro, North Carolina 27408

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

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Patsy Martinson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Decorah, Iowa 52101

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

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Ross Chamberlain
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Las Vegas, Nevada 89108

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

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Diane Kokowski
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15216-3354

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

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Paul Smith
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Salt Lake City, Utah 84105

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

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Darwin Kellicut
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Bayview, Idaho 83803

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

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ken kerle

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

topeka, Kansas 66611

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

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It's totally shocking that 2 or 3 votes are needed to save or kill a bill that effects many millions of citizens that has been drafted in secret and in fact is not about healthcare, but tax cuts for the wealthy.

We are rapidly destroying the will of the general population in pursuit of the all mighty dollar. Selling out to the highest bidder will result in being left with nothing. Riots and culture wars may soon be eclipsed by a Koren bomb if the "dotard" gets his way.

Dale Hinch
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

San Antonio, Texas 78249