

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jenny McCune [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, September 25, 2017

I oppose the Graham Cassidy bill because it will reduce accessibility to healthcare (cutbacks to Medicaid, allowing states to opt out of affordable coverage for people with pre-existing conditions, allowing Medical Insurance), increase costs to consumers (increased premiums and co-pays).

I am personally affected. I had a spinal cord injury 10 years ago, so I have a pre-existing condition.

I work at a community health center providing mental health services. I have seen how Medicaid expansion in the state of Montana has helped the working poor and has REDUCED costs as people have been able to come to our clinics instead of going to emergency rooms or forgoing care initially resulting in higher bills as their medical condition worsens.

Finally I am against this bill because it is not been properly vetted. I agree with Sen. McCain that you need to take time to figure out what the impact of this bill would be in if it's actually solving the problems we have with the affordable care act. Sincerely, Jenny McCune, Bozeman Montana

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Agata Gluszek [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA repeal

I urge you to put country before part and the lives of millions of people ahead of campaign contributions from rich people. The repeal of the Affordable Care Act will not improve my life; it will results in higher premiums, lower quality of care, and higher cost of care as a women. How is this making lives better for the middle-class Americans? You should be focusing on how to make healthcare better - increasing enrollment and access, lowering premiums, and improving the quality of care. Sincerely, Agata Gluszek

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Crooks [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to Graham-Cassidy bill

Please vote NO for the Graham-Cassidy bill. It takes away insurance and limits resources from those who most need it, and ultimately would result in further decline of our world-wide health statistics.

my suggestion:

LIMITED single payor healthcare system. This would provide generic and cheap basic care for those diseases and conditions that when left untreated not just bring people to the ER but also land people ICU visits and ultimately nursing home (then on Medicaid) living. This provides the cheap medicines for heart disease and diabetes and kidney disease, the medicines that people don't fill because they don't think they can afford it, AND because it's hard for them to see the purpose in it when they feel fine. But not taking the medication leads to progression of disease and ICU admissions. It also provides social worker and health coaches or counselors for education regarding their conditions, treatments, consequences, and resources. In addition, since a huge part of health care expenses are for catastrophic issues, and the beneficiaries of that care in this year are lower-care users in the next year, the single payor system could also cover catastrophic care.

THEN, private providers and employers can cover elective care like knee and hip replacements, expensive cancer treatments, new medicine options. This option may be more profitable for the insurers and definitely would provide basic care for our citizens.

It makes me sad to see the USA homeless on the streets with medical conditions i really only see here and in 2nd and 3rd world countries. Our nation's health statistics are embarrassing, and it's not because of the ACA, it's because our system is more concerned with profits then well-being. The free market doesn't work here like normal, because the buyers are not the users; the buyers are employers who don't really care about our health if we do not work for them (which happens with medical disability.)

Lastly, a radical realization: financially, if we cannot provide single-payer (guaranteed payment) for emergency and necessary care, it should not be required of the medical industry to provide care. That is, if someone calls for grandma who's grabbed her chest at the dinner table, and the ambulance arrives but there is no proof of payment resources, the ambulance should be legally allowed to leave; same for motor vehicle accident victims and so forth. I don't think we as people can tolerate seeing or knowing of that happening, but there is not another option financially feasible if everyone is not covered but care is mandated (EMTALA.)

- Carol Crooks MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Molly Park [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

My family quite literally would not be here without access to quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. While I was pregnant with my son, I had a pregnancy-related pulmonary embolism. Thanks to my doctors I was diagnosed quickly, and thanks to our health insurance, I was able to access the expensive medication needed to save both my life and the life of my son. Everyone deserves access to quality healthcare. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Molly Park
New York, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sharon [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

To whom it may concern:

The Graham-Cassidy Bill is just a hateful attempt to fulfill campaign promises made by certain GOP Senators and Donald Trump.

The fact that funds will be shifted from Democratic states to Republican states alone is proof that it is about politics and not the health care of our nation.

Defunding Planned Parenthood is cruel and indecent. Increasing premiums for senior citizens is heartless. Higher premiums and reduced quality of care for people with pre-existing conditions would be life threatening. How can ANYone think that this is a healthcare plan??

The ACA needs to be supported and improved. The health of Americans needs to come before politics!

Regards,
Sharon Adams

[REDACTED]
Eastport, NY. 11941

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nila Wilson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE NO

My health, and the health of my family, friends, and most of all, my patients is not something to toss around carelessly to make a political point. Put your big boy & big girl pants on, do the right thing for patients & this country-stop this madness & vote NO! To risk & sacrifice health care for the poor, the children, & elderly-those who will be hit hardest-is unconscionable at best & unforgivable at its worst. You must do your jobs, stop trying to wipe out 8 years of President Obama-you cannot do it-& punish the people who are most vulnerable for political gain. What in the name of all that is holy & sane can you possibly be thinking? WE the PEOPLE deserve-no we demand-that this effort be bipartisan with careful & thoughtful debate while gathering ALL pertinent information needed to make such critical, life threatening decisions.

Our memories are sharp & long-we will never forget this and unless Russia hacks the next election too-there will be repercussions. Please vote NO! Read what the majority of respected groups are saying-non-partisan groups like the AMA & the AHA -well worth your time. Get in the trenches with me-see the people you are impacting-YOU help them with cab fare because they need to buy food. You watch patients whose lives are devastated when they require long term care or rehab & can't afford it. Or those who wait till they are 65 so Medicare kicks in but it's too late & that medical procedure won't save them now. YOU deliver that message to families. Get out of your offices, watch us do the grunt work-then tell me why this bill makes sense. VOTE NO! This bill is not the answer.

Regards,

Nila A Wilson

Roanoke, Virginia

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: tim warren [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

To Whom It May Concern,

I am registered independent and have voted 50-50 Democrat and Republican over the last 20 years.

You can't be serious if you wish to pass the subject bill !

It will be the greatest legislative disaster in American history.

The Republican Party will have lost all credibility in being the party about ideas.

it will instead descend to being the party about political pandering to its own partisan base.

I have a voter registration card ready to go - I will change my affiliation from independent to Democrat, guaranteed - and I'm in some Republican districts !!

History will not look at this too kindly,

Tim Warren

[REDACTED]
San Diego CA 92128
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lauren Gray [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

Hello,

I write as a concerned citizen and health care advocate in Richmond, Virginia, to ask Congress to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

The Graham-Cassidy bill, like previous bills to repeal health care that were already rejected this summer in the Senate, would have a devastating impact on America's families. Specifically, Graham-Cassidy would:

- Cause more than 30 million people to lose their health insurance
- Make devastating cuts to the expanded Medicaid program. Under Graham-Cassidy, the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion would end altogether by 2027, throwing millions of people off their coverage.
- Cap funding for the traditional Medicaid program, which provides vital care to seniors, children, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations.
- Cut funding for the financial assistance that helps people purchase insurance through the Affordable Care Act's insurance marketplaces.
- Allow states to eliminate protections for people with preexisting conditions and to end the requirements that insurers cover a set of essential health benefits like oral health services, prescription drugs, maternity care, and mental health care.

This is unacceptable and truly shameful. Please listen to appeals from Americans to continue improving the Affordable Care Act, rather than dismantling the health care safety net. If this bill is enacted, it would be a step backwards.

Thank you,

Lauren Gray
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julia Merchant [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: For the love of god

To whom it may concern,

Please do not allow this bill to become law. Vote no and then do the most rational and decent thing you can by supporting Single Payer Healthcare reform. Save this country from the corporations.

Respectfully,
Julia Merchant
Winsted, CT

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jane Mason [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care bill

Let's fix it together. It's a bipartisan problem. It needs a bipartisan solution. Let's not cut people out Arthur Mason
[REDACTED] ineland Florida 33945

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Grace Eder [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing on healthcare

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My struggle with my pre-existing mental health conditions would leave me a complete mess if I didn't have affordable coverage for my treatment. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Grace

Columbus, OH

--
Grace Eder

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: danielle lail [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy Bill

Hello -

I am writing to let you know that I oppose the latest healthcare repeal and replace bill. This bill didn't follow any process and it seems like our senators are not looking out for us, but just trying to have something so they can say they repealed Obamacare. The bill doesn't appear to be equal for states with some of the most populous states losing money. I am not sure why we would now reward states that didn't expand medicaid in the first place by giving them money now. This bill will hurt the poorest and most vulnerable among us.

I deeply oppose this bill.

Danielle Lail.
Austin, Texas.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lauren Gray [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

Hello,

I write as a concerned citizen and health care advocate in Richmond, Virginia, to ask Congress to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

The Graham-Cassidy bill, like previous bills to repeal health care that were already rejected this summer in the Senate, would have a devastating impact on America's families. Specifically, Graham-Cassidy would:

- Cause more than 30 million people to lose their health insurance
- Make devastating cuts to the expanded Medicaid program. Under Graham-Cassidy, the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion would end altogether by 2027, throwing millions of people off their coverage.
- Cap funding for the traditional Medicaid program, which provides vital care to seniors, children, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations.
- Cut funding for the financial assistance that helps people purchase insurance through the Affordable Care Act's insurance marketplaces.
- Allow states to eliminate protections for people with preexisting conditions and to end the requirements that insurers cover a set of essential health benefits like oral health services, prescription drugs, maternity care, and mental health care.

This is unacceptable and truly shameful. Please listen to appeals from Americans to continue improving the Affordable Care Act, rather than dismantling the health care safety net. If this bill is enacted, it would be a step backwards.

Thank you,

Lauren Gray, MPH, MSW

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
●len Allen, VA 23060
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign Number 08572

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jenna Wloszczowski [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

To whom it may concern:

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with pre-existing conditions started almost a year ago to date, when I visited a doctor because I thought I was pregnant, and instead, discovered a huge mass on my ovary, which led to an emergency visit to an oncologist and a surgery. Hearing the words "Ovarian Cancer" and "Borderline Tumor" was terrifying. I am a 29 year old woman with no family history of this type of cancer, facing the first surgery of my life, the fear of never being able to have the children I've always wanted, and the news that I also had an ectopic pregnancy. Thankfully, I have insurance through work, and did not have to worry about costs. Instead, I focused on getting better and recovering from surgery. My tumor was removed and I am so grateful to say I am now cancer free. I continue to depend on insurance as I go through IVF, still trying to have the children we so desperately desire. While I am now cancer free, I fear that my history will forever leave me labeled with a preexisting condition. I have been lucky, but SO MANY others are not, and I know I am just a life change away from being in a position where I would need to find new insurance, fearing that I might not be able to have coverage. **I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.**

Sincerely, Jenna Wloszczowski

Rockville, Maryland

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Janis Ribbens [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments for the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal, September 25, 2017
Attachments: Graham Cassidy Johnson Heller 2017.docx

Senate Finance Committee,

Please find attached a personal story to be considered by the Hearing to consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal, September 25, 2017.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Janis Ribbens
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Plover, WI 54467

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christine Psyk [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal to Repeal the ACA

Title of Hearing: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal Date of Hearing: September 25, 2017
Full Name: Christine Psyk
Address: [REDACTED], Seattle, WA 98112

I am writing to express my deep opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal. This new effort to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is a thoughtless, misguided attempt to further destabilize and unravel the American health care system. The proposal aims to defund Medicaid over time which is completely unacceptable. Medicaid is critical to millions of poor people in this country who do not make enough money to afford health coverage and health care costs. To cap spending on Medicaid when we have data that shows medical costs rising at a faster rate than this proposed artificial cap is criminal. To devolve Medicaid funding to the states through block grants is unacceptable and wrong. We need Medicaid as it is currently structured to guarantee access to health care to millions of Americans.

My brother is disabled and relies on Medicaid to augment his Medicare. He is not and never will be in a position to afford co-pays and deductibles and costly drugs. My brother is schizophrenic and he is elderly. To put him at risk by dramatically changing the Medicaid system is irresponsible, cruel and completely without justification.

I think the Republicans need to quit trying to undo the ACA. Granted it isn't perfect but it did expand access to health care to millions of people who previously did not have access because they were too poor to afford insurance coverage and/or had jobs that did not offer health insurance coverage. The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal would defund Medicaid by 2026. What is the thinking there? Is the expectation that suddenly these poor people will be able to afford insurance coverage? I don't think so. I think the Republicans simply don't care what the impact is on ordinary Americans. In their own politically self serving fashion they just want to undo the ACA because over so many years they promised to do so.

Unfortunately, the Republicans' ideas about the American health care system are completely bankrupt. I have not yet heard one fully fleshed out idea that will lead to better health care for Americans.

Stop it, Republicans. Do something useful and work with the Democrats on a bipartisan basis to fix what's wrong with the ACA. Stop this continued onslaught to destabilize the health care insurance market by coming up with crazy, unworkable schemes such as requiring states to come up with their own health care systems by 2020. What a recipe for disaster!

Thank you for considering my comments.

Christine Psyk

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Haan [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy Hearing

My daughters rely on quality, affordable healthcare; if this option is taken from them, they will be without healthcare. Not to mention the millions of other Americans who rely on the ACA - OBAMACARE - for their lives. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill (not to mention it is poorly written; written quickly and without thought to protect the ego of a playground bully).

I would like to see a **bipartisan** Congressional effort to improve the ACA, **not** repeal it. The infighting in Congress is appalling and those who are working with the bully should be profoundly ashamed.

Sincerely,
Nancy J Haan
Prescott, AZ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Nellenback [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care for my family

To Whom it May Concern:

My daughter's family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. They are among the millions who have been tangibly helped by the Affordable Care Act, specifically with the expansion of Medicaid. Prior to this bill, they always made too much money to qualify for Medicaid, and far too little to be able to afford the next least expensive plan, especially after a skin cancer scare and a difficult pregnancy (pre-existing conditions!). They are self-employed, working hard and not making much money, but trying to make a good life for themselves and my grandsons.

Access to affordable health care is a basic human necessity, not a product or commodity. It should not be rationed according to the dictates of the profit motive or whether one's work pays enough to be able to afford it. All people matter, not just the wealthy donors who are pushing this repeal effort. I would like to see a good-faith, bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Mary E. Nellenback
Auburn, New York

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Juliette Nash Nash [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Please reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes. This is unacceptable.

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. This is unacceptable.

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

Juliette Nash Nash

[REDACTED]m

[REDACTED]
San Diego, California 92126

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: rebecca dulit [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: re New GOP health care bill

I am in VERY STRONG OPPOSITION to the newest GOP health care bill. It would be a terrible policy for too many people. I am speaking as a physician and as a mother & wife. My patients will be harmed. Their mental health needs will not be met or they will be unable to afford premiums. My husband who has diabetes will have trouble getting insurance or be unable to afford premiums. My daughter who has autism will have trouble getting insurance or be unable to afford premiums. Please vote against this horrible bill----instead improve the situation with Obamacare which has helped SO SO many. Thank you and good night, Rebecca Dulit, M.D..

--

Rebecca A. Dulit, M.D.

[REDACTED]
Scarsdale, NY 10583
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Miles Townes [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:22 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.

Miles Townes
Arlington, VA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Claire P [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: comments on Graham-Cassidy

Hello:

I am a citizen of Los Angeles, CA and am writing in vehement opposition to the proposed Graham Cassidy bill. My son, who is six years old and has a disability (cerebral palsy) belongs to a class of people that will be disproportionately impacted by Medicaid cuts, such as those in the Graham-Cassidy bill. Services like Home and Community Based Services would likely be cut because they are optional. Services like these allow people with disabilities to be integrated members of society as opposed to segregated in institutions. When my son is an adult, I want him to be able to decide what he wears, what kind of toothpaste he uses, what his hair looks like, what music he listens to, when he eats. These simple choices are taken away when people with disabilities are put into institutions instead of receive home based services.

Thank you for reading my comments. I ask you to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill or any bill that caps or cuts Medicaid, cuts healthcare for people with disabilities, imposes lifetime caps, and does not protect people with pre-existing conditions.

Sincerely,
Lauren Reinhardt

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marita Sullivan [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare Vote

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

Marita Sullivan
Zip Code 19520

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Health Care Bill

Please do not pass this Graham Cassidy Health Care Bill. It does not have guarantees for pre-existing conditions. It has not been vetted by people. This is something that should take careful thought and hearings. Marie Eloise Setser, Charleston, SC 29414

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: SW Portland Huddle [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My siblings have pre-existing conditions that would make it nearly impossible for them to access the care and medications they need to be healthy if they could not get affordable care. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Taylor Crevola
[REDACTED]
Portland, OR 97202

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rachel Ryan [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

There are no words to adequately express the horror I feel at the possibility of the GOP moving forward with Graham-Cassidy despite its many obvious flaws, which have potentially life-threatening consequences for those the senate is supposed to represent. Beginning with the fact that you are trying to jam this through without a CBO score, to the fact that deals are being made with certain states, such as Alaska, which acknowledge to us all that you see the grievous problems in this bill, to the fact that Graham and Cassidy continue to lie to the country about the contents of the plan, it is clear, to support Graham-Cassidy is not in the best interests of American people.

As an educator, I get to work with young people and can't help but think everyday about what your actions would mean for them and their families. As a volunteer, I work with children who have cancer, and can't help but grieve when considering the long term effects this would have on their lifelong ability to access necessary healthcare. As a woman, I continually fear the demand of male lawmakers that they are the ones who get to make decisions about my body. As a person with empathy and compassion for others, I recognize that healthcare repeal efforts continue to put forth bills which disproportionately impact low income families, people of color, and women.

You represent us ALL. Don't forget that.

To vote yes on Graham-Cassidy is to acknowledge that your driving force is not protecting and representing the American people, but is nothing more than a burning desire to undo all that President Obama touched. To act on party lines rather than evaluating what is actually the moral thing for humans to do is to tell us once again that you don't actually care about the people who are depending on you. Rise above this pettiness and become American heroes. Seek to work across party lines to improve the ACA. But please, don't give in to bullying and pass Graham-Cassidy.

Our lives are in your hands.

Rachel Ryan
Salem, OR

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kim Starr [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Medicaid Story

Kim and Kane Shutter

[REDACTED]
Arena, WI. 53503

Our daughter Sedona is 22 years old and autistic. She has thrived all her life through hard work on the part of our entire family and support from Medicaid funded programs since Birth to 3. If we hadn't had those programs our family would not have made it, I'm serious. The toll a special needs child puts on the family is fierce, almost as fierce as having to fight not to lose the programs over and over again. She now has two jobs and is not only a taxpayer but pays a large portion of her residential housing "room and board" costs with the money she's earned. These jobs have given her a life, without the support of her coach to keep her on task the job will go away.

Our kids have earned the right to be independent, as all young adults have. If this were your child you'd do nothing less than write these letters, pray, cry, rail against the injustice of a system that whittles away at the family's security...

Please vote no.

Kim Starr-Shutter, Kane Shutter and Sedona Starr Shutter

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Martha Benoit [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill public comment

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the Affordable care act not a repeal. It doesn't make any sense to put a bill up for a vote that hasn't been scored by the Congressional budget office. And no hearings! This is not the way to govern. The American people expect and deserve better.

Martha Benoit
Agawam, Massachusetts

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Best regards,
Martha

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Theresa Woehrle [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

As a primary care physician my patients rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Many of my patients are currently covered by the ACA and/or Medicaid. They all have pre-existing conditions such as hypertension, heart conditions, diabetes, and thyroid conditions and would struggle to obtain coverage that is affordable. Many are on multiple necessary medications to prevent further illness and disability. Without access to affordable coverage that provides medications coverage, they are unable to take the medications as prescribed which results in poor control of chronic conditions and leads to further health care costs.

On a more personal note, my own son obtains coverage through ACA. He loves his work as an aid to children with autism but does not receive employer-based health insurance. He has preexisting asthma and is dependent on his medical care and medications. He requires an affordable health care option that will not increase his cost due to preexisting conditions.

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

Sincerely,

Theresa Woehrle, MD

[REDACTED]
La Crescenta, CA 91214

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Megan Snyder [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham-Cassidy Bill

As a concerned citizen of this already great nation, I implore you to join with the great many of us who see no good coming from such a bill and much to find wrong and do all you can to make sure it does not pass. My own daughter struggles with diabetes Type I and, recently, has had to turn to the Affordable Care Act to help her with her diabetes supplies since she has not been able to find a good job that offers employer covered health care.

She is a single mom since her son's dad chose to leave her; he does not have a job at this time, choosing to instead be a student with no responsibilities, including contributing to the care of their son. She, then, is one of the many who have a pre-existing condition and would not be covered under this new act. She can, of course, keep looking for better jobs and we, her family, could try to help with what would certainly be a great strain to our finances, but what we cannot change is that she has had insulin- dependent diabetes since she was 8 years old (25 years ago) and went off our insurance at the age of 21.

Type I diabetes is not preventable; there is no known cause or cure. It is something that one could easily spend hundreds of dollars per year on insulin, needles, testing supplies, and doctor care. These expenses, unlike some of our medications are not something one can choose to take (like, for example, Viagra is).

Please search your hearts and do the right thing on behalf of the good people of this country...and take care of those who need federal government provided healthcare (and not leave it to the states since a great many are choosing to back in time and not cover a number of things that have been covered on the past)

thank you.
Megan Snyder,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Deane Armstrong [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

To whom it may concern- given the fact that no one seems to really understand the ramifications this bill, especially the people that it would affect, I urge Republicans and Democrats to vote down this bill and work together to find a truly great solution to the health care problems facing the United States.

H. Deane Armstrong
Wayne, PA.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joy Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement concerning the Affordable Care Act

Dear Senators:

DO NOT repeal the Affordable Care Act. FIX IT!
Do your jobs; work together.

In 2011 before the AFA, my husband and I paid over \$14,000 / year for our individual health care plans. High premiums are not the result of the AFA. They were here before. Do something to reduce costs. Do something to contain prescription drug costs and do something to move away from billing based on tests and interventions.

Before the AFA, my son who lives in Colorado and works in the restaurant industry could not afford health insurance. Under Colorado's current plan he can afford it. He is healthy and under 40 and buys into the market. We don't want to lose that.

We cannot risk the inevitable cuts in Medicaid that will come with block grants. My 98 year-old uncle who lives in a nursing home may outlive his savings. Medicaid is essential to care for our elderly. Caps on Medicaid are unconscionable.

Health care is a right not a privilege. All Americans deserve basic care. Blowing up our system of health care to keep a promise to your base is immoral. Nation before party.

The Graham - Cassidy bill is immoral.

Sincerely,
Joy Smith

[REDACTED]
Iowa City, IA 52245
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ingrid Good [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

I am a part-time employee and rely on the ACA for my health care because I can't get it through my employer. I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill and want to see a bi-partisan bill that improves on the ACA.

Ingrid Good

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Malia Andrus [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My ACA story

Dear Senators:

I wanted to email and let you know that I'm strongly against repealing the ACA. Without the ACA I wouldn't have been able to make a entrepreneurial and strategic choice in my career.

Let's roll way back. In the late 1980s, my dad decided to strike out on his own as a CPA after years in large firms. For a while, my family had health coverage through the Colorado CPA association, but when they decided to stop offering insurance, we were in a real panic. I'm asthmatic. My mother had several benign breast tumors. Our pre-existing conditions meant that no one would ensure us. With no coverage and still needing medical care, it was the scariest period of my childhood.

Eventually we found coverage, but this was in my head in 2012 when I was musing whether I could be partially self-employed. I applied for coverage before ACA went into effect and I was, as many years before, denied coverage for pre-existing conditions. I was like many people, tied to my employer for the insurance. This precluded me from one of the most American paths out there: entrepreneurialism.

But after the ACA passed, I could both qualify for insurance and easily buy it on my own in the marketplace. It literally made the difference in my life path. I can only imagine how it would be if I didn't even have the option of full time employment. *Please don't take away a lifeline for many people's health and ability to make their way in our economy.*

Vote no.

Sincerely,
J. Malia Andrus

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Haney Armstrong [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please preserve my healthcare

The ACA has be critical to me being able to afford health insurance coverage and the peace of mind that goes with it. Please don't repeal it and replace it with something that will provide less coverage for more money.

Thank you,

Haney Armstrong

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kristine Ohman [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare and I believe that everyone should have access to the same. The Graham-Cassidy bill does not guarantee affordable health care for all, does not mandate affordable coverage for existing conditions, and will not provide an adequate safety net for those who are unable to afford health insurance. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Kristine Ohman
Spencerport, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Blair Jedinak [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham- Cassidy Bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. I teach at a public school and my students and families also rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My students' families need affordable healthcare. They have told me that if their cost of healthcare increases, so will their work hours. Leaving my four year old students at home without a parent, and in the care of siblings and family members. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Blair Jedinak- Klemens

Plymouth, MN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Janice in GA [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy. PLEASE.

This bill would have horrible repercussions for many people, especially for people with pre-existing conditions.

Let me tell you about my sister. She just turned 55. She did everything right. She went to the doctor regularly. She kept her weight down. She ate healthy. She never, ever smoked, not even experimentally, like many of us did when we were young. She exercised.

And last December, she went to the doctor thinking she might have a touch of pneumonia. It turns out she has stage 4 lung cancer. Yes, lung cancer in someone who never smoked, and who couldn't stand to be around the SMELL of cigarettes. It happens. And not only were her lungs affected. The cancer was already in her brain and in her bones.

You can do everything right and be healthy, right up until the moment you find out you're going to die. This could happen to you. It could happen to any of us. This is why we need a ROBUST health care system.

My sister is hanging in thanks modern medicine. But increasing her premiums or cutting her coverage would be a DEATH SENTENCE.

All the major medical and hospital and insurance groups have come out AGAINST this bill. PLEASE STOP TRYING TO HARM AMERICANS BY THESE TERRIBLE SO-CALLED "REFORMS". Is that really, REALLY how you want to be remembered????

Sincerely,

Janice Hopper
Duluth, GA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Olga Vannucci [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO Graham-Cassidy

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill, which would raise premiums and hurt many with pre-existing conditions.

2/3 of Americans in nursing homes rely on Medicaid because they have run out of their own savings. We all know someone in those circumstances.

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

Thank you.
Olga Vannucci

[REDACTED]
Pittstown, NJ 08867

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: D B [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

We deserve so much more from our lawmakers than this politically driven, poorly conceived, rush-job of a bill. I hope in my heart of hearts this is your way or appearing responsive to Trump by propping something so terrible it won't ever make it to his desk for signature, but you are playing a game with someone who makes the rules up as he goes, and the rules always favor him. That aside, please don't hide behind the rhetoric of your party or constituency. What you do here matters and you owe it to yourselves and your countrymen to work with one another to use the iterative process of lawmaking to make things progressively better, not blow it up. People's actual lives depend on what you do. Just getting rid of ACA is not an answer and playing to the 'red states' is low politics and terrible law/policy. Please don't pass this. I have served this nation for 20 years and I have never been more sorrowed than I have been almost daily in the last 9 months, and I was serving in the Middle East for the 2000 election when we didn't know for a time who had won the election. We endured quips, jabs, and earnest concern from allies and foes alike in 2000, but this is worse. By miles and miles, this is worse. Please work together. Don't let him do to your legislative body what he does to his staff, to our country. Thank you for your service.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE NO ON GRAHAM/CASSIDY/HELLER

I just sent you another e-mail about two seconds ago, but I thought I should make sure you understand that I am a REAL PERSON, and brother let me tell you I VOTE.

Sharon Chace
[REDACTED]
St. Paul, MN 55105

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Katie Mckenzie [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Bill

I am writing to express my opinion on the proposed Graham-Cassidy Bill.

This bill will be terrible for anyone needing health insurance. Leaving the "block grants" and standards to each state will make a terrible problem. It may mean that some states cancel pre-existing condition coverage or make it so expensive that no one can afford it. It can make a patchwork of laws so that people might have to move to get proper coverage.

In no way will it make insurance more readily available, keep current coverage numbers, or make health care more affordable. It will serve to make insurance and medical care more expensive.

I have been diagnosed with lupus since 1985. I would have no way to purchase or afford medical insurance. Lifetime limits that would be reimposed would also harm my family. My husband has had DVT and Pulmonary Embolism, I have had breast cancer. Without insurance for these conditions we would have been bankrupt. Had there been a lifetime limit imposed we might have been in terrible trouble as well.

Please do NOT pass this horror of a bill. The American people deserve better. This bill is the worst of the "repeal and replace". The ACA does need reform but it can be fixed and made better--in a bipartisan way. Please listen to John McCain--who is a true hero. Write a repair for the ACA and follow regular order. Work together for the American People and not just Republican Donors.

You really do not want to own this travesty of a bill. Reject it now.
Katheryne McKenzie
Neotsu, OR 97364

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robert Olesen [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

Gentlemen:

This bill being proposed is an absolute disaster that will throw millions of people off the insurance based health care system they depend on. It is loaded with forced gestation provisions and is opposed the the vast majority of Americans.

If you're smart, the leader won't even call a vote but if he does, the citizens of this great country will surely take note of who wanted to endanger them and their families and vote accordingly during the next election. Even the people who put you in office are against this bill.

The dishonest way the GOP spokesmen are representing this bill to the media when answering questions about it is disgraceful. One lie after another untruth after another lie and all discussions about it conducted in secret. Don't think people don't notice this.

Why don't you do as the senator from Arizona has suggested, return to regular order, hold public hearings, listen to real experts and involve the other party and the public in negotiating a bill most Americans can get behind?

Abandon trying to ram bill after repeal bill through in the middle of the night.

Sincerely,

Robert B.Olesen, an American citizen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michelle Rankin [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: How the Bill will affect me with type one diabetes

Dear distinguished Senators of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Michelle Irene Puczynski, and I am 33 years old, from Urbandale, Iowa. I have been living with type one diabetes for nearly my entire life, as I was diagnosed as an infant with a disease I did not ask for and could not have prevented in any way. Type One Diabetes is an autoimmune disease, which is not related in any way to lifestyle choices or can be reversed by any treatment at this time. Each and every day, I depend on insulin delivery through an insulin pump in order to metabolize food and energy in my body in order to function normally each day. Without daily insulin injections or delivery, the blood glucose levels in my body raise, causing the acidity in the blood become toxic. This slowly begins to shut down organs such as kidneys, liver and the heart. This daily treatment is life support. Life support which runs my bank account to 0\$ every month. As PhD candidate, I bring home a modest salary annually for teaching children who are at risk and require special education services. I will never be rich through this employment, but I fear this may be a field I will need to leave as I will no longer be able to afford the daily requirements of living with my disease. With the passing of the Cassidy-Graham Bill, it may become even more difficult for my family to afford the medicines and treatments necessary to keep me alive.

Before reaching my insurance deductible at the end of the year, I pay nearly \$1500 each month for the tools necessary to keep me alive. This does not account for any additional medications or doctor visits which are required to keep me both healthy and strong enough to care for my family. My estimated expenses for insulin since I was diagnosed, amounts to nearly \$515,000 dollars. This does not include testing strips, insulin pump, back up syringes, insulin infusion set and for emergencies, glucagon to treat blood glucose levels which are so low I am in an extreme medical emergency.

This bill, which also removes federal funding from planned parenthood, will be a detriment to young men and women throughout the country. I graduated from the University of Toledo in 2007, I was between graduation and my new job as an educator. I went nearly 120 days without insurance, and planned parenthood helped me receive medications such as insulin vials and syringes to ensure I would not be in a medical emergency or death from not having daily insulin injections. This would have put me with only the option of visiting an emergency room each time I ran out of lifesaving medications in order to avoid death. Planned Parenthood helped me, please continue to make sure it helps others who have been in similar situations.

I am a very lucky woman to have a family who cares about me, a school district which supports me with a group insurance plan to purchase, to have a wonderful medical team whom I go to regularly to make sure my disease is well managed. There are so many individuals in this country and in the state of Iowa, who do not have access to the same as I. I ask that you consider revising this health care plan. Please take the time to input thoughtful solutions which will benefit those who live with diseases they did not ask for nor deserve. As a young child, I had no idea my disease would set me apart as an adult and I may face the decision if I can afford to take insulin one day and chance death.

Thank you for taking the time to read my statement today. I do hope you remember that your decisions may be the determining factor between life and death for your constituents. I pray my story, will help you to see that my life is valuable and as constituents, I hope you will represent our needs.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marie Goodkin [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

I would like to express my opinion that the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill is a travesty. This bill MUST NOT become law. It would have a devastating effect on millions of Americans, especially those with preexisting conditions, the elderly, and children.

Thank you for your time.

Marie E. Goodkin
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Chicago IL 60605

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Caroline Tompkins [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Heller a disaster for American families

Senate Finance Committee,

American families with pre-existing conditions must not be thrown off of affordable coverage. All Americans are entitled to the essential coverages Graham-Cassidy-Heller would cause more than 30million people to lose their health coverage and would undercut Medicaid. This would seriously – disastrously - harm some of the most vulnerable members of our communities, seniors and people with disabilities.

Caroline Tompkins
Tucson, Arizona

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jenna Howard [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

[Your name]
[City, State]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: The Werner Family [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: comments on on Graham Cassidy

Dear Elected Officials

First, let me thank you for your time serving our nation. Second, I am concerned that the Graham-Cassidy bill does not seem to address the issues of why health care costs have and most likely will continue to increase at rates so much higher than anything else in our economy. In fact, by removing some of the mandated assistance and mandated coverage, costs will continue to sky rocket especially for specific groups of people. As an example, my daughter is taking medication that costs \$3,000 for a 90 day supply. While we as a family are fortunate enough to be able to cover this for her, when she graduates from college in the next two years, I am not sure how she can continue her medication on her own especially if the increasing costs of medical care and drugs are not addressed. I do not see how this bill addresses those issues. For starters I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Included in the improvements should be ways to help reduce these costs. This is a national problem that can use your esteemed guidance and hopefully the collective bargaining of the whole country, not on a state by state basis. Thank you for taking my comment.

Sincerely, Teresa Werner
Villa Hills, KY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elizabeth Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

We are still in bankruptcy from medical bills I had due to a stroke and hospital stay. My husband is still working. Graham-Cassidy Bill will take away any healthcare coverage we have. We cannot afford this devastating legislation.

Elizabeth S. Jones

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Redeker, Nancy [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Finance Committee

I am writing to express my extreme concern about the Graham-Cassidy Bill and its likely negative impact on the health of our country.

I am a professor of nursing, mother, grandmother, daughter and wife. I am also a member of the American Academy of Nursing, the American Nurses Association, American Heart Association, and the AARP. All of these experts opposed this bill – for good reasons.

As currently written it does not have adequate protections for people with pre-existing conditions, the elderly, or the disabled. The plan also does not have adequate support for Medicaid and is likely to result in loss of health care for many and increased costs for most. This will have a major negative impact on my family, as well as the families for whom I and my colleagues provide care.

While the ACA has limitations, please consider a bipartisan approach to addressing these, rather than supporting Graham-Cassidy.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Nancy S. Redeker, PhD, RN, FAHA, FAAN

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], West Haven, CT 06516-7399
[REDACTED] Orange, CT 06477

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE NO on GRAHAM/CASSIDY/HELLER

AMERICA WANTS BIPARTISAN LEADERSHIP ON THIS MATTER.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Clayton Spivey [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Bill

Dear Sirs/Mms.

I am a fiscal conservative. I want healthcare security to be part of the American citizen's landscape of rights and benefits. However, the current bill (Graham/Cassidy) does nothing to preserve healthcare or healthcare financing for the American people.

I cannot for the life of me figure out why a single payer system isn't the right way to go, economically. (After all, it was a Republican idea, initially, no?) It would be able to do the following:

1. Reduce overhead costs (to approximately 3%)
2. Lower the cost of pharmaceuticals (with the ability to negotiate lower fees)
3. Be able to bargain with providers to provide services at lower costs.

The only thing I can figure out is that the current legislators (of all stripes) are into the pockets of insurance companies and pharmaceutical companies that they can't get out of the logjams of "deals" made to keep them in office.

PLEASE ditch these political antics and decide to be REAL fiscal conservatives.

Clayton Spivey
Durham, NC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Flora McCormick [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham-Cassidy bill

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have had 2 children and have had a seizure in childhood. Also I have received mental health counseling. These things do not make me a bad person. Actually I am a very healthy person. I don't drink or smoke and I exercise regularly. I make all the life choices possible to be healthy and happy. Genetics and life situations have led me to need help. I don't believe I should be punished for that in my health care just because I am looking back, instead of forward. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Flora McCormick

Bozeman, MT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kunisch, Judith [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Vote "No." the ACA needs to be repaired, not repealed.

Thank you.

Judith Kunisch, MBA, RN

Director, Doctor of Nursing Practice program Yale University School of Nursing

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Andrew Marrinson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:10 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.

Andrew Marrinson
San Rafael, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jan Schwartz [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Sincerely,

Jan Schwartz

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: m luchsinger [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham-Cassidy Bill

All Americans need health care. This bill will not provide this. If health care is left up to individual states, some states will do well while others will do poorly. Some people will fall thru the cracks. I don't know how to fix it, but neither does this bill.

Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michele Studl [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy hearing

My sister has HEpetitis C and my niece has lupus. We are a hard working tax paying family and these pre existing conditions threaten their health coverage and this is terrifying to us. Please support a bipartisan effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Michele Studl
1235 N Dearborn St.
Chicago, IL 60610

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kim Kaplan [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham-Cassidy bill

This bill is an awful bill in so many ways. It will get rid of Medicaid and Planned Parenthood. No one with a pre-existing condition would be covered, and the list for pre-existing conditions is exhaustive. It gives insurance companies the power to say to almost everyone!

Doctors oppose it. The AARP oppose it. Military veterans oppose it.

Only a faction of like-minded Republicans (who want to cash in) want this bill. Their only reason is to undo anything with the name Obama on it. Anything.

It takes us backwards in many ways. Keep the ACA, but improve it where it falls short.

How hard is that?

This bill, like its predecessors, kicks millions off of healthcare, (if the CBC had time to assess this bill, it'll be worse than the previous bill).

Healthcare should be a right not a privilege for those who can afford it.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Victoria Lang [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy Bill

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

My nephew has sever epilepsy and my brother would have lost his home by now if it was not for Medicaid.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Victoria Lang
Brigantine, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Corey Dane [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: OPPOSE – Graham-Cassidy Bill

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

I recently left a job and now am wholly responsible for my healthcare coverage. It's important to me to have access to the providers I want and the whole-health services I need, at an affordable cost.

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

Sincerely,

Corey Dane
Madison, WI
53703

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Angie [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Please vote no to this healthcare bill. My son is 21 years old a Type one diabetic. He works hard but could not afford to pay any more for his healthcare. We help him out as much as we can but being denied coverage or a great j crease in premiums would be so detrimental to him financially, not to mention emotionally and physically.

Please vote no tomorrow morning!!

Angie Wagner
Mother of a Type One diabetic
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: dlongest221 [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care repeal bill

This bill is appalling. Do NOT pass it. Millions of Americans and will be hurt. I dont want to have to change my luving location based on a preecusting condition.

Fix the ACA!!!!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: PAUL DEBRUICKER [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:53 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.

Paul DeBruicker
Portland, OR

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: CATHERINE JANONIS [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

I have to buy my health insurance through the exchanges. I am VERY grateful that this option is available, but when you are paying over a thousand dollars a month and you are unemployed, it can put a large crimp in your budget. I know there are many problems with Obamacare, but the Graham-Cassidy doesn't solve the problems, it amplifies them. Please do not pass a bill just for a "win." Pass a bill that will help all the citizens of the US have healthcare available to them at a reasonable cost.

Sincerely,

Catherine Cole Janonis

Colorado 80521

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Miriam R. [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am asking you to oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller in favor of the bipartisan bill the Senate HELP committee was considering. Graham-Cassidy-Heller would destroy Medicaid and cause 32 million people to lose their health insurance. Seniors and people with disabilities are particularly vulnerable, but all Americans would suffer as fewer people are covered and increased uncertainty raises premiums.

This bill will have a significant negative impact on people I care about. Please oppose it.

Thank you,

Miriam Roberts
Somerville, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathy Cole [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham-Cassidy

I write in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy legislation.

I am the mother of a child whose entire existence is a pre-existing condition. My son Kyle was born at 24 weeks, and spent four months in the neonatal intensive care unit before he was able to come home to us. He has numerous conditions that can be life threatening if not treated, and if key elements of the legislation as currently proposed make it through to law, could risk his life.

In particular:

The legislation would undercut protections for people with pre-existing conditions by allowing states to waive the ACA's prohibition on charging people with pre-existing conditions higher premiums, as well as its essential health benefit requirements. This means some consumers would not be able to get critical services like maternity care and substance use treatment, or afford coverage at all.

While we do not currently use Medicaid services for our son, the many cuts, caps and eventual elimination of Medicaid would be devastating to other families with disabilities who rely heavily on Medicaid for support of daily living including nursing home or in-home care, as well as for disabled veterans, seniors and other low-income people.

Also, the amount of time needed for states to come up with state-based replacement systems is completely inadequate. If they have to be ready in 2020, it's already too late, particularly since as I understand it, there is no funding in this legislation to change the exchange system.

Please do not do this to this to your constituents. Cutting the costs paid by the federal government only pushes medical care cost risks to states, localities, and individuals. There are too many gaps in legislative protections in this bill, and the number of people who will lose coverage and again be subject to higher risk of medical bankruptcies is unconscionable. People will die. Please do not do this.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am the health insurance administrator for my employers group health insurance so am familiar with past and current health insurance policies.

Years ago you could get a good health insurance policy for \$250 per month for a single with a \$100 deductible. Now that policy (which has more out of pocket costs) is \$900 per month with a \$1000 deductible. That is after we left our "grandfathered plan" and got on an ACA plan. Prior to that the policy was \$1200 per month with a \$750 deductible and a LOT LESS out of pocket expense.

In my opinion, health insurance has to have a couple of components regulated to actually bring costs down...one if prescription medicine and the other is malpractice lawsuit awards to need to have a cap on them. One of the most expensive things for doctors is the malpractice insurance costs.

With this bill trying to put everything back to the states control – this is a BAD IDEA. There are a lot of states who do not handle money correctly, don't understand insurance and some who just don't care. The states even with the block grants will not be able to afford the insurance....it must be handled on the federal level and should be for all states/people.

The ACA is on the right track but it obviously needs some fixes. When ACA was being developed, there were bi-partisan hearings and input. That needs to happen again to fix the issues. And like it or not, the entire premise of ALL insurance is everyone pays...the ins companies hope they have enough who don't have claims to help cover the ones who do. Everyone needs to understand that all have to help pay.

I am extremely sick and tired of 60+ votes to "repeal and replace" instead of working together to fix the problems. Canada has good insurance, covers everyone and everyone pays. The government is to help ALL the people – not just the rich. Quite frankly it's the elderly and the poor who need more help.

Also – let's talk Medicaid...yes there is some abuse but that's the government employees who aren't screening correctly. Nursing homes don't make a profit – they need Medicaid money but nursing homes HAVE to be kept operating. There are a lot of elderly people who have to go to nursing homes for end of life care. Members of Congress need to think about their own EXTENDED family....what will happen to them. The rates that I keep hearing, no one can afford these big premium hikes and with Medicaid being phased out what happens then?

There will be a lot of people who can't afford these big premium hikes so people will let insurance drop. I know I will if my insurance premiums hike like they say. I currently support my mother and myself...she has health issues and so do I. It'll be certain death for both of us.

The other thing I want to say...whatever happens with insurance changes it needs to be in EFFECT FOR ALL MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. That's the only way any changes will be fair for all.

Deb Worley
Burlington, IA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cara Davis [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: TRUMPCARE

To Whom It May Concern:

I am terrified that the Graham Cassidy healthcare bill will pass and become law. My family, if we survive, will most likely become destitute.

My husband had the unfortunate luck to suffer from melanoma some years ago. Let's call that pre-existing condition #1. And he also, unfortunately, had to have a hip replacement and will most likely need another one sooner or later. Pre-existing condition #2. Last year we spent over \$40,000 on healthcare expenses - that's WITH employer provided insurance. I can't even imagine what will happen if our insurance is allowed to raise our premiums because of my husband's pre-existing conditions and age (55+.)

This bill is downright cruel. It does nothing to advance our country and will out right be responsible for the deaths and destitution of millions of Americans. How any politician who has sworn to uphold the Constitution can vote for this is not immediately impeached is beyond me. By voting yes on this bill, they will spit in the face of ALL Americans.

Please, please stop this tragedy before it's too late.

Cara Davis
New Jersey

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Trudy Oconnell [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal
Attachments: Testimony for Hearing on Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, September 25, 2017.docx

Please find attached:

Testimony to be included in the Senate Finance Committee hearing record:

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

This testimony from:

Trudy O'Connell
[REDACTED]
Brookfield, MA 01506

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amie Birch [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Amber Hulse
Danville, IN

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: MaryEllen Dunn [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:51 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 has not been scored by CBO so there is no objective assessment of costs and impacts.
 - * There has been no research to assess the impacts, including no committee hearings from experts and stakeholders.
 - * Every major health care organization from the AMA, March of Dimes, MS Society, in fact ALL OF THEM, have urged the Senate to step away from this bill because of the detriment it was inflict on the American People.
 - * The vast majority of Americans do not support this bill.

Admit it, the only reason this bill is being pushed is because GOP candidates ran for 8 years on an ACA repeal but never did an ounce of work to adequately prepare legislation to achieve that goal without putting millions of Americans at risk.

Please do not do this to us. ACA isn't perfect. Use your resources and FIX IT.

Thank you for your consideration.

MaryEllen Dunn

19060
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Charles Crook [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: crook_charles@yahoo.com
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Finance Committee members,

I am writing to urge you to OPPOSE in the strongest possible terms the Graham-Cassidy bill, which is attempting yet again to take away health care from millions of American citizens. This is a life-and-death issue for my family. One of our grandsons was born with a medical condition that required intensive care early in his life. Fortunately, his parents had health care that they had obtained through the exchange, and he was able to receive the life-saving care that he needed. He is now a healthy, active 3-year-old, but this condition is still controlled by medication that he receives through the ACA plan. If his parents lose their health care coverage, this will end. Lacking the medication he needs, his health would certainly decline and he might not survive. I know that the focus of your committee is finance, but please consider the human cost when you assess the budget. What price would you put on the life of my grandson?

The phrase that has been bandied about throughout this and its three previous iterations is "Repeal and Replace," but no acceptable replacement has yet been proposed. It would be foolish to repeal a program that is working well for millions of formerly uninsured citizens, with the promise to develop and enact a replacement later. Health care reform is complicated, and previous attempts by the Ford, Carter, Clinton, and Bush administrations all failed to carry it out. The Affordable Care Act admittedly has some inherent problems, but it also has many strengths that benefit Americans who were formerly uninsured. It would be foolish to scrap this program now, instead of working on the reforms necessary to strengthen and improve it.

John McCain is right -- the Senate needs to return to regular order and then work on carefully crafting bipartisan reform plans, instead of trying to push through repeal bills that were hastily crafted in secret by small numbers of individuals with only their own motives in mind. I urge you to take the first step toward doing the job right by rejecting this deplorable bill in committee.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Charles R. Crook
Gwynn, Virginia

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beverly Bagozzi [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Hearing, Monday, September 25, 2017

My family relies on affordable health care and because of this I am strongly opposed to the Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill. As a family, we have benefited from the Affordable Care Act in numerous ways. Specifically, my daughter was able to remain on our health insurance until age 26 thanks to the ACA. In addition, she has a chronic health condition that could effect her ability to obtain health insurance if it was not for the ACA's disallowing insurance companies to discriminate against individuals with pre-existing conditions. Finally, she has benefited from health insurance subsidies through the ACA. The ACA is an important step forward in making sure that all Americans regardless of sex, race, income can access affordable and comprehensive health care. I want to see a true bipartisan Congressional effort to improve upon the ACA not repeal it. It is time for Congress to put the health and well being of All Americans before partisan politics.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Beverly Mandich Bagozzi

[REDACTED]
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Richman [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy testimony

I have been a school teacher for 25 years. I have known many students whose families did not have health insurance, and the students' futures were terribly impacted. One student had been told he would become deaf, because his family could not afford the operation he needed to preserve his health. Other students missed many days of school, because they could not afford a basic doctor visit and antibiotics, for the routine illnesses all children can expect -- until it was severe enough that a visit to the emergency room was required. Recently, with the opioid epidemic, I have had students too distracted to learn, as they worried over family members in the throes of addiction.

We cannot ensure the best education to children who are not given routine check-ups and wellness care. We cannot ensure the best education of children who are worried about the untreated health needs of their family members.

Other industrialized countries have universal healthcare. It is not too hard to do. We just need the will. A good healthcare system would pay for itself in a healthy, strong, productive workforce.

Thank you for your consideration.

Susan Richman
[REDACTED]
Durham, NH 03824
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kari Gluski [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement of opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Bill

- Title Of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
- Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017
- Full Name: Kari Gluski
- Address: [REDACTED], Ann Arbor, MI 48103

I am writing to state my strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Bill. This bill will devastate health care, make insurance unaffordable or unavailable to millions, and cause chaos as states try to implement block grants with no funding or assistance for setting up their own mechanisms.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bill Hess [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments

The dialog must continue. Defeating this bill restores Obamacare and initiates a process of tweaking it. Why attempt to modify a defective bill? This is similar to the history of Social Security and Medicare. Democrats resist any change even if it is curing an obvious defect.

Convince the Republican holdouts to vote "Present" so as not to add to the NO votes.
Bill Hess



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Virginia Thompson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill comments

I urge you to rescind from consideration the Graham-Cassidy bill which would end healthcare, including for those with pre-existing conditions, for millions of America. We need to strengthen, not end, the Affordable Care Act, which provides healthcare for many Americans who never had it. Block grants to states will not ensure that healthcare is equitably provided. All Americans deserve healthcare, and it should not matter what state they live in.

Please stop trying to "repeal and replace" the Affordable Care Act. Remember that all of you receive government-funded healthcare, and everyone in the United States deserves the same!!

Virginia Thompson
Swarthmore, PA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sujata Iyengar [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:50 PM
To: gchcomments; Wright, Kevin (Finance); Dent, William (Isakson)
Subject: GRAHAM-CASSIDY HEARING COMMENTS

United States Senate
131 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Isakson, Mr. Dent, and Mr. Wright,

Thank you for your service on the Finance Committee and for your constituents. My name is Sujata Iyengar and I live in Congressional District 10, in Athens, Georgia. I visited Senator Isakson's Atlanta office a few months ago to talk with your staff about healthcare and to hand-deliver a small selection of letters, artwork, and photographs from over a thousand of your constituents in Districts 9 and 10 who were worried about pending healthcare bills that would cut Medicaid and leave those of us with pre-existing conditions with no access to affordable health care. The mysterious Graham-Cassidy Bill has not had a full hearing and we don't know whether or to what extent it will gut protections for persons with pre-existing conditions. I have asthma, and I remember with dread the days when persons with pre-existing conditions couldn't afford to pay the premiums and had to resort to over-the-counter or untested medication rather than seeing their doctors. You've always said, Senator, that you'd oppose any bill that wouldn't protect people with pre-existing conditions. I think you should vote NAY on this bill.

You've also said that you would not vote for a bill that cuts Medicaid. I have many friends with children with special needs who rely upon Medicaid to give them a chance in life. I teach some of them in local schools and know that they are just like any other children -- they just need a little more support to blossom and thrive. Medicaid liberates them to live full lives. I also have many dear elder friends in nursing homes to whom I wish a long life -- but I also know that most elderly people end up needing Medicaid if they live long enough. My co-worker Amanda is no way a "liberal and doesn't like entitlement benefits, but even she was grateful for Medicaid when her older sister had to go into a nursing home and Medicaid meant that Amanda could keep her job and keep her sister comfortable. Please vote against the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

I also ask you as a member of the Senate Finance Committee that will hold a hearing on Monday, September 25, 2017 to take the opportunity to take a stand for a bi-partisan effort to fix to the ACA and encourage others to work with Senators Alexander and Murray to repair the ACA. I have appreciated your efforts to work with moderates such as Susan Collins on health care in the past. We can fix this, but not with the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Sincerely,
Sujata Iyengar

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cindy Burkhalter [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Defeat Graham-Cassidy PLEASE VOTE NO!

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Please do not support the Graham-Cassidy Bill. Please support correct, regular order. One hearing is NOT regular order. We do not even have a complete CBO score.

What we do know is that this cruel bill will throw millions off of healthcare. It will no longer be affordable. What we know is that this bill works to end Medicaid altogether, placing the lives of thousands of seniors, vets, children, and disabled Americans in danger. What we know is that states who took Medicaid expansion under ACA will be punished by having funds removed. What we know is that states who have no system set up to handle healthcare at the state level will be unready and unable to cope.

This bill is wrong for so many reasons, and the majority of Americans oppose it. All major health organizations and many insurance companies oppose it.

Please listen to the people and do not even support this bill coming to the floor for a vote. If it should come to the floor for a vote, PLEASE VOTE NO!

The lives of thousands depend upon your vote.

Thank you,

Cindy Burkhalter

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rick Gibb [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: rickgibb56@gmail.com
Subject: Comment on Health Care Discussion

Congress,

We buy health insurance for one reason: to protect us from financial catastrophe, including bankruptcy, due to a low probability (but possible) change in our health.

Most years we get very little benefit from the \$10,000+ insurance policy we pay for two healthy 60 year olds. We pay for almost everything out of pocket. And that's OK. That's the nature of insurance

However, if that protection is not there if/when we (or others) need it, where do you think we'll go? Remember "Emergency Room health care" pre-ACA? Your current G-C bill makes a return to that system not just likely, but inevitable in some states. You should be embarrassed. There are plenty of experts available and willing to help you. (You learn more when your lips aren't moving.)

Please stop with the politics, discuss and agree on health care objectives, and then figure out how to get there. Getting it right is a whole lot more important than getting it done by the end of the month.

Sincerely,

Rick Gibb
Missouri

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Steve [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Bill

I'm a TypeOne Diabetic and health care insurance is so important to myself and my family. How do you expect us to pay \$400.00 per bottle of insulin that last 30 days? This bill is being rushed without thought. How much will this cost, how many people are going to loose health insurance, how many people are going to be taken off of Medicaid, how are these people with brain injures that are left in a wheel chair are going to be left without medical help, why are the big donators the ones that want this action, just how many people are going to be hurt by this bill instead of being helped? Senators need to vote for what is good for the people of their states and not vote for what the GOP want. Yes the ACA is not the best, but do rush this bill before it can be worked on and made correct so we do not have to revisit it in a year or two from now. I'm asking that this bill not get passed.

Thank you,
Steven Renner

[REDACTED]
Johnston, la. 50131

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rachael Jacobs [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No Repeal of ACA- work together and create something that benefits EVERYONE!

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with working with Medicaid patients is they need healthcare and they need it to be affordable. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Rachael Jacobson

Denver, CO

--
Rachael Jacobs
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Leslie Allison [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO REPEAL without a BETTER replacement!!!

Dear Senator Warner,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my healthcare story, which isn't mine but rather the story of my patient. I'll call him John. He was in his mid-40's, married with four kids, working hard at a low-wage job with no health insurance. One day he collapsed with seizures, and it was discovered that he had a brain tumor, an astrocytoma, a form of terminal cancer that will eventually kill him. He had emergency surgery to remove as much of the tumor as they could get, then a day later had a severe stroke that left him paralyzed on one side of his body and unable to speak. One week later his wife (I'll call her Jane), who also worked hard at a low-wage job with no insurance, learned she was pregnant with their fifth child. Even though both parents were working hard, with four kids they were just scraping by in a rental apartment on the poorer side of town. There was not enough money to buy health insurance. The kids had Medicaid coverage.

I'm a physical therapist and faculty member in a university graduate PT program. Our faculty and students provide pro-bono care at the Community Care Clinic, which offers free medical care to many un- and under-insured people. That's where I met John and his wonderful family. An insured person with John's diagnosis would normally get extensive rehabilitation - PT, OT and Speech Therapy - first as an inpatient for several weeks, then as an outpatient for several months. But not John, he had only emergency Medicaid which doesn't cover these services for adults in my state. He was a financial liability to the hospital and was discharged home as soon as the hospital could safely get him out the door. Now he couldn't work, and neither could his wife who had to care for him. For a while they were sent money by their extended families far away in other states, but this wasn't a sustainable solution and the incoming money dried up. So Jane cared for John, and soon also for their new baby, during the day, and went to work nights at another low-wage job. At home their oldest daughter, then 12, had to take care of the family while Jane worked. Catastrophic illness impoverishes and affects the whole family.

Needed rehab equipment would also normally be covered by insurance. But not for John, with no insurance. He was given an old wheelchair and tub bench from a church donations closet. His cheap off-the-shelf leg brace and OT-fabricated hand splints were given to him by us - we use private grant funds to provide these through the clinic.

John received far less therapy than he needed and deserved. This lack of care will have permanent consequences for him: the window for optimal brain recovery occurs in the first 6 months after a stroke, and intensive rehab during this time yields long term, positive benefits for recovery. Our clinic has no Speech Therapists, so he got no speech therapy, even though he has severe expressive aphasia and is unable to communicate. He received PT and OT once every other week, instead of the 3 hours a day an insured stroke patient gets in rehab. This is an inadequate dose, like having an infection and getting your antibiotics doled out at the rate of one a day instead of one every 4 hours. Despite the insufficient amount of care, John worked very, very hard to become independent. After 2 years he no longer needs the wheelchair, and can walk slowly without a cane. Stairs are still a challenge. His paralyzed arm and hand have gotten somewhat better, but are non-functional, and he must function one-handed for all activities. He cannot work or drive.

With so little income, the whole family of seven now lives in a one-bedroom, one-bath apartment. Our state hasn't offered Section 8 housing vouchers for many years now. The family qualifies for public housing, but

there is a long wait for family-sized apartments, and those apartment complexes are in an even worse part of town. They do not qualify for a Habitat for Humanity home. We have started a You Caring fundraiser to get some money to move them into better housing in a sustainable way, but who knows.

Recently the responsible older daughter, now 14, said she can't wait until she is 16 so she can work to help her family. She is very smart, college material, but I worry that she will quit school. This is the cycle of poverty in play.

This is just one story of our third-world healthcare system, in the wealthiest country on earth. It's inhumane and criminal.

As a caring healthcare provider, I am literally begging you legislators not to throw gasoline on this fire by reducing coverage, as would happen with this awful bill. All so you can give tax breaks to people who already have enough, at the expense of the poor and sick. Have you no decency? For God's sake, show some mercy.

Thank you for listening to my story.

Leslie Allison, PT, PhD
Winston-Salem, NC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Phillips [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

I oppose the rich bill. My husband could not purchase health care because of a preexisting condition. The aca gave him health care and reassurance. Do not take that away with another I'll conceived health care bill.

Please continue with the bipartisan solution of Patty Murray and Lamar Smith.

Thank you,

Mary B Phillips
Virginia beach, va 23451

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, sept. 25, 2017

i oppose the graham-Cassidy bill and believe that we should work on the ACA, NOT repeal it. America needs to catch up to the rest of the advanced nations and provide health care, not provide a place to squeeze profit from illness.

mike graham

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pamela Brulotte [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

I would like to share my story with you to emphasize the importance of defeating the GOP Obamacare Repeal Bill. I am a small business owner in Washington State (we own a craft brewery and restaurant) and in 2014 I was diagnosed out of the blue with aggressive breast cancer. After chemotherapy, radiation and surgery I am now healthy again but now have a pre-existing condition and am terrified of losing my health insurance coverage. Without insurance we surely would have had to take drastic measures to pay for my healthcare. Now we have a growing business and employ 80 to 100 people in our small town. I am fiscally conservative but feel that healthcare is a human issue not a political issue. I am a wife to my husband of almost 23 years, a mother to 3 kids (2 in college and 1 in high school), the President of the Washington Brewers Guild, a business owner and very active in my community. The loss of my health and instability of future insurance coverage would be devastating. Thank you for standing up for this human issue that affects all of us! Sincerely and truly grateful, Pamela Brulotte

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Britt Miracle [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:47 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.

Britt Miracle
Cincinnati, Ohio

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laura Callander [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Amendment

If the finance committee passes this amendment that would be devastating for my son and family. He currently sees a doctor 3-4 times a month not to mention the medications he is on. This would be financial devastating to my entire family.

Please think of the children and all people with disabilities and pre existing conditions. Thank you for your time.

Sent from my Lorie's iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Harrington-Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

I am very concerned about the provisions of the Graham-Cassidy bill and the effect it will have on many vulnerable, hard-working Americans, and for that reason I am opposed to it. I have relatives in Nevada who go to work 5-6 days a week in a small family manufacturing business; they work hard but their overall income is low. They need access to affordable health insurance that is provided through a fair system of subsidies and a widely shared distribution of healthcare insurance costs. Please do not repeal or further sabotage the ACA. Instead, I urge members of Congress to work together in a bipartisan manner to improve the ACA and help all Americans access decent healthcare and affordable insurance.

Thank you,
Chris Harrington

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeannie Dilger-Hill [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Testimony for Graham-Cassidy

My family and I rely on quality, affordable health care. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have family members with epilepsy, diabetes, and other pre-existing conditions who rely on access to medications.

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

Sincerely,
Jeannie Dilger

[REDACTED]
Chicago, IL 60653
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Grace Montgomery [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy

I am a Georgia resident who was able to afford insurance for the first time because of the ACA. Pre-existing conditions had made it too costly. I don't qualify for subsidies. Because of my age & location, I pay over \$1,000 a month. It is worth it to not live in fear that one major accident or illness will wipe out my savings.

Do not rush this bill through without going through regular bipartisan Congressional process. The impact on many people's lives, on hospitals and the entire economy could be devastating.

States like mine have not shown reliability in handling finances in the best interest of its citizens. Corporate voices always win out.

The majority of Americans want to see the ACA fine tuned so it works for everyone. Remember, it was the first legislation providing consumer protections for health insurance. We need those! Many people have come to feel this way since the elections when they realized the alternatives would cause grave damage.

Honoring the voice of the people speaking out now shows far more integrity & courage than sticking to a campaign promise many people no longer want.

Praying for you all,
Grace Montgomery
Jasper, Ga 30143

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elizabeth Carmenita [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Health Bill

As a sixty four year old, registered voter, an American citizen with a father that fought in WWII, Korea and Vietnam, I wish to be heard.

I request that this bill is rejected and that the Senate Republicans pull their collective heads out of their butts and seek bipartisan input for improving ACA.

Sincerely,
E. Carmenita

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeffrey Washburn [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson

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 millions to lose their health coverage while destroying Medicaid and harming some of the most vulnerable members of our communities, seniors, and people with disabilities or preexisting conditions.

This bill affects me personally. I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis last year and, without the essential health benefits of the ACA, I would be considered uninsurable. The Graham-Cassidy-Heller Bill threatens those protections as well as the possibility of bringing back lifetime caps which would also severely threaten my recover.

Again, please reject the Graham-Cassidy-Heller Bill.

Thank you for your time.

--

Jeff Washburn
Snohomish, WA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mei-Chyn M [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Say NO to Graham-Cassidy Bill

My name is Mei-Chyn McCrory and I have Muscular Dystrophy. I rely on Virginia's Medicaid program for community support and healthcare services and I think of how lucky I am to have this. I think about my fellow Americans who cannot afford healthcare. Some of my caregivers cannot afford insurance. They cannot even afford insurance for their families. I think about those who I know are sick and cannot afford the treatment.

Please oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

Thank you,
Mei-Chyn McCrory
[REDACTED]
Lorton, VA 22079

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: michael cotton [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition

Vote no on the Graham-Cassidy bill. This Bill will prevent my child from having health insurance. I will actively campaign against anyone that votes yes on it.

Michael Cotton

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: deborah Stern [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

To members of the Senate:

I am a self-employed, 54-year-old single mother. I need quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Without the ACA, I would not be able to afford healthcare. The problem with our current system is fixable -- not by denying more Americans affordable healthcare, but by making changes to the ways we price and structure healthcare services and drugs, and by rethinking insurance companies' purposes and roles. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to transform American health care so that it provides the same level of affordable security and commonsense care as other developed countries. We can start doing this by improving the ACA, not repealing it.

Sincerely,

Deborah Stern
Philadelphia, PA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kristin Reichert [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I know many people who are already struggling to afford the care they need. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Kristin Reichert

Staunton, Virginia

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marie Stella [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Saving ACA

I am lucky (for now) to have Medicare and BC/BS Federal Govt. but others are not. Please don't take away health care for the millions who need it. If we have expanded Medicaid, states would have had 3 years to treat their sickest people, while the Federal Government took care of it. The money needed for indigent care would have paid for better education to draw better jobs, transportation, etc. Don't move our nation into 3rd world status. The Graham-Cassidy bill would hurt everyone physically, economically, and morally.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amanda Garland [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:41 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. My sister had a brain tumor just over eleven years ago. Even with health insurance, her monthly medications and annual reviews/scans have caused her great financial burdens that she is still trying to pay off. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Amanda Garland

Santa Rosa, Ca

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Megan Brett [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Honorable Senators,

I am frustrated by the fact that the effort to replace the Affordable Care Act, and act which was given months of deliberation and a full evaluation on multiple fronts, is being rushed in so lax and callous a manner. You are, quite literally, dealing in life or death in this matter.

You have only to look at the individual stories which have been shared in the press and social media to see the tremendous impact which the ACA has had on the lives of Americans. I have multiple friends who took advantage of the ban on denying coverage to people with pre-existing conditions and the increased availability of individual coverage to open small business. With the ACA repealed, they will likely have to close up shop, as many of them have preexisting conditions (diabetes, having been pregnant once, allergies, cancer survivors). As a thyroid cancer survivor myself, I am having to reconsider my future plans, which had included starting my own business. Should the ACA be repealed, I know I will need to rely on an employer's plan to ensure that I can be covered and thus afford the medication which - like all thyroid cancer survivors - I require to live. That is not hyperbole. Thyroid cancer is treated with a complete thyroidectomy, and without the chemical replacement provided by thyroid medication, we die slow, uncomfortable deaths.

Please take into consideration the voices which have spoken out against this bill, including the American Medical Association (the members of which are well aware of the realities and challenges of healthcare) and the Medicaid directors of all fifty states. Surely this degree of reaction must awaken you all to the drastic nature of this bill and potential negative impact on American citizens - their health, their finances, and thus the health and finances of the nation itself.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. I am proud to live in a democratic republic in which the voices of all citizens can be heard.

Sincerely,

Megan R. Brett
Falls Church, Virginia

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jesse Ernst [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senator Wyden,

I'm writing to express my strong opposition to this bill. The Republican effort to repeal the ACA seems less about policy than about a desire to undo the work of an opposing political party. As each repeal bill fails, the current majority carts out a new bill even more foolish than the ones before it. Like the others, this ill-conceived bill would be harmful to millions of Americans and to our economy.

Sincerely,
Jesse Ernst

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: L. Sloane Winkes [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: As a physician I oppose Graham Cassidy

Hello,

I am writing to the Senate Finance Committee as a concerned US citizen and family physician to encourage a vote against the Graham-Cassidy bill.

In my daily work I see the struggles of patients who can't afford quality health insurance. While the ACA is not perfect, it has been lifesaving for many of my patients and the millions who finally have health insurance. I have a young family I care for, who are also neighbors and friends, who had no health insurance until the ACA enabled them to sign up for affordable coverage. Prior to the ACA, they had massive hospital bills from an appendectomy and a pregnancy and birth, adding up to over \$80,000. They now struggle with medical debt, but their ACA coverage enabled a second pregnancy and childbirth, as well as ongoing care for their two young children. Graham-Cassidy will allow states to not be required to cover maternity and pediatric care, this could result in significant medical debt for our poorest families, and worse yet, families not getting the essential care they need to have healthy pregnancies and children. Cutting maternity and pediatric care will result in increased welfare dependence for families driven into poverty by medical debt. Women who don't get prenatal care because they cannot afford it, if their insurance doesn't cover it, will result in unhealthier pregnancies and unhealthy babies, increasing the burden on the healthcare and welfare systems as one could expect more preterm babies, more babies requiring significant care at the start of their young lives. Defunding Planned Parenthood and no longer fully covering birth control, a young family like my patients could face a third, undesired pregnancy. This also could increase the burden on the welfare system, if an unintended pregnancy and medical debt led a struggling family closer to poverty.

As there have been no public hearings on this bill, no CBO score, and only being allowed TWO minutes for floor debate, having been crafted by white men behind closed doors, the rest of the senate has not had opportunity to provide input, debate, or amendments. That is no way to run a democracy.

The ACA was crafted over 18 months, with more than 160 GOP amendments added to the bill, and over 170 hours of debate. That was the democratic process at work. Please honor our democracy and VOTE NO on Graham-Cassidy. This bill will strip healthcare coverage for over 32 million Americans, raise insurance premiums on the older poor population, and allow states to eliminate coverage for preventive healthcare. I rely on my ability to provide preventive health services, currently fully covered by the ACA, to help keep my patients healthy and out of the hospital. The Graham-Cassidy bill will severely cut Medicaid, kicking 15 million people off it, and end Medicaid expansion, which will dramatically reduce the ability for poor, working families to have health insurance. At the same time, giving huge tax breaks to the wealthiest in our nation. It is unconscionable to strip essential healthcare from the neediest Americans while handing more money to the wealthiest.

Additionally, this bill allows states to raise premiums on the sickest individuals. It has been estimated that a patient with metastatic cancer would have to pay over \$150,000 annually for coverage. That is not healthcare. That is a death sentence.

I fear that required coverage of pre-existing conditions will be eliminated, or made so expensive that patients won't be able to afford to continue coverage. This will devastate the healthcare system and make it more costly to provide care, let alone the cruelty of eliminating coverage from our most needy populations. We know from Massachusetts health reform that for every 830 people who gained health insurance, one death was prevented.¹ Graham-Cassidy is a bill that will harm more Americans than it will help, and has been estimated that it will kill an additional 28,000 Americans each year. Add to that increased healthcare costs by not covering over 32 million Americans, increased cost by not covering preventive services, increases in unintended pregnancy by not covering birth control, which we know from Texas'

experience will raise the number of people on welfare, and the GOP will leave America devastated and broken by this bill.

Please take this into account as you review the bill. I hope you will consider voting NO on Graham-Cassidy. The lives of millions of Americans are counting on you.

Sincerely,
L. Sloane Winkes, M.D.
Mount Vernon, WA

1. Annals of Internal Medicine 2014

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Diana [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

I have employer provided insurance and I still think that the whole of society is better off when all have access to affordable health care. Better yet, our country should get with the program and all of the other first world countries and provide health to our citizens. This so-called Graham-Cassidy bill should be defeated please.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ellen Glew [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

This bill, the third (and hopefully last) attempt to repeal the ACA, is horrid, unconscionable. I say this as an insurance agent who sells health insurance for a living. No "due process," no bipartisan effort, no public discussion or comment went into this bill. Over 80% of Americans have indicated they do not want a repeal of health coverage for all. So why does the GOP Senate continue with this??!! To appease a bullying president? To assuage the far right Trump supporters who are now waking up to the fact that undoing the ACA is not in their best personal interests? Pragmatically speaking, if the Senators seeking re-election in 2018 want to get re-elected, they should vote NO.

ACA should be replaced – yes, by Medicare for All and a single payer system. Healthcare, like education K-12, should not be a for-profit, uncontrolled, private sector industry.

EG Benefit Advisors
Independent Agent Representing Aflac

[REDACTED]
MA Office: [REDACTED], North Reading, MA 01864

ME Office: [REDACTED]rpswell, ME 04079
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Juliedelara [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:43 PM
To: gchcomments

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I'm writing on behalf of Evanston CASE an advocacy group located in Evanston Illinois. We represent the interests of parents and children with disabilities in the City of Evanston and the local school district.

This bill is devastating to our members on several fronts:

1. It reduces the funding for Medicaid
2. It eliminates protections for pre existing conditions
3. It allows lifetime caps.

There's not much to say about reducing money to support Medicaid. Children will suffer. The school depends on Medicaid to help defray the costs of providing therapy to these kids and keeping them safe at school. Parents depend on Medicaid to pay for or defray some of the costs of caring for a child with a disability. There are many costs that are not paid by insurance or Medicaid and these costs are shouldered by the parents in addition to premium costs, deductibles and co pays.

Eliminating protections for pre existing conditions will allow insurance companies to charge a premium for kids with all kinds of disabilities: asthma, epilepsy, diabetes, polycystic kidney disease, autism, mental illness etc. these are pretty common illnesses, some present at infancy. It is not the parents fault or the child's fault that they the children have these conditions but you will allow insurance companies to punish them for a circumstance they couldn't prevent.

Allowing insurance companies and Medicaid to impose life time caps will be a death sentence for some children. Parents will not be able to afford to pay for the medicines or therapies that these kids need and they will deteriorate and then they will die.

We are one of the richest countries in the world. Can we not take care of our most vulnerable citizens, children and adults with disabilities? The idea that we can not is unseemly and not in keeping with our status as leaders of democracy.

Our organization begs you to vote no on the Graham/Cassidy bill and in doing so, protect people with disabilities.

Respectfully,

Julie Corbier de Lara
Public Policy Director
Evanston CASE
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Vicki Carrington
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Lakewood co, Colorado 80215

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laurie Dameron [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: affordable health care

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

Laurie Dameron
[REDACTED]
Boulder, CO 80304

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Terzah Becker [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not repeal the ACA

My name is Terzah Becker, and I am a registered voter in Longmont, CO. I belong to neither political party. My sister, a hairstylist in Missouri, relies on quality affordable healthcare, which as an independent contractor she cannot get through work. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Before the ACA, my sister was uninsured. It would be a sin to send her and others like her back to that state. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

**Sincerely,
Terzah Becker
[REDACTED]
Longmont CO 80501**

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anita Rancatt [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Grahma-Cassidy Bill

I am a healthy 58 year old woman who along with my health 57 year old husband pay **\$1150 a month** for cobra coverage that we rarely use!

We need quality, affordable coverage with reasonable deductibles. I do not consider a \$4000-10,000 deductible or premiums of \$1100-2000 for 2 people a month to be reasonable and neither would Congress if they had to deal what the rest of us have to deal with. Moving everything to each State is not going to fix the problems in healthcare. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. By improve I mean, lower the premiums and deductibles and offer more insurance choice for all parts of the US not just the Coasts! Once you leave the big cities, the costs are outrageous and that needs to be addressed.

Anita Rancatti
Durango, Colorado

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Clare [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

My family has health care issues. We need the guarantees that the ACA offers, both pre-existing condition coverage and the established necessary benefit coverage. We all benefit from population growth, so maternity care should not be "optional" coverage. None of us knows what illnesses and conditions will happen to us tomorrow. Too expensive??

Raise the money! Fix what ails the ACA!

I have been denied coverage in the past for a pre-existing condition- a minor one for which I have never filed a claim. Yet I was denied coverage completely!

My son cannot afford the epi-pens he needs to save his life.

Fix this pharmaceutical debacle!

Health care is a right and providing it should not make anyone wealthy.

Clare Nordstrom

Broomfield, Co

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kurt Odonnell [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Importance: High

Senators,

My Family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. I oppose the Cassidy-Graham bill because it will drastically affect my son who has a severe disability and relies on Medicaid.

We all should strive for a bi-partisan solution to improve upon the ACA, not a repeal that would hurt tens of millions of people like my son.

Sincerely,

Kurt O'Donnell

Denver, CO

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: KURT AND KATHLEEN O DONNELL [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

My name is Kathleen O'Donnell and my family relies on the quality, affordable healthcare provided by the ACA. The ACA has been a blessing to us, because for years we worried about our son reaching his lifetime maximum.

Senators, every member of my household has a pre-existing condition. In addition, my oldest has chronic health conditions, physical, and developmental disabilities. He relies on Medicaid for home-based and community services. Medicaid allows him to live in his home, and participate and volunteer in his community. Without those services, he would likely end up in a costly institution.

I urge the Senate to work on a bipartisan solution to fix the ACA, and stop this heartless, aggressive attack on the most vulnerable of Americans. Who are we if we cannot protect and support the elderly, disabled, children and people who are ill?

Please vote no on this heartless, dangerous bill. Please work together to find solutions.

Thank you,
Kathleen O'Donnell
Denver, CO 80233

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Valerie [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare Bill

Pre existing conditions must be retained in our national healthcare. Please consider the devastating effect it will have on our U.S. citizens if pre existing conditions deem them ineligible for insurance coverage.

Thank you,
Valerie Scott
Arvada, Colorado

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Helen Davis [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject the Graham-Cassidy Bill

I strongly urge Congress to veto the Graham-Cassidy Bill and to work in a bi-partisan manner to improve upon ObamaCare. How I vote in the future will be largely predicated upon how my State senators and congressmen respond to the Graham-Cassidy Bill. Rushed attempts to push through a Bill that will have such enormous impact on our health-care and economy is simply unacceptable; my fellow Americans and I deserve better than this. Thank you.

Helen Davis
Boulder, CO 80303

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bonny Fetterman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My father has Parkinson's disease and could lose coverage if this bill passed. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Bonny Fetterman

Hesperus, Colorado

Sent from iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nina and Cray Healy [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Grahamm Cassidy

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with with ACA is that now we are all able to afford health care. Although we are not large consumers of health care, our preventative care and necessary medications would elude us without ACA. We are healthy people who respect the health care professional and the importance of taking responsibility for our health. Therefore, we would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Nina Healy

Fraser, Colorado

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Steven Hilbert [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill to repeal the ACA. Because of my work with persons with HIV, I know that this would detrimentally impact the health care of at least 500 people I personally know.

Phyllis Stephens-Hilbert

[REDACTED]
Ridgway, CO. 81432

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Livethejourney [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:42 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with affordability is that my family relies in external resources to assist with my Mother's limited finances.

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

Sincerely, Flo Holt

Fort Collins CO

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sandy and Duke [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Health care bill

My husband and I live in Denver Colorado and are seniors. While we currently enjoy access to Medicare, our four children and eight grandchildren rely on access to quality affordable healthcare for their families. Three of our children are self-employed and were not for the access to healthcare provided by the affordable care act, they will be unable to fully provide health insurance for their families. The current proposed bill would have a disastrous effect on millions of Americans adversely affecting their ability to obtain quality affordable healthcare. Each proposal that has been presented seems to be more punitive and "Mean". I would like to see Congress exercise a bipartisan effort to improve healthcare in America rather than repealing the existing law. While we all agree that the affordable care act can use improvement, repealing it is not the way to ensure that all Americans have access to healthcare. Please work together to improve the affordable care act and not repeal it! Do not pass this bill. It would be a disaster for the health and well being of millions of Americans. Sandy Kaminsky Denver Colorado.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cara Cheevers [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: One Colorado Comment Submission for Senate Finance Committee
Attachments: One Colorado SFC Letter - GCHJ.pdf

Good afternoon,

Please see the attached letter discussing One Colorado's position on Cassidy Graham proposal to be discussed at the Senate Finance Committee meeting on Monday, September 25th.

Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions.

Thank you,
Cara

--
Cara Cheevers, MSW

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
(she/her/hers)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carl Heck [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare Bill

I am Adamantly Against the Graham Cassidy bill! As a 45 year Voter I have to say this is the Worst Ever attempt at protecting America's citizens!!! Republicans... Stop the Insanity !!!!

James Heck
Aspen Colorado

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy Wolin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

My family rely/relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Many of my family members and I have pre-existing conditions, from auto-immune disease to cancer to mental health conditions to disability. Without the ACA, we could not afford to have healthcare, nor would insurance companies cover many of us.

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

Sincerely,

Amy Wolin

Woodland Park, CO

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Senate Finance Committee hearing to consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Health Care Bill
Attachments: 9 23 2017 senate finance committee hearing.docx

Wendy Jones

[REDACTED]
Fort Collins, CO 80525
September 23, 2017

To: The Senate Finance Committee Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Health Care Proposal

Date: Monday, September 25, 2:00pm ET

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am opposed to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Health Care Repeal bill on the grounds that it does not do one thing to make our nation's health care better than what we have in place now. I think our federal government can work together together in a bipartisanship way to resolve the needs of all Americans in order to provide them with quality, affordable health care.

I am attaching the response from the Colorado Consumer Health Initiative because it is well researched and states much better than I can my objections to the bill listed above. Please listen to the objections from every aspect of the American people especially those businesses whose job it is to provide health care to our country's citizens. They think this proposal bill is cruel, dangerous, and not worthy of a vote.

Thank you,
Wendy Jones

Attachment from the Colorado Consumer Health Initiative

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

- Eliminate the financial assistance that helps over 100,000 Coloradans purchase health care coverage;
- End expanded Medicaid coverage that 450,000 Coloradans rely on;
- Gut Medicaid through deep, permanent cuts that would grow over time and threaten care for hundreds of thousands 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 and do away with essential health benefits that provide robust coverage;
- Resurrect - *and worsen* - the devastating cuts in coverage and benefits that the American public and the majority of Congress have already rejected.

Just this week, the Colorado Health Access Survey showed that Colorado's uninsured rate has reached an all-time low of 6.5%. The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal threatens the health and financial security of hundreds of thousands of Colorado seniors, low-and moderate-income families, people living with disabilities, veterans and people with preexisting conditions. It undermines years of work that this state has undertaken to advance access to affordable coverage for our residents. Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson does nothing to improve affordability or availability of coverage for consumers and will likely result in at least 600,000 Coloradans losing coverage by 2027, will undermine the financial stability of our health care system, destabilize the private insurance market, and place significant financial strains on Colorado's state budget.

Below we've laid out in more detail our concerns with this proposal and the devastating impact it will have on consumers.

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

This proposal takes away secure coverage from millions, and replaces it only with the possibility of inadequate and temporary coverage. It ends the ACA's successful Medicaid expansion, which has extended coverage to nearly 12 million newly eligible low-income adults, 450,000 here in Colorado. 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. According to an Avalere Health analysis, from 2020 through 2026, Colorado would experience a funding cut of \$6 billion under the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal, as compared to current law. Moreover, the block grant ends in 2027, leaving Colorado and its enrollees with no help whatsoever. It appears unlikely 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 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 Colorado 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. Because children make up almost one-half of Medicaid beneficiaries, they cannot possibly be protected if cuts of this magnitude are enacted. In fact, the Avalere Health analysis shows children nationally will see a 31% cut to their funding. 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 Colorado, 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 Colorado with insufficient funding to meet its current obligations. This is funding that in Colorado we cannot easily replace because of the restrictions under the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR). 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 – including Colorado - that expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act will face 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 Colorado's losses because the block grant is inadequate overall, the formula favors non-expansion states (it redistributes funding from expansion to non-expansion states), and it ends entirely in 2026, leaving states with no funding to replace the lost expansion funds.

Because federal dollars for Medicaid account for about 20% of state budgets, FitchRatings “believes substantial Medicaid cuts would require states to make material budget adjustments over the next decade and beyond.”^[1] 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. This is a completely irresponsible and unacceptable burden to place on the state of Colorado and our residents.

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 over 100,000 Coloradans 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 our state based marketplace, Connect for Health Colorado, 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.

Finally, we object to the rushed nature and complete lack of transparency of this entire process. With only one hearing scheduled days before a possible vote with no opportunity of a mark up, and without a full CBO score to properly evaluate the budgetary and coverage loss impacts, it is impossible to have an open and deliberative process that would allow for a true evaluation of and meaningful input on the policies in this proposal that would affect millions of people and one sixth of the US economy. We encourage a return to “regular order,” as requested by many members of the Senate of both parties and supported by the American public, which would require the opportunity for stakeholders, including industry experts, providers, consumers and state policymakers to weigh in.

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

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

Graham-Cassidy is a farce and an insult to millions of Americans. 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.

Susan Gemmill
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Denver, Colorado 80206

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

Stop the attack on our health care. We are not interested in repealing Obamacare. Fix what needs to be fixed and move on. 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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Diana Moon
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Denver, Colorado 80231

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: D. McShan [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:24 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

Stop subsidizing the corporations. People come before corporations.

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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D. McShan
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Lafayette, Colorado 80026

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

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

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Kathleen Carr
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Cedaredge, Colorado 81413

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kate Mondragon [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:49 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.

Kate Mondragon
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Kittredge, Colorado CO 80457

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ken Nixon [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:54 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.

Ken Nixon
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

colorado springs, Colorado 80928

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carla Behrens [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:54 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.

Carla Behrens
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Longmont, Colorado 80503

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Keep ACA

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have been a teacher, graduate student and hard working farming living off of low wages, actively contributing to my community and dependent on the affordable care act to this work. The affordable care act has allowed me to do work for my community and afford health insurance. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Annie Bossange

Denver, Colorado

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: jim Barber [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:43 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Medicaid care saved my daughter's life 5 years ago. The ACA has problems, so fix them! Better yet, take the excessive overhead and profit and complications out of the system by building a "medicare for all" healthcare system run and regulated by the federal government.

jim Barber
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

evergreen, Colorado 80439

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Terry Snyder [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable Health Care

Dear Senate Finance,

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My son cannot afford health insurance without it and would have been in the emergency room instead of urgent care without it, which is only more expensive. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Teresa Snyder
Boulder, Colorado 80303

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hannah Chazin [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:15 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment on Graham/Cassidy bill

To: Senate Finance Committee

Dear Senators,

I am writing to oppose the Graham/Cassidy bill, which would amend and substantially gut the American Care Act.

I have an older sister with a life-long disability, whose medical care would be prohibitively expensive without coverage from Medicaid. Our family would not have been able to care for her as a child and would not be able to care for her now, if we did not have access to healthcare coverage that insured people with pre-existing conditions and that did not cap lifetime benefits. If she were to lose coverage, it would financially ruin us.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, and extend its valuable protections regarding minimum standards of coverage and coverage limits, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Hannah Chazin
Denver, CO

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Joan Spero
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Denver, Colorado 80123

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Adela Flores-Brennan [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Habib, Rita (Bennet); Toal, Alison (Gardner)
Subject: CCHI Comments on Graham-Cassidy Proposal for Finance Committee
Attachments: 9.22.17 CCHI letter to SFC.docx

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Please accept for the record comments from the Colorado Consumer Health Initiative for your consideration during the September 25, 2017 hearing on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson health care proposal. Our letter expresses our concerns and opposition to the proposal.

We have cc'd Senators Michael Bennet and Cory Gardner on this email.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Adela Flores-Brennan
Executive Director
Colorado Consumer Health Initiative
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Please make a note of our new address:

[REDACTED]
Denver, CO 80218

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joan Smith [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.

Joan Smith
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

San Francisco, Colorado 94129-2219

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: lisa thompson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:19 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: graham cassidy bill

Hello

I am a healthcare worker in an Oncology clinic. Every day I see the positive impact of the ACA and affordable, expanded healthcare on my patients. Additionally, numerous patients have expressed significant anxiety over their future access to affordable healthcare due to the numerous ACA bills that have been proposed. Graham cassidy is no exception to this, as the room for waivers on pre-existing conditions, spending caps and other rollbacks of ACA protections would leave cancer patients and survivors especially vulnerable. I urge the Senate and House to once and for all decide to stop trying to repeal the ACA and instead participate in bipartisan efforts to improve healthcare in this country.

Please feel free to outreach me if I can provide any additional information that would be helpful.

Sincerely,
Lisa T
Denver, CO

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: deniseflygirl [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

The Graham-Cassidy health care bill is simply a means for GOP senators (& house members) to do the bidding of their donors. Or at least appease their donors into thinking they are trying.

The GOP needs to stop screwing with people's health care. This is beginning to feel like Groundhog's Day.

Best regards,
Denise Stevens
Aurora, CO

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: J Colleen Berry [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do NOT pass this bill!

Please do NOT pass the Graham Cassidy bill and leave millions of us without health care. It is unconscionable especially when there is nothing reasonable to take its place.

Thank you,
Colleen Berry
80305

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Schulman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please read this now!

To the Senate Finance Committee:

It looks like a group of intelligent, knowledgeable Governors have figured this out. Please read and pass along to other Senators on your Committee.

<http://www.governor.ohio.gov/Priorities-and-Initiatives/Blueprint-for-Stronger-Health-Insurance-Markets>

Thank you!

Karen Schulman

[REDACTED]
Steamboat Springs, CO
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Corinne Scheman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: save and repair the ACA

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

First, I support regular order in the senate. This rush to pass a bill that would affect millions of Americans through the senate is not the way to deal with this important legislature.

Second, and more importantly, health care is a right, not just a luxury for the wealthy. As a hard working full time, public school teacher, I can barely afford health care. If health care is out of the reach for me, then it is out of reach for most Americans. Additionally, schools rely on the ACA for much of the health care we provide our young Americans. And, as most of the population, I have pre-existing conditions. I was finally able to get health insurance with the passage of the ACA that was more reasonable. The Graham-Cassidy bill does not guarantee that states will have to leave this and other important consumer protections intact that we now have with the ACA.

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

Sincerely,

Corinne Scheman

Telluride, Colorado

Corinne Scheman

[REDACTED]
Telluride, CO 81435

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: joan hemm [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:43 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: HEALTHCARE

My husband has been on Social Security Disability for 2 years. He has now transitioned to Medicare at age 57. I was covered by his employer's health insurance which I lost when he was terminated after the 2 years he was allowed to be on medical leave of absence. I now have an ACA plan, and receive tax credits to be able to afford the premiums. Doesn't it make sense for BOTH of us to be on the same health insurance plan? I support Medicare for All!

Thank you.
Joan Hemm
Boulder, Colorado

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Danielle Ongart [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:16 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Submission of Public Testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing

Hello, when I was unemployed I relied on my state's strong and inexpensive public exchange to get healthcare. I have loved ones with preexisting conditions and they rely on the ACA to keep them healthy and able to afford healthcare. I am fortunate enough to live in the state of Colorado; right now we enjoy a progressive governor, but that may not always be the case. We can't leave the fate of healthcare to the whims of individual states. Because of these and more reasons, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Danielle Ongart

Denver, CO

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Megan Clark [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am 25 and the ACA has allowed me to stay on my parents' health insurance while in graduate school, which has, in turn, allowed me to access high quality mental-healthcare that the cheaper plans I would be forced to purchase otherwise would not provide. Aside from how repeal of the ACA would affect me, I am horrified at the prospect of thousands of Americans either dying or going bankrupt as a result of lack of healthcare access. People's lives are literally at stake. This new bill would further disadvantage already marginalized populations, particularly Americans with disabilities. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Megan Clark
Fort Collins, CO

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Naomi R Harris [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please save affordable health care for all.

Greetings,

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Medicaid was absolutely essential in getting me through a hard time when I lost my job and had little income. In addition, my daughter, who had just graduated from college and lost her coverage, was able to qualify. In addition, because of ACA, I was able to secure healthcare even with a pre-existing condition AND I was cured without going bankrupt, as well! It was a win-win situation for me and for the health care system. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Naomi Harris

Nederland, CO

--
[REDACTED]
Nederland, CO 80466
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elizabeth Pae [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Dear Committee Members,

The Graham Cassidy Bill is just another horrible attempt to dismantle the desperately needed health care many Americans rely on. Our Senators need to take the time to work on bipartisan legislation with the input of the states in a way that will make sense. Every other developed country has figured this out, but this proposed legislation is NOT the answer. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Pae
Arvada, CO 80007

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carolyn Baer [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill - Oppose

My family depends on quality, affordable healthcare so I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am in my 70s with a disabled son whom we adopted. We provide for his basic needs, but need his Medicaid coverage so that we, his elderly parents can remain self-sufficient.

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

Sincerely,

Carolyn Baer

Golden, CO

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: david lang kessen [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Improve ACA. Don't repeal!

My family and I (and just about all of our friends--good, hard-working people) rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My father, mother, sister, and brother all have pre-existing conditions. My children have benefitted from Medicaid, and my wife and I both get some help from ACA. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

David Kessem

Boulder, CO

80304

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Katrina Weidknecht [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Swager, Curtis (Gardner)
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

To whom it may concern,

I am a voter living in Colorado. I am also a small business owner. I bring 10s of thousands of dollars into my community from out of state. I support our local school. I rely on alternative channels for health care coverage. I have preexisting conditions and know virtually no one who doesn't. This bill will make it more difficult for my family. We will still somehow buy coverage but we may not be able to save for college or retirement. We may go bankrupt should any of us fall ill or get into an accident. This bill hurts regular Americans. I hope my senators vote against it.

Thank you,
Katrina Weidknecht
80206

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: dewnco [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:45 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: dewnco@aol.com
Subject: Disabilities

Dear sirs and ladies,

I am writing to express my concerns about possible changes in them disabilities laws. I am an amputee and it seems that every time I get one prosthetic leg paid for, it is time to get a new one. Please don't make it any more difficult to survive financially being an amputee. If you need to make cuts somewhere, cut the aid to the people who can work and won't, rather than those who have disabilities. We can't afford to pay more in medical bills.

Thank you very much.

Diane Wales
[REDACTED]

Aurora, CO 80016

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

William Bauder
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Las Cruces, Colorado 88011-9663

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: E Verdill [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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E Verdill
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Windsor, Colorado 80550

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Arleen Miller [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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Arleen Miller
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Boulder, Colorado 80304

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: herb hopkins [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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herb hopkins
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

wiley, Colorado 81092

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Phil Stone [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

Do the right thing. Health care for Americans is more important than tax cuts for the wealthy.

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.

Phil Stone
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Colorado Springs, Colorado 80918

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Wakeman-Linn [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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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.

Mary Wakeman-Linn
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Boulder, Colorado 80303

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Michael Borghi
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Colorado, Colorado 80817

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robert Hasselbrink [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

You are cementing your place in history as the insane branch of the GOP.

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

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

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

Robert Hasselbrink
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Pueblo, Colorado 81004

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

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

While the current system isn't perfect, it has made life better for millions of Americans. What we ask, is the program that you replace it with is also adopted by all elected and government personnel.

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.

Sandi Miyaki
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Highlands Ranch, Colorado 80130

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Loose [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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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 Loose
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Boulder, CO, Colorado 80304

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

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

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

Alan Miniotta
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wheat Ridge , Colorado 80033

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

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

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

Penny Pascoe
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Longmont, Colorado 80501

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

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

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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.

Cathy Taubman
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Denver, Colorado 80210

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: the Hon. Tiffany Snyder - Mayor of Ward, C (now ret. [REDACTED])
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

the Hon. Tiffany Snyder - Mayor of Ward, C (now ret.)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Boulder, Colorado 80305-5434

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

Hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

Why does this industry deserve or need a giant subsidy? That is almost 10% of what they have sitting overseas. It makes no sense.

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.

Georgia Brown

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Arvada, Colorado 80004

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

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

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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.

Richard Gady
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Lakewood, Colorado 80227

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

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

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Lynne Griffin
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Aurora, Colorado 80017

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

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

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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.

Allison Tung

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Denver, Colorado 80222

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christine Tippett [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mrs. Christine Tippett

[REDACTED]
Littleton, CO 80123
[REDACTED]

September 22, 2017

Dear Committee on Finance Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

Cc: Colorado Senators Michael Bennet and Cory Gardner

Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains joins the many organizations and individuals writing to you today to voice our extreme opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal. This proposal would undermine the care millions of Americans need and deserve, and take Colorado, a state that has led in implementing health care reforms, backwards.

Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains serves 70,000 Coloradans each year. A third of our patients are covered by the Medicaid program. Because Colorado made the decision to expand our Medicaid program under the ACA, more of our patients are able to get health care coverage. In fact our number of Medicaid patients has risen by nearly 80 percent. It is our mission to serve them, to provide them self-empowering reproductive health. It is the pro-active preventive outcomes of reproductive health care that enable millions of Americans to plan their futures, as self-reliant individuals and families.

While there are claims by your colleagues this legislation seeks to give states flexibility in managing their public health care programs and insurance regulations, it would ultimately undermine access to health coverage. The bill would eliminate the financial assistance that helps over 100,000 Coloradans purchase health care coverage; end the Medicaid expansion coverage that nearly half a million Coloradans rely on; gut the Medicaid program that helps families reach financial autonomy with deep, permanent cuts that would grow over time and threaten care for hundreds of thousands of them; 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 and do away with essential health benefits that provide robust coverage; and take us back to the time when millions of Americans were suffering without access to comprehensive and affordable health care.

This legislation is bad for our communities. Furthermore, the process to get it to this committee has not included the time and analysis to truly evaluate what Americans need. It is political and mean, as the provision targeting Planned Parenthood illustrates. Planned Parenthood's mission is to ensure access to health care and education for every person who needs it. This bill would take away that access.

We urge you, as well as your colleagues on the Finance Committee to reject this proposal. We ask that you focus on the issues we need you to, such as preventing the community health center funding cliff and funding the Children's Health Insurance Program. Like Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains, these are safety-net providers and programs with people who need them – right now. It is time to stop playing politics with people's health and start working to ensure we have a health care system that provides the care every person needs and deserves.

Sincerely,

Vicki Cowart
Chief Executive Officer
Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains

Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Date: 09/25/2017

Name: Joel M. Pratt

Address: [REDACTED] Denver, CO 80237

The Graham-Cassidy bill purports to keep the regulatory protections of the Affordable Care Act (specifically, the elimination of lifetime caps and non-discrimination against those with pre-existing conditions), but it allows states to opt out of them. The bill thus **does not contain** those protections because a simple waiver will prevent insurance companies from abiding by those rules. In at least some states, you can be sure that those protections will be waived. Indeed, **if the states do not waive those protections, then there is no point to that provision of the bill, at all.**

The Medicaid block grant program will force expansive cuts to Medicaid as we know it and will shrink the program so that it will, by necessity, help fewer people. This is problematic because everyone needs healthcare. This isn't like car insurance or home insurance, where risks and costs can be balanced to come up with smart rates. Everyone eventually uses health care. The question is – who will bear those costs? Should we bear them collectively, or should the poor, the disadvantaged, and the hospitals who serve such populations bear those costs? But those facts – which you certainly know – are not why I submit testimony today.

Instead, I want to tell you a story: just over a year ago, my father was diagnosed with myelofibrosis, a so-called “myeloproliferative disorder” that is a precursor to acute leukemia. He was 70 years old when he was diagnosed, and his treatment options were limited. There were a few drugs that had potential, or he could undergo a bone marrow stem cell transplant (“BMT”), a grueling, painful procedure that begins with intensive chemotherapy and requires a month or more of continuous hospitalization in an ultra-clean environment.

The drugs – which were unimaginably expensive – did not slow or reverse the disease's progress, so he underwent the BMT, which he survived. He was released from the hospital early this year, and he continues to go to the hospital at least once per week for monitoring and continuing treatment.

As you may (or may not) know, these treatments were expensive. Had he been uninsured, the time in the hospital alone would have cost more than half a million dollars, and his total healthcare cost will almost certainly exceed \$1,000,000.00 by the end of the year. Meaning, unless he had an extra million bucks lying around, or unless he had insurance, he could not have received the lifesaving treatment he did. Given the wealth of the average member of the Senate, this may not seem like a lot of money to you, but it would be a devastating, life-ruining amount to owe had he not been insured. And he's not even poor.

Indeed, he worked his whole life, and my mother worked too, until they both were lucky enough to retire over the past couple of years. They paid their taxes, and their insurance premiums, for their entire adult lives, and my father's insurance – properly regulated – covered him when he needed it most. But, and this is the really important part, **without the protections of the Affordable Care Act, his insurance may not have had to cover this procedure.** My dad survived prostate cancer a little more than ten years ago, and the treatment and hospitalization for that was also expensive. Were his insurance company permitted to discriminate against him based on his pre-existing condition, or were he to have lifetime caps instituted on his insurance policy, **he could have been forced to choose between financial ruin or death.** No American –

especially one who worked his entire life to earn his benefits – should be forced to make such a choice. Graham-Cassidy would present millions of Americans with that precise situation.

Before you bring this bill to a vote, and before you vote on it, you must understand the immense human consequences of what you seek to do. This isn't about rich versus poor (or, as some might say, "class warfare"), or about the qualifications of the last President or the current one. And it certainly isn't about Republican versus Democrat or running up the score on an imaginary scoreboard in our increasingly divided society. And it certainly should not be about a massive shift in resources from the states that expanded Medicaid to those that did not to punish those in the former category.

This is, fundamentally, about whether you value human life, and lack of suffering, more than you value your own career. The Graham-Cassidy bill threatens an immense amount of harm, including the destruction of a health care system that undeniably saved my father's life. Nobody thinks that the Affordable Care Act is perfect, and yes, some people want to see it repealed entirely. But the majority of Americans just want a health care system that works for them, where we can access the care we need and not go bankrupt in the process. It is your job to help us get there, and the Graham-Cassidy bill is a step away from that goal, not toward it.

Please vote no on this bill. Thank you.

Dennis F. Mohatt

• Dacono, CO 80514

September 25, 2017

Senate Committee on Finance
Rm. SD-219
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 205110

RE: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

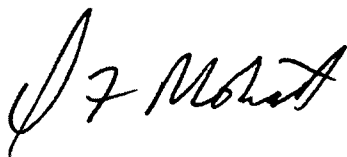
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal. I am writing today to express my strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal. I cannot support legislation that would jeopardize access to life-saving and effective treatments for addiction and weaken states' efforts to address the current crisis of drug overdose deaths. I am even more concerned about people being priced out of the insurance marketplace due to pre-existing conditions and/or establishment of lifetime limits on coverage.

My daughter is 24 years old, when she was 8 years old she was diagnosed with an illness so severe she required a 4-month stay at the NIH Clinical Center to finally be correctly diagnosed and effectively treated. Today she is in nursing school, and recovered, however that pre-existing condition lurks like a storm cloud over her insurability in the future under Graham-Cassidy-Heller. We cannot return to an era where Americans are impoverished due to healthcare costs. To consider such a step, for political gain, is immoral. What are our values? Do we really believe Americans can enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness without access to affordable healthcare.

Do I think the ACA is the perfect answer? No. There are many ways to improve upon the ACA, while at the same time protecting its positive gains. That would require a bipartisan effort to do what's best for America, and not what is in the best interest of political party.

My father was a volunteer fireman, who lost his life in the line of duty for our community. I grew up with the lesson of what public service can cost, and deeply value serving community and country. You have taken oaths to serve this nation, and it is high time to cease your disrespectful political gamesmanship. It is time to serve your nation, and do what is best for Americans. Taking away millions of Americans health insurance, and putting millions more Americans at financial risk due to their pre-existing and/or chronic health conditions isn't what I'd call serving Americans very well. Get to work.'

Sincerely,



Dennis F. Mohatt

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Friedrichs [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:59 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Don't harm Americans by passing Graham-Cassidy!

When you discuss this bill, note:

- * We lose pre-existing conditions coverage. States can't be trusted to continue this protection.
- * Estimates are that 32,000,000 people will lose their health insurance.
- * It will do in Medicaid as we know it, which is our largest insurer and is what millions of people at, or near, poverty rely on.
- * We see you, Republicans! Nothing will harm you more in 2018 and 2020 than passing this bill.
- * And you all have it exactly backwards: nothing will get us faster to single-payer coverage than the disaster of Graham-Cassidy.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Friedrichs
Boulder, CO 80303

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cathleen Wyrick [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:56 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: (SENDER VALIDATION FAILED --- May not have originated from apparent sender)
Death Bill

As a citizen of the United States of America and as a human being, I implore each and every Senator to vote NO on the death bill known as Graham-Cassidy. It is unbelievable that the GOP has such hatred in their hearts for everything that has President Obama's name attached to it that they are eager and willing to put MILLIONS of Americans at risk of losing their healthcare. This bill will KILL millions of Americans who are disabled, elderly or have pre-existing conditions. How can you live with yourselves if you pass this bill without regular order, without a CBO score and without even reading or knowing what is in this bill or how it will affect the citizens of this once great nation? VOTE NO as any decent human being would!

Cathleen Wyrick
American Citizen
Colorado

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: BARBARA H HERSHFELDT [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:24 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham- Cassidy

I have pre-existing condition (rheumatoid arthritis), my treatment is paid for by Medicaid & employer sponsored insurance program. This bill will curtail the payments of my treatments & most certainly bring me an early death. Please make sure this bill does not pass. Sue Massey, Boulder, Colorado Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ron Booth [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:12 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: re: Cassidy-Graham

Dear Senators,

Though I know little of the highly secretive Cassidy-Graham bill which intended to to repeal and replace many sections of the ACA I'm particularly concerned that it would seem many in the Senate know even less.

Equally alarming is the fact that there have been no hearings and no scoring by the CBO or careful examination by any third party neutral insurance/finance experts.

I'm aghast that any representative of We the People would even consider casting a vote for or against a piece of legislation that is brought before the Senate under such circumstances.

Sincerely,
Ronald J. Booth
Westminster, CO

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy Sue Root [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:27 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Please Vote NO!

This bill would be greatly impact the care for my disabled child! She is medically fragile and requires extensive medical care. Families in these situations do not have the resources to pay out of pocket for medical expenses and it is not fair to limit and/or cap their Medicaid.

Sincerely
Susan Root
Colorado
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sparrow Evans [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO ON GRAHAM-CASSIDY!!

This bill will be absolutely devastating for my family if passed! It will put us in physical danger and unable to get the healthcare we need to stay alive. With a history of ovarian cancer and heart issues we would not be able to receive the healthcare we desperately need. Please protect me and my family! Vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill!

Thank you!
Sparrow Evans
Fort Collins, CO

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Denise Hamel [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:56 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Dear Finance Committee Members,

I'm writing in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill, and the process by which it is being considered.

As a taxpayer from Colorado, I am appalled that a bill which radically restructures 1/6 of the American economy is being rushed through without hearings, expert testimony, and time for debate and amendment. This is a serious subject which requires serious, thoughtful, bipartisan action under regular order.

Graham-Cassidy is crueler than the repeal attempts which preceded it. It fails to protect those persons with pre-existing conditions, punishes states which implemented Medicaid expansion, violates the law by exempting some states from its provisions to earn votes (Alaska and Montana), and eliminates Medicaid altogether by 2027. It has a myriad of unintended consequences, including incentivizing abortion by allowing insurers to raise rates for the entire life of any woman who has a "completed pregnancy".

Please vote down this bill and return to regular order. A bipartisan bill to correct and stabilize the ACA is the only acceptable avenue going forward.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Denise Hamel
[REDACTED]
Centennial, CO. 80111

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sparrow Evans [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO ON GRAHAM-CASSIDY!!

This bill will be absolutely devastating for my family if passed! It will put us in physical danger and unable to get the healthcare we need to stay alive. With a history of ovarian cancer and heart issues we would not be able to receive the healthcare we desperately need. Please protect me and my family! Vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill!

Thank you!
Sparrow Evans
Fort Collins, CO

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jaime Lewis [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: WORK

Medicaid provides me the opportunity to work. Tinkering with Medicaid will put people out of work. Is this an unwanted consequence that you have looked at?

Jaime Lewis
[REDACTED]
Denver, CO 80203
[REDACTED]

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

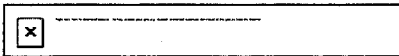
From: Bill Obermeier [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:58 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

It is unforgivable if you simply disregard those of us with pre-existing conditions and those with disabilities and simply put us in a collateral damage category just so you can live up to a "party promise" to do something, even if it's bad. If you are truly a religious person, it is astounding to me you think this legislation is "what Jesus would do." If you're not religious and consider yourself a humanist, this legislation can't possibly line up with humanistic values.

In short, there is no justification from any vantage point for disregarding and penalizing people just for supposed political expediency. Shame on anyone who votes for this legislation. May you forever live with the consequences of your actions!!

Bill Obermeier

--
Bill Obermeier
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Sign up to donate a percentage of your purchases on Amazon to The Dairy at: <http://smile.amazon.com/>

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Emily Cox [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:56 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Bennet, Senator (Bennet); Gardner, DoNotReply (Gardner)
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am a registered voter from Johnstown, CO (80534). I am extremely concerned what this bill will do not only to me & my husband's health insurance, but to millions of my fellow Americans.

But if we put all the premium increases, reduction in coverage and no preexisting conditions protection, there is still a huge issue with HOW this Bill is going 'through' the Senate. I had to listen to years and years of the GOP complaining about how the ACA was rushed through and not given enough time to be considered and how the Democrats didn't get bipartisan support. This is the same group of people that now seem to have no issue with putting a healthcare bill through with little to no hearings, little to no public comment and with absolutely zero bipartisan support. And even though this bill is thousand of pages less than the ACA bill was... Many Republican senators have still not read this bill because they have not had the time to read this bill because this bill is being rushed through in an absolutely ridiculous fashion.

Because I realize that many GOP senators don't want to hear about the millions of people that will be effected in a negative manner because of this bill, I ask that this committee will do the right thing and return to actual regular order and allow for lots and lots and lots of public comment and public hearings. Maybe just maybe, after listening to the the governors of many states, and the Medicaid directors in EVERY SINGLE state, and hundreds of the medical associations in the country, and even some insurance companies tell the senators that they are NOT in favor of this bill, maybe then the GOP will listen and stop this nonsense and start to work with their democratic colleagues to come up with a bill that REPAIRS the ACA not destroy it!

Regards,

Emily AP Cox

Cc: my CO Senators

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robert Stephenson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:16 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stop Graham-Cassidy

This whole process is a slap in the face of good government.

Do NOT advance this bill.

Sincerely,

Robert Stephenson

Englewood, CO

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Dittman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:55 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy health care bill

Please do not support this bill. It does away with medicaid as has been set up in Colorado. Three of my friends depend on that support for their lives. Two require oxygen and lung care. One has cancer. If the state of Colorado gets the money in a block grant, it will lose a great deal of money and will not be able to support everyone. Does the money go to help someone breathe or to survive the ravages of cancer? All of my friends have pre-existing conditions. Are their rates going up more than this past year because they have preexisting conditions. Many of my friends are older. Are their rates going up because they are older? Never mind that they have given valuable contributions to this community in the form of teaching, fighting fires, making scientific discoveries and other careers that supported the lives of others. My grandson has been diagnosed with bi-polar disease and has finally gotten on a stable path through medication and therapy. Would you take mental health support away from this wonderful young man in the prime of his life? My grand daughter has just married and plans to start a family. Healthy babies come from good maternity care. Although our health care system needs some fixes, this one is not the fix--not yet. You must keep working. It sounds so good to say you would give more control to the states. Just make sure you don't take away the parts that have enabled people to depend on higher quality of life.

Thank you very much.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Caldwell [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill--Vote NO

As a resident of the state of CO and an American citizen, I am totally opposed to this cruel bill and have told my Republican senator the same. The state of CO, which took the Medicaid expansion, stands to lose \$6 bil. in federal funding that is allowing our fellow Coloradans to have healthcare. On top of this, those with preexisting conditions are going to be subject to the whims and ideological proclivities of their states' governors and legislatures in terms of whether or not they will even be able to afford insurance.

Healthcare is too big a part of our economy and too fundamental to the well-being of our citizenry to become an object of experimentation at the state level. Every single major healthcare group opposes this bill and they are in a position to know how tremendously hurtful it will be for millions of people. I oppose it in favor of a bipartisan plan to fix Obamacare and help our fellow citizens to keep and to get the healthcare they deserve as a right.

Mary Caldwell
[REDACTED]
Lafayette, CO 80026

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rivvy Neshama [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please stop this from being voted in!

Dear Senators,

I cannot believe you are considering this frightening, lacking in compassion health insurance bill. Please remember all the people you will be hurting so deeply. Please do not allow this to pass. I appeal to your hearts and your humanity and your sense of what is right.

Thank you,
Rivvy Neshama
[REDACTED]
Boulder, CO 80304

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Colleen Jiron [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please oppose the GCH travesty

Dear Committee members,

As someone with a physically disabled brother (now deceased), I watched with dismay as he lost employer health care and exhausted all of his savings paying for medical bills, until the ACA presented him with affordable options. The last few years of his life were still medically challenging, but at least he (and we) didn't have to go into bankruptcy paying for his surgeries, treatment and medications, thanks to the ACA. Under the GCH as currently described, he would NEVER have been able to obtain health insurance with his preexisting conditions.

Please do NOT let these Senators who are obviously bought off by the likes of the Koch Brothers, eradicate affordable health care for millions. The states who think they want this are the same states who stubbornly (and stupidly) declined the Medicaid option when it was offered to them through ACA.

The only real answer to affordable health care is a single payer system, and until that happens, these heartless, fraudulent attempts must be stopped.

Thank you for listening,

- Carol Jiron
[REDACTED]
Boulder, CO 80302



Arapahoe & Douglas Counties

For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities

Achieve with us.

Senate Finance Committee Hearing on Graham-Cassidy Bill, Monday, September 25, 2017

From: Carol Meredith, Executive Director, The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas, 6538 South Racine Circle, Centennial CO 80111

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

- Eliminate the financial assistance that helps over 100,000 Coloradans purchase health care coverage;
- End expanded Medicaid coverage that 450,000 Coloradans rely on;
- Gut Medicaid through deep, permanent cuts that would grow over time and threaten care for hundreds of thousands 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 and do away with essential health benefits that provide robust coverage;
- Resurrect - *and worsen* - the devastating cuts in coverage and benefits that the American public and the majority of Congress have already rejected.



Just this week, the Colorado Health Access Survey showed that Colorado's uninsured rate has reached an all-time low of 6.5%. The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal threatens the health and financial security of hundreds of thousands of Colorado seniors, low-and moderate-income families, people living with disabilities, veterans and people with preexisting conditions. It undermines years of work that this state has undertaken to advance access to affordable coverage for our residents. Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson does nothing to improve affordability or availability of coverage for consumers and will likely result in at least 600,000 Coloradans losing coverage by 2027, will undermine the financial stability of our health care system, destabilize the private insurance market, and place significant financial strains on Colorado's state budget.

Below we've laid out in more detail our concerns with this proposal and the devastating impact it will have on consumers.

6538 S. Racine Circle, Centennial CO 80111

T 303.220.9228 -- F 303.220.0994

www.arc-ad.org

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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, 450,000 here in Colorado. 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. According to an Avalere Health analysis, from 2020 through 2026, Colorado would experience a funding cut of \$6 billion under the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal, as compared to current law. Moreover, the block grant ends in 2027, leaving Colorado and its enrollees with no help whatsoever. It appears unlikely 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 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 Colorado 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. Because children make up almost one-half of Medicaid beneficiaries, they cannot possibly be protected if cuts of this magnitude are enacted. In fact, the Avalere Health analysis shows children nationally will see a 31% cut to their funding. 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 Colorado, 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 Colorado with insufficient funding to

meet its current obligations. This is funding that in Colorado we cannot easily replace because of the restrictions under the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR). 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 - including Colorado - that expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act will face 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 Colorado's losses because the block grant is inadequate overall, the formula favors non-expansion states (it redistributes funding from expansion to non-expansion states), and it ends entirely in 2026, leaving states with no funding to replace the lost expansion funds.

Because federal dollars for Medicaid account for about 20% of state budgets, FitchRatings "believes substantial Medicaid cuts would require states to make material budget adjustments over the next decade and beyond."¹ 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. This is a completely irresponsible and unacceptable burden to place on the state of Colorado and our residents.

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 over 100,000 Coloradans 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 our state based marketplace, Connect for Health Colorado, 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.

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

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.

Finally, we object to the rushed nature and complete lack of transparency of this entire process. With only one hearing scheduled days before a possible vote with no opportunity of a mark up, and without a full CBO score to properly evaluate the budgetary and coverage loss impacts, it is impossible to have an open and deliberative process that would allow for a true evaluation of and meaningful input on the policies in this proposal that would affect millions of people and one sixth of the US economy. We encourage a return to "regular order," as requested by many members of the Senate of both parties and supported by the American public, which would require the opportunity for stakeholders, including industry experts, providers, consumers and state policymakers to weigh in.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carol Meredith", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.


Carol Meredith
Executive Director

COMMENTS FOR THE RECORD

Title of Hearing: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017

Full Name: Cindy J. Lindsay


Boulder, CO 80304

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson 'healthcare' bill meets **NONE** of the requirements for making legislative choices to the best benefit of the American people.

This bill has been crammed through congress with **NONE** of the discussions, committee meetings and amendments that are vital components to passing good legislation.

It is under an arbitrary deadline that forces a **MINDLESS** push to get something / anything to the floor for a vote.

It is being presented without complete financial impact facts from the Congressional Budget Office that are required – AGAIN – for good legislation.

And these are just the procedural issues!!

On the quality of the content of the bill, the authors of this bill are LYING to the American people about the impact of these provisions.

The basic issue is that the bill provides less money to cover more people which can ONLY RESULT in less access to care, poorer care, more delayed treatments, more severe disease, more suffering, more deaths.

It is impossible to determine anyone who wants this bill – other than the face-saving GOP.

MILLIONS of voters, doctors, insurance companies and patient groups slam Graham-Cassidy. They have ALL written to congress to say, "We strongly urge all Senators to vote NO".

Senate leadership is LYING to the American public about coverage since that will be left to individual states and they can change anything with a waiver...and there are NO SAFEGUARDS on those actions!!

Any senator who votes for this IMMORAL bill will have to live with the unspeakable damage that s/he is doing to constituents and other Americans who depend on access to affordable healthcare. Passing this bill will be a bloodbath in the literal sense, both for patients and the GOP!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

It seems to me that the Senate is trying to pass a "repeal and replace" bill no matter if it is good for the citizens of this country or not. The current "Graham Cassidy" bill is being considered before any analysis of cost and the effect it will have on the health insurance of the currently insured or uninsured. Please do not pass this bill in haste just to assuage the ego of the president or other republicans who promised to repeal and replace the ACA. Senators are elected to serve the public, not to inflate egos. Any health care bill passed by the congress should also be mandated to cover all the congress men and women and their families as well.

Sincerely,

Jana Murphy

[REDACTED]
Boulder, CO 80304

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judy Danielson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments: Defeat Cassidy-Graham Bill
Attachments: Cassidy-Grah. letter 917.doc

I urge the committee to sternly defeat the Cassidy-Graham bill, which would bring great harm to the state of Colorado and its citizens. My comments can be found in the file enclosed below.

Sincerely,
Judy Danielson

This is an email from Judy Danielson, [REDACTED] er, CO. 80205. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Preferred pronouns: she, her, hers

"An enemy is someone who's story you haven't heard." Unknown

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Browning, Eiko T. MD [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy-Graham comments

Senators. Vote no on Cassidy-Graham. As a practicing physician and a parent of a child with special needs, I am worried that this legislation will be dangerous to my patients and my family. It would convert Medicaid to block grants (per capita funds), which would lead to rationing of care. It breaks a promise the federal government made to provide health care to our most vulnerable citizens, including the elderly, children, the poor, and the disabled.

It has a provision that would allow states to opt out of covering essential health benefits. You know, things like inpatient care, outpatient care, labs, meds, maternity, and mental health care. It would allow insurers to sell bare bones plans that don't cover anything useful, which is shortsighted in that will not improve individual and population health, and will put vulnerable American families at risk of financial ruin due to health care expenses.

It is irresponsible to make sweeping changes to Medicaid without hearings and without stakeholder input. It is irresponsible to vote on this bill without a CBO score.

Instead, all stakeholders (patients, payors, employers, and providers) demand increased value in health care, with value = quality/cost. Better health outcomes, at lower cost. To improve value in the health care system, we need to INCREASE utilization of high value services, and decrease utilization of low value services. Adequate coverage of high value services through essential health benefits is prerequisite.

Eiko Browning, M.D.
Rocky Mountain Cancer Centers- Thornton

[REDACTED]
Thornton, CO 80260
[REDACTED]

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Horan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for the Record

The Graham-Cassidy bill is an abomination. Not only does this bill allow states to deny coverage and/or jack up rates for pre-existing conditions, it also takes money from the states which expanded Medicaid and gives it to the states who were too heartless to do so. Millions of people will lose their coverage or see their premiums increase. Republicans should be working with Democrats to improve the ACA, not dismantling it. This bill is cruel and must not pass.

Thank you,

Susan G. Horan
[REDACTED]

Fort Collins, CO 80524

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kezer, Gail (King)
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:47 PM
To: Lisa Wesel; Kilkelly, Marge (King)
Cc: gchcomments; Smith, Edie (King)
Subject: RE: Statement for the Record for the Graham-Cassidy hearing Sept. 25, 2017

Thanks for all of your efforts, Lisa.

-----Original Message-----

From: Lisa Wesel [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:35 PM
To: Kilkelly, Marge (King) [REDACTED]
Cc: gchcomments <gchcomments@finance.senate.gov>; Smith, Edie (King) [REDACTED], Kezer, Gail (King) [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Statement for the Record for the Graham-Cassidy hearing Sept. 25, 2017

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

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Meegan Niemira [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:19 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
....

Meegan Niemira

19075
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marcia Sherman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

I live in a very rural area of Pennsylvania that relies on small but excellent hospitals for our care. This bill puts their futures in jeopardy as well as for their patients. I cannot understand how you can even consider this bill. You had a bipartisan group working on fixes for parts of the Affordable Care Act. Why not let them do their work together? Just because Obama's name is on it doesn't mean it's no good or that it has to go. Be reasonable.

Marcia Sherman
17847

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sandra Fryer [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it unfairly targets many states and does not really provide the states with enough money to adequately cover those who need Medicaid, those with pre-existing conditions (I have 3 children who fit into this category) and unfairly targets people as they get older and are not yet eligible for Medicare. It also gives free-reign to insurance companies to charge large fees and co-pays to people with pre-existing condition. I am sure that the insurance that costs less will provide much less now and as time goes on. Proper hearings, time for everyone to understand the bill and a bi-partisan coalition is the best way to come up with a bill, not rushing something through the senate.

Thank you for your consideration. I hope you will do the right thing.

Sandra Fryer

19025
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elaine Hagey [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:12 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, like current legislation, it does not provide a way for folks in EVERY state to have the guarantees that the current legislation provides such as AFFORDABLE coverage for pre existing conditions and a mandate for healthy people to be part of the system to reduce costs. The option of states to get waivers to opt out creates a huge loophole which states can use to severely decrease coverage to certain groups. I want Congress to do what John McCain wants...to work, Democrats and Republicans together to come up with a good bill that moves health care forward....this bill moves it backward. Rename the bill if it will help Republicans live up to their promise of "Repeal and Replace." I'd rather give up the nickname "Obamacare" and let Republicans have a name that appeals to their ardent supporters as long as the COVERAGE is as good or, hopefully better than what we have now. We all know that the current law needs improvement...so...IMPROVE it...don't decimate it. I do not support this current bill being considered in late September. Thank you.

Elaine Hagey

19020
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sharon Doros [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:20 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 is cruel and inhumane. It will ravage medical coverage for the sickest and most frail among us, including sick children and disabled persons. Your constituents are aware that you would not have this plan for yourselves. Is that fair?!

Sharon Doros

18966
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: ariel higgins [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Prop

Hello,

I am horrified at The Graham Cassidy Insurance Bill. I thought senators were supposed to care about the American People. The GC Bill would take insurance away from 30 million Americans. Among those that would lose their insurance are Elderly People, children, Vets, People with Disabilities and People with pre existing conditions.

Senator Graham and Senator Cassidy should be ashamed of themselves and so should Trump and all the disreputable Senators who support a Bill which hurts Americans.

We were once a country of integrity. Now I often wonder if Republicans have become so devoid of any morals that they have gone Mad. The Republican Senate needs to stop trying to pull a fast one on the very people who elected them to office.

This bill and those who support it are a disgrace to the American Flag that my father and grandfather fought for.

Shame on you Lindsey Graham and Bill Cassidy.

Sincerely,

Ariel Higgins

Ariel Higgins
Award winning
Artist at large

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Please join me and my friends in conversation on Facebook. Link on my site.
#fightthepower

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Meredith Hooke [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: This bill is cruel

If the bill you are proposing does more harm than good (and it does) then don't pass it. It's cruel to try and pass this off as a replacement to Obamacare.

Thank you,
Meredith Hooke
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patricia Brennan [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: HEALTH CARE

Stop this new bill. Millions of people will be left without coverage.
It is inhumane. You are sending people to their deaths.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: sheila azores [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

Do not repeal the ACA unless the intention is to give citizens the same health care that congress men and women have.

Thank you.

Sheila Azores

--

Sent from Gmail Mobile

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: My Snatch [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for the Record, Re: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

(•_•)
<_> This
/ \

\(•_•)
(_> Bill
/ \

(•_•)
<_> Sucks
/ \

Love,
Full Frontal with Samantha Bee

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Andi Tauber [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

The Graham-Cassidy bill does not serve Americans, and will endanger many of them. These are your people, your constituents, your brothers and sisters.

Please DEFEAT the Graham-Cassidy bill and work to IMPROVE the current Affordable Care Act.

Please.

As a citizen of this already-great-but-flawed-and-floundering-more-all-the-time nation, I am rooting/praying/waiting/hoping for this administration to develop a mission beyond "Undo everything Obama did at any cost." Trying to tank the Affordable Care Act is a waste of time and resources, and panders to the worst of racism and partisanship in this country.

Please.

Sincerely,
Andi Tauber
proud naturalized citizen but getting more embarrassed all the time

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Leesa Brieger [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: citizen's comment against Graham-Cassidy

To Whom it May Concern:

The GOP trampling of standard Senate procedure to force a bill through the Senate, in the face of public and even GOP disdain for the bill, is appalling. Such an approach to governance is unacceptable.

Please hear the public outcry to protect our health insurance and the advice of virtually every American health care professional organization and even of the GOP senators who correctly claim that this bill is not worth passing. Cynicism in politics does not make for good leadership, and with this bill and its attempts to buy off senators, to the detriment of all (including those senators' states), the GOP is surpassing even itself for cynical politics.

My sister's family of five, organic farmers in Montana, spent years without health insurance, which they were only able to afford once Obamacare came along. Now, with health insurance, they are able to afford preventive health care and know that they won't go bankrupt in case of an accident. Without Obamacare, they will surely lose this.

Please, please do not allow this bill to go forward. This is governance in the worst possible abuse of the term.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Leesa

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Richard Edgerton <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

Dear Senate: The ACA has provided me with affordable health coverage. I depend on the ACA because I have a pre-existing condition. Please do not rip away health care for millions who need it.

Sincerely,
Cornelia Edgerton

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Camile Camile [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I would be directly affected by this. I have been under stress since the Republicans started their "repeal" effort and would appreciate you thinking of the American people above your political views. My two nieces and one nephew are also affected. I think EVERYONE would in some way be adversely affected if they educated themselves. We know from the initial push to "repeal & replace" that many Americans did not know what the PPACA is. Think of how they will feel if suddenly something is gone or dramatically changed and they realize too late what they had. If you do this, I hope that realization comes in time for the 2018 elections.
Sheila Lanning

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Annette [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy

I'm a nonworking pediatrician. I find the current proposed Graham-Cassidy bill to fall far short of providing affordable health care for all Americans.

The sword of Damocles hangs over **every citizen's head** when it comes to **pre-existing** conditions. When I was in my early 20's an insurance company wrote me that it would insure me except for my liver, gall bladder, or kidneys because I'd had a urinary tract infection and mononucleosis. I did not get my insurance with them... but what if I had no choice?! This is a possibility with the currently proposed bill and even worse, provides unaffordable health care.

Please, oppose this bill in its present form and fix the current ACA in a bipartisan way. Our lives and bank accounts depend upon it.

Annette Matthews, M.D.

As I do not check my email more than once in 24-72 hours, you will need to call me at [REDACTED] if rapid communication is essential. Thank-you!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judy Hulbert [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Brain Injuries and Disabilities

Senators and Representatives:

Please do not leave our citizens who have suffered from brain injuries and now have permanent disabilities to pay for their rehabilitation. When disabilities occur, it is overwhelming for the families to get through the maze of health care for their loved ones. And to lose this coverage or leave it to the states to figure out how to pay for these medical costs is a disservice to Everyone! Having experienced this first hand, I am eternally grateful for medicaid. My loved one would not be here today without the continued health coverage that our system provides. PLEASE provide the responsible vote and Keep this coverage for others who may suffer disabilities through no fault of their own. I implore you to be Responsible to the citizens who elected you.

Tomorrow, someone in your family or someone you know could need this vital insurance. Your life and your families life can change in an instant... SAVE our medicaid programs, Please.

Judy Hulbert

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Leslie Conaghan [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

This country needs so many things. Let's start with the basics that our new healthcare legislation needs:

- We need bipartisanship.
- We need a CBO score.
- We need health care for women, children, and those with pre-existing conditions.
- We need healthcare outreach for addicts.

Instead of providing this country with protections, instead of investing in our present and future, the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill offers us chaos. The price is too high.

Please reject the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Sincerely,
Leslie A. Conaghan

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jean Haggerty [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no to Graham/Cassidy

No repeal or replace of ACA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare Bill

We elect senators to do the right thing for the American people. This healthcare bill will not help us. It will harm most of us. Do the right thing and vote NO!!!

Bonnie Stienes

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE device

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Rands [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: United States Senate [REDACTED]
Subject: Georgia Constituent Expressing Dismay & Condemnation of the Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

Please do not vote yes on this bill just to meet an artificial campaign promise deadline.

This bill does not fix the problems with ACA, it will compound the problems by not only causing rates to rise but also throw more people off of healthcare.

Since Georgia didn't participate in the expansion of insurance coverage under the ACA, there are over 300,000 people in Georgia in the insurance gap that do not have insurance. They are not poor enough for the Medicaid coverage and make too much money to get the credits. This does not solve that problem and will increase the number of people that cannot afford insurance because they will not get the credits that offset an increasing premium. The state will get those numbers and not even enough to cover the people in the gap and those people that would not afford the new insurance program.

My recommendation:

1. Make health insurance like car insurance --- some minimum is required by everyone, so that the healthy people can offset the risk of the elderly and infirmed. But it can have high deductables so that regular costs are low and they can 'opt out" to reduce rates (not optin to increase rates) and not include treatments for erectile dysfunction, birth control, maternity, and get additional discounts for healthy life lifestyle choices (not smoking, eating right, exercise) that are verified with an annual physical (covered by the plan) at the time of renewal so they can add back things they took out if their health changes.
2. HSA - so they can pay to go to the doctor or miniclinic in between physicals, and a prescription plan that makes that affordable if there are sick folks in their household plan, and it rolls over year after year and it covers a gym or physical fitness program.
3. let insurance companies compete across state lines
4. let people buy medications from outside the u.s, just must be licensed and insured.
5. fix how the insurance companies inflates the prices for regular stuff... \$10 for two aspirin is ridiculous and doctors / hospitals charge it to make up for their losses in other areas (like medicaid).
6. let qualified doctors and nurses from other countries get their license here so they can compete with doctors that charge high rates or won't accept certain negotiated insurance rates and medicaid/medicare customers.
7. Medicaid has been adding wellness awareness and it has shown to reduce their cost of service...wellness will help reduce our overweight nature of americans and our increase in diabetes and other diseases.

I have a high deductible plan of \$3000 through my husbands company...we each must meet that deductible. We pay \$250 a month on a company's / employers subsidized plan and put \$300 a month into our HSA. I can go to some doctors and say I am paying on insurance and the rate is \$95...same doctor if I say that I am self pay the rate is \$15. Our physicals are covered every year and we get credits and discounts for participating in wellness programs. Only I take meds for High Blood Pressure and Cholesterol. We have a discounted plan for vision and dental and negotiated rates on our doctor visits that are not part of the annual physical. Most meds are free, if they are on a list of meds... a recent prescription for a skin cream (1 oz tube) was going to cost \$980... we didn't get it. Our doctor visits are typically covered at about half price (negotiated rate) if in network, and we pay that other party through HCA. But we ask and are responsible and ask them to check cost before doing any test or procedure. We are covered through BCBS Anthem.

VOTE NO ON GRAHAM-CASSIDY HEALTH CARE BILL ---- YOU CAN DO BETTER. WE CAN DO BETTER.

A healthier America is a Better America.

Thanks, Karen Rands (And Jim Bock & Shelby Bock)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ellen Hindson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I strongly disapprove of this bill (#GrahamCassidy)

Please, please do not support this bill. It is a danger to millions of people who depend on the Affordable Care Act for survival.

Do not repeal the ACA - please work with Democrats to fix it, or embrace Bernie Sanders' Medicare-For-All bill, which encompasses the type of health care most American citizens actually support.

All best,
Ellen

Ellen Hindson
Training Specialist, Patron Technology
Oboist, Trade Winds Quintet
Oboe Instructor, The Bloomingdale School
Oboe Coach, The Diller-Quaile School
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mona Cohen [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:14 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

...

As I observe the High Holiday of Rosh Hashanah in my synagogue it strikes me that when the Torahs are out of the ark everyone is directed to stand. We kiss our prayer book and then touch the Torah with our prayerbooks because these are the words of our ancestors. Because words are so important as to be cherished, respected and should inform our daily actions.. Because words matter.

We have a tradition called L'dor Da'vor which means from generation to generation. As you contemplate your vote on Graham Cassidy please think about the effects this will have upon generations of vulnerable citizens.

What will you tell my former students who are on the autism spectrum and my brother with cerebral palsy when they lose their services?

What will you tell your children about your stance and your place in history? What will you stand for if not the most vulnerable amongst us?

Will you be on the right side of history?

L'dor Va'dor.

Mona Cohen

19111
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sophia Roberts, SANYS [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony
Attachments: IMG_4134.JPG; ATT00001.txt

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Doug Brown <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

My husband & I are on Medicare with a zero premium Humana advantage plan. As a Veteran, Doug has received medical care from the VA. I've been disabled for nearly 10 years and our current income is Social Security with a tiny pension.

All of these programs are at risk with Trump's budget and the Graham-Cassidy (so called) Health Care Bill. We believe there are very few Republicans that actual Care about the health of any low income American. Trump & his crew are determined to rip health care from those who cannot pay the terrible prices the Medical Insurance Industry wants to charge.

"Republican" is becoming the worst thing any American can be called. Destruction of our public schools, hospitals, health care, & environment; the safety of our food from farm to table as well as reversing safety measures for industries that endanger our health, water, air, soil and entire planet; this is just the start of the Russian wish list Trump's begun to fill with Republican blessing!

Money is your God - Democracy is gone with all your gerrymandering and voter suppression. American tax payers exist only to support the rich one % and help Exxon drill in the Arctic with Putin. Your children see exactly what you have done with your life of greed.

You are giving America to Russian & American Mafia criminals. Trump was Putin office. He lost - but Republicans made sure he had just enough electoral votes with the denial of voters in Red states. All these crimes are on each Republican that puts money first and damns Democracy.

Yes! We Voted For Hillary! Yes, She Won! No! Trump is Not Our President.

Kathryn Ellis & Doug Brown

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sandy Boone [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Save Medicaid

I am requesting that you save the medicaid program. My son stopped walking 6 years ago at age 14. This happened after taking a step forward at a church event, shattering his kneecap.

He was an active and healthy child before this. He was a swimmer, snowskier, played basketball and baseball, loved to travel and his dream was to become a geologist.

He developed CRPS and by the time it was diagnosed, it was too late to reverse the disease. It affects his heart and he has developed POTS (postural ortho static tachycardia), IBS, bleeding disorder, patella femoral , syndrome, skin fungus, hypersensitivity, brittle bone disease, allodonia. These are just a few of his many symptoms. He can walk, with a cane, 100 ft, stand 30 minutes out of the day, sit upright 30 minutes a day. Without the medicines, his heart rate, upon standing, goes as high as 214 after 48 seconds, his blood pressure drops dangerously low, he passes out. He wouldnt be able to tolerate sounds or lights.

He has refused opioids, even though his crps pain is rated higher than childbirth or amputation. He manages his pain through distraction techniques taught to him through his 6 week treatment at Boston Children's Hospital. He is a strong, good hearted and intelligent boy who didn't ask for this disability.

His father cancelled him from his company policy the day he graduated from home school. Medicaid is the only way he can receive the treatment he needs to manage his symptoms. I am also disabled since 2003 and am on Medicare.

Sincerely,
Sandra Boone
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Kasman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Medicaid expansion is a MUST!

Do we consider food a "benefit?" Do we consider shelter a "benefit?"
Medical care is not a "benefit." It's a necessity and the right of every American.
It is too painful to think of any American who is sick and can not get medical care. No Medical Bill Passed by Congress
should eliminate Medicaid expansion. Everyone is entitled to medical care.
Thank you.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kaadi Taylor [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

PLEASE VOTE NO on this bill!!

For the love of God, People! What are you thinking? Your job is to make the best decision for the people you serve! This bill effectively phases out Medicare hitting the most vulnerable part of our society. How is that in any way helping?

And not ensuring that all people with pre-existing conditions are covered? If you vote yes to this bill, millions of people will go into horrible debt ... and worse, could DIE because there is no healthcare that they can afford.

If I can't appeal to your humanity, how about the bottom line: money.

Think about it: more people unable to work because of illness, unable to spend to strengthen the economy because they are using every dime to doctors and for prescriptions, and states - already cash strapped - watch large portions of their budgets drained trying to bridge an impossible gap when Medicaid disappears.

Repealing Obamacare just because you want something with another name on it? Well then create something BETTER.

Start working together like we elected you to do. Start doing your jobs and stop throwing the people who voted for you to the wolves.

Karin Taylor

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sophia Roberts, SANYS [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony
Attachments: IMG_4133.JPG; ATT00001.txt

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: william schnauffer [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:13 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 pre-existing conditions are nobody's BUSINESS.

YOU ARE COWARD for not standing up for what is right and best for your constituents. You need to be replaced!!

william schnauffer

18073
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sophia Roberts, SANYS [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony
Attachments: IMG_4130.JPG; ATT00001.txt

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sophia Roberts, SANYS [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony
Attachments: IMG_4131.JPG; ATT00001.txt

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dan Turbow [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham Cassidy Bill is a National Disgrace

I once was a Republican. If this bill passes into law, I will never vote for another Republican again. Ever. This bill, and the actions of the Republican Party in trying to ram through a repeal and replace bill at all costs, even without a CBO analysis, are a disgrace. Anyone who votes for this bill needs their head examined. Can we please start work on a bipartisan effort to fix health care, not a partisan effort to appease the President and his crazy base?

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Andrea <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: How many people do I know who would be dead, or medically compromised without the ACA?

My husband, for one. Type II diabetes, but with insulin dependency. Lost his job after I retired based upon a promised company benefit from AT&T of subsidized medical. AT&T rescinded the subsidized medical.

My yard guy got medical care for the first time in years. Luckily, the ACA came into play about the time his cellulitis went septic and was found to be antibiotic resistant.

Another friend of mine had been living with an exposed herniated belly-button because he couldn't afford the surgery.

A fourth friend began experiencing kidney failure, again, mercifully at the time the ACA came into play. She and her husband had already been bankrupted by other medical issues. They could finally afford the health insurance and she's been seeing a specialist ever since.

The social contract is about helping each other out as a community. You don't want to subsidize health care for others? I don't want to pay for rural electric in Idaho, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Virginia, or Wyoming.

Don't kill the people who need access to health care the most.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathy Bardsley [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: please read and respond

Hello,

As a concerned American citizen and lifetime voter I am writing regarding the proposed Graham/Cassidy changes to the Affordable Care Act. These proposed changes are capricious and very dangerous to millions of Americans. They have not been fully vetted and are being crammed down the throat of the American public by an uncaring and arrogant GOP congress and Trump determined to wipe out Obama's legacy no matter who gets hurt. The parameters of this bill as they are now known will continue to enrich the wealthy and corporations. It will have a drastic impact on the vulnerable, children, the elderly the working poor. This is unconscionable and immoral. It is mean spirited and against everything this country stands for in values. I strongly recommend that:

1. The bill be fully vetted and analyzed for full impact- this report should be shared widely with all Americans and reviewed
2. If a replacement bill is truly needed, full bipartisan design and development is a must
3. Women leaders be equally involved in the design of a replacement to AFC if to construct a bill that is fair to over 50% of the voting population
4. When the bill has been fully and independently analyzed for impact, there be robust discussion by congress in front of the American people (in fact why can't we vote on it?)
5. Please know that every member of congress and Trump will be held fully accountable for their vote.

This is the most important issue right now- please approach it with gravity, patience and sincere regard.

Best regards,

Kathy

Kathy Bardsley
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jason Shohet [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition

Do bot repeal or replace !
Current system just needs to be tweaked

Jason Shohet

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sophia Roberts, SANYS [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony
Attachments: IMG_4129.JPG; ATT00001.txt

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sophia Roberts, SANYS [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony
Attachments: IMG_4124.JPG; ATT00001.txt

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hilma Wolitzer [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not repeal and relpace

Do NOT repeal and replace with that abominable, unfair, unthinkable bill! Where is the humanity in (Republican) government?

Hilma Wolitzer

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christie McCauley [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

This bill is disastrous for **women, children, and people with disabilities**. This is not a healthcare bill. This bill does not provide "healthcare" for ANYONE, only steals it from millions.






Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Esme Grant [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ANCOR Letter on GCHJ
Attachments: ANCOR SFC Letter September 25 2017 Graham Cassidy Bill.pdf

Please see attached ANCOR's letter regarding the GCHJ proposal and please have it entered into the record for the hearing.

Thank you!
Esme

Esmé Grant Grewal, Esq.
Senior Director of Government Relations
American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR)

[REDACTED] - Alexandria, VA 22314-2944
[REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: HOPE SHAPIRO [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO!!!!

The Graham Cassidy Bill is reprehensible.

VOTE NO!!!

Sincerely,
Hope Shapiro Mackey
Van Nuys, CA
91411

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Taylor Washburn [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill - JUST SAY NO!!!

32 Million Americans could lose coverage, radical change to Medicaid and diminished funding for every state with only 90 seconds of debate??! Just plain wrong. If you want to keep your campaign pledges start by keeping your pledge not to touch Medicaid benefits. Reject this bill. This bill is Evil incarnate. Do you wish to be remembered as having stood on the side of good or Evil? It's your legacy, choose wisely.

--
Ms. Taylor L. Washburn, BSN, RN
Email: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shelley Salamensky [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: against graham-cassidy aha 'reform'

I am a kidney transplant recipient. The disorder that led me to need a transplant is due to no fault of my own.

I am writing on behalf of fellow kidney patients to echo points made by the American Kidney Foundation as to the discriminatory -- and cruel -- nature of the proposed changes.

HEALTH DISCRIMINATION: "Permits insurance corporations to refuse to cover dialysis, transplantation, or medications needed just to stay alive."

CLASS DISCRIMINATION: "1/3 of people with kidney failure are enrolled in Medicaid."

'RACE' DISCRIMINATION: "African Americans are 3 times more likely than Whites, and Latinos nearly 1.5 times more, to develop kidney failure."

1 IN 3 AMERICANS: "1 in 3 American adults are at risk for kidney failure. Risk factors include diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity and family history of kidney failure. "

Please help stop these measures from going into effect.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Shelley Salamensky

Zip code 10033

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gina Shea [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: New health care disaster

Senator, please for the sake of humanity, do not pass this horrible bill. How can you in good conscience take away the rights of people to affordable, consistent Health care. Why are we in America so far behind on this issue?.
Vote NO!

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Brian Lee [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Wright, Kevin (Finance)
Subject: Re: Protect Our Care -- action requested

Dear Sir or Madam,

As you know, our health is often out of our control. Like many Americans, my really good friend Willy, an educator of young people who said he'd likely be dead if not for his current healthcare options, encountered some really bad luck:

Willy is two years removed from a brutal bout with something called necrotizing pancreatitis. "This is a disease where your pancreas 'eats' itself which, in turn, affects the kidney, liver and various digestive processes," he wrote shortly after his release from the hospital. "The [South Dakota] hospital decided to fly me to Asheville to be closer to my mom because they were not sure that I would live through the summer. I went through 13 surgeries, dialysis and had a bout of psychosis where I saw things. I am now a Type 1 diabetic, I can't walk well, and I have five tubes coming out of my lung, abdomen, and stomach. However, I am dealing with it all."

Pope Francis challenged the world to "ensure that humanity is served by wealth and not ruled by it." What good is the wealthiest country in the world if it loses its soul?

Please vote no on the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Thank you for your time,
Brian

Brian A. Lee

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lindsey Bitzes [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill
Attachments: Maddox Letter for Senator.docx

Please see the attached regarding healthcare and the current Graham-Cassidy proposal.

Respectfully,

Lindsey Bitzes

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Andersen [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not repeal ACA

Dear Senators,

Please DO NOT repeal the Affordable Care Act! ACA's transformational reforms provide universal health care for all Americans. Children are no longer be denied coverage due to pre-existing conditions, young adults may stay on their parents' health plans as dependents until age 26, Medicare participants have access to annual check-ups and mammograms, and many uninsured Americans now have access health care coverage.

Sincerely,
Carol Andersen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pat Driscoll [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement in opposition to Graham Cassidy healthcare bill.
Attachments: Graham Cassidy statement.docx

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Richard Craig Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Please take your time and reconsider this Law Vote No! Without protections of pre-existing conditions from the federal government, insurance companies will return to predatory rates to the people with a chronic condition or illness. There is a way forward without hurting anyone or there is casting your fate in history as gutting healthcare for a campaign slogan, some donations and a Alaskan SlushFund oh I forgot you added Hawaii so LMurkowski would have cover but we see through the smoke screen its pork/slushfund/wrong Don't hurt Americans who can least handle the burden. Do tax reform or infrastructure ... leave healthcare alone if it implodes then scrap it not before you are breaking your own promise to protect pre-existing conditions! You should try to fix and improve the system we have instead of undermining it.

RCS

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eboo Versi [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Pearson, Beth (Warren); Hürt, Nikki (Markey)
Subject: Please vote NO to Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

As a physician who has also worked in the UK and 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. ACA should be improved, not replaced with what amounts to a "no care" bill. In Britain there is the NHS (government run single payer) but people can also get supplemental private insurance. This allows a minimum safety net while still permitting freedom for people to make choices on how they spend their money.

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,

E. Versi MD PhD

Email: [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: nancysgower [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

Please work to preserve the ACA and fix its problems.

Sent from Samsung Mobile.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Prudence Merton [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

To the Senate Finance Committee,

I believe and urge you as well to ensure that the bare minimum for considering this bill should be a full CBO score. The nation and the Congress needs to know the impact this bill will have on the American people, and that impact should inform the decision to pass the bill or not.

Improving on the ACA deserves time, thought, research, debate, public input. Decisions regarding fixing ACA should be made through a bipartisan approach.

Thank you.

Prudence Merton

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I Rely On Medicaid.

I am disabled, and rely on Medicaid for in home support,as well as to supplement what Medicare doesn't cover. How Do You GOP Senators manage to look at yourselves in your mirrors ? Shame on all of you ,who would support this ! "He who destroys a single life,it is as if he destroyed the entire world." This is from the Talmud . Ponder it long and hard ,and know who you will have to give an accounting to ,when your earthly time ends .

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Dear Finance committee,

- * People with disabilities rely on Medicaid, and the per capita caps and cuts included in Graham-Cassidy will jeopardize our health, threaten our independence, and put lives at risk.
- * The Medicaid cuts in Graham-Cassidy will limit access to home and community-based services, which will result in more disabled people and older adults being forced into costly institutions.
- * Allowing states to waive protections for people with pre-existing conditions will make coverage unaffordable for many - and many of those are people with disabilities.
- * As an instructor for people with disabilities that are trying to strengthen their skills, and become competitively employed, I have met people that have so much to offer, and if Medicaid gets the cuts this proposal is discussing, it will keep them from the needed medications they need. It will cause irrevocable damage to quality of life. To allow this to happen will start a domino effect that will be more costly to fix in years to come.

Jenny Farley
Youth and Vocational Services Supervisor
Lake County Center for Independent Living
[REDACTED]



SERVING LAKE & McHENRY COUNTIES

Independence Is Freedom

LAKE COUNTY CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

The information in, or documents attached to, this e-mail contain confidential information. The information is the property of the sender and intended only for use by the individual or entity named above. The recipient of this information is prohibited from disclosing the contents of the information to another party. If you are neither the intended recipient or the employee or agent responsible for delivery to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that disclosure of contents in any manner is strictly prohibited. Please notify Jenny at Lake County Center for Independent Living by calling 847-949-4440 immediately if you received this information in error.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dyan Kane [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Dyan Kane/Healthcare sham
Attachments: IMG_2179.JPG; ATT00001.txt

Stop throwing real people under the GOP bus.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Andrea Rosen [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:21 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Finance Committee Members:

I am a retired 65-year-old woman, the wife of a 71-year-old, and the mother of a 29-year-old son. We have been very pleased with and grateful for the protections accorded Americans by the Affordable Care Act. I have recently joined my husband in being eligible for Medicare benefits, and we pay for private insurance to cover both of us via a retiree program offered by my former employer. Yes, our premiums went up under the ACA, but our premiums went up every year--and by just as large percentages--before the ACA. My husband survived prostate cancer without our going into fatal debt under the combined coverage of ACA; my son made the transition from college to employment on our family insurance, access to which was protected by the ACA, and after he lost a job, sought coverage from Medicaid until he gained new employment. We have felt secure that none of us would lose coverage because of prior ill-health or pre-existing conditions, such as the Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease that afflicts two of us.

Now one party in Congress (and the White House) wants to take our security away and make survival more expensive and uncertain. That certain doubting Republican Senators who hesitate to inflict such punishment on their constituents should be wooed by special deals for their individual states just confirms what a terrible piece of legislation the Graham-Cassidy bill is for the nation.

I exhort the members of the Republican party to conduct the nation's business as they did for hundreds of years: as a bipartisan effort to improve the Affordable Care Act, not to replace it.

Sincerely,

Andrea Rosen
Washington, D.C.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Annette Hughes [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:20 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, September 25

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with pre-existing conditions and disabilities is I that I have one son who was born prematurely and is permanently hearing impaired. His need for assistive devices will be an ongoing need and the technology is cost prohibitive if he does not have insurance. My other son battled leukemia at 3 1/2 years old. He survived, but has been told that the drugs used to kill the cancer make him have a higher risk of developing a different form of cancer later in his life. So I am extremely concerned that my children will be unable to obtain affordable health insurance once they age off our current coverage. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Annette Hughes
[REDACTED]
Raleigh, NC 27613

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jan Lewis [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:19 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable Care Act

I live in Macon, Georgia. As a senior citizen, I cannot support the Graham-Cassidy plan as it will raise premiums and out of pocket costs. I want my representatives and senators to vote against it. I support a bi-partisan plan to fix the ACA in a positive manner that will help all Georgians get access to health care.

--

Jan Lewis
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nichols, Mary Jo (ADM) [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:18 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill
Attachments: graham cassidy.pdf

To: Senate Committee on Finance

Attached are comments regarding the Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill.

Thank you.

Mary Jo Nichols

MN Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

St. Paul, MN 55155
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] AN [REDACTED]

 **DEPARTMENT OF
ADMINISTRATION**
COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jim Herold [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators/Congressman:

I strongly urge you to vote no on the Graham/Cassidy Bill. There are too many lives that will be affected in a negative way by this bill. My wife is a breast cancer survivor and I worry about getting coverage if we switch health insurance. As a health care worker, I know the value of preventative care. It saves big money down the road. I was shocked to read recently that 50% of the children born in this country are on Medicaid! We can not abandon them. Please, lets keep what is working with the ACA and make improvements on things that are not working. Lets get up to speed with every other industrialized nation in this world.

Sincerely,

James Herold
Maumee, Ohio

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 1

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sydney Legakis [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:19 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Pass the bill

I can't afford for you not to pass this bill. Those of us NOT getting a subsidy are slowly being drained. I can't keep paying for everyone else - literally. My family of 3 pays about \$550 a month under a grandfathered plan. That's double what it was before the ACA. If they stop my plan because too many people age out, the cheapest comparable plan for me is \$1340 a month. After taxes. No subsidy. \$16,000 a year. REALLY? With over a \$6500 deductible per person. So, I'm still out of pocket for dental, vision, and any regular sick visit - so add that in and we're out about \$17,000-18,000 a year. When we used to be out \$9,000ish. And out another \$7,000 if something really bad happens. Do you think it's AFFORDABLE for a family to pay \$25,000 a year in healthcare expenses that HAS insurance? Quite frankly, I'd rather pay everything out of pocket with no insurance and save \$16,000 a year and save it up for a rainy day. \$550 is affordable. \$1340 is not. DO SOMETHING. I will go "bare" if I need to. So will many others. Then there is no one in the system to subsidize all the people who aren't paying in. No one was dying in the streets 8 years ago in my town. EVERY doctor I know is willing to see folks without insurance who are truly needy. And it was certainly cheaper then. REPEAL NOW!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Tiano [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:19 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject Cassidy Graham Repeal & Replace

This bill, regardless of any last minute changes, will impact 32 million Americans. That is 9.9 percent of the US population, look around - 1 out of 10 people.

This bill negatively and disproportionately impacts women, disabled and elderly Americans.

No coverage for pre-existing conditions IS a death sentence for Americans living with so many chronic illnesses. Americans successfully living with chronic illness, working, raising families, paying taxes.

I am one such American. Type I diabetic since 1995, Thank God no ill effects from the disease, no eye problems, no circulation problems, no kidney problems. Why? How? Because my illness is covered, my prescriptions are covered (with copay), my doctor's visits are covered (with copay). I have a health plan and a health team that keeps me on task.

For my August prescriptions - my copays totaled \$150, the retail totaled \$1,707.94. The difference, \$1,557.94 would be my death sentence, if not covered.

I am married, employed as a Certified Public Accountant, pay taxes, own a home and have two children in college.

Please do not take away my American dream. Reject Cassidy Graham.

Thank you,
Mary Tiano

[REDACTED]
Chelmsford, Massachusetts
[REDACTED] 824

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: dstegmanbsu [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:19 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repeal bill

I would like to express my thoughts on the current bill to repeal and replace the ACA. This bill would allow for unequal access to healthcare. It has not been endorsed by medical associations and would create situations which the ACA has reduced. Do not repeal and replace with this hastily-concocted and injuste proposa. Thank you.

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S7 active, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bev Gough-Robinson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:19 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: RE: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

RE : Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

From: Beverly Gough Robinson
[REDACTED]
Chester, SC 29706
[REDACTED]

I am begging you to vote "no" today on this horrific health "scare" bill. This thing has had no review, public consideration, and is basically a sneak attack on the American people.

It's also a war against women, the elderly, newborns, and those with pre-existing conditions. Just to name a few. I am a woman with a major pre-existing condition. And though I am college educated and from a "good" family, I cannot work due to health issues. At least not currently. But I can and will be able to, IF I get another surgery.

The ACA worked for me. I know it has problems, and didn't work for everyone. But it saved my life. Without it, I'd be a waste of space on this Earth, lying about constantly in pain. At only 55 years of age.

From what I've seen (citing the more reputable sources) this thing is so skewed against women it would be laughable if not so horrifying. Have you read it? Has anyone really read it?

This cannot be an example of America at work. It's a farce of a health care bill. Unless you are young, white and have no medical issues...and have an excellent job or inheritance.! You are left out in the cold. The repercussions of passage would be tremendously NEGATIVE.

PLEASE. this isn't a GOP vs Democrat thing here...this is a bill affecting red blooded Americans. It cannot pass. It can be an example of what our (already) great country offers its citizens.

Graham Cassidy is a no.

Thank you
Beverly Robinson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robert Bennett [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:19 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not approve Graham-Cassidy Bill

Senators,
Please do not approve the Graham-Cassidy Bill which will negatively impact health care for millions of citizens. Republicans and Democrats should work together to improve health care.

Thank you,

Robert Bennett

Licenses in Virginia to practice as:

Architect & Professional Engineer
Class A Contractor (#2705033004)
Realtor, Melrose Plantation Real Estate, LLC, Lancaster, VA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Leigh Hibler [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:19 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Help ALL Americans!

I understand the desire to support a state's role in governing itself, but the role of the federal government is to look out for ALL Americans.

Please do not pass this horribly limiting bill and take away such necessary coverages like maternity care and mental health coverage.

This bill is punitive and vindictive. Please focus on improving health care for all Americans by improving the ACA and not subjecting us to this slash and burn measure. It's about time this 'great nation' caught up with the rest of the developed world in taking care of its citizens.

Leigh Hibler
Baltimore, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dana Cyra [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:14 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, September 25, 2017

From: Dana Cyra, [REDACTED] Junction City, WI 54443 [REDACTED]
Please vote NO in consideration of all the people you represent who will be negatively impacted if this passes. For me, it will be a triple whammy. 1) I have a 33 year old daughter with disabilities who depends on her Medicaid waiver to live in the community rather than an institution; 2) my husband is a retired farmer who was disabled via a fall in our barn- he depends on Medicare; and 3) my 20 year old son has insurance through my employer that is likely to end if this bill passes. We need you to work on a bi-partison solution that protects our most vulnerable citizens. Thank you.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: HelenaS37 [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:18 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to all Republican plans thus far to repeal and/or replace ACA including Graham-Cassidy

Dear Sir or Madam,

All the GOP "plans" submitted thus far only accomplish one thing: the obliteration of the American health insurance market. I will never vote for a Republican at any level of office (local, state, federal) for the rest of my life. The constant fear of losing my healthcare has solidified my stance on this. I pray everyday that the GOP goes the way of the Whigs. The Republican party is in shambles and the American people are finally waking up.

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David Weinberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:17 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller Bill

Dear Senators:

I write to submit comments on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller bill, under discussion today by the Finance Committee. I urge the Committee to **oppose the Graham-Cassidy-Heller** bill today.

Cuts to Medicaid. I wish you could meet my son, Harris. Harris is an engaging young man (23), who has a love of life, jokes, and an expertise in music—he especially loves early rock ‘n roll and Lawrence Welk. He also has autism and significant vision impairments. Harris has many skills, and with supervision, he is able to do a wide variety of jobs. In the past two years, he has volunteered at over eight non-profit and for-profit agencies to help him develop vocational skills and improve his employability. He works very hard, and makes steady, slow progress. But Harris can be impulsive; he does not have a sense of safety (e.g., because of his vision issues he cannot identify moving cars when out in the community); and Harris has difficulty communicating with others without assistance. There is no question that Harris is able to work and contribute to the betterment of society, but he is likely to always need some level of close supervision or support to do so.

Harris graduated from school last June (non-diploma track) and currently participates in a Medicaid waiver program. As a “waiver program,” it is my understanding that the program is funded with federal Medicaid and state funds jointly. These funds, administered through my state DDA, covers the costs of an “adult services provider” to help Harris develop work skills, increase his independence, and participate in community activities. In this program, Harris is generally happy, and is proud of the work he does—especially when he knows he has been helpful to other people.

Because Harris needs constant supervision, without this program, my family could never afford the level of support that the Medicaid waiver program provides. I would have to quit my job to be with him 24/7. The economy loses one good worker; my family becomes less able to pay for our bills (including health care). Then, I would be able to keep Harris safe. But, I do not have the training, connections, nor energy to provide the level of employment and recreational opportunities for Harris that his “adult services provider” team is able to provide. And, as a young man with autism, who needs to work at making social connections, Harris especially benefits from the social engagement that is required of him to participate in his program.

Further, the Medicaid waiver program is important because it enables Harris to become accustomed to relying on people other than his parents to help him learn how to meet his needs. Like any young adult, Harris is too old to continue to rely on his mom for everything! It is time for Harris to meet other people, and develop a network of non-family members who he enjoys and who enjoy his company. As my husband and I near retirement, the pressing need for Harris to have others in his life who understand and love him, and will watch out for his needs when we are gone feels very urgent. We are trying to be proactive and have plans in place for the future, but this is not something we can do alone. The Medicaid waiver program is a lifesaver for us, and is helping Harris get ready for his future.

Like his able-bodied and neuro-typical peers, Harris deserves to live his life fully. He needs the support that the Medicaid waiver provides to do so. Gutting Medicaid will have disastrous results for my family, and many, many, more with similar situations. I am very afraid of what will happen to Harris to my family without this appropriate support.

Protections for people with pre-existing conditions. I have heard/read in the media a number of Republicans, and the President, claim that this bill protects persons with pre-existing conditions. This appears to NOT be true; these protections are not guaranteed. While the bill does not eliminate coverage for pre-existing conditions, it undermines those protections by allowing states to waive essential health benefits. States would have incredibly broad discretion in how they use the waivers in the proposed bill. Further, under this bill, insurers could decide to raise *anyone's* premiums any time. This is NOT sufficient protection for people with pre-existing conditions.

The basic point of insurance is to protect people because it is inevitable that you will get sick. At some point, everyone will have a pre-existing condition. If insurers are permitted to raise premiums whenever they want, people with pre-existing conditions, people who get sick, and seniors (who are most likely to have health issues due to age) will soon be unable to afford health coverage. Then what happens. Sick people start showing up at hospitals without insurance. Hospitals either refuse treatment, or treat us at their expense. Then hospitals (especially those in poor areas) are not financially viable and go under. We've been there, and done that. It doesn't work! THIS was one of the problems the Affordable Care Act has started to fix.

Women and family health. As a mom, I find it very offensive that pregnancy and pre-natal care are considered pre-existing conditions. Having children is what keeps life going! Men participate in this process. Starting families is expensive enough— if women fear losing their health insurance if they get pregnant, I worry about what distorted unanticipated consequence such a policy would bring.

Further, I understand that Graham-Cassidy-Heller bill enacts a total prohibition on any covered insurance plans from offering abortion coverage. Women should have the right to choose an abortion, and health insurance plans should be able to offer that option. I don't want to see this world go back to coat-hanger abortions—where only women (and not the men who impregnated them) suffer!

Graham-Cassidy-Heller provides a special new tax break for the well-off, allowing Health Savings Accounts to be used for health insurance premiums. This may also incentivize employers to just put tax-free money into these HSAs and stop offering their staff health insurance all-together. While I hate clichés, this certainly seems to be a way to help the rich at the expense of the poor, working and middle class!

Senators, I urge you to continue serious, bi-partisan discussion to strengthen our health care system, with the goals of protecting Medicaid, ensuring coverage for all Americans, reducing premiums, improving care. Tax cutting goals should NOT be one of the goals of a health care bill.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

David Weinberg



Olney, MD 20832

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Wendy Iles [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:18 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill

I need, not just want health insurance. I have pre-existing conditions with a history of cancer and heart issues in my family. Without quality insurance, my family would have to choose between being financially destroyed or eating and living. What a horrible choice to force anyone to make!

My opinion of the G-C "Healthcare" repeal bill is that it isn't about healthcare at all. It is a travesty. It is about lining the pockets of politicians who have sold their souls to the almighty dollar. Stop the idiocy and send this back to the self serving politicians that wrote it. Unless they are willing to work for the good of their constituents or willing to accept the same insurance plan they are trying to foist on the American public, the vote must be NO.

--
Wendy Iles

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:18 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senators,

I implore you to vote NO on Graham-Cassidy.

As the parent of a child with disabilities, I have no choice but to fight for his right to LIFE— not just access to the medical care that he must have to stay alive, but to a full life and all that it entails— all that your own loved ones enjoy— joy and heartache, trials and triumph, hard work and reward. And, most importantly, a place in our community.

Despite many of your colleagues' false assurances to the contrary, Graham Cassidy leaves those with pre-existing conditions (like congenital heart defects, epilepsy, hearing and vision loss, or even asthma) dangerously vulnerable.

Massive cuts to Medicaid will leave our most vulnerable citizens - most notably our parents, grandparents and disabled loved ones - without the lifeline they so desperately need to be able to live and attend schools or work in their communities, where they belong.

My plea to you is not based on emotion but on fact:

The American Medical Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Hospital Association, the Federation of American Hospitals, America's Health Insurance Plans, and the BlueCross BlueShield Association have all implored you to vote NO on this bill.

All 50 State Directors of Medicaid, and myriad other groups including the JDRF, ALS Association, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, Arthritis Foundation, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Family Voices, JDRF, Lutheran Services in America, March of Dimes, National Health Council, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, National Organization for Rare Diseases, Volunteers of America, and WomenHeart, among many, many others have issued statements imploring you to vote NO on this bill.

This isn't about politics. It's about people like my son, and not just my but OUR sacred responsibility to fight for her Right to Life.

Please, VOTE NO ON GRAHAM CASSIDY."

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Steven Maldonado [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:18 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Steven Maldonado
Spring Hill, TN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Sterling-Nunez [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:18 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fwd: Healthcare

Good Morning,

I am very concerned about the current proposed Graham-Cassidy Health Bill.

ACA has changed my life! As a self employed person with pre-existing conditions (My husband has asthma) I have been given the opportunity to buy insurance.

It is not free I pay for it - happily. Prior to the ACA I had not gone for well visits and was afraid to sled and ice skate with my kids (Julian now 14 and Isabel now 10) for fear that if I broke a leg or an arm I would be financially devastated. My kids are on child health plus- a sliding scale insurance for kids in NY - this program also has been life changing. Luckily my kids are healthy, they go for well visits primarily - my son had some asthma issues- because of the insurance we were able to take him to an allergist to figure out his triggers so we could keep him well. Now he never misses school!

The proposed plan will affect my family and lots of families more vulnerable than us. I don't understand why you continue to work on a new bill rather than fix the issues with ACA. I agree ACA is not perfect- lets fix it!

The current bill is not acceptable- many Americans oppose it yet you continue to try to pass it just tweaking it here and there. We don't want it- we want to stop wasting time trying to pass something Americans do not want- and spend time working on something that works for everyone.

-- Thank you

Lisa Sterling-Nunez

Port Jefferson NY 11777
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Glover [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:18 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband has had eight brain surgeries, radiation therapy, many hours of outpatient care, and he requires frequent MRIs and neurosurgeon consults. The tumor and surgeries have left him with some serious challenges, and we are depending on a new treatment getting approved for insurance to hopefully treat some of them.

Without access to affordable healthcare we would be bankrupt and it is plausible that he would not get the care he needs to allow him to work and live normally. As it is, our out-of-pocket expenses have been very high. We both have full time jobs—I cannot imagine how impossible all of this would be if that was not the case, but I know way too many Americans are faced with that reality every day.

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

Sincerely,

Susan Glover

Baltimore, MD 21212

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lori [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:18 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Medicaid

I live in Greensboro NC. I am a mother of a child in the autism field. I care deeply about health care and support for people with autism including Medicaid. We depend on Medicaid service and long term support to live in our community. Its because of Medicaid that I was able to afford the test and services for my child. That's how I was able to found out that my child have autism. If it wasn't for Medicaid I couldn't afford some of the services that are out there and still would be lost. Medicaid help me to get the help and support that we both needed. Please don't cut or cap Medicaid it helps out a lot. Thank you

Sent from my MetroPCS 4G LTE Android device

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Peggy Siegel <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:18 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

To whom it may concern,
I have many clients who will lose their insurance under the "Graham-Cassidy" healthcare repeal bill.
They will either not be able to afford it without the subsidies or their pre-existing condition will exclude them.

Also our very hardworking grown son is also one who would lose his insurance coverage.

Please consider instead, creating a bi-partisan committee to create a healthcare system that is affordable to all!

Sincerely,
Margaret Siegel

[REDACTED]
Richmond,VA 23221

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sophie Clayton [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:14 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

Dear Senators:

I am a US citizen and resident of Floyd County, Indiana and I am adding my voice to those of so many who are saying this bill should not pass. There are many smarter people than me who have made the case as to the damage this bill will cause (see e.g., statements by AARP, American Medical Association, American Cancer Society, Blue Cross Blue Shield, American Hospital Association, National Association of Medicaid Directors, etc.) and I hope you are listening to them.

I read in the news this morning that new language was added to the bill just last night and I understand it is the intention of the Senate to vote on the bill by September 30. I do not understand how you can make a legitimate case for such a course of action. The Congressional Budget Office will not have scored the bill by then and indeed, how could it, when the bill's authors are making changes less than a week before a vote is due. The healthcare industry represents at least one fifth of the US economy and resting upon it are the lives of millions of Americans. Decisions that have such a massive impact should be made with deliberation and care, with input from lots of different Americans who will be directly affected by it. Time should be allowed to consider all options and for proper analysis of each proposal and how they will affect us all. This process appears to be driven by a false sense of urgency that does not take into account the real complexity of the situation.

I urge you to reconsider and to return to the bi-partisan process, begun by Senators Murray and Alexander to stabilize the markets and then set-up a long term congressional committee to investigate how we might as a nation move forward together to improve our healthcare system for all.

Sincerely,

Sophie Clayton
[REDACTED]
Floyds Knobs IN 47119

cc: Joe Donnelly; Todd Young

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jenny [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:18 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on bill

Dear Senators,

Please vote NO on Graham-Cassidy!

I am the mother of 2 wonderful children on the autism spectrum, and I was recently diagnosed with multiple sclerosis myself.

Despite many of your colleagues' false assurances to the contrary, Graham Cassidy leaves those with pre-existing conditions (like autism and MS) dangerously vulnerable.

Its severe cuts to Medicaid will leave our most vulnerable citizens - most notably our parents, grandparents, and disabled loved ones - without the lifeline they so desperately need to be able to live and work in their communities, where they belong.

It may be easy to ignore the emotionally charged plea of a terrified mother, but my stance on the bill is based in fact, not fear.

The American Medical Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Hospital Association, the Federation of American Hospitals, America's Health Insurance Plans, and the BlueCross BlueShield Association have all implored you to vote NO on this bill.

All 50 State Directors of Medicaid, and myriad other groups including the JDRF, ALS Association, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, Arthritis Foundation, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Family Voices, JDRF, Lutheran Services in America, March of Dimes, National Health Council, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, National Organization for Rare Diseases, Volunteers of America, and WomenHeart, among many, many others have issued statements imploring you to vote NO on this bill.

This isn't about politics. It's about people like my children and me, and our responsibility to fight for the best possible quality of life for everyone.

Please, I'm begging, VOTE NO ON GRAHAM CASSIDY.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jennifer O'Neill

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: nancy [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:18 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: "healthcare" bill

My mother managed her assets wisely for 31 years after my father's death until her death at age 93. This included living in a senior community, assisted living and, eventually, the nursing home and a few final days in the hospital where she died 3 months after her money ran out.

The last 3 months of her 93 year life in the nursing home were supported by medicaid.

The cost of her medicaid coverage was less than the cost of the private charter jets flown at taxpayers' expense by members of Trump's cabinet. It was less than the cost of Trump's multiple trips at taxpayers' expense to play golf at his resorts and lavish in a wealthy lifestyle totally removed from the lifestyle of senior citizens with dementia and multiple system failure and their families.

What would the supporters of this healthcare debacle bill suggest should have happened to my 93 year old mother instead of medicaid covering her for 3 months? That the nursing home kick her out in spite of multiple system failure and dementia she was experiencing? That the nursing home simply remove food and water from her so she would die faster? That her children somehow move her from the nursing home? How? a private government jet? To where?

Senators need to vote against this latest debacle of a healthcare bill. Some day, their elderly parents, their children or other loved ones, or they themselves, might be in the same predicament my mother was.

Support for this bill is perhaps the most cruel and hypocritical act these self-serving Senators could possibly inflict on our senior parents and senior citizens, many of whom are veterans.

Nancy Treusch
[REDACTED]
Warrenton, VA 20187
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cheryl Savageau <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:15 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal
Attachments: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal.docx

Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

September 25, 2017

Dear Senators;

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal on Health Care. If passed, it will result in millions losing insurance and being without healthcare. Thousands of people will ultimately die if this bill is passed.

I urge all senators on both sides of the aisle to vote against this bill.

Cheryl Savageau

[REDACTED]
Easton, MA 02356

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Martha Moore [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:17 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Defeat this bill

I am a mental health professional who works in an overburdened emergency room and a voter. This new iteration of "repeal and replace is not an improvement and will result in millions of vulnerable citizens being left without healthcare options. This will severely and negatively impact all health systems, mostly ERs where there is already over crowding and long through put times. While it is noble to want to put healthcare back into the hands of state legislatures, in reality it will result in further abuse by insurance monopolies like BCBS that applies usury-like tactics aimed at the sickest- the old, the chronically infirm and disabled, and the mentally ill. This bill, like its predecessors, will harm children and cause families to choose between healthcare and their basic needs.

Please defeat this bill.

Martha H Moore, PhD, LOC
Hendersonville, NC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: vcyounglove Veronica C [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:16 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA do not repeal

Due to my husband's employer we have generally had decent healthcare. I have had co-workers however, lower income, who only through ACA have finally had good healthcare.

Our population is productive and able to meet the challenges of the future with good healthcare.

Our nation trails many other advanced ones in ensuring that our citizens have good healthcare. ACA was a good step towards that.

DO NOT REPEAL.

Sincerely, D. Chaudin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joan Curtis [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:16 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill hearing

I'm from Georgia and I want to urge my senator, Johnny Isakson, and all the senators on the Finance Committee to vote against this health care bill. We do not know how many people will lose coverage. There hasn't been time to review the costs. It looks as if it is worse than the previous bill that was defeated. Please do not rush a bill through for partisan reasons. Instead stand with John McCain and go to the table to knock out a bipartisan resolution to health care in this country.

Joan Curtis
[REDACTED]
Athens, GA 30606

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patricia Lyons [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:16 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller in favor of the bipartisan bill 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. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Patricia Lyons
Moorestown, NJ
08057
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Kalanta [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:15 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy/Trumpcare will kill millions of Americans

I feel like Bill Murray in Groundhog Day. I mean, seriously? How many times are we going to go through this?

Graham Cassidy is an evil, draconian bill that will hurt 32 million American citizens.

We have hundreds of billions of dollars to spend on defense but we can't invest in the health and well-being of our citizens? Is a tax cut for companies who outsource our jobs and offshore their profits really so much more important than the health of a child, a veteran, a first responder?

When is enough, enough?

I am honestly dismayed and appalled that we find ourselves begging our government not to take away our insurance. If the ACA is just so horrible, so awful, so distasteful, then why are government employees exempt from Graham Cassidy? Why are government employees allowed to keep their ACA but the rest of us must forfeit ours? Are your lives so much more important than that of any other citizen?

Graham Cassidy would take away healthcare care from millions of Americans, cut the Medicaid program, increase premiums and allow states to get rid of protections for people with pre-existing conditions. All that to give hundreds of billions of dollars in tax breaks to the wealthy. This is unacceptable to me.

Graham Cassidy makes being a woman, over 50 a pre-existing condition. I also have a medical pre-existing condition that before the ACA was used by the insurance company to charge me more for insurance.

In June 2011, my job was outsourced and my insurance premiums under COBRA were \$1250.00 a month. More than our mortgage.

I searched out other options but because of a pre-existing condition, we were not able to afford a decent policy and wound up taking one with a \$20,000 deductible. We found out later that the policy barely gave us any coverage. For instance, the \$8,000 in medical expenses when I was bitten by a wild animal and had to get rabies shots was not covered. We were paying over \$700-most from savings -a month for a plan with essentially no coverage

When the Affordable Care Marketplaces started, we found a plan for under \$100 a month that covered annual physicals and carried a greatly reduced deductible.

I recently had to have emergency surgery and, without the ACA, would have had to declare bankruptcy to cover the medical expenses.

The health insurance market created by the ACA is healthy and stable, even with seven years' worth of Republican efforts to undermine it. Despite lies from Trump, experts agree that there is no risk of it collapsing unless the Trump Administration actively sabotages it, which it is currently doing.

When my husband heard we may lose our affordable insurance because of my pre-existing condition, he said, "just get insurance for yourself – if something happens to me, let me die. I don't want you to lose everything we've worked for" He wasn't joking around. HE WAS DEAD SERIOUS. Families should never hear those words uttered from a loved one. EVER!

We are real people. Republicans cannot call themselves the party of pro-life when they float a bill that will harm millions of citizens.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Char [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:15 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No!!!!

This is so wrong to vote for this plan. You are attempting to bury our country. Please, for the love of God, do NOT vote for this trashing healthcare. Work TOGETHER!!! Vote NO!!! Please. May God enlighten you.
Thank you from NJ

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gregory Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:15 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Greg Jones
Yachats, OR

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maureen Siergie [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:15 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject the Graham-Cassidy bill that would dump America's health care bill into the laps of the states. This is literally passing the buck to the states, leaving them to sort through the broken pieces of our health care system. Graham-Cassidy will cost our state \$3.5 billion in lost federal revenues over a six year period beginning in 2020. Our Medicaid program will have to be significantly cut back, since we were an expansion state under the ACA. Poor people should not be targeted in any health care reform. "Revise and Restore" the Affordable Care Act!

Thank you,
Maureen Siergie
[REDACTED]
Worcester, MA
01602

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: William C. Torrey [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:14 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

To: Senate Finance Committee:

Re: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017

From: William C. Torrey [REDACTED] Etna, NH 03750

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Bill and to urge you to vote against it.

I have spent my career working as a psychiatrist caring for adults with severe mental illnesses. I currently service as Professor and Vice Chair for Clinical Services for the Department of Psychiatry at Dartmouth-Hitchcock and Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth.

People with these devastating severe illnesses, illnesses that they did not ask for, have always had a difficult time accessing the care that can support their recovery. The Affordable Care Act went a long way in increasing access to care and supporting good care – it has been a major step forward. The Graham-Cassidy Bill would reverse those gains, in fact, care for people with mental health and substance use disorders who lose ground.

After having care for individuals who develop psychiatric illnesses for many years, I have also now experienced the painful reality of these illnesses from the perspective of a family member. In 2011, my 23 year old son, a graduate of Princeton University, was diagnosed with bipolar disorder. He was gravely ill and was hospitalized three times with severe and debilitating symptoms. The symptoms of his illness affected his ability to work, to maintain relationships, and to realize his potential in the world.

Today, 6 years later, with the help of good medical care and medications, he is in graduate school studying to be a Christian minister. It has not been easy to manage this illness, and it requires effort and commitment on his part every single day. Access to good doctors and medicines has been critical to his recovery. People can and do get better when they have access to research-supported care. We have been able to make these available to him because of our knowledge and resources, which very few families have.

The Graham-Cassidy Bill allows states to drop the requirement to cover essential health benefits which include mental health benefits and coverage for pre-existing conditions. These provisions would put access to quality health care for my son at grave risk, with potentially devastating effects on his life and on his ours.

My son is one of millions who suffer from mental illnesses that they did not ask for and whose health care would be compromised under this bill. Please vote against this bill and against any bill that does not include mental health parity and coverage for essential health benefits.

Let's engage in a bipartisan effort to improve the Affordable Care Act rather than replace it with a policy that would destroy lives.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Melissa Meditz [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:15 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH

This bill is absolutely despicable. How can you sleep at night knowing you pulled a bipartisan effort to actually improve healthcare for the people of this country so that you can destroy healthcare as we know it?

I worry enough about my mother who is a cancer survivor. I don't need to add concerns about her reaching a lifetime cap or being uninsurable because she had the nerve to actually survive cancer.

Why become a senator if you don't actually care about the people you how to serve? It is disgusting.

If this bill is so great, I think all senators should get their healthcare through it as well. My taxes pay for your top notch healthcare which you obviously feel that I am not worthy of.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nicole Bouvier [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:13 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: FW: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller Bill

From: Nicole Bouvier [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:00 AM
To: 'gchcomments@finance.senate.gov' <gchcomments@finance.senate.gov>
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller Bill

Dear Senators:

I write to submit comments on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller bill, under discussion today by the Finance Committee. I urge the Committee to **oppose the Graham-Cassidy-Heller** bill today.

Cuts to Medicaid. I wish you could meet my son, Harris. Harris is an engaging young man (23), who has a love of life, jokes, and an expertise in music—he especially loves early rock ‘n roll and Lawrence Welk. He also has autism and significant vision impairments. Harris has many skills, and with supervision, he is able to do a wide variety of jobs. In the past two years, he has volunteered at over eight non-profit and for-profit agencies to help him develop vocational skills and improve his employability. He works very hard, and makes steady, slow progress. But Harris can be impulsive; he does not have a sense of safety (e.g., because of his vision issues he cannot identify moving cars when out in the community); and Harris has difficulty communicating with others without assistance. There is no question that Harris is able to work and contribute to the betterment of society, but he is likely to always need some level of close supervision or support to do so.

Harris graduated from school last June (non-diploma track) and currently participates in a Medicaid waiver program. As a “waiver program,” it is my understanding that the program is funded with federal Medicaid and state funds jointly. These funds, administered through my state DDA, covers the costs of an “adult services provider” to help Harris develop work skills, increase his independence, and participate in community activities. In this program, Harris is generally happy, and is proud of the work he does—especially when he knows he has been helpful to other people.

Because Harris needs constant supervision, without this program, my family could never afford the level of support that the Medicaid waiver program provides. I would have to quit my job to be with him 24/7. The economy loses one good worker; my family becomes less able to pay for our bills (including health care). Then, I would be able to keep Harris safe. But, I do not have the training, connections, nor energy to provide the level of employment and recreational opportunities for Harris that his “adult services provider” team is able to provide. And, as a young man with autism, who needs to work at making social connections, Harris especially benefits from the social engagement that is required of him to participate in his program.

Further, the Medicaid waiver program is important because it enables Harris to become accustomed to relying on people other than his parents to help him learn how to meet his needs. Like any young adult, Harris is too old to continue to rely on his mom for everything! It is time for Harris to meet other people, and develop a network of non-family members who he enjoys and who enjoy his company. As my husband and I near retirement, the pressing need for Harris to have others in his life who understand and love him, and will watch out for his needs when we are gone feels very urgent. We are trying to be proactive and have plans in place for the future, but this is not something we can do alone. The Medicaid waiver program is a lifesaver for us, and is helping Harris get ready for his future.

Like his able-bodied and neuro-typical peers, Harris deserves to live his life fully. He needs the support that the Medicaid waiver provides to do so. Gutting Medicaid will have disastrous results for my family, and many, many, more with similar situations. I am very afraid of what will happen to Harris and my family without this appropriate support.

Protections for people with pre-existing conditions. I have heard/read in the media a number of Republicans, and the President, claim that this bill protects persons with pre-existing conditions. This appears to NOT be true; these protections are not guaranteed. While the bill does not eliminate coverage for pre-existing conditions, it undermines those protections by allowing states to waive essential health benefits. States would have incredibly broad discretion in how they use the waivers in the proposed bill. Further, under this bill, insurers could decide to raise *anyone's* premiums any time. This is NOT sufficient protection for people with pre-existing conditions.

The basic point of insurance is to protect people because it is inevitable that you will get sick. At some point, everyone will have a pre-existing condition. If insurers are permitted to raise premiums whenever they want, people with pre-existing conditions, people who get sick, and seniors (who are most likely to have health issues due to age) will soon be unable to afford health coverage. Then what happens. Sick people start showing up at hospitals without insurance. Hospitals either refuse treatment, or treat us at their expense. Then hospitals (especially those in poor areas) are not financially viable and go under. We've been there, and done that. It doesn't work! THIS was one of the problems the Affordable Care Act has started to fix.

Women and family health. As a mom, I find it very offensive that pregnancy and pre-natal care are considered pre-existing conditions. Having children is what keeps life going! Men participate in this process. Starting families is expensive enough— if women fear losing their health insurance if they get pregnant, I worry about what distorted unanticipated consequence such a policy would bring.

Further, I understand that Graham-Cassidy-Heller bill enacts a total prohibition on any covered insurance plans from offering abortion coverage. Women should have the right to choose an abortion, and health insurance plans should be able to offer that option. I don't want to see this world go back to coat hanger abortions—where only women (and not the men who impregnated them) suffer!

Graham-Cassidy-Heller provides a special new tax break for the well-off, allowing Health Savings Accounts to be used for health insurance premiums. This may also incentivize employers to just put tax-free money into these HSAs and stop offering their staff health insurance all-together. While I hate clichés, this certainly seems to be a way to help the rich at the expense of the poor, working and middle class!

Senators, I urge you to continue serious, bi-partisan discussion to strengthen our health care system, with the goals of protecting Medicaid, ensuring coverage for all Americans, reducing premiums, improving care. Tax cutting goals should NOT be one of the goals of a health care bill.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Nicole Bouvier


Olney, MD 20832

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeanne L. Wesley <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:14 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Why do you want to hurt people? This bill will cost lives.

Jeanne

Jeanne L. Wesley

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elizabeth G Andersen [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:14 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy. Feedback

Dear Senators,

I implore you to vote NO on Graham-Cassidy.

As the parent of a child with disabilities, I have no choice but to fight for his right to LIFE— not just access to the medical care that he must have to stay alive, but to a full life and all that it entails— all that your own loved ones enjoy— joy and heartache, trials and triumph, hard work and reward. And, most importantly, a place in our community.

Despite many of your colleagues' false assurances to the contrary, Graham Cassidy leaves those with pre-existing conditions (like congenital heart defects, epilepsy, hearing and vision loss, or even asthma) dangerously vulnerable.

Massive cuts to Medicaid will leave our most vulnerable citizens - most notably our parents, grandparents and disabled loved ones - without the lifeline they so desperately need to be able to live and attend schools or work in their communities, where they belong.

My plea to you is not based on emotion but on fact:

The American Medical Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Hospital Association, the Federation of American Hospitals, America's Health Insurance Plans, and the BlueCross BlueShield Association have all implored you to vote NO on this bill.

All 50 State Directors of Medicaid, and myriad other groups including the JDRF, ALS Association, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, Arthritis Foundation, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Family Voices, JDRF, Lutheran Services in America, March of Dimes, National Health Council, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, National Organization for Rare Diseases, Volunteers of America, and WomenHeart, among many, many others have issued statements imploring you to vote NO on this bill.

This isn't about politics. It's about people like my son, and not just my but OUR sacred responsibility to fight for her Right to Life.

Please, VOTE NO ON GRAHAM CASSIDY."

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chuang, Jennifer [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:13 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill, from a pediatrician

My name is Dr. Jennifer Chuang, and I am a pediatrician living New Jersey. I spend long hours working in a busy pediatric hospital in Philadelphia taking care of sick kids. Children are here who were born prematurely, are on a ventilator, may have suffered a horrendous car accident, or they are kids fighting the battle of their lives against cancer. I am fearful for my patients if the Graham-Cassidy Bill is passed by the Senate. By turning Medicaid into a block grant, some of my patients will have used their lifetime limits before reaching their 18th birth, some before their 2nd birthday. This is not the way to support our future. We cannot pull the funding from these kids before they have a chance in life. I urge the Senate to vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

Link to my video with the American Academy of Pediatrics:
<https://twitter.com/ameracadpeds/status/910883076967936001>

Jennifer H. Chuang, MD, MS
Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
Medical Director of Adolescent Inpatient Services
Craig-Dalsimer Division of Adolescent Medicine
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
University of Pennsylvania

[REDACTED]
Philadelphia, PA 19104
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patricia Alford [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:13 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Emphatic NO on Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

The proposed Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill is an incredibly irresponsible and cynical attempt to replace the Affordable Care Act with a bill that has not been through hearings, and for which the Congressional Budget Office has been given insufficient time to evaluate the economics. Even the bill's authors have been unable to discuss the bill accurately, making inaccurate, conflicting and misleading statements in news interviews. Although there is no CBO evaluation for this bill, there are enough similarities with previous attempts to repeal and replace the ACA to allow health policy experts to estimate that the GCH bill would be even more destructive than the previous proposed replacement bills.

Since the health care sector accounts for 1/6 of the U.S. economy, and the insurance coverage of millions is at stake, the prudent, responsible course would be to reject Graham-Cassidy, instead taking steps to stabilize and improve the current ACA insurance markets, while allowing time for a thorough bipartisan effort to develop a true universal health care system. A universal health care system doesn't have to be a single-payer system; there are systems in other industrialized nations that incorporate both public and private options. Our country's citizens, ALL OF THEM, deserve health care regardless of economic status.

Sincerely,

Patricia L. Alford
Retired Librarian
College Station, TX 77845

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: teresa [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:13 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senate Finance committee,

I have relied on community healthcare in the past and I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. While I take care of my health I have minor "pre-existing conditions and my mother has what this bill would consider as a major disqualifying pre-existing condition (even though it doesn't incur extensive medical costs). I would like to see a bipartisan bill that cuts the profit that insurance companies earn and the huge salaries & bonuses that health co executives make rather than limiting what is covered. Universal healthcare has been established in so many countries, why can't the U.S. create our own system?! I lives in Australia and came to admire their 2-tier system. Please improve the ACA, don't repeal it unless you have an option that includes more coverage and eligible citizens.

Gracias, Teresa Koch from Sacramento, CA

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: FredH Rick Kopp [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:13 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health bill

Please do not pass this healthcare bill. Instead swallow your ridiculous Republican pride and work with Democrats to come up with an intelligent replacement for Obamacare. Why are you rushing something so important? The American people deserve so much better from the politicians they elected. Shame on the Repulicans!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michael Freemer [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:12 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Graham-Cassidy.

As a decent human being, and certainly as an American, I strongly urge you to consider the serious, life-threatening ramifications of The Graham-Cassidy Bill. It is the worst version of health care I have seen this session. As you consider such consequences for The United States, I ask that you remember that America's children, and all future generations are counting on you to do the right thing and reject this bill with alacrity.

Sincerely,
~Michael Freemer

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gary Miller [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:12 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham_Cassidy

Good morning , I am a job trainer for an educational agency in Pennsylvania. I found this position after losing my legs to an unnamed blood condition. I was lucky to find a position that allowed me to return to work helping those in need. But, because my health is an issue I need to have health insurance. The problem is my PRE EXISTING Condition. I love the work I do but, I wouldn't be able to continue it if I were to lose my health care. THIS MATTERS to people. Please do not pass the Graham Cassidy Bill.

Gary Miller Job Trainer , Adult Services

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Lancaster , Pa. 17601

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

Service...Support...Solutions

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marianne Burke [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:12 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony the Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

- Title Of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
- Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017
- Full Name: Marianne Burke
- Address: [REDACTED] Fairfax VA 22032

I would like to tell you why the ACA is so important to me. It involves my younger brother.

When my mother was pregnant with my brother she was very sick. My brother was born jaundiced and small and had brain damage. As he grew up we realized he had a severe learning disability – an extreme case of dyslexia. He never did learn to read and write. He made it through high school because my mother read everything to him and advocated for him.

My mother always felt guilty that she caused his problems. College was out of the question, but he learned a trade – blacksmithing – and he started a business shoeing horses. He made enough money to live on, but not to have extras like health insurance. When he got sick with cancer my parents helped him with the hospital bills. They put their retirement at risk to help him. He had a bone in his arm removed, not a good thing for a blacksmith who relies on strength to do his work. And then because he had a pre-existing condition he was never able to get private insurance that he could afford. He went the next two decades without health insurance and rarely saw a doctor.

On my father's death bed he made me promise I would take care of my brother because he knew my brother would need help. So when the ACA went into effect I immediately tried to get him insurance. As it turns out, he was eligible for Medicaid under the expansion in New Jersey, where he lived. For the last few years he has been able to see a doctor when he needs to and is able to have his cancer monitored. He continues to shoe horses at 60, but struggles financially. At least he is able to see a doctor and get medical care if it is needed. I hate to think about what will happen to my brother if the proposed bill is approved. My mother is 90, and is quickly running through her savings. I just graduated the last of my three kids from college and at 64 and with tenuous job security I am looking at retirement. I am not sure what will happen with my brother if he loses Medicaid.

It is important for the working poor to have access to health care that they can afford. My brother works hard and just because he has a handicap, needs strength to earn money, has a pre-existing condition, and lives at the poverty level, he should not be deprived of health insurance.

Please, on behalf of the working poor, do not vote for this bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Angela Meyer [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:12 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Light, Jaymi (Young); Campbell, Katie (Donnelly)
Subject: Re: GCH threat to people with pre-existing conditions

It came to my attention this morning that the GCH threat to my family (and millions more with special healthcare needs) may be deepening.

Not only do I have special healthcare needs, but my son is at risk as well.

To establish "multiple risk pools," is to separate sick and healthy people in discriminatory fashion and allow insurers to drive up premiums for people with pre-existing conditions. Before my son is 18 his threat to benefits when he transitions to adulthood will already be a threat! As for me, if I ever have a change of employment or - God forbid - experience a reduction in force, it would seriously endanger my family's ability to continue providing for my necessary access to care - especially prescription benefits!

To states to change the federal cap on out-of-pocket costs for enrollees is to not care about the impact to families. It is to say you believe it is ok for families to be run into bankruptcy and lose homes due to the rising costs of their care. Caps are critical protections for families!!

To allow states to decide how much insurers can charge people with pre-existing conditions is to open a blanket approval for medical discrimination. To couple this with States abilities to waive essential health benefits like mental health services, pharmaceuticals, hospitalizations, and pregnancy is cruel.

I pray that Senators are not "bought out" with extra funds for their own states in exchange for weakened protections for people across the country. Opportunities for bipartisan legislation are around the corner. We can do better than this - and as our elected officials, you must!

Angela Meyer
Indianapolis, IN 46224

On Sun, Sep 24, 2017 at 10:46 AM Angela Meyer [REDACTED] wrote:

My name is Angela Meyer. I am from Indianapolis, IN. I am married, have two children (Jackson - 11 and Nora - 3), and my husband and I both have insurance through our employers.

I have pre-existing conditions, including a seizure disorder and asthma. Even though I am well employed and currently have access to excellent benefits, I have lived through very difficult times as a single parent where my health was precarious and my medical expenses exceeded my financial means. Faced with thousands of dollars of medical debt, I found myself fighting to hold onto my home and avoid bankruptcy. While I made it through, many do not. My medications are billed at over \$1000/month. Without excellent coverage and MANDATORY essential benefits like prescription coverage, my family could never afford to pay for the medications that keep me a healthy and highly productive member of my community. With my conditions well controlled, I am able to be a very active member of my church communities, my son's school, and be an active board member of our local little league. I'm also in grad school and I work full time. Thanks to access to health care, I am able to give back to my community in ways I never could if I couldn't receive the treatment I need. This is the case for millions of people who depend on healthcare.

Graham Cassidy will strip critical protections for millions of people like me who have pre-existing conditions. The ACA's explicit requirement of essential benefits should be non-negotiable. They must remain in place, or American families will suffer. Prior to the ACA, companies could charge higher premiums for people with pre-existing conditions, deny coverage altogether, or offer hollowed out plans that wouldn't meet the medical needs of individuals and families. We can't afford to go back!

Families like mine need Congress to create legislation that will improve access to care, reduce the financial burden of care on families, and treat healthcare as a fundamental human right. GHC threatens access to essential health benefits and opens the door for families to experience greater medical debt.

I plead for you to withhold support for this haphazard bill and work toward a bipartisan plan that can better meet the health needs of the American public.

Angela Meyer
Indianapolis, IN 46224

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sara Sharpe [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:12 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators,

Please vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy Bill. It will take away vital protections for some of America's most vulnerable citizens.

As a woman living with a rare and complex genetic disease, with a sibling living Type 1 Diabetes, my family and I depend on access to quality medical care not only to enjoy life and be productive members of society, but also to remain alive at all. We are not alone in this.

Additionally, As senator McCain has noted, a change in policy this large that will impact at least 30 million Americans deserves bipartisan consideration and collaboration.

Policy change in this area also deserves the consideration of the perspective of the larger medical community and health insurance providers. Groups ranging from the American Academy of Hospital Physicians, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, America's Health Insurance Plans and more have all issued statements urging you to vote NO on the Graham Cassidy Bill.

We live in a great country, developed to protect the unalienable rights of its citizens including life, liberty, and the pursuit happiness. For many of us, the Graham-Cassidy Bill stands in the way of these rights.

Please consider what it is right, and logical. Consider the input of both political parties, because this is about so much more than politics. Consider the input of the medical community. Consider the lives of your constituents at stake. Consider how you want to be remembered, and then vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

Sincerely,

Sara Sharpe
An American Patient-Advocate

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lydia Walshin [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:11 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller. Graham-Cassidy-Heller would cause 32 million people to lose their health coverage while destroying Medicaid and harming some of the most vulnerable members of our communities, seniors and people with disabilities. We cannot afford this, nor should we tolerate this.

Thank you,
Lydia Walshin, voter

Lydia Walshin
Digital Publisher

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: C. Jimbo [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:12 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Say NO to Graham-Cassidy

Please vote NO on Graham-Cassidy. Protect the people of this country - don't leave those with pre-existing conditions dangerously vulnerable! The cuts to Medicaid will leave our most vulnerable Americans without the help/options/lifeline they need to survive and even thrive! Listen to what the people want - this is NOT it!

Listen to the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Hospital Association, the Federation of American Hospitals, America's Health Insurance Plans, and the BlueCross BlueShield Association - VOTE NO!

VOTE NO ON GRAHAM CASSIDY

C.L. Bona

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Brandon [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:12 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose Graham-Cassidy bill

Good morning,

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

With a diagnosis of the chronic illness lupus, I've had a pre-existing condition since I was 18 years old. There have been times when my health has interfered with my ability to work and the affordability of healthcare has become a critical issue for me. Even as an American raised in the middle class with a college education, I went for nearly 10 years without health insurance. The continuous struggles to connect with multiple agencies to have access to doctors, tests and the 5 or so prescriptions I needed made life feel very worthless and left even less energy for my work life.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Repealing the Affordable Care Act would cause way more problems than the number we currently need to tinker to make this amazing, life-changing legislation sustainable and beneficial for more folks and the larger system.

Good day,
Ms. Brandon Fox

[REDACTED]
Greensboro, NC 27403
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kay & Alan [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:11 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Dear Sirs,

Why such a cruel bill? After a late in life layoff, without the ACA my husband and I would be uninsurable, as are our three children with anaphylactic allergies. You can't imagine the terror we face thinking your bill will pass. Why is it that we should live in terror of our own representatives in the government?

Sincerely, Katherine Brunais

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Melissa Maune [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:11 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Dear Senators,

I am begging you to vote no on Graham-Cassidy. As the parent of a daughter with a disability who relies on Medicaid to access her community and vital lifesaving healthcare, I implore you to vote against this attempt to cut Medicaid. Without Medicaid, my daughter would be unable to live in the community and unable to access vital therapies and medications that she needs.

My father relies on the ACA exchange to have access to health insurance at an affordable rate. With these proposed changes, my fathers retirement will be in jeopardy as well as his health.

Please do not sacrifice the poor and disabled in order to make a quick buck for the rich. Please.

Melissa Maune
[REDACTED]

Washington, MO
A constituent for senator Roy Blunt

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sally Belenky [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:11 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote NO on Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senators,

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill. I understand that some Republicans really want a political win, but this is not the right bill. The Affordable Care Act is not perfect, but a bipartisan solution will be stable in the long-term and hopefully help more people. Please work to pass a well-vetted, carefully considered piece of legislations - this is NOT IT.

We don't know the exact number, because there has not been a full CBO score yet, but millions of American people (human beings!!!) will lose access to health care under this bill. Removing protections for people with preexisting conditions will be devastating for medically fragile adults and children, the elderly, the disabled, and those suffering from severe addiction or mental health issues. Hoping that each individual state does the right thing on limiting the amount insurance companies can charge for preexisting conditions is not sustainable, and I think deep down most of you know that. State governments change constantly, and some can be quite cruel with their citizens to try to get a quick political win (imagine that!). Further, gutting Medicaid will hurt millions more people. For probably the first time, insurance companies, physician's organizations, patient advocacy groups, medicaid administrators, nurses, disability advocates, and scientific research groups ALL agree that THIS LAW IS BAD FOR EVERYONE.

My husband and I pay what feels like a ridiculous amount in taxes, but WE DO NOT WANT A TAX CUT THIS WAY. Please have a conscience. Did you choose a career in public service to pass a bill like this? I think most of you are in the Senate because you want to serve your country and your constituents. Please, please do the right thing and vote NO. The American people deserve better.

Sincerely,
Sally Belenky
Sandy Springs, Georgia

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gail Cowie [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:11 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: senator@isakson.senate.gov; Perry, Daniela (Isakson)
Subject: TitleOfHearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

TitleOfHearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing Hearing Date: September 25, 2017 Gail Cowie
[REDACTED]

Athens, Georgia 30605

The bill does not accomplish what many Senators (including my Senator and a member of this Committee, Johny Isakson), has repeatedly stated must be part of health care reform: protection of affordable insurance for people with pre-existing conditions. Despite statements to the contrary, this bill leaves that to state discretion, with a loose floor specified. And, it is now reported that even this minimal requirement is likely to be removed as the bill is revised in an effort to get enough votes.

My sister is living with the side effects of treatment of tongue cancer as well as heart disease that developed while she was adjusting to those changes. As a result, she is now on a fixed income. Without affordable insurance, the prescriptions she needs to manage the effects of the cancer treatment and control her heart condition would cost more than 75% of her income. She is only one of many, many people whose health and limited financial stability is seriously threatened by the changes proposed here.

Coupled with the cuts to Medicaid, the extent of the impacts from this bill appear too severe to be acceptable. The extent of these impacts are not even fully understood. The committee process should be followed to get better information and find better alternatives. We can and we must do better on a topic that affects so many and such a large portion of our economy.

Thank you for your consideration,
Gail Cowie

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shellee Klausmeier [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:10 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

My family (and millions of others) rely on affordable health care. We OPPOSE the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband and I are both health care providers (pediatric nurse and pediatrician in an urban setting) and truly see how disastrous this would be for those we have dedicated ourselves to work for. Very concerned about truly affordable care for children, women, and those with pre-existing conditions and chronic illnesses. We urge a bipartisan congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal. This is about real people, not politicians getting a "win" to campaign on. It's shameful. Sincerely, Shellee & Tom Klausmeier, Indianapolis, Indiana

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:11 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

My name is Sarah Smith and I live in Virginia. I am a Hearing Officer (administrative law judge) and I do Medicaid appeal hearings for Virginians. This gives me a unique perspective for a few reasons. First, I see what not expanding Medicaid looks like every day. I listen to the cries and pleas every day of people who are dying and can not afford healthcare, but they do not meet a covered group (not aged, blind, disabled, or families & children). Second, I also know how much the ACA has done to help in addition Medicaid expansion. From raising the age children can stay on their parent's insurance, guaranteeing better coverage for women, eliminating pre-existing conditions, eliminating lifetime caps, no wrong door, breast pumps and lactation support, etc. I would go on, but you get the point. Please, I beg you, do not vote yes on this horrid bill.

The American people need a bipartisan bill. I know compromise means that we may lose some elements of the ACA, and what will be will be, but I believe you can work together to produce something meaningful and solve the problems we face as a nation. I still trust in our government and I still trust in you to help us. Costs are still rising, though not as dramatically as they would without the ACA, and you must stop that. People need access to healthcare, you must help them.

In no uncertain terms a yes on Graham-Cassidy is a vote to take healthcare away from millions and to cut the tendons holding Medicaid together. At some point in our lives, no matter our political affiliation, we all find ourselves on our knees at the mercy of our healthcare system. Ask yourself what system you want to face when you're your most vulnerable?

Thank you,

Sarah Smith

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Melissa Gradel [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:10 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I write in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill. It is a craven attempt by the GOP to punish the poor, sick, and elderly in order to secure tax rebates for the already-filthy-rich.

The GOP's disrespect for the legislative process--including disregard for the CBO, expert testimony, and meaningful debate, not to mention their inability to articulate the plans merits to the American people--is clear indication that they know it cannot succeed on the merits.

There are not words strong enough to express my disgust for this bill, a bill that proposes robbing the American people not only of their money but also of health and even life itself.

Melissa Gradel
Brooklyn, NY

Melissa Gradel | From Mobile

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Krystal McDonald [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:06 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Repeal

Dear Senators,

I implore you to vote NO on Graham-Cassidy.

As the parent of an autistic child and a child with a Congenital Heart Defect, it is my right to fight for their right to live! They both deserve to live, and I don't mean "be alive". I mean LIVE- laugh, cry, fight, face challenges, become triumphant, love, hurt, make mistakes and have the chance to fix those mistakes.

Despite many of your colleagues' false assurances to the contrary, Graham Cassidy leaves those with pre-existing conditions, like autism and CHD, dangerously vulnerable. Life-sustaining medications and procedures won't be as easily accessed; so they just die? That's inhumane- we treat animals better.

The cuts to Medicaid will leave our most vulnerable citizens - most notably our parents, grandparents and disabled loved ones - without the lifeline they so desperately need to be able to live and work in their communities, where they belong.

It may be easy to ignore the emotionally charged plea of a terrified mother, but my stance on the bill is based in fact, not fear.

The American Medical Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Hospital Association, the Federation of American Hospitals, America's Health Insurance Plans, and the BlueCross BlueShield Association have all implored you to vote NO on this bill.

All 50 State Directors of Medicaid, and myriad other groups including the JDRCF, ALS Association, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, Arthritis Foundation, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Family Voices, JDRCF, Lutheran Services in America, March of Dimes, National Health Council, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, National Organization for Rare Diseases, Volunteers of America, and WomenHeart, among many, many others have issued statements imploring you to vote NO on this bill. All of these huge entities can't be wrong.

This isn't about politics. It's about people like my sons, and not just my but OUR sacred responsibility to fight for their Right to Life. They are human beings and HAVE THAT RIGHT, just like you and I.

Please, I'm begging, VOTE NO ON GRAHAM CASSIDY!

Respectfully,
Krystal McDonald

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marynell Noonan [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:09 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

The following is the story of my two grandsons. It is written by my daughter and I share it with her permission.

Preemie life: desperation.

Teddy and Gabe were born on the edge of viability. There is a line. On one side of that line you are pregnant and, if you go into labor and give birth, they don't try to save the baby – it isn't viable. On the other side of the line you give birth and they provide every measure that you allow to save that baby's life. The problem with the line is that it is blurry. It isn't an edge, so much as a swamp between the seas of pregnancy and the dry land of life. That swamp is generally defined between 23 and 25 weeks gestation, and it's up to the hospital or the doctor or a pleading parent to make the demarcation.

We weren't asked to be those pleading parents; or even told that the doctors could have asked. It was assumed that we were going to try to save our boys. The doctors came and told us the ramifications of having a baby at little more than half way through a pregnancy; too many to retell here. They told us that our babies had a 50% chance of living and, if they did live, an 85 percent chance of significant impairments from their prematurity. But they didn't ask us to choose whether or not to save them. And they didn't try to convince us not to. We tried. We tried so hard.

Gabe died after living for 23 hours and 23 minutes. His care for that time cost \$39,000. We had to ask the doctors to stop resuscitation efforts.

You see that I tell you that detail. I worry. I worry that people think we were deluded in the face of our children's odds. We weren't. When the odds lowered; when we saw that there were, in fact, no chances for any kind of life worth living, we did not pursue life with blinded eyes. We love Gabe. I can't describe what those moments were like. But I tell you this; I worry I am brushed aside - as a mother who isn't capable of being "logical."

Teddy was in the NICU for four months. His care, provided, in part, by those same doctors who told us his odds, totaled \$1.3 million. Our insurance paid the bulk of those bills. Medicaid (when working properly – we had issues) steps in for babies who weigh less than 1200 grams (Teddy was 610) and pays for what primary insurance doesn't, or for everything if the mother doesn't have insurance. The costs are astounding. They are also in line with the tremendous amount of daily, minute-to-minute even, intervention that was required to keep Teddy alive.

This week has made me wonder, a lot. What would this journey have looked like if circumstances were different?

The hospital where my children were born has a level III NICU. That unit has 63 beds. During the four months we were there I'd estimate that at least 20 micro-preemies were delivered and brought to the NICU. Teddy's hospital stay was relatively smooth. He didn't have any operations. He left near his due date. So, estimate a base level of \$1.3 million per baby. Prematurity is linked in multiple ways to poverty. What does that hospital do when there isn't Medicaid available for the babies who don't have insurance? Lifetime caps frequently start at \$1 million. Where does the hospital make up that gap when insurance says, "No more"?

And is the doctor thinking about these numbers? Is he thinking about his own “viability” as an employee of that hospital when he is talking to a mother whose babies balance on a tightrope of life? Each baby that he saves, or attempts to save is a debt that his hospital and livelihood cannot make up on its own. What does any “logical” person say in those circumstances? It is an untenable position. And it is life and death. And it is a position that 14 men, who have likely never held a dying child, or watching another struggle for life, are trying to make for that doctor, for us, for Gabe and Teddy.

What would the conversation have been when I was in labor with my children, if keeping them alive could have meant bankruptcy for the institution taking care of us?

I think that this will be my last healthcare post for a while. The others, I admit, I have made to be shareable. I want to put a face on what this evil is attempting to do. This post is just... just some of my thoughts. I am thinking a lot these days.

Share if you want.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ellen Henningsen [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:10 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Sept 25, 2017

HEARING TO CONSIDER THE GRAHAM-CASSIDY-HELLER-JOHNSON PROPOSAL, SEPTEMBER 25, 2017
Submitted by Ellen Henningsen, [REDACTED], Madison WI 53703

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill because it is not pro-life. It does not protect pre-natal and maternity care, nor pre-existing conditions. Including pre-natal and maternity care in insurance coverage reduces the need for abortion. Such coverage should be paid for by all citizens because it benefits all citizens to have healthy babies and mothers. Also babies born with disabilities are not protected by this bill because their disabilities amount to pre-existing conditions and they can be charged higher, most likely unaffordable, premiums under this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Janet Walker [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:10 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

Please - NO on this version of health care reform. Please work on a bi-partisan basis to fix the Affordable Care Act. Work together to improve the lives of Americans. Please reduce the profound uncertainty that has cast a pall over our great country. How can we plan for our futures when we feel like pin balls bouncing back and forth at someone else's whim?

Thank you.

Janet Walker
Burke, VA

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: jstark25 [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:09 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Proposal

Work in a bipartisan way to craft a proposal that fixes issues in the ACA, lowers prescription drug prices, and covers more Americans while lowering healthcare premiums.

Don't bribe Murkowski and Collins by sweetening their states' pot while leaving millions of other Americans out in the cold. If you do, you will be held accountable for playing political football with our healthcare.

Taking healthcare away doesn't make fiscal sense. More Americans will delay treatment, visit emergency rooms more frequently for their care, resulting in taxpayers paying more for everyone's healthcare.

Do the right thing. Represent all Americans. Pandering to your donors is what's wrong with Congress now. Stand up on the right side of this issue. I vote.

Sincerely

Kathryn Stark
[REDACTED]

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nicole VanHouten [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:09 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy, Keep ACA

I am in Maryland but my sister is a social worker in Florida and she relies on ACA. She is currently looking for work, but even when she is employed, she works multiple part time jobs, none of which would provide her healthcare, regardless of her total hours worked. Without ACA, she would be in an even more precarious position. Please do not repeal ACA. Improve it.

Thank you,

Nicole Van Houten
Silver Spring, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Beal Neary [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:09 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject GrahamCassidy

This healthcare bill is the worst attempt yet to repeal the ACA. Stop this madness! Have a bipartisan discussion about making constructive changes to the ACA instead. This bill is horrible! And not to mention completely political - imagine making concessions for Maine and Alaska just to coerce those two Senator's votes. I am disgusted with the GOP.

Mary Beal Neary - Richmond, VA

Mary Beal Neary
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amanda Maldonado [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:09 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

As someone with a preexisting condition, I'm absolutely horrified at what I'm reading in this bill and the blatant lies being told by the people supporting it. Without the protections gained through the ACA, I will be physically harmed and my family could face financial devastation.

Amanda Maldonado
Spring Hill, TN

Amanda
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David Holmgren [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:09 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject Graham-Cassidy

Graham-Cassidy would make healthcare unaffordable to tens of millions, including my wife and me, with pre-existing conditions.

To debate it, much less pass it, without *full* CBO report including coverage numbers, is the height of irresponsibility.

We respectfully demand that the Congress put aside this politics for show and begin serious, bipartisan work to solve this critical problem.

David Holmgren
[REDACTED]
Colorado Springs, CO 80909
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anna West-Hammer [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:09 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not repeal ACA

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have family members with Crohn's disease, Lupus, diabetes, high blood pressure, cancer, and many family members with uteruses who would suffer greatly under the proposed health care replacement. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Anna West-Hammer

Nashville, TN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rebecca Newkirk <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:09 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill

RE: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill hearing
Monday, September 25, 2017

To whom it may concern:

I am writing you today to sincerely and respectfully ask you to oppose the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill. Not only because it is a partisan bill, that fails to address the main problems with our health care system while removing essential protections afforded by the ACA. But also because it is being forced through without any support from healthcare experts, the medical community, and insurance companies, and no CBO score.

I am a registered nurse, and as a person working in healthcare, I have an up close and personal look at what it is like to live and work in our current healthcare system in America. It is a broken system, that desperately needs to be fixed, but Graham-Cassidy is not the solution. I could go on and on about my own ideas for the solution, but this is not the purpose of today. The purpose of today is to save the parts of the system that are NOT part of the problem. There are some essential components of the Affordable Care Act that would be removed under the Graham-Cassidy bill, and I believe it would be a travesty to myself, my family, my patients, and all Americans if we lost these.

First and foremost, the possible return of annual lifetime and annual caps on health insurance spending should never be on the table. Eliminating lifetime caps has removed the possibility many people faced before, of needing to choose between life-giving medical treatments for themselves or family members, and bankruptcy. This should not be a choice anyone has to make. I have close personal friends whose son, Timmy, is a 7-year-old who was born with complex medical needs, spent his first several months in the NICU, and is now a walking testament of how great medical care can make a "normal" life possible for kids like him. Without needing to fear facing bankruptcy because the ventilator, medical supplies, and supportive therapies that help him go to school and keep breathing might reach the cap on their health insurance and they would no longer be able to afford to keep their child alive. Even though they HAVE health insurance, private insurance through an employer, but it would no longer be any good to them.

My mother passed away from uterine cancer in 2013, and that was hard. Chemo, surgeries, more chemo, and finally hospice care. These things are hard enough to deal with on their own. I am so thankful that we did not have to worry that her treatments were going to bankrupt our family, but we could focus on caring for her and enjoying the time we had together instead. How many of you have family members who have been affected by cancer, or known parents who have a child born prematurely needing NICU care? The last thing these families need is to worry that their health insurance will "run out" on them when they need it the most. This could be your family, or any one of our families. Please oppose this bill, and protect the ban on lifetime limits. This is truly what it means to be pro-life.

The second part of the ACA that I believe needs to be protected is the end of discrimination against people with pre-existing conditions. I myself have a pre-existing condition, ulcerative colitis, which requires expensive medication to keep it in remission, and I am likely to one day need surgery once my illness is no longer able to be controlled by medication. There is also a chance that it may develop into colon cancer, which I don't think I

need to tell you how scary a prospect that could be. If I change jobs, or find myself unable to work and therefore lose my employer-provided insurance, I am so thankful that I do not have to worry about being excluded from getting new health insurance - or have to pay so much for it that it is impossible to afford - because of my pre-existing condition (essentially, because I would be guaranteed to need to use that health insurance). However, if protections for people with pre-existing conditions were removed by the Graham-Cassidy bill, people like me, or millions of other Americans, could be denied insurance, or have their condition (the reason they need healthcare the most) excluded from being covered. This is unthinkable. Chronic medical conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, mental illness, and so many others are increasing in our country, and it would be unthinkable to exclude the people that need it the most from being able to access health care.

I could go on and on, but these are truly the most pressing and vitally important reasons I am asking you to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I urge you to please work together to find a bipartisan fix to the Affordable Care Act. Please do not dismantle the system and leave the most vulnerable among us unprotected. Please think of your sons, daughters, grandchildren, and aging parents, as you consider this legislation, and vote NO to Graham-Cassidy, and YES to protecting lives and futures for all of us.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Newkirk


Coleman, WI 54112

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carolina Hoyos Purdy [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:07 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Graham-Cassidy

Dear Congress:

I would like to register my opinion that adopting the current proposal regarding health care (Graham-Cassidy) would be a travesty for our nation. If transferring much of the responsibility for health care is to be transferred to the states, why haven't the states already adopted legislation? They've had many years to draw up plans and put them in place, and most have done nothing!

Over time, many millions would lose coverage through Medicaid. Preexisting conditions coverage at reasonable cost is not guaranteed. Insurance was invented as a safety net, not the current money-making enterprise it has become. Please protect Americans and vote "NO" on Graham-Cassidy.

Sincerely,

Carolina Hoyos Purdy
[REDACTED]
Cincinnati OH 45227

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sandy Schoen [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:07 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: "Graham-Cassidy" healthcare repeal bill NOOOOOO

SAY NO to Graham - Cassidy" Say no to free money for swing senators. Protect our right to insurance regardless of pre-existing conditions.

"Graham-Cassidy" healthcare repeal bill is a danger to our country. There were many important gains with ACA - including preventing insurance companies for denying coverage for pre-existing conditions. There are far too many people in this country without basic health care - it's not the immigrants, it's your voters, many in rural areas. Medicare expansion is not particularly costly compared to many other government expenses. And we are the only industrialized nation where people have to declare bankruptcy for medical expenses.

It is so extremely unpopular that the GOP is now adding free money to the states whose senator they need to sway. Time for every senator to ask for free money!!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: JOAN WIENER [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:07 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Re: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

My husband and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. AND we care about the health and well-being of all Americans. Because of this, we oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. We, like millions of Americans, were caught in a situation leaving us without health insurance. We are currently not ill, but both in our sixties and who knows what the future will bring. We also are planning to retire and counting on Medicaid. We have worked hard all our lives, paid taxes and contributed to our community. We would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. And certainly not pass Graham-Cassidy . In addition to all the mean-spirited cuts and exceptions in the bill, the last minute bribes to Maine and Alaska are shameful.

Sincerely,
Joan Wiener
[REDACTED]
Northampton, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Teri Pool [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:07 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Members of the Committee,

I urge you to vote no on Graham-Cassidy bill. I stand with Senator John McCain in seeing that real health care reform must be deliberate and carefully thought out. It took two years to pass the ACA, which you all know contains many compromise provisions suggested by Republicans, even though no GOP Senators voted for it. It is time to tear off the bandage of donor pressure and look at how you can help the citizens whose votes sent you to Washington.

Lives are at stake. I hope it doesn't take a terminal disease for you to wake up and start working for what is right.

Best regards,

Teresa Pool
Montgomery Village, Maryland

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: elissa dingus [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:07 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Elissa Dingus
Portland, Oregon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jason Block [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:07 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy opposition

Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Johnson-Heller. Graham-Cassidy is a recipe for disruption and chaos in the health care marketplace. It would cause more than 20 million people to lose their health coverage and upend Medicaid in a way that would have long last negative effects of those Americans who are most vulnerable, such as seniors, children, and those with disabilities.

Please overcome the urge to end something solely because of its name - Obamacare. We have come a long way as a country and given a new lease on life to millions who now have health insurance. Please work to improve rather than destroy.

Jason Block, MD
Wellesley, MA

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margaret Sheets [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:06 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham-Cassidy bill from Margaret Sheets from Melrose, MA

Dear Senators,

I am writing to urge you not to pass the Graham-Cassidy healthcare repeal bill. Although I work in the healthcare nonprofit field, I am speaking out against the Graham-Cassidy for very personal reasons.

I was born with hydrocephalus. I underwent brain surgery 8 hours after birth where a shunt was inserted into my brain to stop fluid building up in it. My parents were told I might not be educable. Since then I've undergone 4 more shunt revisions, 2 corrective eye surgeries, and experienced multiple seizures. I'm 32 now, I have a master's degree, I'm seizure free, I have a job I love and I live independently. I wouldn't be where I am today if I didn't have access to good healthcare. I'm forever grateful my parents were able to pay for the care I needed as a child. I'm also grateful I can afford to get the care I need because of MassHealth's CommonHealth expansion and I want people to have the same opportunities for success that I've been given because I had access to good healthcare. I ask you not to allow our nation to become a place where healthcare is only affordable for healthy people, which is a situation that would most likely come to pass if this new bill passes.

I urge whoever reads this to remember that we are all just one accident away from needing comprehensive health coverage. That coverage should be available and affordable for everyone indiscriminately. Healthcare is something everyone has a right to have. Please don't make health insurance a luxury by making it harder to obtain for people who need it most.

Thank you for your time and consideration in reading this email.

Sincerely,

Margaret Sheets
Melrose, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Wright [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:06 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: PLEASE Do not repeal ACA

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

Sincerely,
Susan Wright
Mamaroneck, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jim Alfieri [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:06 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Senators,

As you debate, (which I hope you will do) the most recent healthcare bill this morning, I want you to think about ways healthcare can be **more** accessible to Americans, not less.

I work in a Primary Care office as a Primary Care Provider. We have many LGBTQ patients. Just one of the services we provide is HIV testing. While many of you may think HIV is no longer relevant, that is simply not true. HIV continues to spread and claim lives. However, with proper treatment, it can be prevented and also arrested in vivo (though not cured). We have many patients who come to us for preventative HIV care and that is saving lives, not to mention the millions of dollars in healthcare costs that would be spent if these people contracted HIV.

It is imperative that a well thought out, research based, non-discriminatory, bipartisan healthcare bill be formulated, debated, and passed. This bill is not that. Please stop the passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

Patricia Alfieri, APRN, FNP-C

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tracy Mitchell [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:05 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Health Bill

This health bill is cruel & heartless. We dont want to pay more for less care.

Congress members & their families should have the same healthcare we do. If they like this bill & vote for it, it should be their coverage as well.

The fact that they are willing to cherry pick parts & bribe states with "your state can keep Obamacare" while the rest of us get stuck with this bill is atrocious.

We the people do not want this. We want to improve Obamacare & move toward socialized healthcare. Other countries are thriving under it. We need to learn from them.

I urge every member of the Senate to vote NO on Graham Cassidy Health Bill

Tracy Mitchell

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Matt Wilson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:05 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Matt Wilson
Vine Grove, KY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Louisa Golden [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:04 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Louisa Golden
San Diego, CA

Louisa
Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cohen, Linda [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:04 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: cressid golden [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:04 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Hearing

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband is self-employed so we obtain our healthcare through the Iowa marketplace. My children have Hawki insurance. It is the only way we have been able to afford healthcare. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Cressid Golden

[REDACTED]
Davenport, Iowa 52804

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Paula Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:06 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to graham health bill

Please refuse to fund graham bill. Fix ACA for everyone, not just Alaska.

Regards,

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rogers, Cynthia [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:04 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller in favor of working on a bipartisan bill the Senate HELP Committee was considering. Graham-Cassidy-Heller would cause 32 million people to lose their health coverage while destroying Medicaid and harming some of the most vulnerable members of our communities, seniors and people with disabilities, and the pregnant women with whom I work who need care for mental health and substance abuse disorders to appropriately care for their vulnerable newborn infants. It is also not appropriate to pass a bill without a CBO score and one that the vast majority of all Americans oppose. Please consider the wide ranging effect this bill will have on all Americans and work in a bipartisan, deliberative fashion to help the American people, at a time when they are most vulnerable, when they are patients in need of Healthcare.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Rogers, M.D.

Assistant Professor, Departments of Psychiatry and Pediatrics,

Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

Washington University School of Medicine

St. Louis, Missouri

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joe Heyman [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:03 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Please defeat Grant-Cassidy

Please protect patients and families by defeating Grant Cassidy.

- Allows "multiple risk pools," which could separate sick and healthy people and thus drive up premiums for people with pre-existing conditions.
- Allows states to change the federal cap on out-of-pocket costs for enrollees.
- Allows states to decide how much insurers can charge people with pre-existing conditions, the benefits plans must offer and how cost-sharing is structured.
- States only have to describe their plans; they don't have to submit waivers of insurance rules.
-

Let's fix the ACA with a bipartisan solution.

Joe Heyman, MD

Sent from my iPad

Whittier IPA, Inc

Joe Heyman, MD
Chief Medical Information Officer
Health Information Exchange Implementation

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bill Werman [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:03 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I am against the GCH bill

It seems that there are many flaws with this bill. It would allow insurers to charge more for preexisting conditions. It would cause cuts in Medicaid which would effect children, the disabled and people in nursing homes. There are many more concerns with this bill.

The Senate is suppose to be the great deliberative body of our country. But this bill is being rushed through with changes being made on the fly with no real debate. What can be seen is that it is opposed by most medical, insurance and consumer groups. What is being gained other than reduced government spending? And at what cost for many Americans?

Bill Werman

Dublin, OH

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hull, Julie [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:03 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

I am a physician urging 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.

Julie A. Hull, MD
[REDACTED]

Raleigh, NC 27607

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Restemayer [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:02 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham - Cassidy Bill

Good Morning,

I am asking all Senators to vote NO on the Graham Cassidy Bill. My daughter, Allison was born with a rare Genetic disorder that is progressive and degenerative. This is a preexisting condition that she had no choice in. We need to know that she will continue to be covered at a rate that we can afford so that she can live her best and healthiest life! The essential Health Benefits that were identified in the Affordable Care act have been a proactive way for ALL to make sure they are healthy, and screened early to make sure that if there is a problem it is caught and treated early. We NEED those essential Health Benefits in place.

Medicaid is a system that many children with disabilities rely on to help provide Medical equipment, and supports to assist families in keeping the children living at home. NO Caps to Medicaid! Thank you for your consideration. VOTE NO ON the Graham - Cassidy Bill

Jennifer Restemayer
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Lander [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:58 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA Repeal

Millions of Americans rely on reliable affordable healthcare. Millions more still cannot afford it.

The Graham Cassidy bill would be a disaster for all but the very very rich. Last-ditch efforts are a waste of time. It's time to move forward on healthcare, not backward. Quit wasting our time and our lives.

Sincerely,

Carol Lander
Old Town, Maine

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: erin canzano [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:02 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Public comments on Hearing for Graham-Cassidy Bill

September 25, 2017

Erin Canzano
[REDACTED]
Shrewsbury, MA 01545

Dear Committee Members,

My two daughters have 3 autoimmune diseases between them: Crohn's disease, which they both have, and Type 1 diabetes, which my youngest has. The idea that the protection of pre-existing conditions would be left to the states is in its way discriminatory. There are states in this country which do not value health care for their citizens, and will roll back those protections. The message that the roll back conveys is that people who live with chronic illness are not welcome in their state. Already our country is reeling with division over race and religion. By the passing of this bill, we will be adding health to the list as well.

My children have done nothing wrong. They were raised in a family that followed all the rules, and yet here they are, living with challenging and difficult diseases which will cost them, and insurance companies, a great deal of money to keep them alive. Please, make their futures brighter and easier by not supporting this bill, and allowing my children to live with the security that health care will be provided for them regardless of their diseases.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Erin Canzano

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathleen de los Reyes [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:02 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

My grandson was born at 32 weeks gestation at UVA. My daughter and son-in-law have good jobs as a nurse and analyst. They owe on student debts and car loans. Once our beautiful grandson turned the corner and began to thrive, they began to worry about the cost of his care. They have health insurance which covered part of the stay but the remainder would have bankrupted them. In VA, medicaid will cover the cost of NICU stays after 30 days in the hospital. My grandson qualified for this program. Otherwise his family would have been in very tough straits financially.

Look, this is a middle class family saddled with student debt. This program would likely disappear Graham-Cassidy is enacted. The bill essentially cuts Medicaid over time and gives states the burden of cutting programs. A clever ruse to push the blame to states! Passing a bill without bipartisan support, without a full CBO report, in order to fulfill a campaign promise is poor governing. Stop making health care about win or lose, about President Obama getting credit and start making it about people.

Kathleen de los Reyes. Fishersville, VA 22939

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Allison Kirsch [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:02 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments: NO Graham-Cassidy!!

Hello,

My parents are self-employed, and when the economy crashed in 2008, they struggled to make ends meet like the rest of the country. Unfortunately one of the “expenses” they had to cut was our family’s healthcare because it was so expensive, and they could no longer afford it.

It wasn’t until two years ago that I was finally able to afford my own health insurance through the Obamacare exchanges and Medicaid. And it has been a godsend.

Last year—only a few months after I got health insurance for the first time in 7 years—I blew out my knee. I had to get an X-ray, an MRI, and then go to physical therapy. There was no way I would have been able to afford this, had it not been for Obamacare.

The ACA is helping a lot of people. We can’t repeal and replace. We need to fix the existing problems and protect the ACA from the Trump administration. They are trying to undermine it at every turn, and it is disgusting to think that they would play political games with people’s access to healthcare, just to destroy a bill that was enacted by the opposite political party.

Our senators and representatives need to put the American people first. Graham-Cassidy cuts funding for Medicaid over the next decade and reallocates money for block grants to support ****Republican**** states that didn’t expand Medicaid under the ACA. This money comes right out of the blue states who expanded Medicaid for their poorest constituents, and those people will be the ones to suffer. How is this good for America? How does this help our citizens?

Thank you,

Allison Kirsch
[REDACTED]

NO Graham-Cassidy!!!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: chris youngblood [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:02 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable Care Act

Please please please do NOT pass the current bill to damage the ACA.

Christine Youngblood 24091

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Evelyn [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:02 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care bill

I have worked in Human Resources for 30 years assisting employees with health insurance and helping them with serious issues. This bill would negatively impact 99% of employees and be devastating for retirees and those with chronic illnesses.

Oregon would be the state that is hit the hardest, due to its dependency on the Affordable Care Act to protect so many of its residents. Throwing off millions of recipients of health insurance in the state, and around the country, will have a devastating impact on our collective health as a nation. Those with pre-existing conditions will no longer be able to afford the higher premiums as their costs continue to inflate. Worst of all, it will further weaken those who are already most vulnerable- elders, children, pregnant women, and people with life-threatening or chronic diseases which are otherwise treatable. Finally, block grants to states and gutting Medicaid even further will only lead to mismanagement of funds, with less and less money going to the people who actually need health coverage. Let's call this what it truly is: tax cuts for the wealthy, at the cost of millions of lives. It is reckless and downright unethical to push forward a bill which would lead to decline and death to so many, in a rushed effort to garner enough votes, without going through due diligence of public hearings, debates, consultations, and reviews. Please work together in a bipartisan process to arrive at more suitable options, such as a single payer universal healthcare program, and put people ahead of profits!

Sincerely,

Evelyn Waltenbaugh

Portland, Oregon

Sent from Evie's iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margaret Ballantyne-Mannion [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:57 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senators,

I implore you to vote NO on Graham-Cassidy.

As the parent of an autistic child I have no choice but to fight for my son's, and all people's, access to the medical care that he must have to maintain a quality of life and everything that it entails - joy, heartache, challenges, triumphs, hard work, independence, and reward.

Despite many false assurances to the contrary, Graham Cassidy leaves those with pre-existing conditions like autism (and my own diabetes) vulnerable.

This bill's draconian cuts to Medicaid will leave our most citizens - our parents, grandparents and disabled loved ones - without the lifeline they so need to be able to live and work in their communities, where they belong. Cuts to Medicaid will limit the ways schools can offer services to disabled students, further limiting their chances for independence.

If you are not willing to listen to the individual stories of your citizens, please consider what experts are telling you.

The American Medical Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Hospital Association, the Federation of American Hospitals, America's Health Insurance Plans, and the BlueCross BlueShield Association have all implored you to vote NO on this bill.

All 50 State Directors of Medicaid, and myriad other groups including the JDRC, ALS Association, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, Arthritis Foundation, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Family Voices, JDRC, Lutheran Services in America, March of Dimes, National Health Council, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, National Organization for Rare Diseases, Volunteers of America, and WomenHeart, among many, many others have issued statements imploring you to vote NO on this bill.

This isn't about politics. It's about people--my son, his schoolmates, the elderly. People will be sicker. People will die. Voting in favor of the bill is completely ANTI Life, not Pro- Life. It is, in the end, about the heart and soul of our nation.

Please, if you love the people of the country, VOTE NO!

Sincerely,
Margaret A. Ballantyne, Ph.D.
[REDACTED]

Mineola, NY 11501

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Desiree Hartman (Alum) [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:02 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Vote No

Dear Congress,

I am overwhelmingly concerned and urge you to vote no on the Graham Cassidy bill that is being voted on today. Millions of children and people of different abilities will lose coverage. Health care providers, insurance companies, and economists agree that it would harm our people and economy.

Right now, I babysit for a family with 3-year-old who has neuroblastoma cancer. If Graham Cassidy passed, this family would be unable to afford care for their son. Please vote no.

Desiree Hartman

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Moore, Kristen [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:01 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please VOTE NO on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Health Care Bill

Good-morning,

Please VOTE NO on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Health Care Bill. It would be harmful to our society and community in a variety of ways. We need more mental healthcare and substance use care rather than less.

Thank-you!

--
Kristen Moore
School Counselor
Bo-Manor High School
Grade 12 & Grade 10 (Fi-P)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sara Troxel [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:01 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: the Graham-Cassidy Bill will kill me

I am a Type 2 Diabetic.

This disease affects people with certain genetic markers.

My illness has been controlled with diet, daily monitoring, and medication of 15 years

I am 60 years old, my husband is 52, and we have a 21-year-old daughter who is a senior in college at GMU.

We have our insurance through my husband's work place.

We have a \$6000 deductible, pay into an HSA, and are covered for medical, dental and vision.

Monthly cost of this insurance now is 760.42 per month and 230.76 per month into the HSA.

9125.04 per year for insurance.

6000.00 deductible

2769.12 into an HSA, which has limits on how much we can put into it per year.

We use the HSA for copayments and prescription refills.

My monthly testing supplies cost: \$100.80

Monthly Metformin as prescribed: \$67.50

Biannual doctor visits to maintain my health are roughly \$500 each at the insurance company negotiated prices, which kick in after the deductible is met.

We've only met our deductible once in the past 5 years, our daughter and myself both needed MRI's done.

This is 'good' insurance, and we are, at this time, able to pay for it.

At one point in the past five years, my husband was laid off due to a company restructuring.

Cobra payments (1200 – 1600/month) were being paid on our credit cards for three months, because the maximum unemployment in our state barely covered our mortgage and utilities.

Yes, I was and am working also, part time, no benefits. At this time I work at two different jobs and I won't become eligible for health insurance through the one my job until August of 2018. The other job is caregiving , with no benefits.

I am supposed to be eligible for Medicare in a few years, but the way it looks now, I will be working until I die, to pay for insurance and care (and daughter's college, but that's another story.)

This insurance is WITH the protections of the ACA. If the Republican House and Senate succeed in their repeal efforts, I fully anticipate my husband's company to cut back or even discontinue offering an insurance plan. At that time, I will probably have to discontinue my health care, and I will die of complications of diabetes.

We are doing everything right, and now we are to be penalized with the specter of my early death because the Republicans want to pay for a tax cut to the wealthiest people in this nation? This is criminal behavior and should be treated as such.

My death will be on your heads, if this repeal bill is passed.

Sincerely,
Sarajane Troxel

[REDACTED]
Gloucester, VA, 23061-4138

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michele Kershenblatt [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:01 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: vote no

Good Morning –

I, as a registered nurse and a mother , am NOT in support of this bill. I am also a registered Republican and believe the Republican Senators are trying to push through a bill just to repeal The Affordable Care Act for the sake of doing so – without thought to its ramifications. Try to fix what’s wrong with it – but don’t obliterate care for those that truly need it. I voted for Senator McCain when he ran for president and am proud to have done so – he seems to be the only one with principles (and heart). I am thinking seriously about changing my party affiliation due to a congress that does not have the best interest of the people of the United States in mind....a congress who’s only wish is to give a final ‘F’ you to former President Obama.

Sincerely,
Michele Kershenblatt

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christopher Tilley [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Trumpcare Version X

It's very simple, ALL Americans deserve and need to have great healthcare. It's good for them and even better for the country.

Do the right thing and ensure ALL Americans get great healthcare.

Marcus Aurelius: "Very little is needed to make a happy life; it is all within yourself, in your way of thinking."

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jodi <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

This bill must not pass! It is not healthcare. It is disgusting that the goal here seems to be to pass SOMETHING, ANYTHING -- not to pass good policy. This bill will hurt people. How can you in good conscience propose this bill for the American people? It will hurt the poor, the disabled, older people, kids, vets. People will DIE. Do not pass this bill.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Hersack [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stop the Graham Cassidy Bill

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a 59 year old woman with limited income -- if any income at all. I am highly educated, skilled and experienced, but finding a job over 50 (other than as a senator) can be quite a challenge.

I am now 10-years breast cancer free, which is a huge encouragement to me. I had to declare bankruptcy after my cancer experience -- and I certainly didn't want to be in that position then and I don't wish to be now. And now I worry that either repealing or making broad, poorly thought out changes to the Affordable Care Act will negatively affect me and my prospects for good health whether the cancer recurs or not.

The ACA was literally years in the making. Cobbling together legislation just to meet a rushed timeline based on needing fewer votes to pass it is almost criminal in its disregard for the trust placed in our elected officials by we the American people.

How about Senators Graham and Cassidy just give us all the same health insurance they have and we can call it done? Otherwise, make an honest study of what's truly good and reasonable for the people of this country -- do it with careful consideration and full attention to consequences to individuals of all tax brackets, ages and walks of life -- and then propose that. Either of those would be acceptable -- as the changes put forth in the Graham Cassidy Bill are simply not; in fact, they border on irresponsible and inhumane.

Please contact me if you'd like to hear more of my circumstances and my opinions on using the healthcare of millions as a device to gain short-term popularity for out-of-favor politicians.

Sincerely,
--Sarah Hersack
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pam Orsi [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No Cassidy bill

Please do not support the Graham / Cassidy healthcare bill. As an upper middle class American I don't understand how we can't do better and have better healthcare for all. The loop holes trying to be passed in this bill are unacceptable.

Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jane Hobson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senators,

Please do not repeal the Affordable Care Act, and replace it with the Graham-Cassidy healthcare. This bill would be terrible for Americans.

I am going to be turning 18 this fall. As I'm getting closer to adulthood, I am becoming increasingly nervous about the future. Without the Affordable Care Act, I will have less freedom in decision-making and flexibility. I can't stay on my parents' health insurance forever, and I need peace of my mind for the future. As a young person, as a woman, and as a human, I am begging that you vote no on this bill.

Sincerely,

Jane Hobson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dan Scanlan [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

This legislation is beneath you. Disguising a huge takeaway as a states rights issue - you guys should be ashamed. Trying to reduce government spending so you can pass tax reform is a great idea however instead of taking from the poor to give to the rich how about trying to reduce military spending and get Trumps cabinet to fly commercial airlines or both! Wake up republicans!!!!

Dan Scanlan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kristina Moores Jackson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No Thank You to GCH

Good Americans pay taxes (unlike DJTJr) and we expect our money to be spent wisely. However, politicians can't balance budgets, so you think the way to save money is to slash healthcare. Not your corporate interest, but healthcare.

Taking away insurance will reduce the access to preventative measures, which will cost us all more money later. Taking away health insurance directly endangers the lives of CHILDREN. Y'all sicken me with your hypocrisy.

Feel free to reach out if you need some guidelines.

Kristina

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: JoAnn Ottman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Dear Finance Committee members:

I urge you to vote no on the Graham Cassidy bill. A bill impacting 1/6 of our economy requires much more attention and analysis than is possible under the current time table. Countless groups who oversee his vital economic sector are sending clear signals about how disastrous this bill will be.

From the little we do know about how this bill will impact everyday Americans, we know that millions of Americans will lose their coverage, not because they choose to but because they will be unable to pay for it. We know that states will be free to return to how they used to do business: basically allow insurance companies to do whatever they want and charge whatever they want. We know the Medicaid will shrink drastically, reducing access to healthcare not only for the poor, but also the elderly and the handicapped. There is nothing remotely responsible about this bill. Anyone who supports it cannot be considered remotely responsible.

Sincerely,
JoAnn Ottman

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Arlene Roman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

Arlene Roman

19047
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: John and Amy Stack [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal, Monday September 25, 2017
Attachments: Lauren.jpg

Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal, Monday September 25, 2017

Amy and John Stack
2950 Shorewood Dr.
Oshkosh, WI 54901

Dear Senators--

Please know how much of a positive impact Medicaid has on our child's life. Lauren suffered a massive brain hemorrhage at birth, leaving her severely disabled. We spend hours a day providing her care, coordinating equipment needs, juggling medications and specialist appointments. Through it all, she maintains a wicked smile, delightful personality, and a kind heart.

As a teacher and nurse, we work hard to provide for all three of our children. Medicaid offers us the support we need to keep Lauren well cared for in our home. Without this secondary insurance, I'm not sure how we'd survive. Wheelchairs, medications, therapies-- all are critical to her existence and incredibly expensive. And once she's too old to stay on our primary insurance, her care will fall solely to Medicaid.

Who are we as a society if we don't prioritize and care for those who can't take care of themselves? Yes, medical care is expensive. But it shouldn't be a privilege afforded only to those who are wealthy (or just fortunate enough to have avoided illness or injury). Lauren didn't ask to suffer a major brain injury, and she didn't do anything wrong to "deserve it". It was a horrible thing that happened to her, and we ask that you don't remove her safety net--- our *family's* safety net.

Respectfully,

Amy and John Stack
oshstack@gmail.com

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bob Bobster <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:26 PM
To: gchcomments; Response, IQ (Collins)
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. It will not retain the protections for essential health benefits that we rely on to manage our inherited genetic disorder. With out these protections, we will not be able to work. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Amy Thurston

Castine, Maine

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Amendment

AMMES

<http://ammes.org/>

Contact: Erica Verrillo, Executive Director - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

American Myalgic Encephalomyelitis and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Society Statement on the Graham-Cassidy Amendment

September 23, 2017 – Between one and two million Americans suffer from Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME), a chronic disease that profoundly disrupts the immune and nervous systems of those who contract it. Twenty-five per cent of those affected are severely ill, and unable to meet their needs. These patients rely on Medicaid services not only for access to medical care but for home assistance as well. The American Myalgic Encephalomyelitis and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Society (AMMES) is deeply concerned about the effect the proposed Graham-Cassidy Amendment will have on patients with ME.

The proposed changes to Medicaid outlined in the Graham-Cassidy Amendment could have a drastic impact on patients. Community services would be cut, hospitalizations could be eliminated, pre-existing conditions – including ME - would be excluded from coverage. Laboratory services would also be curtailed, which would be devastating for ME patients, who frequently experience secondary infections as a result of immune dysfunction. Premiums would rise, resulting in a loss of insurance for a significant portion of those who have lost income as a result of ME.

We strongly urge Congress to reject the proposed Graham-Cassidy Amendment. Those living with this debilitating disease must have access to affordable, quality care, which is something the Graham-Cassidy Amendment cannot provide.

*The American ME and CFS Society, a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is dedicated to serving the needs of patients and caregivers through support, advocacy, and education.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: DO NOT PASS THE GRAHAM/CASSIDY BILL!

This is another repulsive bill taking away our healthcare. The American people deserve better than this!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lauren Carpenter [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

I am a physician. I specialize in geriatrics and palliative care, taking care of older people and those dealing with serious illnesses. The proposed health plan will hurt my patients and many of our most vulnerable Americans. It will take care away from millions, including babies, women, and elders. It is unconscionable that our lawmakers would seek to harm US citizens by stripping them of health coverage. People will die. We physicians will do the best we can, but Americans will suffer and will die before they would otherwise.

Sincerely,
Lauren Carpenter, MD
University of California, San Francisco, class of 2009

Lauren

Sent from my iPhone

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: Deborah Zimmerman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:47 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 will hurt millions of Americans and cause so many to lose their insurance or be unable to afford it. I don't want to see my premiums potentially increase 5x. My elderly parents may need nursing home care soon, and to lose Medicaid would be a hardship and cause them to lose quality of life. They also have pre-existing conditions that would need to be covered. I am also opposed to this bill for the way it treats women. Defunding Planned Parenthood is unacceptable, not covering birth control, and not funding healthcare for children is unacceptable. Insurance would cost more for women than men, and that is ridiculous. You can't have insurance be a la carte. Insurance companies would have no choice but to raise premiums. I also don't want to see my state lose millions in funding. Don't make governors choose who is more deserving for coverage than others.. Lastly, this bill should not be passed with regular order, hearings from experts and an CBO score.

Thank you, Deborah Zimmerman

Deborah Zimmerman

19440
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alison Buck <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for the Record, Re: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Anyone who votes for this bill is a heartless monster who enjoys killing children with cancer.

I hope you can sleep at night if you vote yes!

Kisses,

Alison Buck

--

*Alison Buck, PhD
Center for Urban Affairs and Community Services
NC State University*

office: [REDACTED]

cell: [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Malachy Email <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy Graham Diseased Bill

It's kill the poor legislation
Scrap it
Malachy mcCourt

Sent from my iPad by voice
Malachy

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Helmsworth [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony for hearing: this bill,will harm me

My family and I depend on affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My wife, my son, and I all have pre existing conditions. i am over 55 so I already pay high rates. Under this bill, my rates would go even higher.

We need to improve the ACA, not sink it with a plan that appears to help no one.

Thank you
Chris Helmsworth

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Please, for the sake of poor working Americans, do not vote for trumpcare!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lauren Ready <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham-Cassidy

This bill strips important safety provisions from current health care regulations. It leaves insurers and states more room to discriminate against those who need health care the most. This does not improve access to health care at all. It is only an effort to sabotage the Affordable Care Act for partisan purposes.

If you truly want to help the American people, find ways to improve and expand health care and insurance.

Lauren Ready
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Khoosheh Gosink [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:46 PM
To: gchcomments

I would appreciate if you would reconsider disenfranchising the most needy and the young people in this country by removing their access to decent health care and hoping that the state will do what you could not do even after 7 years. This bill does not fix any of the problems with the current system and even the people who wrote it admit that. So please stop playing politics with our healthcare.

KG

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jacob Woodbury <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for the Record regarding Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Members of the Committee,

Please don't pass this bill. It's very bad for my state of Washington. I'm sure it's bad for most of your states as well.

Regards,

Jacob

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eric Utley [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Obamacare

I get it, Obamacare isn't perfect, but having a health US population is making America great again. Do give in to the greedy health insurance companies, keep healthcare going for all people. Everyone deserves affordable healthcare without restrictions based on financial status or pre-existing conditions!

Concerned Citizen
Eric Utley

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Macaluso [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy is a job killer

My family and many families like mine rely on quality, affordable healthcare.

Members of Congress who support the Graham-Cassidy amendment claim to be in favor of job creation. My husband and I are actual job creators. We each started our own small businesses. My husband sold his business and is considering starting another, but he will only be able to do so if he has access to quality, affordable healthcare. Otherwise, one of us will be forced take a job that comes with healthcare, taking away a job opportunity for someone else. We don't know yet what will be on the list of pre-existing conditions if the Graham-Cassidy Amendment becomes law, but I currently have a minor health issue that would have been considered a pre-existing condition in the pre-ACA days. If that minor issue makes healthcare unaffordable for us, we will not be able to start a new business and create more jobs.

Based on my personal experience, ACA is a job creator. Graham-Cassidy will be a job killer.

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

--Sarah Macaluso

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy Bill

My family and I are among those whose health care and choices would be affected by this disastrous bill. Please oppose its passage by every means possible. Its effects will deprive many Americans of vitally needed health care.

Thank you,
Shirley Fredricks

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Lachow <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for the record Re: The Graham-Cassidy Bill

Attn: Senate Finance Committee,

This is the worst version of a health reform bill yet. Pushing through anything just to beat a deadline is irresponsible and negligent at the least. Needless to say, I am totally against this bill that will leave millions of people unable to get affordable healthcare.

Karen Lachow

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Louise Z [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Current 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: Helaine Katz [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

73% of Americans do not want this bill. They want you to repair the ACA, not repeal it. The medical community via it's organizations and AARP are unanimous in their opposition.

So who wants this? Only the Congress people who will continue to benefit financially from their donors who see this as the first step to tax cuts.

We see this! We know this! It is blatant and obvious. You are pushing this only for your own benefit and that of your donors.

Graham Cassidy is not good for America or the great majority of Americans, most of whom have pre-existing conditions; most of whom will need emergency room, maternity, child, etc. healthcare at some point in their lives – all of which you are taking away from them - only to line your own pockets.

You know this. We know this. Shame on you.

And do not try the transparent tactics of carrot (allowing Senator Mikulski to keep Obamacare in Alaska - the irony) or stick (telling Senator Heller that you will use all of your power and money to defeat him). We have seen this before. Don't try it again.

Let it go and try to work on repairing the ACA instead. But, also, do not slash programs for the poor, disabled, and elderly in order to pay for your donors' tax cuts. Start doing your job and looking out for the great majority of the Americans who sent you there in the first place. We can send you home, too.

Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lindsay Reid Fitzgerald [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:59 PM
To: gchcomments

Dear committee,

I write to condemn the latest healthcare bill and discourage its passage. The concept of "repeal and replace" has done nothing to address the real problems average citizens face, and passing this new piece of legislation would be a clear sign to the American people that our representatives are persuaded more by political prowess and money than the health of their citizens. We know that this bill brings back pre-existing conditions clauses, allows insurers to raise rates when a patient receives a new diagnosis, and allows states to cut funding for, or let insurers exclude, maternity services, hospitalizations, laboratory tests, dental benefits for children, mental health, and substance abuse programs.

Our health is not a game, and one of our most pressing needs in this nation is to offer quality healthcare for all. Every plan that has been put forward since January is the furthest cry from that.

We know that individual states will be allowed to prevent women's clinics from charging Medicaid for services like cancer screenings and birth control. We know that it shifts billions of dollars of costs onto states, giving them incentive to cut the above items. We know that it lets states spend block grants on non-healthcare spending. We know that federal aid for Medicaid would plummet. We know that insurers would be able to double their surcharge on elderly customers. We know that it kills the ACA's insurance subsidies.

From this vantage point, it is easy to conclude that this is only about destroying one of the only comprehensive attempts at healthcare legislation our nation has seen. It is truly baffling. Care for the people who put you in office. Make the ACA better. Help people sign up for it. Work with insurance companies. Better yet, work together with experts to think up a better system.

Anything less is reprehensible.

Thank you,

Lindsay Fitzgerald

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Eisenberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH Comment

Senate finance committee:

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

Oppose Graham-Cassidy and any other bill that cuts, caps, or imposes block grants or per capita caps on Medicaid.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Sarah Eisenberg
Youth and Parent Services Advocate
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Li C. [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO

Good afternoon,

I am an American citizen who grew up in a family unable to afford health insurance yet ineligible for Medicaid. My family was lucky enough not to have any major issues or accidents, but what if we had? Where would that money have come from?

The ACA was not perfect by any means. Enormous compromises had to be made just to get it passed. It was meant to be built upon over time, using data compiled from real life situations instead of think tanks and propaganda. But instead it has been demonized, used as a political tool at the state and federal levels, and undermined until it is barely standing.

The American people definitely deserve better.

But this bill is not it. It, like the other attempts made this year, are an insult to our intelligence. Don't pull the rug further out from under us and tell us it's not happening. Don't pat us on the head and tell us we just don't understand. Because we do.

Listen to the experts. Listen to your constituents. Do not pass this embarrassment.

Thank you,

Felicia Callisaya

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Becca Taylor <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy Graham Bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with Medicaid is that it helped to keep my family covered during the years after my daughter's birth when it was impossible for us to find two full-time jobs that would work with our childcare needs. I was a stay at home mom and my husband was a waiter, and we were able to provide our daughter with regular doctor visits during her first few years through Medicaid. My husband now works full time as a baker and I recently started a full time job as a receptionist. We now have the opportunity to purchase health insurance, although to cover our entire family would cost \$700 a month. I make \$12 an hour and my husband makes \$10 an hour. Currently our daughter is covered through Medicaid which saves us \$150 per month. I believe her coverage is part of the CHIP program. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Becca Taylor

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Janet N Santmann [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Esteemed Senators,

I am writing to encourage all of you to oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill. If enacted, we know that this bill would strip healthcare access from millions of Americans. While some in Washington have opined that this is par for the course in a "free" society, the majority of the American people regard this notion as ludicrous! It is an affront to our intelligence, and it reflects a callousness that astonishes the rest of the developed world.

My sister died from a rare form of cancer nearly seven years ago, before she had a chance to benefit from the ACA. Her insurance was inadequate, and we had to fight tooth and nail to get her the care she needed. She had to undergo a radical amputation of her right arm and shoulder, and lived with excruciating phantom nerve pain for the final months of her life. The stress of battling for her care and worrying about money impacted the end of her life in ways that no one should have to endure.

Graham-Cassidy takes our healthcare in the wrong direction; indeed, the creation of a universal healthcare system is an idea that is rapidly gaining support in this country. We will not forget your votes on this issue; they will affect us all.

Please have the courage to do the right thing for the people, instead of for the insurance and pharmaceutical industries. Work to improve the ACA in the short-term; and long-term, lets join the rest of the developed world and create a universal healthcare system for all Americans.

Respectfully,
Janet Santmann

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kaye Ladd <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Hearing

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story about pre-existing conditions is that my spouse died of metastatic breast cancer. It was a 14 year battle. The breast cancer treatment was covered by my current insurance. Thank heavens for the ACA. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Karen Lichtenstein

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alma Klein [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposed

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to register my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill, a horror show of legislation that shows no compassion for our country's most vulnerable citizens.

That so many Republican Senators could support a bill that's so obviously harmful to so many people, and would strip healthcare away from millions—and likely bankrupt thousands (if not millions) more when they need life-saving treatments—saddens me beyond words.

I support single-payer healthcare legislation. If I can't have that, I'd settle for a responsible bipartisan compromise. But the Graham-Cassidy bill, if passed, will kill people. If you're trying to fix the Affordable Care Act, please remember the spirit of the Hippocratic Oath: "First, do no harm."

Alma Klein

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Terry Kern <[REDACTED]> on behalf of
[REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repeal of 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. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Theresa Kern

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Becca Warner [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy comments

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am a woman who relies on birth control to treat a medical issue. I recognize that Republican men do not care about women's health, but as we're half the population, and have specific healthcare needs, it is important to express condemnation of your bill, and indeed, of your party as a whole.

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

Best,

Rebecca Warner

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ryann [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: For the record- Graham-Cassidy Bill

How about instead of gutting our healthcare system you guys concentrate on keeping the guy in the White House in check so we don't end up in a nuclear war? Just a thought.

Thanks,

Ryann Flynn

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Paisley Taylor [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on ACA bill

I oppose the Graham Casey ACA bill. It is inappropriate for politicians to try to shove through un thought out legislation that will literally kill people. And at the behest of the Koch brothers no less. The Koch brothers are not the Kings of our country and they should not be threatening our public servants to do what they want. This country is out of control, and these people trying to destroy our country are public enemies.

Paisley Taylor
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jason Kishineff [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: comments

I strongly oppose the repealing of ACA.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bree Ryback [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy is an atrocity.

This bill is an atrocity for the American people - especially for women, seniors, and those with pre-existing conditions. As an American citizen, I implore these GOP cowards to remember why they are in government - not for the Koch Brothers, but for us, the people!

The majority of Americans want the ACA and want the "adults" that work for us in Congress to work together on fixes to ACA.

As a DC resident, with no representatives to call, I am left to emailing this mailbox, as a plea for my life, my daughter, my family's livelihood & the liberty of the American people. Providing affordable healthcare to your citizens is a basic human right.

Please pull your collective heads out of Koch & Murdoch's asses and listen to the people you are supposed to serve. Just because you have the means to care for yourself and your family - doesn't mean we all do.

Please do not pass Graham-Cassidy.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tana McLane [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham-Cassidy

I'm the mom of an adult son with disabilities who is dependent on Medicaid and Social Security to survive. Graham-Cassidy would take these away, leaving my own old age with insufficient resource for survival, if I have to support him. Instead make healthcare a bipartisan problem to solve fairly. Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Keep ACA

Congress members:

If you love this country, you make sure its citizens are healthy. Period.

Keep ACA in place and work towards actually improving coverage.

Doing anything else is heartless, cynical, and clearly self-interested.

Sincerely,
Cecil Esquivel

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Heather Elder [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Improve ACA--Do not repeal

Senate Finance Committee Members,

I have family members and friends who depend on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

I have a friend who is clinically depressed yet vibrantly active in his job and in the world, who before the ACA allowed him to afford new medication, was so debilitated he could not work.

Also, in a different kind of case, My Aunt and Uncle are small business owners who must pay for their insurance out of pocket. For them Romney-Care (as it should more accurately be nicknamed) increased their healthcare costs as it unfairly catered to much larger corporations.

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

Sincerely,

Heather Elder

Seattle, WA

--
[REDACTED]

"Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana."
--Groucho Marx

"We don't set out to save the world; we set out to wonder how our actions affect other people's hearts."
--Pema Chödrön

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Valerie Fermeaux [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Oh boy, where to start? This bill is ugly and awful.

- No more subsidies
- No guaranteed coverage for pre-existing conditions
- No more Medicaid expansion...

Really? Do you all realize that people do die because they cannot afford medication or doctor visits? I have lived in numerous countries and I have NEVER encountered a country with such a poor relationship to healthcare as the USA. It is pathetic. Access to healthcare providers and medications should be affordable for ALL. Let me help you a bit:

You say it is too expensive to cover everyone. Why is care so expensive? Here are a few reasons:

- Doctors charge an arm and a leg. Why? Because they need to:
 - Recover the cost of their education
 - Cover the cost of their malpractice insurance
 - Have an entire staff to take care of appointments, billing, insurance follow up, insurance coding etc.
- Pharma companies rob people blind while making enormous profits. Why? Because:
 - You enable them by allowing them to lobby
 - You are not negotiating the price of meds for Medicare/Medicaid (see lobby above)
 - They are paying their execs too much.

You can fix the cost of education for doctors and you can create a smart bill that would cap damages for malpractice and lower the cost of malpractice insurance. Result: doctors don't have to charge patients as much.

You could force health insurance companies to simplify their billing model and rationalize their plans. You could even stop relying on health insurance companies (history has shown that they are NOT doing a great job).

For example: Cap the amount doctors and hospital can charge per procedure/medical act etc + offer government paid health insurance covering 80% of the cost of care + allow people who want it to buy supplementary insurance from insurance companies to cover the last 20% (percentages here are offered as an example).

Start negotiating the price the government pays for meds for government programs.

Look at how other countries are doing it. You could learn something. Their health care programs are not perfect but at least, nobody dies because they can't afford care or loses their house because they went through chemo.

Be smart this time.
Best regards

Valerie Kempiners.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Thea Goodrich <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on the Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

I was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes a week before my twenty-first birthday. My sister was also recently diagnosed with the same disease at the same age. My mother has multiple sclerosis; my father has lymphoma.

These are wildly expensive conditions to manage that are both currently incurable and *not our faults*. I am lucky enough to have employer-provided healthcare at the moment, but my sister benefits from the ACA in that she can stay on my mother's plan for a few years yet while she transitions from college to career. Without the ACA's protections, my father's expensive routine treatments would have blown through his lifetime cap years ago. All of us are thankful every day that our pre-existing conditions do not prevent us from seeking affordable treatment.

I love my family members dearly, as I'm sure you love yours. We have terrible genetic luck, but we are all smart, capable, productive members of the United States. They—and I—are honor students, hard-working employees, caring volunteers. They should not be bankrupted by diseases they did not cause. I should not feel the need to avoid motherhood simply because being pregnant would allow insurance companies to charge me more. This nation's most vulnerable populations should not have to choose between paying for their health and paying for a roof over their heads. *No one* should live in fear that a quirk of genetics or a freak accident will leave them with medical debt they can never hope to escape from.

I am writing to you today imploring that you do not repeal or replace the ACA, and certainly not with the Graham-Cassidy bill created, unconscionably, without input from women (half the population!), without actual protections for the sick, and under the shadow of speed. Your citizens' healthcare is not a toy to be played with in the eleventh hour.

If your pancreas stopped working, or your myelin, or your lymphocytes—would *you* want to be left to fend for yourself?

Respectfully,
Thea Goodrich

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: chachiangelo . [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO NO NO!

This bill sucks and you know it. Sorry, but the American citizens' voices are louder than any money the Koch brothers will throw the GOP's way.

Don't vote on this bill, don't pass this bill, don't allow this bill to spike America's drink and molest it's health care.

Thank you.

Charles Angelo

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Todd Trampe [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

Because the Graham-Cassidy bill is so in Humane and will hurt millions, cost more money and does not live up to TRump's promise, vote no on this bill. Do not allow this to come to the senate floor.
From a Wisconsinite who voted smart....DEMOCRATIC!!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Blake's Books [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO Graham-Cassidy

Greetings ~

Have you no shame, sirs?

Really, this is a new low for the GOP. You would literally kill people to fulfill a stupid, evil campaign promise.

Sincerely

~ Courtney Blake

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Geraldine Mueller [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: HealthCare

The health care bill in the senate is atrocious. Even tho they claim it will cover pre- existing conditions, it does not. Twenty-two billion would be without healthcare, once again. This is not what the United States stands for.. As a retired person, my husband and I could not live with an increase as our income is fixed and we both have a pre- existing condition.

Sent from my iPad, Gerry

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beth [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

To whom it may concern:

My family relies on healthcare that does not discriminate against those who have pre-existing conditions. (And most people over 45 or so have something!) A relative of mine battles depression & anxiety & we are so grateful that he can get the care he needs so he can work & be productive.

The ACA is far from perfect, so let's fix it, not trash it!

Thank you,

Beth Sussman

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: barbara kaye [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Many of my family members rely on the ACA for affordable, comprehensive health care coverage. Several of them have pre-existing conditions and either were not insurable or paid exorbitantly high premiums before the ACA became law. The Graham-Cassidy bill would jeopardize coverage for people with pre-existing condition and , in addition, would cause millions to lose health care completely by underfunding Medicaid programs in the states. This bill is a big tax cut for the rich at the expense of everyone else. Remember, rich people have only one vote just like all the rest of us and the majority of the electorate disapproves of this bill.

--
Barbara Kaye

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gordon J. <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Brain Injured Individuals to be Harmed

As a brain injury survivor who is over 55 and still not eligible for Medicare, the proposed changes to our medical system are very bad for me and my family. As a result of my preexisting conditions, I may be uninsurable until I reach Medicare eligibility.

Gordon Johnson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lora Brody [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Our son is alive and well



Thankfully we had health insurance to pay for the extraordinary care our son received after he had a stroke and subsequent open heart surgery when he was 26 years old. The senate should not vote to take away all American's right to affordable health care.

Lora Brody

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Resident Scholar
Women's Studies Research Center
Brandeis University MS079
Waltham, MA 03454
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Grover [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable and accessible healthcare

I would like to ensure that this healthcare remains intact to keep the people of this country healthy and strong. Also, as a medical and mental health care provider, I think it is imperative that we serve the mental health needs of the mentally ill. Without the access to care, these people are more likely to kill or harm. We have seen far too much of that.

Please consider what I and millions of other ordinary citizens are asking of you.

Sincerely,

Nancy

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Andrea Mercier [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Heller Statement



Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Senate Finance Co...

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eva Botelho [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No! VOTE NO!

This is a terrible terrible plan. Healthcare?? For who?! This plan leaves millions without healthcare. Please, please, do not pass this. America deserves better than Graham-Cassidy.

Thank you,
E. Botelho

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mortimer, Megan [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ADA and AAPD Statement for the Record Graham Cassidy Hearing
Attachments: ADA AAPD Senate Finance Hearing Statement for the Record 9 25.pdf

Good Afternoon,

In advance of the Graham-Cassidy hearing on Monday the American Dental Association would like to submit the attached Statement for the Record that we drafted with the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. Please let us know if you have questions.

Thanks so much!
-Megan Mortimer

Megan Mortimer [REDACTED]
Congressional Lobbyist
Government Affairs
[REDACTED]

American Dental Association [REDACTED] Chicago, IL 60611 [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Deborah [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO

We all need basic health care! This is a bad bill

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lalikos, Janice [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:48 PM
To: gchcomments; 'Beth_Pearson@markey.senate.gov'; Hurt, Nikki (Markey)
Subject: Recall: I agree with the MMS and oppose the Graham-Cassidy ACA repeal

Lalikos, Janice would like to recall the message, "I agree with the MMS and oppose the Graham-Cassidy ACA repeal".

.....
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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chara Boehm <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GRAHAM-CASSIDY

The Graham-Cassidy is punitive to the majority of Americans. It is a very inappropriate and shameful way to attempt to prove that you and the President are better than Obama and the House and Senate who held real hearings and actually worked to write a better health insurance plan than had ever been in place in the US prior to that time.

Both the Senate and House, Republicans, Democrats and others need to fairly and opening work Bi-Partisan to improve the parts of the ACA that need to be improved.

If you pass this through and the Senate passes it, it will be the most shameful thing that you could possible do. It will be solid proof that average Americans mean nothing, that only big money gets a vote from you and pulls your strings.

You also owe TRUMP nothing.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony for Graham-Cassidy hearing 09/25/2017
Attachments: Testimony re- Graham-Cassidy - 09-24-17.docx

TESTIMONY (text below as well as in attachment provided)

RE: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017
Submitted by David C. Wenger

[REDACTED]
Harrisburg, PA [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To Members of the U. S. Senate Finance Committee:

All members of this committee, representing citizens of the United States of America, are referred to as “The Honorable.” I hope that you will live up to that title, and put people over politics by voting to avoid calamity for millions of Americans, and take a stand AGAINST the Graham-Cassidy bill. As an honorable person of principle, I believe you will agree that a vote motivated by the desire to keep an ill-advised campaign promise—or the favor of rich donors—at the expense of millions of Americans’ health (and indeed, lives), is morally depraved. The half-truths and misrepresentations about this bill made by those who would trade people’s lives in order to score political points, are replete with misleading provisions (e.g., “protections” for the coverage of pre-existing conditions are not real when recipients can be priced out of the market!). Years ago, we saw how well it worked when the States could call the shots regarding civil rights. Why do you think they would do better with healthcare? We are Americans first—not merely citizens of our respective States. Rather than reducing and block-granting funds and protections, all Americans should be afforded the same availability of coverage and protections when it comes to something so precious as our health.

Many of those with whom you rub elbows in the halls of political power may well be able to afford—their generous tax-payer funded insurance aside—to pay out-of-pocket for their own, or a loved one’s health care. I, however, like many Americans, am not in such a circumstance; should you and your colleagues in the Senate pass the Graham-Cassidy bill, and one of my beloved grand-daughters were to become critically ill, I would be forced to watch her die an unnecessary death. God forbid!!! Yet, this is not something that requires divine intervention—YOU—can help prevent such an unspeakable circumstance!

Please—if for no other reason than for the dear children of this Country—vote to table the Graham-Cassidy bill, so a bi-partisan effort more accurately reflecting the needs and wishes of the American People, can proceed. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Matthew T. Gyure <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Hearing

Hello,

The Graham-Cassidy bill is a terrible bill for this country. It is estimated to kick 30 million people off of insurance. It cuts billions in funding for many states, including my own of Indiana. It guts protections for pre-existing conditions. It has been opposed by ALL 50 Medicaid directors, and almost every major medical group including the AMA.

This bill does nothing to address rising costs of healthcare and in fact does the opposite. The goal should be for more coverage, not the opposite.

Not to mention this is being rushed through, without time for a full CBO score, proper hearings, or input from both parties. The American people have spoken and we want bipartisan solutions, not single party.

This bill is nothing, but a political play, it does nothing to address real concerns and help Americans.

Thank you,
Matthew Gyure

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband has asthma and without the health insurance he would be at risk of frequent hospital visits, ultimately increasing the cost of healthcare for everyone. But thanks to our insurance and not having asthma as a pre-existing condition, he lives a normal life, exercises, works, never has to use a sick day off work, and can AFFORD his medicine. Before the ACA, he was not able to get the care he needed... I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to keep and improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Magali Schoulguine

Easthampton MA.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Becky Ramos <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Please do not pass the awful plan of Graham/Cassidy bill - not good for us! We want bipartisan plan for all. Why can't both sides come together and talk? Ramming a bill through so the President can Win, is not a good plan for Americans.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sari Rosokoff <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fwd: Hearing on the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Senator Grassley and members of the Judiciary Committee,

We are citizens of Connecticut, and are writing to add our voices in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill. The Affordable Care Act was a landmark piece of legislation that allowed millions of Americans to obtain healthcare coverage for the first time, and protected all those with pre-existing conditions from losing, or being denied, affordable coverage.

Before the ACA, one member of our family with a serious congenital condition was unable to change jobs because he would be unable to maintain health insurance. Once he was assured of coverage, he was able to return to school and pursue a new career, without worrying about his health care costs. Our daughters are of child bearing age, and should be assured that they have maternity care coverage when needed, as well as the wonderful preventive care benefits under the present ACA. All Americans benefit from access to preventive care, instead of incurring the higher costs of emergency room visits.

No one denies the need for improvements to the ACA to stabilize premiums, lower drug costs, and increase insurance choices. It is time for both parties to work together to find solutions to the problems.

Thank you,
Sari Rosokoff
James S Rosokoff, M.D.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Denise Barnes <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

To whom it may concern

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. As a single woman, without a lot of assets, I have been able to take care of myself. But I stand 20 grand away from homelessness if health care gets more gutted the way the Graham-Cassidy bill is set up.

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

Sincerely,
Denise Barnes
[REDACTED]

Denise Barnes, MA, LPC
*Sanity and Sanctuary for Grief, Medical Decisions
and End of Life Prep* www.GriefArtist.com

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Corky Blanco <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO ON GRAHAM-CASSIDY COMMENTS FOLLOW

Sen. Luther Strange (R-AL): "I like the idea of sending money back to the states and letting the states experiment" **NOTE TO COMMITTEE: AMERICAN CITIZENS ARE NOT GUINEA PIGS**

Chuck Grassley: "...Republicans have promised for seven years that we were going to correct all the things that were wrong with Obamacare, and we failed the first eight months. This is the last attempt to do what we promised in the election." **NOTE TO COMMITTEE: 7 YEARS OF DOING NOTHING EXCEPT SENDING SHAM BILLS TO BE VETOED IS YOUR FAILURE. WHEN THE TIME CAME YOU WEREN'T READY. THAT IS NOT THE FAULT OF THE CITIZENRY AND WE SHOULD NOT NOW BE PAYING THE PRICE. WE ARE NOT PAYING YOU TO RACE THROUGH UNVETTED LEGISLATION JUST TO MAKE POLITICAL POINTS.**

John Barrasso: "It gets the money out of Washington, lets people at home make the decision, and gets state legislatures involved, and governors involved. It moves money out of Washington. It's away from socialism." **NOTE TO COMMITTEE: NOT SENDING THE MONEY TO DC TO BEGIN WITH MAY BE THE BEST APPROACH. THIS IS NOT SOCIALISM, IT IS MEETING A HUMAN NEED AS A COMPASSIONATE COUNTRY. SPENDING LESS ON TRUMP TRIPS, ETC, AND NOT ON WALLS, WOULD PROVIDE MUCH MORE FUNDING FOR HEALTH. HEALTHY CITIZENS ARE MORE PRODUCTIVE IF ALL YOU CARE ABOUT IS FINANCES.**

Johnny Isakson: "Policy explanation? I'm not into policy, so I don't really know. I'm into facts." **NOTE TO COMMITTEE: POLICY AND FACTS CANNOT BE SEPARATED. IF THEY ARE NO INTELLIGENT DECISION CAN BE MADE.**

Richard Shelby: "Well, you see some of our states, four of our states, are getting a disproportionate amount of money from health care now. You know which ones." **NOTE TO COMMITTEE: THOSE STATES WHICH HAPPEN TO MORE FREQUENTLY VOTE BLUE ALSO SEND WAY MORE \$\$\$\$ TO DC FOR YOU TO WASTE. THE AMOUNT RETURNED TO THEM IS MUCH LESS THAN OTHERS. THEY ARE PAYING FOR ALL NEEDS OF OTHER STATES. THAT THEY CHOSE TO PROTECT THE HEALTH OF THEIR CITIZENS**

IS THEIR RIGHT AND THEIR CHOICE. ISN'T THAT WHAT LETTING THE STATES MAKE THE DECISIONS IS ABOUT?

I could include dozens more comments of this type from those who talk about this bill as if it were the best thing ever to come out of DC. Who say they will vote yes when they can't even say why. The only common thread is the hatred of President Obama which they showed for 8 years. Even to the point of McConnell saying his job was to see Obama fail. **NOTE TO COMMITTEE GET OVER IT**

It is time to pull this country together BEFORE you destroy it forever.

My cancer does not care whether you are DEM or GOP; my husband's diabetes (no Mnuchin, it is not self inflicted) does not care what party you are; my grandson's autism does not care about your party affiliation; my cousin's cancer does not care what you profess to be; and my Mother's Alzheimer's was not dissuaded by your political bent. This bill will bankrupt and kill us. Your protestations that pre-existing conditions are covered is disingenuous at best. It assumes the States will require such coverage; it assumes a quality level of coverage; it assumes no life time limits; and, it assumes the cost of such insurance will be within the realm of viability. In fact, it frees states to remove insurance protections for people with pre-existing conditions. Without those protections, insurers could price such people out of the market.

What value to healthcare is the \$20 billion in tax breaks to the medical device industry? Currently, just 10 medical device corporations have \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which they have not paid a dime in U.S. taxes. Instead of giving a huge tax cut to an industry that already dodges taxes, demand they pay their fair share.

Insurers have joined doctors, hospitals, AARP, patient advocates, multiple governors and others in opposition to this poorly conceived bill. **WHAT DO YOU KNOW THAT THOSE WHO WORK IN THE FIELD DO NOT? NOTHING** In your haste to place party above country, you have created a bill that is bad for all. The good of the nation and it's people is more important than a sheerly political move that will do more to benefit the wealthy while hurting the most vulnerable of Americans. Graham-Cassidy is a brazen effort to block any level of government, state or federal, from achieving near-universal coverage, or even reasonable coverage.

You had 8 years to develop and grow confidence in a plan which could improve upon the ACA. No one believes there are not improvements to be made. Instead you worked diligently to destroy and obstruct. That is not what you were elected to do. **GROW UP AND REACH ACROSS THE AISLE. TALK COMPROMISE. WE CAN ALWAYS LEARN FROM OTHERS. NO ONE PARTY OR PERSON KNOWS IT ALL OR HAS THE BEST IDEAS. TAKE THE TIME NECESSARY TO DEVELOP A HEALTHCARE PLAN FOR THE NATION THAT MEETS THE REAL NEEDS. A BILL WHICH CAN MAKE US STRONGER AS A NATION. A BILL THAT IS CAREFULLY REVIEWED BY THE CBO. A BILL WHICH IS AFFORDED REAL PUBLIC HEARINGS, NOT THE SHAM YOU ARE HOLDING TODAY. A BILL WHICH IS VETTED LOUD AND CLEAR ACROSS THE COUNTRY. HOLD TOWN MEETINGS SO CONSTITUENTS ARE HEARD. IN OTHER WORDS.....MAKE THIS SOMETHING TO BE PROUD OF AND SOMETHING WHICH IS GOOD FOR THE ENTIRE COUNTRY.**

NO ON GRAHAM-CASSIDY. RUSHING TO ARMAGEDDON JUST TO PASS SOMETHING THAT DOESN'T REQUIRE BIPARTISANSHIP SAYS A LOT ABOUT THE BODY SENATE. AND NONE OF IT IS GOOD.

Corinne Blanco

1 [REDACTED] t
Carlsbad, CA [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

I oppose the effort to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, and in particular the Graham-Cassidy bill. The fact that the only public hearing for the Graham-Cassidy bill is being held in the Senate Finance Committee is emblematic of what is wrong with the process followed by the Republican caucus on this issue. The only real concern in the Republican caucus on healthcare is the cost to the Government in providing adequate healthcare to the American public. The improvement of Americans' lives through better health is entirely secondary. This was always true, for having read the prior Congressional Budget Office scores of the American Health Care Act and the Better Care Reconciliation Act, it is clear that both were intended to be means to reduce federal outlays, regardless of the impact on patients.

The Senate, and the Congress as a whole, should return to the bipartisan process that was being pursued in the Senate Health Subcommittee. Only a bipartisan approach to improving healthcare in America has any hope of being sustainable. A solely partisan bill like this one will be vulnerable to "repeal and replacement" when the partisan composition of the Congress changes again.

My understanding is that the Health Subcommittee was making progress in efforts to stabilize the health care exchanges and was receiving valuable input from the major stakeholders in the health care industry. These efforts should be continued and strengthened.

John J. Mack, Jr.
[REDACTED]
Bensalem, PA 19020
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marie HenselderKimmel <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

As an obstetrician gynecologist, I am very concerned about the potential effects of this bill on my patients and my family. Before the ACA, I had many middle class patients who fell ill and became unable to afford insurance premiums with their new pre-existing condition of cancer or heart disease or diabetes. These were devastating economic effects from a chronic illness that nothing to do with disability from the illness itself...but from the costs of keeping insurance to pay for medical care to control the course of the illness. My husband is a 56yo physician who is recovering from a traumatic brain injury from a car accident 6 months ago. He also has sleep apnea, a pacemaker, and severe asthma. If GrahamCassidy was passed into law and our NJ legislature chose not to continue the individual mandate or protect premiums for pre-existing conditions, I am afraid that his premiums would make his insurance unaffordable for us if he can not return to work. As it is, his only option for long term disability insurance in the last 5 years was barely affordable on our physicians salaries.

Lastly, my 25yo daughter has had significant mental illness since she was a teen with multiple suicide attempts. She has been able to continue coverage on our insurance now, until she is 26 but on her 26th birthday these pre-existing conditions could doom her ability to gain any insurance except possibly Medicaid/Medicare and those programs are set to severely limited in this bill.

Please reject this bill so that members of communities that are faced with "routine" but serious medical diagnoses do not suffer devastation of their health and their financial well-being by the removal of safeguards currently given in the ACA.

Marie HenselderKimmel MD
Cherry Hill NJ [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cassie Paoli <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:55 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 a bill dangerous to the health of many individuals in our nation, and it has not been given a chance to be CBO scored yet because Republicans want to score cheap political points at the expense of their constituents' lives. Please choose conscience and morality over party and vote NO on this damaging bill.

I am coming at this from a very personal place. I have multiple pre-existing conditions, including severe Generalized Anxiety Disorder, OCD, depression, fibromyalgia, chronic Lymes disease, and another mystery autoimmune disorder. when I was laid off from a job in summer 2016, I needed health insurance to cover the many medications and therapies and treatments I undergo. Luckily, the ACA was there to cover me due to my surprising new circumstances. I literally would not be alive without having access to insurance through the ACA; I would not be able to email you right now. I know there are claims that this bill won't discriminate against people with pre-existing conditions, but it really just puts it back on the states and insurers, which easily allows for elimination or weakening of protections for people with pre-existing conditions. Pennsylvania is already \$3 billion plus in debt and I doubt this will be a huge priority for them.

More importantly than just my personal story, we are all human. I have family members and close friends with even more serious pre-existing conditions such as HIV, Tourette's, CP, and developmental disabilities. Some of my friends have disabled children. This bill attacks the most vulnerable among us - those in poverty, us who are already sick, and seniors. We are people, too, who don't deserve to DIE due to rolling back insurance coverage. Have a heart!

Up to 32 million Americans would lose health insurance, as this bill is essentially block granting (pushing things back to the states is never a good idea), rolling back Marketplace tax credits and the Medicaid expansion and targeting the poor and sick by cutting Medicaid even further. By 2027, at least 1,066,000 Pennsylvanians would lose coverage, not to mention the decimation of the rest of the country. 733 thousand Pennsylvanians, and many more from other states, are at risk because they were enrolled under the Medicaid expansion.

These include close friends of mine, such as a close friend who has CP and is due to give birth any day, and another friend's medically vulnerable children who have serious food allergies, one of whom is literally being kept alive due to experimental treatment available due to Medicaid expansion. This bill would cut Medicaid and hurt seniors disproportionately, as well. Veterans, who you profess to care about, also benefited from the Medicaid expansion and could lose coverage. Do you really want to kill disabled children, sick people, the elderly, and the poor? I sure hope not, but it seems like that is what would happen under this repeal but not really replace bill (block grants to the states are not a lasting option). Shame on you.

Many of us would also die due to the reinstatement of lifetime caps. As Cassidy is a "doctor", I'm sure he realizes that some children literally reach their cap the day they are born due to surgeries needed to save their lives, or that a lot of people who have chronic conditions or acute diseases such as cancer can also reach that cap quickly. Chronically sick

people and seemingly healthy people who are suddenly struck by a disease could be on the chopping block with this bill. But for the grace of God go all of us - any of us could be sick tomorrow and in debt! Please seriously think about that.

More than a million Pennsylvania children would be hurt because cutting funding also cuts CHIP. Do you really want your legacy to be hurting children to score political points?

Premiums would be raised, and women would lose access to maternity coverage if insurance won't cover it without a rider (and so many claim to be "pro-life" but would not allow a mother prenatal coverage under this bill if she can't afford to pay extra!).

Also, this partisan "50 votes" technique really exposes that this is not a bipartisan bill in any way and would damage bipartisanship in the House & Senate. If you truly want bipartisanship and not just a bill to pass before the end of the month, consider looking deeper into a truly bipartisan bill, the Murray-Alexander plan.

Most importantly, again, please vote conscience over party, listen to your HEART, and please vote against the Graham-Cassidy bill and against signing a death sentence for the most vulnerable among us.

Cassie Paoli



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Willman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect Our Healthcare -- Reject Graham-Cassidy!

Finance Committee,

The new Trumpcare bill —sponsored by Republican senators Bill Cassidy, Lindsey Graham, and Dean Heller—would take away health insurance from millions of Americans, devastate and eventually destroy Medicaid, make insurance premiums extremely unaffordable, and defund Planned Parenthood.

It would also allow states to get rid of protections for people with pre-existing conditions. All to give hundreds of billions of dollars in tax breaks to the wealthy.

None of this is acceptable and should not be ok with anyone who truly cares about all American people.

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 outrage given the harm this bill would do to millions of Americans across the country.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans --mine included. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes.

PLEASE put the health and well-being of your constituents first. Block and resist the cruel and heartless Graham-Cassidy bill and stop Republicans' effort to gut health care for millions of Americans.

Lisa Willman
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Orlando, Florida [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rebecca Beale <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Please vote NO...keep healthcare affordable for all

Respectfully,
Rebecca Beale
Social Worker

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marcia <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

Senators,

This bill is a disgrace. Do the right thing and vote it down.

Marcia Norrgard
Portland, Oregon

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Melissá Dobar <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

Please reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller. First, to make the healthcare of Americans a budget issue is not right. Our Senators must work together to thoughtfully create solutions for a fair healthcare system; hold up and fix what we have for now and follow all the best practices to truly create legislation that will work. (For everyone!) Americans rely on you. Too many of us need healthcare to be productive and pay taxes; care for our families; and support our economy. The finance committee might especially consider that, and ensure Healthcare for Americans is an issue that receives truly careful, thoughtful and NON POLITICAL focus. All your constituents will benefit if you get this right.

Thank you,

Melissa Dobar
Santa Rosa, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: BOBBE CRAPO <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy-Graham bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members:

I have already shared my concerns with my Idaho Senators Crapo and Risch. They always vote the Republican Party line, so I don't feel like they are hearing my concerns about the proposed changes to the Affordable Care Act. I am aware that the ACA needs some changes, especially in states where the markets are not working well and insurance companies are withdrawing from the markets. In Idaho, Your Health Idaho has worked well for my family members who have purchased coverage.

In my family, we do not expect "free" health care and are committed to maintaining coverage rather than gambling that we won't need it. I know there are many people who would like to pay little or nothing for the sometimes expensive care they receive when they unexpectedly become sick or are injured. This is not fair to the rest of us. I know that many providers make a good profit from the health care system. I know that many people (including one of Idaho's Congressmen) feel that anyone who can't afford coverage can just show up in the ER and receive some (very expensive!) care. I know that there are those who think the hospitals and other providers should simply write off their unpaid bills. I know that some people use the Medicaid program to cover maternity care, rather than pay for private insurance for this purpose. I worked as a nurse in public and private settings for many years, and I remember well how dysfunctional our system was prior to passage of the ACA. I do NOT want to go back to those days.

Please use the Senate as a committee to design a system that meets the needs of the citizens of our country rather than just working to fulfill a nebulous "campaign promise". Please work for the good of the people rather than for party goals.

Thank you--

Bobbe Crapo

--

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:53 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.

Eileen Akmentins
Marlton, New Jersey

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Langlois <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy bill

My family rely/relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have several preexisting conditions that would make it difficult for me to get insurance which means it would be difficult to switch jobs, start my own business or afford basic insurance or medical bills not covered by insurance. It would mean sacrificing my health to afford insurance. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Langlois

Shawano WI

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cook <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Health Bill

Dear Congressmen,

I am writing to OPPOSED the Graham-Cassidy Health Bill. I do not want block grants to go to states with little direction or stipulations on how that money is to be spent on health care.

People with per-existing health issues have been promised that they would continue to receive aid. This is not included in the proposed health bill. It has been estimated that health insurance

premiums will go up in price. People can not afford to spend a major part of their income on health insurance and continue to pay for the necessities of life.

Ingrid Cook

[REDACTED] Joseph, Oregon [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julia Weiss [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for the Record re: Graham-Cassidy bill

[REDACTED] don't kill my ~~vibe~~ parents

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Sent by SCIENCE

Talking Points: Cassidy-Graham ACA Repeal Plan
Updated September 25, 2017 to Reflect Revised Cassidy-Graham Draft

- **Despite claims to the contrary, the Cassidy-Graham plan is at least as damaging – and in some ways more damaging – than previous repeal bills and would have similar, devastating effects.** Like the earlier repeal bills, it would take coverage away from millions of people, raise costs for millions more, gut Medicaid, and eliminate important protections for people with pre-existing conditions.
- **The revised draft released yesterday changes none of these features.** Specifically:
 - **Medicaid expansion:** The plan would still completely eliminate the ACA’s expansion of Medicaid, which has extended coverage to 11 million low-income adults.
 - **Marketplace subsidies:** It would also still completely eliminate the ACA’s marketplace subsidies, which currently help almost 9 million people afford coverage. Unlike under earlier Republican bills, which substituted highly inadequate tax credits, moderate-income working people buying individual market coverage would no longer be guaranteed *any* assistance.
 - **Block grant instead of expansion and subsidies:** In place of Medicaid expansion and marketplace subsidies, the plan would substitute a block grant to states that would:
 - Reduce nationwide funding by about \$40 billion by 2026, compared to current law funding for Medicaid expansion and tax credits.
 - Dramatically redistribute funding across states over time, meaning that many states would see deeper cuts.
 - End completely after 2026 – as if the need to help low- and moderate-income people afford coverage would just disappear overnight.
 - Because a block grant provides a fixed amount of funding each year, the proposal also leave states on the hook for any and all unexpected costs from recessions, natural disasters, public health emergencies, or prescription drug price spikes.
 - **Medicaid per capita cap:** On top of these cuts, the revised plan would also still cap and cut Medicaid for seniors, people with disabilities, and families with children, cutting funding outside expansion by about \$175 billion between 2020 and 2026.
 - The cut to the rest of Medicaid would equal \$39 billion in 2026 alone.
 - Cuts to the traditional Medicaid program from the per capita cap would total more than \$1 trillion over two decades, according to estimates from Avalere and AARP.
 - States would also be on the hook for any and all higher unanticipated health costs per beneficiary including the cost of new breakthrough treatments, as well as for costs the cap doesn’t account for, like the aging of the population.
 - Faced with these cost and risk shifts, states would have no choice but to institute deep and growing cuts to seniors, people with disabilities and families with children, with certain services – such as home- and community-based care for seniors and people with disabilities – especially at risk.
 - **Protections for people with pre-existing conditions:** The latest draft of the Cassidy-Graham bill *still lets states waive the ACA’s prohibition on charging people with pre-existing conditions higher premiums*, as well as its essential health benefit requirements,

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: J Tammi <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Regarding the Graham Cassidy bill

It is absolutely critical that the proposed Graham Cassidy bill be defeated. I have students, colleagues and friends who rely on medical coverage that does not penalize people for pre-existing conditions. Their proposal will put people's lives at risk, potentially leaving young children without parents or parents forced to prematurely bury their children. Their proposal is a disgrace. The United States should be, and can be, better than this.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Tammi

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Janelle Hibbing [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Improve ACA, don't repeal

My father is a small business owner and relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My mother also has a pre-existing condition and I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you for your consideration,
Janelle Hibbing

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margaret Herman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I Oppose Graham-Cassidy

I strongly oppose the Graham- Cassidy bill. Many, including members of my family, rely on health care made possible with the ACA. I urge you to avoid the chaos and cuts that would be a part of the proposed bill. Margaret C Herman

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Denise Goode <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment

I do not support the Graham Cassidy Bill. The bill is irresponsible and unethical. Shame on all of you!

Sent from Denise's iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pam Gutierrez <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill...

Importance: High

Dear Sirs –

PLEASE do not pass any more legislation that negatively affects ANY citizens regarding healthcare. How can you in good conscience vote to exclude healthcare for those in need? It is disgraceful that Republicans seem only to want to quash all the work President Obama has done over his presidency – for no other reason that it repeals the work of the Obama Administration – again – unconscionable and hurtful to our nation.

Pamela Gutierrez

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: GG Owens [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:34 AM
To: gchcomments

Before Obamacare I had zero insurance , I worked for years as a manager at McDonalds and raised three kids alone. I needed a hysterectomy and couldn't afford it plus with zero insurance nobody would touch me , I ended up with huge tumors in my womb and out of work for three months. I had to file for bankruptcy due to my medical bills ...almost ten years later Obamacare took effect , I could go to a Dr regularly and they found I had high blood pressure , through medication and hard work I was able to get that under control. Then I got sick with I thought was a flu they ran some test and suddenly I was diagnosed with Ovarian Cancer , thank God for my BCBS insurance ! My life was saved and that's been since 2014 without that insurance I would've ended up dying for lack of care . Now I just moved to a different state which means I lost my insurance my situation is different this time and I don't make enough money to get subsidies for Obamacare , but they have Medicaid expansion here so I am applying for that , please stop trying to kill the poor I'm a faithful voter and supporter of my Government working together ! Don't kill me because I can't afford to get insurance or because my job doesn't offer it

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kirk Glaser [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Preserve and Improve the Affordable Care Act

Dear Senators,

I wish to see the Affordable Care Act (ACA) preserved and a bipartisan effort to improve the bill, so that all Americans can have access to quality affordable health care. I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill, which would cut insurance for many current recipients and throw the insurance markets into disarray with the shift to state grants. Health care in the United States needs to be treated as a right for all citizens, as it is in every other developed country, where health costs are much lower thanks to universal or near-universal coverage of citizens.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kirk Glaser
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: SYLVIA G RAMIREZ [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote down this disastrous health bill.

This mean-spirited bill has no substance. It describes everything it won't fund. All major groups oppose it except for cruel and uncaring Republicans. Work together with the entire senate and promote decent health care for everyone.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: June Ameen [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Pearson, Beth (Warren); Hurt, Nikki (Markey)
Subject: OPPOSITION TO THE GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL

Senators,

The Graham-Cassidy bill must be opposed and instead please support bipartisan fixes of the health care system.

I am a citizen of Massachusetts and a child advocate, working to represent the voices of vulnerable children and young adults. This will be devastating to many vulnerable populations as well as the majority of U.S. citizens who are not wealthy and able to finance their healthcare regardless of what the government does.

It has been made very clear that this bill is a response to pressure from donors regarding repealing Obamacare (and getting tax reform). Please stand up for something other than your own personal welfare and position; we do not send you to Washington to spend all your time and our money getting yourself re-elected. Listen to the country, WE DO NOT WANT THIS!

Thank you,

June D. Ameen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Thomas Bertrand [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:29 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Universal health care

I strongly recommend a Medicare for all citizens, as proposed by Senator Bernie Sanders.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shana Ommaya Coward [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:29 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not pass this bill

Dear Senators,

Please do not allow the GrahamCassidy healthcare bill to pass. It will only harm Americans. The ACA is not perfect and can be improved upon, but must be done thoughtfully. This rush to 'repeal and replace' is politics at its worst.

Leaving decisions relating to essential healthcare issues to the Insurance companies and even to individual states, can lead to discrimination and lack of coverage for people who desperately need it. Insurance companies are corporations whose primary goal is profit -- that is what they are accountable to their shareholders (with publicly traded companies). They cannot be relied upon to make decisions that require them to put the needs of the public and patient's health first. How about you start with the premise that healthcare is a right, not a privilege?!

If you vote yes for this bill. You are signaling to the American People that you don't believe they have a right to healthcare and that you care more about politics than your constituents' lives. The Republican Party needs to step back and look at the path that they are heading towards and think about what they stand for. Your vote matters and will be remembered.

Respectfully,
Shana Ommaya

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeremy [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:29 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy public comment

Good morning. I am writing in opposition to the Graham Cassidy bill. The overarching theme of "just get rid of ACA" regardless of sacrifices to congressional procedural norms, and in the face of overwhelming clear statements of extreme negative impact from the public and healthcare providers are disappointing and troubling. Return to bipartisan congressional efforts to improve healthcare. I urge congress to drop the Graham Cassidy effort.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jeremy Gordon

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marla <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:28 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do Not Pass Graham-Cassidy Bill

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Please be advised that it is the wishes of myself and my family that the Graham-Cassidy Bill not be passed.

My concerns are the same of many Americans:

- loss of coverage for those with pre-existing conditions
- loss of mental health services
- loss of coverage for people under 26 and over 65 years of age
- loss of health services for many women through Planned Parenthood services
- plus many other services and assistance that is needed by so many Americans

It is in the best interest of our country to not allow the Graham-Cassidy Bill to pass.

Thank You,
Marla Schneider



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dixon & Cheryl Arevalo <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:28 AM
To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have medicare and medicare advantage for my supplement. My husband and I could withstand an increase (even a substantial one), but not the loss of conscience demonstrated by Chuck Grassley's quote that basically states the bill is probably bad, but is a response to the base who voted for it. The majority of citizens do not want to eliminate the ACA. They want it improved. Grassley's base results in a dictatorship by the few (supported by the Koch Bros. funding to brain-wash those who respond to sound bites and not reason.)

I stand with John McCain who opposes it based on it not being bi-partisan and not evaluated for cost, impact on the presently insured etc. by the CBO.

Cheryl Arevalo
zip code 60446

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hannah Mae <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:28 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Graham-Cassidy

I am currently in treatment for aggressive breast cancer, and affordable health care saved my life. If Graham-Cassidy passes, I and the millions of other Americans affected by cancer will face an impossible choice: pay more than our income in insurance premiums, or go without insurance knowing that in the event of a recurrence, we will die. PLEASE STOP TRYING TO KILL US. No on Graham-Cassidy, and no on any health care bill which punishes patients.

Hannah Blair

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:28 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: carol buge
Subject: Healthcare

Please protect healthcare (improve the ACA). Thanks to better healthcare over the past decades , most Americans have lifesaving care for lifelong conditions which would make them vulnerable if considered “pre existing “ by insurance companies. High blood pressure for one is hugely prevalent. Asthma is another that goes hand in hand with urbanization. Please do not pass the new Graham Cassidy proposal — it truly is throwing out the baby with the bath water - literally by risking babies life’s as well as figuratively by making a partisan point at the expense of the majority of the American people. Thank you for your consideration.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joanne Trabucchi <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:28 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

I am appalled at this new partisan attempt to cover up a tax cut for the rich in a health care bill. Lives apparently mean nothing to the GOP as long as they can score points with their deep pocket donors. You will literally be committing harm to Americans you should be serving and have no right to be in positions of power to do so. Not one of you will be affected by the cruelty you intend to inflict with this bill, so it is up to the American people to make sure you are all voted out. If you were deliberately trying to kill your own party, you couldn't have picked a better way to do it. Stop catering to the few and be the servants to many that the constitution intended. A bipartisan fix of Obamacare and return to regular order is demanded. Do what is right. Be human. And look upon the faces of those you intend to injure and explain why they matter less than your politics.

Have a good day!
Joanne Trabucchi

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: DWF <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:25 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Comments
Attachments: Graham Cassidy Comments.docx

Dear United States Senate,

My name is Dutch deCarvalho and I have attached my Graham-Cassidy comments to this email following the required format. Thank You.

Dutch deCarvalho

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:25 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The ACA

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Please do not replace or repeal the Affordable Care Act. Being able to have good quality health care is very important for my daughter and I.

I have a traumatic brain injury which has changed my life. So being able to afford good health care as I get older with my brain injury is going to be very important.

Thank you,

Christa Reeves Schmitt

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maureen Devoe [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:25 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care bill

This ridiculous performance on the part of Republicans is demonstrative of their paramount concern for themselves. They care about holding their seats and not about their constituents. Health care must be discussed rationally and with a view toward fulfilling their duties to the American public's welfare. Good for the senators with the courage to stand up.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Therese Strutner <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:01 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

Please reject this Graham Cassidy plan and improve Obamacare. Sincerely Therese Strutner

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Erica Spangler <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:25 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 because we are the UNITED States of America. Leaving insurance decisions to the states will result in unequal medical coverage for people across the country. These decisions should not be left to Governors who change every 4 years. The stakes - life or death - are too high to change policies as new politicians are elected. Life is our unalienable right. Have some decency and vote NO!

Erica Spangler

19083
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Ann <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:24 AM
To: gchcomments

What goes on in your head and heart that results in your trying to shove through such an awful bill? You have no money issues or health insurance problems, do you? But you think it's okay to slash Medicaid funding when funding for the program should be increased? You think it's okay for people with a preexisting condition to have to pay more? Who DOESN'T have a preexisting condition? I do not have employer-provided health insurance, and at my age I never will. I eat right, I exercise, I don't drink or smoke, but you are basically saying "F off" to me. No health insurance bill should be voted on unless and until (1) CBO has scored the bill, (2) public hearings have been held, (3) stakeholders' views have been sought and respected, and (4) regular order is observed--that is, a bipartisan effort that results in at least 60 yes votes. You can't muster enough votes from your own party to get it done with 60 votes. That speaks volumes. Shame on you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Sargent [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Dear Sirs and Mesdames:

I urge you to vote no on the latest version of healthcare repeal. As an older American who makes my living through writing, I can assure you this will bankrupt me. I am in good health now, but who knows what tomorrow will bring? I am one of millions.

82% of Americans don't want this repealed. For the GOP members of Congress to say they are keeping "campaign promises" is flimsy at best. Those promises were made to voters when they didn't realize Obamacare was the same as ACA. Now they understand and clearly don't want those promises kept!

History will judge you on this and it won't be good.

Sincerely,

Sarah Sargent

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:24 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO to Graham Cassidy

I'm a 64 year old female. By the time you get to be my age, pretty much everything can be considered a "pre-existing condition". I entered the full time working world back in the early 70's, when insurance companies could deny coverage for pre-existing conditions unless you maintained "continuous coverage". Even as a late teen / early 20-something year old, those days do NOT bring back fond memories. Once I had my first child, this became even more of a concern. My firstborn had a febrile convulsion at the age of 14 months from a rapid onset of a high fever. He required many tests and follow-ups I could not have afforded without insurance. Under the provisions of this horrid bill, he would have developed his 1st "pre-existing condition" at the ripe old age of 14 months! Under the provisions of this proposal, insurance companies could have either denied coverage or charged us premiums we could not afford. Not too long thereafter, we learned he needed ear tubes due to chronic ear infections. Enter "pre-existing condition" #2 - at the age of 2. I won't go on, but this trend continued until I unfortunately lost him in a tragic work accident at the age of 25.

When he was 2, I was blessed with twin daughters, who thankfully, didn't start developing their own set of "pre-existing conditions" before they were 2. However, as with most, if not all kids, things started not too much later.

I won't even begin to list my early ones, but I was diagnosed with a relatively rare type of cancer in 1996 when I was in my 40s. I'm extremely fortunate that it was caught early, and as of now, my treatment has remained successful, and my cancer has not returned. I'm 21 years cancer-free this month. However, this is one big huge 'pre-existing condition' for which I could be denied coverage or charged exorbitant rates by an unregulated, for profit insurance industry that has run amok, under the Graham-Cassidy plan. This who nonsense about giving "flexibility" and "choice" back to the States is pure unadulterated nonsense. This bill will reduce funding to most, if not all, States by substantial amounts, will give the already out of control insurance industry free rein to charge whatever they want.

While I believe that single-payer / universal health care / health care as a right for all is where this country will eventually end up, it's not going to happen soon and certainly not in the current Congress and administration. However, I encourage every single member of Congress to think about their constituents and NOT just fulfilling a campaign promise regardless of how bad the bill is (Grassley) and return to doing what's right for Americans - follow a proper, bipartisan negotiation process (McCain) to arrive at a reasonable compromise that serves the American people.

Regards,

Pat Warner

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Charlene Herzing [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:24 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

My family relies on the ACA for their health care. My son has cancer and needs the pre-existing provision and no life time cap security. Having these enabled him to fight and have hope. He is stable and doing well because of it. We all have preexisting conditions or will in the future. To be denied is in humane.

Jim & Charlene Herzing

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please vote down this monstrosity of a bill.

Thank you.

Timothy P. McKeown, Esq.

Sent from my i-phone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Craig Briscoe <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy is an attack on Americans

Graham-Cassidy is a radical attack on Americans, and should not be allowed to sneak through without real debate, a full CBO score, and all the other requirements of regular order. That a bare majority of Senators might be able to pass this poorly-conceived mess into law is an affront to Democracy, and to working Americans.

This bill is mean, bad policy, and the authors should be ashamed to have their names attached.

Craig Briscoe
Citizen, voter

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Say no to Graham-Cassidy

Dear Finance Committee,

I don't have a horror story to share about health care. That's because I've been fortunate. My parents' insurance - the same insurance you receive, in fact - covered my cardiologist visits as a child to monitor my pre-existing heart condition. Medicare covers my mother-in-law's checkups to ensure the aneurysm that left her unable to work doesn't reappear. And while I was as happy with the ACA coverage I received as an independent contractor as I was with the mere fact it existed, my husband's plan and stable employment now protect me from the possibility that might go away.

Unlike those seeking to tear down the current system by any means necessary, to no benefit and for no discernible reason other than that it bears the name of a president whose legacy they are determined to erase, though, I am aware that my efforts to work hard and take care of myself have had very little bearing on this good fortune. I am also aware that other developed nations do not have to live with this uncertainty that affordable care will be there when they need it, instead of at the whim of insurance companies and Congress or state legislatures. Let this misguided bill and all other efforts like it die, and commit to a thorough bipartisan solution.

Sincerely,
Rachel Dellon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lynn Doyle [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because
....
The youngest, oldest and poorest will not be able to afford healthcare. What in God's name are you all thinking?

Lynn Doyle

19047
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: K Wagner [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fw: HEALTH CARE AND HEALTH INSURANCE UNDER ATTACK! ACT TODAY!

To whom it may concern,

Please pass the Graham-Cassidy bill.

The email below, sent by a DE program funded by a FEDERAL GRANT, is being mass sent and is encouraging people to write to you to reject the Graham-Cassidy policy, based on information that is bias and not factual. I am outraged by this action and encourage you to disregard anyone who writes to you requesting you reject the Graham-Cassidy bill given the format they provide below.

Sincerely,
Kim Wagner
[REDACTED]

From: Vanessa Rodriguez [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:10 PM
Subject: HEALTH CARE AND HEALTH INSURANCE UNDER ATTACK! ACT TODAY!



Dear Families:

Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act are under attack. The current Senate bill (Graham-Cassidy) is worse than the previous two iterations. This heartless attack threatens health coverage and health care for children, families, and people with disabilities and special healthcare needs.

Senate Finance Committee Chair Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) has scheduled a hearing for Monday at 2 pm. PLEASE send comments with stories about what Medicaid and/or the Affordable Care Act (including the patient protections it includes) means to you and your family, and how you would be hurt if this bill passes.

Devastating provisions include:

- Federal Medicaid payments to states would be cut significantly over time, meaning states would be very likely to make fewer people eligible; eliminate or cut back on waivers; reduce or eliminate benefits (such as private-duty nursing hours and occupational/speech/physical therapy visits); and lower reimbursement to doctors, meaning it would be harder to find one that takes Medicaid.

- States could let insurance companies charge more for people with pre-existing conditions; so insurance might be unaffordable. (States would be inclined to do this so premiums would go down for people who do NOT have pre-existing conditions.)

- States could let insurance companies offer plans without some of the ACA's essential health benefits, like mental health and substance abuse services, maternity care, or pediatric vision and dental services.

There would be no more federal subsidies to help people pay insurance premiums or get plans with lower cost-sharing; each state could decide whether it would offer such assistance; they are not required to do so.*

Here is a possible outline for your story:

[You add text underlined or in CAPS.]

My name is _____ and I live in __TOWN, STATE__. My [CHILD / GRANDCHILD/ / OTHER], _ [CHILD'S NAME]_, is __[AGE].

[SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THE CHILD, SUCH AS HIS OR HER FAVORITE ACTIVITIES, PERSONALITY TRAITS and/or TALENTS.]

CHILD'S NAME has CONDITION, which requires [DESCRIBE TREATMENT, such as medications, therapies, frequency of doctor's visits, surgeries, supplies, nursing, etc.]. The costs of this treatment is very high. PROVIDE COST PER WEEK OR MONTH IF YOU HAVE IT.]

[EXPLAIN HOW YOU PAY FOR THE TREATMENT COSTS – private insurance from an employer, private insurance from an exchange, Medicaid, a Medicaid waiver, CHIP, TRICARE, out-of-pocket, combination of these, or other.]

[EXPLAIN HOW MEDICAID AND/OR THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (ACA) HELP(S) YOUR CHILD AND FAMILY. Examples: child now able to get important therapies, medications; enabled me to work; protected family from going bankrupt or incurring huge medical debt (EX: "If there were a lifetime cap on coverage we would have been \$___ in debt before our child even left the NICU."; "If there were an annual cap on coverage, we wouldn't be able to afford our child's medications beyond March of each year.")]

[EXPLAIN YOUR CONCERNS ABOUT THE WAYS THE GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL WOULD AFFECT YOUR CHILD AND FAMILY. See above bill summary.]

The Graham-Cassidy bill would hurt my child and family. I strongly urge Congress to reject it.

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS]

Send your comments to GCHcomments@finance.senate.gov. It has been confirmed that everything submitted through this email address will make its way into the record, either directly through this email address or through Senators who will submit the materials. You can submit materials until Monday morning - to be safe, submit by 9 am (or earlier!)



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jenny Anne Horst-Martz <J[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:45 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because its provisions will make health insurance unaffordable for nearly everyone in my family. My mother has cancer, my son had a congenital heart defect, my husband had a heart attack, I had depression and epilepsy, and my dad is in his mid-eighties with various health issues. We are middle class and we will not be able to afford health insurance! How much worse for people in minimum wage jobs, on Medicaid or with family members with severe disabilities. How many old people will be thrown out of care facilities or get no rehab after an injury or stroke? This is foolish, and the majority of Americans do not want the ACA repealed this way. We will vote you out if you pass this atrocious bill!

Jenny Anne Horst-Martz

19144
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Priscilla Posey [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:44 AM
To: gchcomments

Please oppose the new health bill being proposed it would be catastrophic to those who rely on it heavily. I understand Obamacare is flawed and needs to be fixed but it is not broken. I have a son with severe special needs and numerous health issues without his insurance giving him access to multiple therapy services and specialist his quality of life would completely diminish. When I say quality of life I want to specify that I don't mean making his life more convenient, convenient is a word my son may never know. I am talking about things like getting dressed, bathing, communicating, walking, eating. My son struggles so badly to communicate his whole body shakes and it is exhausting for him. Could you imagine what that would be Like? He will need intensive therapy for years but with therapy Things will get better for him. The current plan would not protect him or anyone else. This plan would have a direct effect on those who need it most. I don't know how we could turn out backs on those who need it the most but that is exactly what this bill does. It's a shame in our country that this is even a problem. Please do not accept this new health reform bill.

Thank you,
Priscilla Posey

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elizabeth Grisham [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:43 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not support Graham-Cassidy

My name is Elizabeth Grisham. I have four college degrees (two Bachelor of Arts degrees and two Master of Arts degrees). I currently work two jobs.

I lost my health insurance when I graduated with my first degree in 2002 and went without insurance until I started graduate school in 2010.

I have never had a job that offered health benefits.

While I was in graduate school, I developed severe anemia. I was able to see a doctor and seek care because I had insurance.

This isn't just about me, though. I have a mother with a rare disease and a father with a heart condition. They will not be able to qualify for or afford care without the ACA.

America is supposed to be an example for the world. Please vote NO on Graham-Cassidy.

Elizabeth Grisham

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jadyne <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:43 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Mental health support.

Why would you leave it up to chance that a person could go to a doctor for a checkup and the doctor could ask, "how is your mood?" This one question can open so many doors to get a young adult early help if they are beginning to have mood issues which disrupt their behavior and their outlook. One in five adults face a mental health issue at some point. Congress passed the 21st Century Cures Act which has some great protections for mental health care. But unless it is a federal law that health insurance must cover routine check ups and very excellent coverage for mental health care, our kids and young adults will never get the treatment they need. The ironic thing about illnesses such as depression and bipolar disorder is that the person suffering thinks they are fine; until they get treatment they have no idea how sick they have been. In the end, I think preventative treatment, early treatment, finding the correct treatment - will lead to making America great again. We should all hope that a person's life can be saved and their lifetime of dependency can be averted at the beginning as signs of mental illness take hold. I come from experience, as a Mom. We did have insurance and it still took a very long time to get help. My hope is that, for all who suffer, it becomes easier to get help, not unattainable.

Jadyne Seitz
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Ryan [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:42 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Bill Cassidy

Do not pass this shameful attempt at legislation. You all know the truth.
Jimmy Kimmel is speaking for Americans more than you ever have.

I am an Emergency Physician. I understand the implications far better than you.

SW Ryan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jill Grafflin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:40 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Hi - No bill should be voted on without a CBO score and particularly this bill that affects so many of us!
Thanks.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Alane Downs <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:39 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

I oppose the Graham/Cassidy healthcare bill. I am a 14 year breast cancer survivor and my husband is an insulin dependent diabetic. With these pre-existing conditions, we worry that we will be unable to afford healthcare with the changes proposed. Something this important to the entire country should be bipartisan and not jammed through under cover of darkness and without necessary information. The question is why is it being done in this manner. Clearly the health of the citizens of the country should be of paramount importance taking precedence over partisanship. Thank you.

Mary Alane Downs

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy Hartman [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:37 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote no on Graham-Cassidy

To the honorable U.S. Senate,

Please vote no on the Graham-Cassidy health bill. Practically every organization that provides health care or health insurance to Americans is opposed to the bill. Healthcare relates to one sixth of the U.S. economy. A bill to change how healthcare works in the United States deserves a bipartisan legislative process where all Americans have their views represented, including those with preexisting health conditions, those who rely on Medicaid, and those who are disfavored by the law being considered.

Amy Hartman

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ellen Cramer [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

If you want to be heard regarding the Graham-Cassidy bill, send your concerns to gchcomments@finance.senate.gov today. I had a lot to say:

First, I ask you to honestly consider, who does this bill serve?

This bill will throw the most vulnerable Americans under the bus, in order to transfer more wealth, and insure more power, to your WEALTHY DONORS.

This bill has the potential for horrific consequences for me, my family, and the majority of your constituents. Why? To fulfill a campaign promise to decimate the legacy, and replace the name of President Obama. POLITICS. EGO.

Second, I ask you, who were you elected to serve?

In your heart, one of you must realize that AMERICANS deserve a THOROUGH, PUBLIC EXAMINATION of the potentially catastrophic ECONOMIC IMPACT of this bill.

In your heart, one of you must understand that AMERICANS deserve a full return to ESTABLISHED PROTOCOL of PUBLIC HEARINGS on any bill that has such far reaching consequences. This bill has the potential to not only impose widespread FINANCIAL HARDSHIP, but will ACTUALLY KILL PEOPLE WHO WILL NOT BE ABLE TO AFFORD HEALTHCARE.

In your heart, someone on this committee surely recognizes that AMERICANS deserve legislation that is based on competent, informed decision making. YOU SHOULD BE GUIDED BY THE PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, AND EXPERTS IN RELATED FIELDS.

AMERICANS DESERVE BETTER.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Roberta Holzmueller <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not hurt my family
Attachments: IMG_20170903_075706774_HDR.jpg; 20161228_061730.jpg; 18359113_1540973949247111_7468765597453265036_o.jpg

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I write as the proud parent of two sons, one currently a college sophomore and one a high school senior. My younger son was born with a diffuse and catastrophic brain injury, and as a result has been diagnosed with spastic quadriplegia, a form of cerebral palsy, and with epilepsy. I share several pictures of him with you to show you that he is strong and well, but has needed health care and services to remain so.

My son Aaron's care is less expensive because he has chosen to participate in sports, which is a real help to his motor development, range of motion, flexibility, and general enjoyment of his life. No amount of sports, however, will take the place of medication, procedures such as EEGs to check on seizures periodically, frequent blood draws and other lab tests in which he participates gratefully and cheerfully to keep himself well.

When the ACA was passed I breathed a sigh of relief, thinking that the worry of whether my son would be able to access health care was taken off the table. Please do not re introduce this worry. My son is well, likely to attend college, and hopes to get a job and be a contributing member of society as an adult. But as a person with a disability and a chronic health condition, he is likely to have more difficulty getting and keeping a job, which could put his health care coverage at risk if the ACA is overturned.

Do your job. Represent the people. This is a deeply unpopular bill that could hurt my family and many others. Take care of health care in a bipartisan and thoughtful manner, not a politically motivated thoughtless one. Do not add to the worries of myself, my family, and most of all, my soon to be adult son.

--

Roberta Paikoff Holzmueller, PhD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy Whittington [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Monday Graham Cassidy hearing

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Most important - my sister-in-law has MS and I don't want her healthcare taken away. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Amy Whittington
Mount Rainier, MD

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dennis <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: healthcare

Why does the need for tax cuts for the wealthy have to be intertwined with the health and well being of so many of our citizens....cut the damned taxes if you must but stop mucking with our healthcare...

And start calling out the liars on both sides...for us adults watching, this has gone far enough. People thought enough of some of you to elect you to office so please start acting like you belong there and that you are better than this mess. You have an entire country counting on you. But we are smart, observant, talk to each other, and share information. The collective is not fooling anyone of us.

Please start making decisions for citizens and not dollar signs.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Betsy Washington [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for the Record - Vote NO to Graham-Cassidy Healthcare proposal

To Members of the Senate Finance Committee

I am writing in desperation to implore you to vote NO to the Graham-Cassidy healthcare repeal bill. Healthcare is so important, and has such personally potent implications for all Americans, that I beg you to you to heed the wishes of the majority of Americans. Do not repeal the ACA and its protections for pre-existing conditions and drastic increases in premiums for those Americans. Vote NO to the Graham Cassidy Healthcare bill that would devastate so many Americans and families like mine.

Before the ACA, our family was nearly devastated by the health insurance crisis and finding affordable health insurance. My husband and I have a grown son with Juvenile Diabetes. He was diagnosed at age four, and we worked tirelessly to manage this devastating disease and preserve my son's health. We had a family owned small business with an average of 20 employees and it had been in business since 1986. This business is an offshoot of a family business begun by my grandfather in 1919. We considered ourselves fortunate to be able to afford insurance and to be well educated and live a healthy lifestyle. But none of this was enough to protect us and to insure that we can buy basic health insurance before the ACA or Obamacare was enacted.

For many years we had Bankers Life and Casualty Insurance. But in 2001, when my son got an insulin pump at the age of 12, per his doctor's recommendation to better control his diabetes and reduce risk of serious complications in the future, we received notification that Banker's Life would no longer insure us. In shock, we complained to the Virginia State Insurance Commission and though appalled, they concluded, "that Banker's Life had broken the *"spirit"* of the law, but not the *"letter"* of the law. In short, they had found a way around the law in order to terminate our policy.

We began applying to other insurance companies for coverage, only to be denied coverage again and again. We were told that my son who was deemed in very good control and health by his pediatric endocrinologist, Dr. Kathleen Link, was not insurable. His Pediatric Endocrinologist told us that many of her young endocrinology patients were unable to obtain health insurance and that she had personally been to court numerous times to testify on their behalf, only to see each child denied health insurance coverage. In short, we were told that when our son turned twenty-one, he would not be able to find health insurance, and that he would not be able to take a job of his choice. She strongly urged us to open an insurance savings plan for our son to protect him in the future, advice we have followed to the best of our ability through these difficult economic times. This was devastating news to us and I am sure to thousands of families like our own.

I was also denied health insurance coverage because I had a test (an echocardiogram) that showed that my heart was completely healthy. I required no treatment; no medications, no future doctor's visits. Despite the results, I was repeatedly denied Health Insurance just because I had this test, not because I had an expensive or chronic illness! I despaired for our family's future and our country's future at this point. What was our family to do??? After months of being uninsured, we were forced to seek a group insurance plan through our small business. Kaiser Permanente accepted our family only when we agreed to offer a company insurance plan to our

employees. This was a very difficult financial hardship for our small business. When we first began the Kaiser policy in 2001, the monthly premiums for our small, healthy family of three were \$700/month (just our own family of three). By 2009, our premiums had skyrocketed to \$3500/month or nearly **\$40,000/year!!!** We struggled for years to afford these premiums and to keep our small business solvent, often at our own personal expense and debt.

All of this angst about health insurance, my son's future, and our financial worries disappeared once Obamacare was enacted. Our family was protected from being denied coverage or having to pay grossly high premiums because of them. Our premiums returned to more normal levels. The ACA and its protections, has been an absolute salvation for our family. My brother and his family had a child with Cancer, and suddenly was able to get insurance for her. This is true for millions of other Americans. If Congress repeals the ACA and its critical protections, what will happen to all of the other Americans just like us, who will be unable to afford basic health insurance despite being financially solvent? How will my son who now owns the family business and is growing it into a strong and successful company, be able to keep this fourth generation small business open and obtain insurance for himself and his growing family and his employees? Our story is not unique! If the ACA and its protections are repealed, it will be an American crisis!

Initial estimates indicate that 15 million Americans will lose their health insurance in just the first TWO years, if Graham-Cassidy is passed. And who knows how many millions more will lose insurance and at what costs? Congress is rushing to pass this bill and the CBO has not even had time to release the complete figures of number of Americans that will be left uninsured, costs to states, and dire premium increases for those with chronic illnesses or pre-existing conditions? It is certain that millions more Americans will lose insurance in the coming years if this devastating bill is enacted. Families like ours and so many other Americans with pre-existing conditions, or even a much wanted pregnancy, will not be protected and covered if their states waive these protections as this bill allows. Many states will have undue financial burdens as the federal government withdraws financial support as this bill proposes. There are so many negatives to this bill that are already apparent and many unknowns that could well be catastrophic ... What is certain is this is a cruel and cynical bill that was rushed towards a vote without bipartisan or American support or input, much less the entire medical and health industry that are strongly opposed to this bill. It will devastate millions of Americans and ultimately our great country. Nearly every single American will have a pre-existing condition at some time in their life – and what will happen to them?

I cannot tell you how **frightened and angry I am** with the seeming callousness of Congressional Republicans and the appalling repeal proposals that have been advanced. I am appalled at the gross misinformation campaign and downright dishonesty that I hear. I am losing faith in our government and its commitment to the health and well-being of the American people. I implore you vote NO on repealing the ACA, to vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill!!!

Please stand strong and do the right thing for the future of our country, for Americans like me. **Vote NO to repealing the ACA! Vote NO to the Graham-Cassidy Health Bill.** Instead work in a bipartisan manner to improve the ACA and its protections, so that more Americans will have insurance, so that Americans with pre-existing conditions will not be denied coverage or have to endure outrageous and unfair premium increases, if they are even able. America and Americans deserves a real and positive solution. Our very lives depend on it!

Sincerely,

Betsy B. Washington

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anne Fleming [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: A small business owner in favor of the ACA!

Without the ACA I could not buy individual health insurance for me and my family due to a pre-existing condition. I would be forced to close my small business. Please save the ACA!

Anne Fleming

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robert Ferguson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

Please consider to not pass the Graham-Cassidy bill. In addition to not knowing its estimated impact on health insurance enrollment and the federal deficit from a CBO score, it would create significant problems and destabilization in the U.S. health care system.

Sincerely,
Robert

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Keri Sullivan [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Improve the ACA

My patients rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. As a physical therapist, I treat people with Medicaid or pre-existing conditions everyday. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

- Keri Sullivan

Sent from my iPhone.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sheri Rock [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Several members of my family have preexisting conditions and I am terrified of the prospect of possibly having to pay higher premiums or worse yet losing coverage altogether. My 25 year old son has a history of seizures. I am thankful they are currently controlled by medication. He got married this past summer. His pay is commission based and it would be difficult if not impossible for them to pay higher premiums. Worse yet without medication the consequences could be catastrophic. If forced to chose I will take my Alzheimer's and diabetic father off of all his medication. My husband whose lungs have been ravaged by sarcoidosis will also give up all medical treatment. I have high blood pressure, considered high risk for breast cancer because of family history and abnormal biopsies, and have been clinically diagnosed with depression. I will forgo all medicine, screenings, and treatment for my son. So in short there will simply be choices of who lives and who dies. I am 61 years old and for the first time in my life I am totally ASHAMED to be an American. On so many issues we have completely lost our soul.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Valerie Bailey <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repeal of Obamacare

DON'T DO IT!!

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laurence Hirsch [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stop Graham Cassidy

Graham Cassidy would cost millions of Americans their health care. Vote it down.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kelly Kamowski [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No

This Trumpcare people will hurt millions still.

Kelly Kamowski

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Janice Robinson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

Hello,

My name is Janice Robinson. I am a CPA. I have worked in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Alabama and Virginia.

I am opposed to the Graham Cassidy health care bill for various reasons.

First, I truly wish that republicans were being honest about the mandates that they claim to hate in the ACA. Mitt Romney was the first governor to enact a mandate for all citizens to get healthcare insurance in Massachusetts. Also, Richard Nixon proposed employer mandates in his version of healthcare reform back in the 1970's. Democrats have long favored a single payer system. President Obama changed that.

We should have set coverage throughout the United States. I absolutely oppose the granting of waivers to a state to opt out of preexisting condition coverage or the essential health benefits.

As an auditor in Massachusetts, I actually worked on the hospital free care and bad debt audit around 1989-1990. It was quite an eye opener for me. I was shocked to find that some people had purchased policies that claimed to cover hospitalization, only to have these insurance companies deny the claims later. This was mainly through a one sentence line claiming that all hospital stays had to be approved prior to a procedure. I saw many cases where patients had to go in for some emergency care that was later denied by the insurance company. Why should this ever happen in the United States? Of course, the hospital can not turn patients away, but someone ends up paying for these expenses. In the cases I was seeing during the audit, it was the general Massachusetts tax payer that was ultimately paying for part of those costs. Hospitals had to pass on the remaining costs to everyone with insurance in the form of increased fees.

During the audit, I also noticed a huge variation in the charges from one hospital to the next. I even saw different charges in the same hospital for the same services charged to different insurance companies. Generally speaking, the more rural the hospital, the higher the charges. Rural hospitals mainly provide patient care. The city hospitals had other sources of revenue so tended to charge less for items and procedures.

We need to address the many reasons as to why healthcare is so expensive in the United States. The Graham Cassidy health care bill does not do this. It merely pushes the decision off to the states. Many republicans like to talk about personal responsibility. They seem to think that only republican voters are capable of doing that. So why would you want to get rid of the mandates? Everyone has the responsibility to have healthcare insurance. As long as we are living, we could get sick or injured. That is a fact of life.

Please consider looking into fixing our healthcare system the appropriate way. We need more people covered, it should be a requirement. We need to explore ideas that will help bring down costs for people with high deductibles and high premiums. We need to explore ways to bring down the overall costs of healthcare, especially many prescription drugs.

I have several friends who voted for Trump. Not one of them has said they have too much insurance. Not one of them thinks that we should do away with essential health benefits or preexisting condition coverage. They just want the premiums and deductibles lowered. They want lower prices for prescription drugs. The ACA did not deal with prescriptions. There are ways that congress can help, but this bill does not do any of that.

I am still shocked that the Medicaid cuts are still being proposed. The majority of Medicaid is for the poor and the disabled. The disability portion came about from the Americans with Disabilities act that was signed by President George HW Bush in 1989. The ACA did not change this part of Medicaid. The disabled are able to live much better lives since the passage of that act and I am concerned about the cuts to this very vulnerable population.

Please go back to regular order, go through committees, have hearings and listen to the people instead of assuming that just because republicans are currently in control that the country wants a repeal and replacement of the ACA. Voters will remember who screwed up healthcare. Voters will remember if preexisting condition coverage goes away, lifetime caps return and insurance companies can

once again deny claims for legitimate healthcare expenditures. Your focus should be on lowering premiums, lowering deductibles and dealing with the pharmaceutical industry.

Janice Robinson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Laughlin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Bill

This healthcare bill is garbage. The fact that you all are trying to ram it through just because you promised repeal and replace for 6 years is asinine. YOU HAD 6 YEARS. 6 YEARS to come up with a better plan. Instead you just whined about it and did nothing until Trump embarrassed you into writing up some secret, terrible and dangerous ideas in a weekend's time. Now you want to push through this trash bill just because it's your last chance. Shame on you, Republicans. This bill does nothing but hurt the American people. (You know, the ones who pay your salary. I feel like you all tend to forget that.) I hope this bill fails like the last two. Maybe then you will work together and across the aisle to fix the Affordable Care Act.

Jennifer Laughlin Badger

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marylyn Roberts [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Bill

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am very fortunate to have good health insurance but my adult children do not because they have moved beyond the age to be on our policy and can't afford their own insurance. Insurance coverage is out of reach for many, many citizens and since one can't afford even routine health care without it, it is truly a national crisis.

I do not want or support another attempt to repeal the Affordable Health Care Act. I want bipartisan support and cooperation to carefully study the AHCA and make necessary changes to improve it. Please commit to working together instead of trying to force the entire nation to suffer the consequences of a completely partisan decision. We want the members of Congress to work together and follow regular procedures. Your attempts at winning for one party's ideas at all costs is costing the rest of us very dearly. The U.S. Congress makes decisions that effect the entire nation, not just one party or one area. Please consider and represent all of us, not just a few of us.

Thank you.

Marylyn Roberts

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margaret Prinzing [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Dear Committee Members:

I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill because taking health care and guaranteed health protections away from millions of Americans would be cruel and would cause unimaginable suffering, anxiety and premature death. I strongly urge members of the Committee to oppose Graham-Cassidy and instead lend their best efforts to enacting a bipartisan bill to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Margaret Prinzing

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathy Bertram <k[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Please support this Bill! For 7 years I have heard "we will repeal Obamacare" Now it is time to live up to your word.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margery Becker <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

My daughter, who is 55, has had melanoma since she was 30. There is a tumor on the retina in her left eye. She is able to live a productive life with the aid of proton radiation at UC Davis and treatments by an ocular melanoma specialist at UCSF. Without this, she would have died long ago. This is an illness that could happen to anyone. I would hope that any new health plan would provide for people like her whose lives are valuable to us all. Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tom Smith <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I vehemently oppose the Graham Cassidy Bill

I vehemently oppose the Graham Cassidy Bill. I'm with Jimmy Kimmel.
registered voter Thomas Smith

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christy Gilbert [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy comments

Not only is it foolish to act before a full CBO analysis, this bill would harm people, not help them. It does not protect people with pre-existing conditions - in fact, it would allow carriers to charge more based on their medical history. I'm a two-time cancer survivor. How do you think this makes me feel? How do you think anything but your immediate rejection of this bill makes me feel about you? About your political party?

Insurers would be able to impose lifetime limits on benefits. Can I remind you that, as a cancer survivor, I'm likely to need specialist care for the aftereffects of surgery and radiation for my entire life? Do you think a lifetime limit on that care makes me feel secure? Confident in the future? Magnanimous toward those who would take that benefit away from me?

Several patient advocacy groups have spoken out against the Graham-Cassidy bill, including the American Medical Association, the National Council for Behavioral Health, the American College of Physicians, the National Health Council, the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the ALS Association, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, the American Diabetes Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Heart Association, the American Lung Association, AARP, and even the Association for Community Affiliated Plans.

I am a walking pre-existing condition, and I have had it with people trying to yank my affordable safety net out from underneath me this year. Please consider someone's experience other than your own. If not mine, listen to any one of the many medical associations listed above, who have actual experience and patients' best interests in mind.

Please consider those of us who are desperately afraid for our loved ones – or our own lives. Don't let this poor excuse for a health care act proceed any further.

Thank you,
Christy Gilbert

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Morrison Straforini [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on GRAHAM-CASSIDY bill

Dear sir or madam:

My husband and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have had two major surgeries and a life threatening illness; he at 54 had triple bypass surgery. Without affordable care, we would not only have been traumatized but totally financially devastated. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Carol Morrison Straforini

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mandy Noonan [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment about the Graham-Cassidy bill

I STRONGLY oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome—an incredibly common condition among women that usually doesn't even require treatment unless the woman is trying to get pregnant. But because I had the apparent misfortune to find out about my diagnosis as a teenager, I've been denied health insurance ever since. If I should end up in a car accident or with an actually dangerous diagnosis, I'm likely to go bankrupt and die if you restore the cruel practice of "preexisting conditions."

I want to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not these endless petulant fights to repeal it despite the American people's repeated pleas not to do so.

Amanda Noonan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Donna Musgrove [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GrahamCassidy ACA Repeal Bill

Dear Committee Members

Please stop this unconstitutional attack on Americans. The bribery is illegal.

The bill will leave millions uninsured. I am currently healthy, but by the grace of God, and one day I will be Sick. I believe we all need to support those in need and in turn we will be supported when are in need.

This bill will Tank the Economy. They haven't even studied the effects it will have on the Health Care industry and employment.

Please block this bill any way you can.

Sincerely,

Donna Musgrove

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care bill

Dear Finance Committee:

The current GOP health care bill is genocide by economic status for millions of Americans. I taught school for 19 years. I've worked to launch a law practice. I have contributed to the USA. I started my own business because I had health insurance through Obamacare. Now, you want to strip it away from me and from millions. My son was diagnosed with cancer. Obamacare saved him.

Please don't do this.

Kelly Running
Author
A Lizzy O'Malley Mystery

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sue and Lee [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repeal of ACA

Our daughter in law is disabled and relies on Medicaid for her care. If Medicaid funding is limited by the proposed Senate bill and she is no longer able to afford the care she needs in order to survive our entire extended family will not only be devastated emotionally but financially as well. If she no longer has Medicaid to pay for her care and that financial burden falls on the family it will limit the lives of her children, our grandchildren, and financially devastate our lives and the lives of all five of our children and their families. Please improve and support the ACA, do not repeal and replace it. Thank you, Suzanne Levin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Erika Bucci [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy - Vote Now

Please vote no on Graham Cassidy bill. The bill will hurt too many Americans. I have not heard one argument on why this bill is good. Millions of Americans will not be able to afford decent insurance. There are no protections for people with pre-existing conditions. It doesn't provide women with the coverage they need.

Thanks,
Erika

--
Erika Lubben Bucci
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christy Vaught <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose ACA repeal

Dear Senator,

On behalf of The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research (MJFF), I write to express serious concerns regarding key provisions of the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson (GCHJ) health care proposal and its impact on people with Parkinson's disease (PD). **I strongly urge you to oppose this damaging proposal and, instead, work toward a new, bipartisan approach to health care reform that stabilizes markets, addresses problems in current law, and truly meets the needs of patients.**

It is estimated that between 750,000 and 1 million people in the United States have Parkinson's disease, with an annual economic burden of between \$19.8 and \$26.4 billion. As the world's largest nonprofit funder of PD research, MJFF is dedicated to accelerating a cure for Parkinson's and developing improved therapies for those living with the disease today. In providing more than \$750 million in research to date, the Foundation has fundamentally altered the trajectory of progress toward a cure.

As you carefully weigh your decision regarding the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson health care proposal, please consider the detrimental impact of the legislation on the most vulnerable Americans. Of particular concern to the Parkinson's community are the proposal's modifications regarding.

- **Pre-existing condition discrimination/Waivers to essential health benefits.** The GCHJ proposal permits states, through waivers, to eliminate coverage for the essential health benefits currently mandated by the Affordable Care Act. This would allow states to erode coverage for individuals with pre-existing conditions and subject them to increased costs, as well as annual and lifetime caps. Chronic disease management is part of what is considered an essential health benefit. The proposal provides significant and nearly unrestricted flexibility to states by requiring those seeking waivers to only explain the manner in which they intend to maintain access to adequate and affordable coverage for individual's with pre-existing conditions. There is, however, no requirement that states demonstrate whether or not it is realistic or possible for such access to be maintained. The net consequence of these waivers would be that individuals' protection against discrimination and access to the essential health benefits will depend entirely upon the state in which he or she lives, and the protections afforded by each state. This is a dangerous and costly result for individuals with PD.
- **Discrimination based on health status.** Currently, the Affordable Care Act prohibits the use of actual or expected health status when setting group premiums.

This practice, known as Community Rating, protects individuals with pre-existing conditions by ensuring that premiums offered by insurance providers are the same for all individuals within a specified geographic territory. The GCHJ health care proposal would allow states to waive this prohibition and permit insurers to charge higher premiums to individuals based on health status. Without the safeguards against community rating provided by the Affordable Care Act, premiums based on health status for individuals with pre-existing conditions or higher than average health care costs would skyrocket and price these individuals out of the market.

- **Repeal of Medicaid Expansion.** The GCHJ healthcare proposal would repeal the authority to cover adults through the Medicaid expansion immediately for non-expansion states and by 2020. For expansion states, repeal the enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage for the Medicaid expansion that currently covers 15 million adults, and make significant cuts to traditional Medicaid. Furthermore, the proposal would create capped block grants that combine federal funds for the Medicaid expansion, cost-sharing subsidies, and Basic Health Programs for low-income residents that would be lower than current spending and would require states to limit coverage. These block grants would maintain the aforementioned federal funding through 2026, with no indication regarding funding after that date. Currently, up to one-third of the Parkinson's community are dually eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid, leaving this population particularly vulnerable to the impact of the allocation of scarce resources by state Medicaid programs. In addition, the GCHJ health care proposal allows states to require beneficiaries to re-certify their eligibility for Medicaid every six months. This requirement would be overly burdensome. Individual's with Parkinson's who are on Medicaid due to disability do not one day lose their disability. The disability status is permanent. Requiring recertification with such frequency is cruel and appears to be a mechanism to dissuade people from accessing this important program.

As you consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson health care proposal, I urge you to reconsider many of these problematic provisions. Our shared goal of better health care coverage at lower costs for all Americans is ultimately attainable, but the GCHJ proposal does not take us in that direction. Rather, it would move us to a system with lower quality coverage options and no guarantee that every American has access to affordable health care insurance.

On behalf of the 750,000 to 1 million Americans with Parkinson's disease, I strongly urge you to oppose this damaging proposal, and again, encourage you to work in a bipartisan manner to develop reforms to our health care system based on regular order; expert analysis; and patient, caregiver, provider and industry input, that truly meets the needs of the patient.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: michael goodstein [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

As a neonatologist taking care of critically ill premature infants, I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because:

1. By creating a per-capita cap on Medicaid, states will have limited funds to pay for healthcare. When funds are limited, children are historically targeted first. Since premature neonates are the most expensive population in pediatrics to cover and are relatively small in number, neonatal payments would be cut first.
2. Almost 50% of all births in the nation occur in the Medicaid program. Medicaid is also over-represented in the NICU population. These cuts would most likely include both inpatient and outpatient care – and NEONATAL SALARIES.
3. States would be allowed to apply waivers allowing them to opt-out of the rule that makes it illegal to deny coverage for pre-existing conditions. As all premature babies carry a pre-existing condition, this has the potential to severely limit the baby (and his/her entire family's) chances of obtaining a family health plan.
4. Premature children incur millions of dollars in medical costs. States would also be allowed to exempt themselves from rules prohibiting lifetime limits on coverage. Whatever the amount, our babies would no doubt reach that costs within the first few years of life.
5. The bill eliminate Cost-Sharing Reduction Payments, which allow families with high-risk conditions to afford health insurance by providing subsidies to the companies who insure them.
6. The legislation allows states to forgo Essential Health Benefits, increasing the out-of-pocket costs for high-risk pregnancies to ~\$17,000

Vote NO on this terrible bill that will bring great harm to the most fragile citizens of our great commonwealth!

michael goodstein

17406
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: PJ Martin [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Keep the ACA

Hello,

Please keep the existing health care plan and work across the aisle to improve it and make it better for everyone. The latest Republican backed plan is all about politics. Let's let politics take a back seat to actually improving peoples lives and giving families the chance to care for their loved ones and not have to worry about going bankrupt in the process. The United States needs to get with the times and be a 1st world country when it comes to health care. Stop making bombs and going to war! Let's care about our citizens and invest that money into universal healthcare, fix the opiate crisis by writing laws that ban pharma from selling addictive medicine. Help those addicted recover.

Then start fixing our roads, retrain our police to not view people of color as less than, improve our schooling so that young people are trained to work in the workforce of today, not the workforce of the 1900's. Accept that climate change is real and re-engage in the Paris climate accord and give future generations the chance to enjoy this worlds wonders, oh and by the way, stop taking away protected lands, add to our protected lands - we need the whole of the ecosystem for all of us to survive in this world.

VOTE NO on the Graham-Cassidy Bill. Then reach across the aisle and start improving the Affordable Care Act.

Thank you,

P Martin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Michael [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

The Graham-Cassidy bill will make healthcare less affordable to millions of Americans. There are so many people who have pre-existing conditions which they will not be able to pay for if the states are allowed to charge higher premiums/rates with this proposed bill.

Please vote no on this healthcare bill.

Thank you.

A concerned citizen

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joan Winslow <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Save ACA

Dear Committee Members,

Please do not allow the Graham-Cassidy bill go ahead.

The ACA has done so much good. I'm an RN in an orthopedic hospital surgery. Ten years ago, we were scraping bottom, called off frequently due to low census. After ACA, we found ourselves taking care of a large number of patients who had delayed care, often for years. One young woman had a torn hamstring for two years, no way to pay for it, nearly crippled her, finally got coverage through ACA, we fixed it in less than an hour.

We now are expanding, and are always busy, employing not just surgeons and nurses, but scrub techs, processing staff, pharmacists, cleaners, valet parking, physical therapists, clerks, medical assistants. Not to mention the construction jobs for the expansion. And the related companies, who make our instruments, sutures, specialized supplies for fixing fractures and tendon/ligament injuries, special beds, mini-C-arms, adaptive slings and braces, tissue grafts, drugs. It's all connected, and flourishing since the majority of people can now afford to fix their chronic injuries, instead of ignoring them, or not be able to work and pay taxes because they can't work.

Now, obviously, I care most about my patients and their unnecessary suffering. But the economic hardships of people with no healthcare, or poor healthcare, including those of us providing it, may mean more to finance people. We used to regularly have to cancel surgeries because authorization did not come through from insurance companies. Drove surgeons mad, because they couldn't take care of their patients. Some clerk was making healthcare decisions for a patient they'd never med. Madness. Wasteful of our time and materials. Harmful to everyone. This has almost disappeared as ACA has grown.

And for those ultra rich wanting to take their tax cut out of healthcare? Shortsighted to say the least. A surgeon who does a handful of ACL repairs a year is never going to be as good as one who does a dozen or more a *week* which is pretty typical for the ones I work with. And the staff knows what to have for them, and the reps for the companies who supply specialized repair materials and anchors, and more research happens, bigger sample sizes, to know what works best, and how to improve. Which means, without that, even rich people are going to get poor care. With ACA, especially if they fix it properly, everybody gets improved care, 1/6th of the people who work in the field get job security, and hospitals everywhere provide better care.

We are at the forefront of research on pain-nerve blocks. Our anesthesia team provides pain control through non-narcotic blocks and non-steroidal, non-opioid pre-op medications. Our patients need, and use, less opioids. This is the future. That they are building a huge data base is part of what matters, they adjust, figure out what works, what needs improvement, learning about adverse outcomes and how to avoid them. But this is not affordable for people without insurance, and ignoring them means worse care for all of us.

Any repeal of ACA is asking for disaster.

Every field of healthcare has a similar story. ACA works, needs improving. Taking it away, returning us to the dark days of pre-existing conditions, is inhumane.

Joan Winslow RN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not repeal and replace the ACA

I have a rare "orphan " disease that would make me uninsurable if I'd I lost my current health care. Millions of people would lose access to health care in the name of savings but in reality it is a tax break for the few.

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jean Shortall [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Health Care Bill

Please vote no on this bill. It would be a death knell for many many Americans. There are so many things wrong with it that it will leave me and others with no safety net. Thanks for listening.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: SUE JOHNSTON [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill- public testimony

I am a licensed clinical social worker and a member of the Clinical Social Work Association.

I have serious concerns about the way that my patients will be affected by the Graham-Cassidy bill that will repeal the Affordable Care Act. The elimination of the essential health benefits, which include mental health and substance use treatment, will severely limit access to care for these life-threatening conditions to millions of Americans. The opioid crisis we face requires more, not less, funding. Before the Affordable Care Act went into effect, many desperate individuals and families went bankrupt trying to pay for the costs associated with chronic emotional disorders. The costs associated with these conditions have been LOWERED over the past six years; the proposed changes to Medicaid and the elimination of universal inclusion of mental health treatment as a benefit, will be devastating to millions of Americans. If we do not care for the most vulnerable among us, we have lost our moral compass.

Sue Johnston, LICSW

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH healthcare bill

Please do not vote to pass the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill. The proposed bill is discriminatory towards those people who have pre-existing conditions and endanger their access to sufficient medical care, making it dependent on each state's decision on funding those programs. Almost every single one of us has some sort of pre-existing condition, whether it be hypertension, high cholesterol, diabetes, or cancer follow up, and unless we are all equal under the health care law, bias against these conditions will cost everyone more in the long run. I am a physician and have seen how patients in my county clinic postpone important medical visits when they have a breast lump, chest pain, or unexplained bleeding, and by the time they present themselves under emergent circumstances to the ER, their chances of recovery are long passed.

VOTE NO!

Nancy Clark

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nanci Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:37 AM
To: gchcomments

This new bill is seriously frightening to us all, but especially autism moms. Our lives are hard enough, but to take away healthcare from our children is criminal.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maxine R Hill <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:36 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Dear Sirs (there are not very many women involved)

The GC bill is unacceptable, can you not after all these years improve on the ACA before destroying the lives of millions of people.

With all the brain power, expertise and money that is available in this country it is inconceivable that **no-one** in the Republican party can put forward improvements to the current system of Healthcare.

It is equally inconceivable that as the most advanced country in the world we cannot take care of the poor, the sick, the aged and children but choose to leave them vulnerable and desperate.

It is also astounding that women are excluded from policy making bodies and policy decisions when they constitute 50% of the population and in most cases are the primary caretakers of children.

The waste of taxpayers' money in attempting the same futile courses of action time and again, in order to fulfil a campaign promise, is mindboggling

Maxine Hill

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Stanton <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:37 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to Graham-Cassidy

We cannot afford to gamble the health of millions on a slap dash bill. Improvement on the ACA must be a thoughtful process, not a toss of bitter revenge by cranky politicians.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Brenda Salguero <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:36 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no

I am writing to you today to let you know that I strongly disagree with the Graham-Cassidy repeal of Obamacare. Millions of lives are at stake including those of my family whose jobs refuse to provide basic services such as healthcare or even sick time.

Instead write bi-partisan legislation and work together in making America brighter.

Thank you,
Brenda Salguero

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Donna Somerville [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:36 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to Graham-Cassidy!

As a self-employed business owner, I have NO access to health insurance outside the ACA marketplace. As a hardworking contributing member of our society, I am enraged that Congress is considering passing a bill so egregiously cruel to so many Americans, and so basely designed to appease the agenda of a few of your privileged donors. You work for all of us! NO to Graham-Cassidy! Get to work across the aisle, do your jobs and come up with real ideas that benefit the American people as a whole.

Donna Somerville

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

I find it unconscionable that this congress is willing to rearrange 1/6th of the nations economy with NO CBO analysis! How in the world can any legitimate politician consider such a thing. Well apparently the Republicans are not legitimate politicians who care about their constituency.

This bill will kill at least one friend of mine. She has Stage 4 cancer and is an independent contractor. She lives in a state where it is likely that the Governor will have no problem using her pre-existing condition as a reason to end her expensive insurance and deny her treatments.

She. Will. Die.

I have another friend with M.S. and Lupus. She went years without taking medicine she needed because she couldn't get health insurance and she couldn't afford the medicine. Only Obamacare allowed her to take the medicine she needs. Again, where she lives, it is unlikely that she will be allowed to continue with her medicine because of her pre-existing condition. She will suffer, and she will die earlier than she should because our government meddled with her healthcare.

Does this congress really want to be known as the death panel we all feared? The Graham Cassidy plan is bad for the people of America.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elizabeth Hess [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:35 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy- please fight it!

Hello,

My name is Elizabeth Hess, I live in Coatesville, Pennsylvania, and I'm writing to ask you- beg you- in the strongest terms, to oppose Graham-Cassidy in any way you can. The bill is just like other TrumpCare bills in that it destroys Medicaid as we know it by turning Medicaid into a capped system. This hurts children with disabilities, seniors, and even victims of natural disasters like Harvey and Irma. It also takes away funding to help people afford health insurance through the marketplace, and it hurts states that have expanded Medicaid.

Like so many millions of others, I and my loved ones rely on the ACA to keep our healthcare affordable, and repealing it puts me and so many others at severe risk. I want you to please, please, do all you can to ensure Graham-Cassidy never sees the light of day. I am begging you- I, several of my family members and friends, and countless of our American neighbors will needlessly suffer if ACA is repealed. It is not hyperbole to say that our lives depend on this. Please do all you can to destroy Graham-Cassidy.

Thank you for listening, and thank you to the entire Senate Finance Committee for your service, and all you do to serve our country.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Hess

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:34 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Health Care bill

For all the people close to retirement age, the Graham Cassidy Healthcare bill would be a huge slap in the face. I'm sure many, if not all, people around the age of 60 have some pre-existing condition. And those same people have worked all their lives & paid for insurance even when we didn't need it. I know I did. I've ALWAYS had health insurance. Where did all that money go for the years when I barely received any treatment?? Now this bill is telling me, too bad, you have a pre-existing condition & we have to charge you more. Well, say goodbye to my retirement fund. All the premiums I paid since I was 17 & working full time more than likely went for care for some elderly patient, or a child born with a debilitating illness. That is HOW insurance is supposed to work, you pay in even though you might not need it now, you will probably need it in the future. This bill would bankrupt so many people. Obviously, if you're voting for it, you don't care one bit about your fellow Americans.

Also, this bill also says that it will be up to the states to "opt in or out" of the 10 essential health coverages. If they opt out, then health insurance would be worthless. Think about all the young couples who would want to have babies & find out it would cost them a fortune to have the baby, let alone all the costs associated with a baby. This is of great concern as my son could possibly be hit with this HUGE bill in the next year or so.

Between the way workers are gouged on taxes, & now healthcare, we might as well just turn our over paychecks to the government because there isn't much left over. Welcome to the American Dream, NOT!

Joy Harvey

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maynard Friesz [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:32 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Easterseals Statement in Opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Amendment
Attachments: Easterseals Statement on Graham Cassidy Amendment Hearing 9-2017.pdf

Attached is Easterseals' statement in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy amendment.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks, Maynard

Maynard Friesz
Easterseals

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

There is a chance that at some point in our lives we will become a caregiver for someone we love. In fact, almost 25% of millennials are currently caregivers, with more expected to step into this role in the coming years. Learn more with [Easterseals](#) about what it means to be a caregiver and how you can prepare.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sue Ferris [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:16 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Please do not pass this abomination just to satisfy your rich donor base. American lives are worth more than \$12.50, the amount of Koch brothers contribution to your party. I do not know of a single person who will not be harmed by this legislation. I'm old enough to remember that good folks became public servants to improve lives and to do the right thing. This bill does not meet that standard.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sandy Royals [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:11 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Dear Servants of the American people:

You were hired to serve and to represent the people who entrusted you with a great deal of power. My prayer is that you cease being hungry for power and control and instead...seek to serve. The Affordable Care Act is a failure. My family lost our Insurance carrier and our premiums have more than doubled and our deductibles are high. I speak for many others. Please repeal this terrible idea! We implore you to allow the American people freedom to choose our Doctors and our insurance. Please allow healthy competition in the marketplace. Pass something that you would welcome for your own families. Work together and get something done.

Most sincerely,

Sandy K. Royals

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:10 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Afordable Health CARE

MAKE IT SO.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: teri nolan [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:10 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

This healthcare bill is a disaster for those of us with preexisting conditions. It would harm children and the elderly on Medicaid in the long term. There is no reason to repeal and replace the ACA. There must be a bipartisan approach to fix our inadequate healthcare system in the United States. Insurance becomes less expensive for everyone the more people that our covered. No one can guarantee that they will remain healthy and not need insurance. Companies who provide insurance should not make huge profits at the expense of American citizens. This is a horrible bill and should not be passed. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patricia Donohue [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:08 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Repeal Bill

Sirs:

As a retired educator in the public school system, I have dedicated my life (and limited finances) to what I would consider public service. When time and finances allowed, I've also volunteered and contributed where it was needed. These personal commitments have been adopted because I was taught that care for others was a both a part of a human and American way of life. Those same values are behind my request that you not support the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Repeal Bill. It's lack of care for the real needs of average Americans is unconscionable. Too many Americans with expensive needs to survive are forgotten under this plan- whether for emergency surgeries or preconditions or because of financial limitations, they can not be disregarded. A bipartisan revision of the Affordable Care Act is possible with a commitment. Consequently, please turn down the current partisan proposal that leaves too many Americans forgotten.

Thank you.

Be kind; please remove my email address before forwarding and use "BCC." Say "No" to spammers. Thank-you. From my iPhone =^..^=

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Charles Benagh <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:06 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Thoughts on Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

Hello,

My name is Charles Benagh, and I live in Arlington, Virginia as a constituent of Mark Warner. I think we can all agree that our current healthcare system is a mess. It is an embarrassment to the world that with our vast amount of wealth and resources in our extremely productive country, that we cannot address our citizens' most basic needs, one of which is keeping ourselves healthy enough to live a long, happy, and productive life. Whether this is achieved by relying on insurance companies (which has profit as its motive, not actual healthcare) or through government-run means (which has its own problems, many of which also exist in the corporate alternative), we need to find a way that does not unfairly treat ANY individual person, regardless of their income level or employment status, or what state or locality they live in. There are growing cries that "healthcare is a right, not a privilege" and increasingly, polls are showing more of us, regardless of our political affiliation, are starting to believe this.

As elected representatives in this democratic republic, we need to rely on you in congress to come up with a solution that ensures that everyone in this country is healthy, and nobody is left behind. Even those not fortunate to find jobs, or good-paying jobs with decent benefits. Or that live in states whose governments do not think healthcare is a priority to its citizens. We are not seeing a solution that fits this very simple fundamental need, and it is growing increasingly frustrating to see practically every other country have a better, less expensive healthcare system than we do. It is not a source of national pride, but a source of embarrassment.

It is also not a solution when our hard-earned dollars are going into the pockets of executives of insurance companies and pharmaceutical companies, rather than back into the health of our people. This is a fundamental problem that I believe will not be addressed until congress prioritizes the needs of individual citizens (as should be the case in a true representative democracy) rather than private/public corporations that helps elect them through campaign donations. This root cause undermines the effective functioning of our government and needs to also be addressed, if not merely considered when acting as public servants (if any of you claim to still be, deep in your hearts).

I hope that you work together to find a solution that 1) actually improves the health of EVERY citizen in this great country, and 2) lowers the cost such that we are even close to the rest of the world in this regard.

Do not let us down.

-Charles Benagh

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Holly Simons [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:04 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill

My family relies upon affordable, quality healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have a pre-existing condition—a pituitary tumor that has damaged my eyesight. With medication, it's prevented from growing and causing me to go blind, but the medication is more than \$800 a month. Insurance makes it possible for me to see.

I want to see a bipartisan effort in Congress improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Holly

Holly Moline Simons
[REDACTED]

Compelling. Creative. Clear.
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rob Brazeau <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:02 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

This bill, which doesn't even have the integrity of bipartisan input, is but another cynical attempt to take life-saving care away from millions. Can tax cuts for the wealthy REALLY be that important? Those who vote for this travesty should be ashamed.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alice Williams [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:03 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

Script: My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with [Medicaid, pre-existing conditions, disabilities, affordability, etc.] is pre-existing conditions, grandchild born prematurely with issues and reliance on Medicaid. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.
Sincerely, Alice Williams
Wheaton, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cindy Harris <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:26 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

Please fix and do not repeal. Before the ACA, my daughter and husband and I could get not get health insurance.
Thank you,
Cynthia Harris

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Darlene Woodward [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:02 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Medicaid Block Grants to States!!!!!!!!!!!!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathy Coughlin [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:01 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: repeal bill

The ACA has saved our lives. If it weren't for the ACA, we wouldn't have insurance because the cost would be out of our reach. Yes, we pay alot for insurance, but we also get subsidies to help with those costs. Without it, we would have to live on the street and eat out of garbage cans in order to pay for it.

We have preexisting conditions, MOST of us do! I am quite healthy for my age, but do take meds for ongoing issues so that they do not kill me. My husband has severe health issues. If we can no longer have health insurance, then he will die. Simple as that. How does that work out for you?

ACA needs fixing, someone has to address the COSTS that the insurance companies, hospitals, pharmaceutical companies, doctors offices, labs, etc. are charging. They are killing us! Please go back to the drawing board and lets get something that will actually help the health and stability and productivity of our nation. If we are all too ill to work, or too poor to keep our economy going, EVERYTHING falls apart. Do you understand?

May compassion and concern for your fellow Americans be your guide.

Thank you.
Concerned Citizen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anne Breitenbach [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:59 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I am a 59-year-old woman living in Maryland. Two years ago I was diagnosed with CLL, shortly before I left my job in DC. For the past two years I have been on the ACC. I have kept my same oncologist, and my rates have Ben reasonable. The ACA is a lifesaver for me. With Graham-Cassidy I would be plunged into uncertainty. Please work to improve the ACA in a bipartisan fashion. Anything else would be a disaster--not just for me but for millions of Americans. People before politics!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

I would like to implore the Republican senators currently supporting the Graham-Cassidy bill to vote against it, and instead support a bipartisan process that will seek to fix the problems with the Affordable Care Act. The Graham-Cassidy bill is being forced to a vote without bipartisan input, a CBO score, or public hearings. A vast majority of the public, hospitals, patient advocate groups, providers, and insurance companies vehemently oppose this legislation as it will result in tens of millions of American citizens being forced off of health insurance and health care. This bill will throw our health care system into chaos, resulting in unnecessary suffering and death, as well as personal bankruptcies, for the purpose of providing tax breaks to wealthy Americans. PLEASE DO NOT SUPPORT THIS BILL!

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stephen Hockett [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:56 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham Cassidy

Please vote NO on the Graham Cassidy Healthcare bill. Healthcare is too important to millions of Americans. Trying to rush this highly important topic through the Senate without the proper background research and CBO scores, proves that those who vote yes for Graham Cassidy, are putting political "victory over the health needs of our citizens. Those who vote yes will receive the wrath of those who disagree with their self serving vote, and will lose their jobs in 2018.

Please vote NO on Graham Cassidy.

Stephen D. Hockett
Concerned American.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Betsy Robinson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:42 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Schumer, Senator (Schumer); [REDACTED]
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

NO to Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017!

The basis for the entire discussion and way of thinking about health care—that we are health care "consumers"—is flawed! There is no such thing as "consumer choice" when you are sick or unconscious. You cannot choose. You cannot compare costs of doctors' fees or procedures or medicines. You cannot double check that all treating physicians are on your plan when you're in an ER or even going for a procedure.

The repeal of ACA and reversion to no insurance for millions unless they can pay for it or unless they live in a state that has a good Medicaid program, covers pre-existing conditions, and has no lifetime caps is analogous to only being allowed to drive on individual roads if you can afford to pay a toll every time you turn onto a new one. This is NUTS. Health care should be treated like the most critical infrastructure and paid for by all of us. Change the conversation and please move this discussion to infrastructure—all those services we need to exist that the Federal government administers for all of us.

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal will gut Medicaid, a program that allowed me to exist during the years after I lost my job in the Recession. At age 58, I was unable to get another full-time job. I depleted my savings but the parachute came when I took early Social Security and then Medicare. I'm sure there are many people like me. DO NOT GUT MEDICAID.

The repeal of ACA and reversion to no insurance for millions unless they can pay for it or live in a state that has a compassionate program is insane. KEEP ACA until you can come up with a bipartisan, sane single-payer plan.

Sincerely,
Betsy Robinson

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carrie Lynn Morse [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Hello, I am writing to register my opposition to the Graham Cassidy bill.

I am a 38 year old citizen living in Oaklyn NJ, so I know a thing or two about taxes. Even with our outrageous taxes up here, I still fully support Bernie Sanders' Medicare for all.bill. I would have rather we didn't increase war-related spending and instead spent it on helping people here at home. America is becoming a 3rd world country. As Americans become more and more impoverished, it will likely affect the amount of taxes able to be collected from us, thereby impacting your collective earnings. It is in all of our best interests to have a healthy thriving populace.

Thank you for your time, and I will reiterate for your convenience below:

Graham Cassidy: oppose
War budget increase: oppose
Medicare for all: support

- Carrie Lynn Morse

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Allison Moskowitz [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Good evening senators. Please do not vote or pass this bill. My family and I benefit from the ACA. We are the group of individuals that no one ever talks about. My husband and I own a small business. Initially we started it out of necessity when my husband lost his job. Five years later we are still going strong. We don't live just above the poverty level, nor we do we rely on other "government handouts", we work hard and can provide for our family not just the necessities but other things that many others can't. No matter how hard we work, no matter how much money we make we can not buy health insurance in the private sector. When my husband lost his job, that was the first time in my entire life that I went without health insurance. We worked with several insurance agents. No one was willing to offer us coverage. Unfortunately, both my husband and myself have pre-existing conditions. He has chronic anemia and requires an infusion of iron/medication about every 12 months. Myself, I had a benign giant basil cell tumor when I was 16 years old (I am now 46) that required me to have my femur and knee replaced on my left leg. I am on my third replacements due to wear on the joints. The marketplace is our only option. We are currently paying \$1700 a month with a \$12k deductible for four of us. Yes this is expensive but the other option is to work for someone else, thus limiting our earning potential. So please think about the people out there who can afford to pay for our coverage and have no other options. If the ACA didn't go into effect 6 months after my husband lost his job, I don't know where we would be.

We are a family of 7. Three of our children we adopted through foster care. Two of them have mental/behavioral health issues. As part of their adoption they receive Medicaid. We could not afford to pay for all of the services my two children receive and without it there is a good possibility they would have to be placed outside of our home for the well being of everyone in our family. If we had to work for someone else to have access to health insurance I would not be able to care for my children. Some weeks we have upwards of 9 appointments. I would not have the luxury of being able to adjust my schedule to deal with their complex needs. We could of never anticipated this when they were placed with us just weeks old. These services are imperative to their long term success in life. We talk very openly about their futures and how managing their mental health is going to be their number one priority in order for them to be productive members in our society. Moving forward I beg you to require Mental Health services be a part of any bill brought before Congress.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to America. I hope and pray that you do what is right for all Americans.

Allison Moskowitz
Accounting

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Diane Fjarlie [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:44 PM
To: GHCcomments@finance.senate.gov; gchcomments
Subject: Re: Graham Cassidy

Please vote NO on this cruel bill. The millions of lives at stake -- veterans, seniors, children -- are worth a whole heck of a lot more than the Kochs \$\$\$.

I was healthy until an autoimmune disorder killed my kidneys. Medicare (which I paid into for 40+ years) and my son, my donor, saved my life. Under your plan, my son would be rated as having a preexisting condition for giving me that gift -- the gift of life. There are more than 90K people on the waitlist right now, many of whom will not survive. Your plan will put an end to living organ donation because people cannot afford the preexisting condition designation as organ donors.

Please do the right thing and work on a bipartisan solution to healthcare for all.

Diane Fjarlie

On Sep 22, 2017 6:43 PM, "Diane Fjarlie" <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Millions of Americans will be unable to afford health care coverage if ACA is repealed. Coverage for pre-existing conditions will disappear, and coverage caps will be legal.

I was healthy until an autoimmune disorder killed my kidneys. Medicare and my son (my donor) saved my life. I give thanks daily. I would rather have died than place the financial burden of treating this disease on my family. Just so you know, I gladly contributed to Social Security for 40+ years.

Please do the right thing and work towards a bipartisan solution to healthcare for all. You should be working for your constituents -- not the Kochs.

Diane Fjarlie

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michelle Adamo [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA repeal

Please do not pass the proposed revisions to the ACA. Individual states cannot be trusted to responsibly handle block grants. At least mine can't. I'm from the corrupt state of AL. A state that didn't expand Medicare. A state that does a horrible job taking care of its poor. A state being investigated by the justice dept for its illegal & despicable care of inmates. A state with high infant mortality. We need the help & oversight of the federal government. I need the ACA for my son who had his gal bladder out at 19 (he's 22 now) he could have a lifetime of related healthcare issues. He needs coverage for preexisting conditions. Thank you Michelle Adamo Birmingham Alabama

Michelle Adamo
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rachel Colby [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposing the Graham-Cassidy Bill

To whom it may concern:

I am currently being treated for breast cancer, and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Rachel Colby
Oakland, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

To whom it may concern,

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

A healthy population is a productive population. Making it challenging and/or financially devastating to pursue needed healthcare is unjust and unnecessarily stressful. Money should not buy life/absence of pain. Nearly everyone has a pre-existing condition. It's absolutely crazy to charge someone more because of that and/or turn them away entirely. Yes, healthcare costs money. Then, insist that everyone living in the country, including the healthy, pay into it so that costs are offset. We should be thinking as a country and not a bunch of individuals who are only interested in our own personal well-being and that of those who look like us.

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

Sincerely,

Tracy Newstadt

San Francisco, CA 94116

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karla Huffman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Improve the ACA Don't Repeal It

I have family and friend who rely on affordable healthcare. The Graham-Cassidy bill would harm millions of people on medicaid, with pre-existing conditions and disabilities. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Karla Huffman, Normal, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Brooke Nutini [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:44 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

To who it may concern:

My family relies upon quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill. Both my mother and my sister rely on insurance through the ACA- my mother was able to change jobs without losing coverage and my sister who suffers from bipolar disorder is able to receive her medications and therapy because of it. It is a fundamental minimum of quality of life that our country ought to continue to provide its citizens. I want to see congress work together in a bipartisan way to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Brooke Turnquist

Santa Fe, New Mexico

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: weilhome [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Citizen response to proposed GC bill

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

Sincerely, Jacquelyn Weil

San Francisco, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Jung <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:43 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: pre-existing conditions

Two years ago it was discovered I had lung cancer. Survival rates are low for lung cancer. I will be watching and doing testing to observe any changes in my condition. I will not be able to pay for that or for further treatment if needed. I cannot afford higher premiums. I have lived a healthy life my whole life and this was a complete surprise.

My daughter has also been in treatment for cancer. The same would be true for her. Please use the best of all common sense in creating a health care bill that uses the best in the current bill and correcting anything that needs changing. A bi-partisan approach to an affordable bill with extensive coverage is possible. We all know that.

Rev. Barbara Jung
South Bend, IN
46615

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lynne Westphal [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham Cassidy, yes to a real effort at bipartisan reform

Dear Finance Committee

It is time to take a breath and take steps to stabilize the health care system -- not throw it into disarray with a very radical approach to providing health care. If ideas central to the Graham Cassidy approach are worthy and solid, they can withstand the debate and process that Senator McCain calls for in his call to a return to regular order.

As it stands, the effects of the Graham Cassidy proposal on people with preexisting conditions is not at all clear. It seems it will be left to the States. And who doesn't have preexisting conditions? Senator Cassidy himself said that one's health should not be dependent on where one lives, and yet his proposal seems to set up exactly that effect -- access and quality of care will be entirely dependent on where someone lives.

If I were not lucky enough to be covered already, I would not likely be able to get coverage. Both me and my spouse have had enough health problems that we would trigger the preexisting condition clause. Which means we would be destitute, and perhaps dead were we needing to get insurance on the open market. I do not think this is what Senators Graham or Cassidy intended as an outcome, but I think it is a very likely one for many should their proposal be adopted.

Thank you for your consideration, and for slowing this process to one that follows regular Senate order and truly has the best interests of the American people at heart.

Lynne Westphal
Evanston IL and
Harshaw WI

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cat Davidson-Hall- [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: public testimony for Graham-Cassidy Hearing

As a middle-aged woman with a medical history of depression, debilitating migraines, and surgery due to precancerous organs, I have relied on quality, affordable health care in order to be able to function. While my health care challenges have occasionally been stressful, it has always been a relief to know that my health care plan would pay for my medical needs, and that my pre-existing conditions would not be used to price my health care beyond my ability to pay.

Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. It creates more problems than it solves, and will result in millions of Americans being unable to afford the health care that could make the difference between life and death for them.

The ACA isn't a perfect bill, but it's nowhere near as heartless and cruel as Graham-Cassidy. I implore Congress to work together across the aisle to improve the ACA, and deliver excellent, affordable health care to all Americans.

Sincerely, Catherine Davidson-Hall

Medford, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Colvin, Suzanne [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Testimony for Monday's Graham- Cassidy Bill

To whom it may concern,

I am fortunate to have access to quality, affordable healthcare, and my health relies on this. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have a pre-existing condition, high blood pressure, that I've lived with since my late 20's. Many people assume that someone with high blood pressure must be overweight and lazy, however, I am a marathon runner and run an average of 6 half marathons and 2 full marathons per year and log countless miles in training runs to prepare for these races. My condition is genetic and impacts several members of my family. I require regular health checks with my primary care physician and daily medication to keep my blood pressure under control. Even though I have an active and healthy life, I could be denied insurance coverage due to my pre-existing condition. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Suzanne Colvin
San Jose, CA

--
Suzanne Colvin
Leadership Director; Science Teacher

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Rachael Herron [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Against Graham-Cassidy bill

Hello there,

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I rely on affordable health care as a full-time author. I have severe migraines and other hormonal issues which require expensive treatment, and I could not afford it otherwise. If this goes away, I could lose my house.

Please kill this bill before it kills many more.

best,

Rachael Herron in California (Oakland)

--

[Website](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Newsletter](#)

The Songbird Sisters - April 2017, Random House Australia

The Ones Who Matter Most - April 2016, Penguin

2016 Editor's Pick, *Library Journal*

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Suzanne Miazga [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Improve the ACA Not Repeal

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. When I was just out of college before the ACA, I could not afford healthcare due to pre-existing conditions - Polycystic Ovaries Syndrome and Depression. I am currently working and have health insurance through my work, but I believe that healthcare is a human right regardless of employer benefits. As a woman who had one emergency C-section and one vaginal birth, I would like to continue healthcare that does not discriminate against women and mothers. It is appalling that the fact of being a woman was a preexisting condition before the ACA.

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

Sincerely,
Suzanne F. Miazga
mother, wife, daughter, teacher
San Anselmo,
CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sally Hess [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fwd: VOTE NO on the Graham-Cassidy Bill for my sake!

Forgot to put my city and state! They are: New York, NY

- >
- > Dear Senators:
- >
- > I rely on quality, affordable healthcare, which I gratefully receive through Medicare. I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.
- >
- > I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.
- >
- > For most of my adult life (until at age 50, when I was hired as an Assistant Professor in a Liberal Arts College), I was a free-lance artist. I HAD NO INSURANCE at all, because I couldn't afford it. Please do not plunge millions of Americans into such a precarious and frightening situation. Vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy Bill.
- >
- > Sincerely Yours,
- > Sally Hess

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laura Wilson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: RE: Graham-Cassidy bill.

Dear Senators,

My two middle-aged children and their families rely upon the ACA and its marketplace to secure access to healthcare. (I am on Medicare -- thank you!)

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill because of the way it will endanger hospitals and patients -- especially in rural areas and those who are most mired in

poverty. Key to my opposition is the uncertainty surrounding Medicaid and preexisting condition qualifications and affordability.

I want the Democrats and the Republicans to sit down and WORK TOGETHER to improve the ACA and our healthcare system.

Thank you,

Laura Wilson

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: A. Rose Brannon [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject Graham-Cassidy bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Two years ago, as my mom was in Cardiac ICU, hooked up to a breathing machine, she was trying to write the word insurance on a pad. She was worried that her health care would not cover her emergency care, and they didn't. NO ONE should be worried about how they will pay the bills when their life is on the line.

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

Sincerely,
Angela Rose Brannon
Cambridge, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Oles <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:36 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

My patients will suffer if you pass this misguided bill.

Don't do to others what you don't want done to you.

The rich donors are not worth it. The public is wise or will be wise to the reason for this bill.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: E. Stewart <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:36 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill - opposed

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am very opposed to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate. As a mom of three with several preexisting conditions, my family could be greatly affected by the passage of this bill. I don't want to fear for the wellbeing of my children or myself. This bill is cruel and disproportionately affects lower income Americans. I urge all senators who care about their constituents to vote no.

E. M. Stewart

E. Stewart
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: holly c [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:36 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Keep the ACA

My mother's rheumatoid arthritis was a pre-existing condition that was covered by Obamacare & she would not be able to walk or grasp objects today if it were not for her continued health coverage under the ACA. I also quite frankly want my friends, neighbors and others to know they have health care whether I know the or not. I don't want Americans dying in the streets and going bankrupt by the tens or hundreds of thousands because of corporate boardrooms calling the shots on our health care because of institutional resistance to universal coverage. The ACA is an alright compromise for now. 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, Holly Chmil-Jones

Lock Haven, PA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Suzanne Bender <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:36 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Treating psychiatric illness protects an individual and community

Dear Senators,

I am a child psychiatrist and I am comfortable managing very complex clinical situations.

It is clear to me that the effective psychiatric treatment of children not only protects a child's future, but supports the child's community as well. I have countless stories to prove my point, but will just share one now.

I met a 10 year old boy, years ago, who was having some issues with stomachaches, anxiety and school avoidance. His school had labeled him as intellectually disabled without evidence to back up this assumption.

In my office, it was clear this young man had Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD). Neuropsychological testing found him to also have a learning disability. He was not intellectually disabled at all --but very capable of learning if his learning issues were addressed. His psychologist and I presented our findings to the school district, and starting the next year in middle school, he received all the educational supports he needed.

This child lived with extended family because both parents had lost parental custody due to drug use. With academic supports combined with treatment for ADD, he became one of the first of his family to graduate high school. He has avoided all drugs and alcohol. He is working currently, and plans to attend community college. He is a young man of high moral character.

So with treatment, he has been protected from drug use despite his family history. He is an active productive member of his community. He is not causing any trouble for his community.

By cutting treatment coverage, I am certain that suffering across the US will increase but also, that crime, unintended pregnancy, and drug use will skyrocket.

As a physician, I spend my days focused on healing. I am extremely concerned about the effects of the Graham-Cassidy bill on those in need. FIRST DO NO HARM and fix the ACA. This current G-C bill is immoral as it will cause so much pain and suffering for thousands across the country. It pains me that any representative would even consider it.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Bender MD
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Part-Time, Harvard Medical School

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:35 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Reject Graham-Cassidy!

Dear Senators and Staff,

I am writing to express my absolute and adamant opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am appalled that we have lawmakers who would propose this bill. Among its many flaws, including its decimation of Medicaid, for instance, Graham-Cassidy would also do immeasurable harm to people with preexisting conditions, including children. I have read an estimate that if this measure passed, 200,000 Americans would die who would otherwise have received the care they needed and lived. Regardless of the number, whether a person lives or dies in our great nation and in this modern age should never -- ever -- be determined by his or her income or the insurance coverage that his or her employer does or does not provide. This injustice is even more egregious and unacceptable in the case of children, whose parents' incomes or employers' insurance offerings might determine whether they can be insured at all with any sort of price tag that most Americans could afford, if we allow insurance companies to discriminate based on preexisting conditions. But that is exactly what this bill would do. It would force America into taking a huge and terrible step backwards, into the days when insurance companies were allowed to charge patients with preexisting conditions whatever they wished, essentially rendering medical insurance unattainable in many cases and forcing Americans into financial ruin if illness struck.

My own young son's preexisting conditions could indeed put him into this category. His life so far has been a story of growth, achievement, overcoming difficulty, and reaching tremendous success and happiness. He has overcome so much in his short life so far, surely due in part to the courage and positive spirit that it sometimes humbles and amazes me to see is contained in one little boy. But no amount of attitude or bravery alone could possibly be sufficient, as you know. Due to our having good insurance, our son has received the care that he needed, including the doctors, medications, and therapies he needed, all of which have brought him now to a point where he is thriving and living essentially a normal life. Furthermore, his medical care, including medical interventions early in his life, have allowed him now to develop essentially on par with his peers, and have given him his best shot to grow up to be the brilliant, caring, and entirely capable, thoroughly contributing member of our society, that we fully expect he will be.

My son's story illustrates two important needs for all Americans: we all need adequate and affordable health care available to us in case an illness or injury occurs; and if illness does strike, we will still need to have adequate and affordable health care for the rest of our lives. In both cases, if a preexisting condition waiver were granted in our state, as Graham-Cassidy allows, a lack of affordable health insurance could be catastrophic for our son, as with so many others. In addition, as we continue to teach him about American values, and what it means to be an American, I hope that we will not be forced to try to explain why he and others who have already had the misfortune to have been stricken with an illness of some sort now will suffer the additional injury -- a penalty imposed by their lawmakers -- of being considered by their nation's government to be second-class citizens, not worthy of something so basic and necessary as health insurance that we/he can afford to buy.

You have seen the long, long lists of medical organizations who oppose Graham-Cassidy, so you know that I am in very well-informed company, as well as that of an overwhelming majority of Americans, in opposing Graham-Cassidy. Instead, I join the majority of Americans who are disappointed that our representatives have not worked in a bipartisan way to *fix the ACA*. Social Security and Medicare were not perfect when they were enacted, either. They, like the ACA, were huge and complicated pieces of legislation that emerged with some initial issues, and required patches and fixes over the first few years in order to work properly for all. This involved bipartisan work by our elected representatives, which should have been happening in the last several years for the the ACA as well.

My son's story has a happy ending so far because he has received all of the medical care he needed, when he needed it, and has been able to overcome medical obstacles that could have imposed much more life-long consequences if not addressed early and properly. Please make sure that he, and all other children like him in our nation, are not in danger of suffering because insurance companies have been given the option not to insure them in any reasonably affordable way. Please also make sure that their parents are not forced to risk financial ruin in order to pay for their own or their children's medical needs. Please make sure that *no one* in our great nation is forced to face financial hardship or ruin because of the misfortune of a preexisting condition. For this reason, among many others, this bill must not be allowed to pass.

Sincerely,

Dana Milburn

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julie Yoder <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:33 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill
Attachments: OH_Isabella.pdf

To whom it may concern,

I oppose the Cassidy-Graham bill. I oppose this bill because our family, and more specifically, our daughter will suffer greatly if this bill is passed. This bill was forced through the Senate with no support from healthcare experts, no CBO score, and threatens to take away the protections that allow us to keep and care for our daughter at home, not in an institution. Weakening the protections that the ACA provides (lifetime caps, pre-existing conditions, and essential health benefits), will have devastating effects on our family and our daughter's care.

Life is much different than I dreamed it would be. I never dreamed I would be the parent to a child with severe and significant medical needs, because after all, that only happens to other people, right? Wrong.

I never dreamed that a heart could break so many times in so many different ways by doctors in white coats with concerned gazes saying words like "progressive disease", "rare", "no cure", and my personal favorite "we've never seen this before".

I never dreamed keeping my daughter alive would involve 13 different medications, given at multiple times all hours of the day and night.

I never dreamed my child would receive all of her nutrition through a line that goes directly into her heart. Every day, for 14 hours a day.

I never dreamed I would have a child that would be completely dependent on others (and completely vulnerable to their actions). The thought of what will happen to her if I pass away is terrifying. So, I must live forever.

I never dreamed my days would be filled with therapies, specialist appointments, and calls to the pharmacy.

I never dreamed I would have to advocate for her continuously, day after day, to ensure she receives the opportunity to have the best quality of life possible.

I never dreamed my curly-haired, blue-eyed girl (who has a smile that lights up the room), would be dependent on a group of 100 Senators to do the right thing and make the right choice.

I never dreamed that "making America great again" meant stripping access to services. Services which are essential to keep the elderly, vulnerable, and adults and children with disabilities alive.

I never dreamed that many staunchly pro-life people are apathetic when after choosing life, families are faced with insurmountable debt and the never-ending challenges of raising a child with a disability.

I never dreamed that my real fear is not what would happen if my daughter loses all points of IV access for her nutrition. The real fear is this. **What will happen if she loses the supports and services which keep her alive? The secondary Medicaid that keeps our family from going bankrupt? What happens when her Medicaid waiver is taken away because states won't be able to fund them? What happens when she meets her per capita limit? What happens when she reaches the lifetime maximum on our insurance"? Terrifying. These are the reasons I don't sleep well at night.**

I never dreamed that so many people would be so complacent and silent on this topic. Maybe people want to believe that no one with a conscience could really draft and vote yes on a bill that would devastate so many individuals and families? Maybe people think it will never happen to them? (Spoiler: I never in a million years thought it would happen to our family either). All it takes is one phone call, one strange lump, one diagnosis, one accident, one pre-existing condition to change a life.

I never dreamed that I would be joining a club exclusive to special needs families. While I certainly was thrust into this club kicking and screaming, I couldn't be prouder to be a member. Never have I met a group of parents more passionate and accepting, who fiercely advocate for their children and for what is right.

I never dreamed that without ever saying a single word, a person could make a monumental difference. I firmly believe that the lessons my daughter can teach all of us about love, acceptance, and not giving up despite insurmountable odds, could very well change the world.

"Any society, any nation, is judged on the basis of how it treats its weakest members-the last, the least, the littlest". Cardinal Roger Mahony

Please hear us. Find a bipartisan fix to the ACA. Stop trying to dismantle the life we have fought so hard to build. Our lives are literally in your hands, and we are counting on you to do the right thing. I'm attaching my daughter's profile. She is a real person who deserves so much more than this horrible bill.

Sincerely,

Julie Yoder

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michael Fischer <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:34 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable Care Act should be improved, not replaced

The Affordable Care Act should be improved, not replaced with a hail mary bill that deprives millions of insurance, reduces aid to those in need of affordable health care and takes away protections from those with pre-existing conditions.

Sincerely,

Michael Fischer, Cincinnati, Ohio

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ann Lundquist [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:33 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on the healthcare bill

Please think very carefully about putting the fate of those with pre-existing conditions in the hands of the state. I am battling breast cancer and am terrified that now that I have a pre-existing condition, my healthcare coverage premiums might rise astronomically. Is it not enough that I have to worry about surgery, chemotherapy, and whether or not I'll even be here in 5 years?

I am lucky enough to receive excellent healthcare through my employer, but not everyone is so fortunate. I truly feel that universal healthcare is the ideal solution. I understand that it would take a lot of planning and working together to make that happen, but the ACA is a good place to start. Please look at the ACA, and think about how to improve it, not replace it! Don't let the ACA fail by not following through with funding. So many Americans depend on it for their families. Most Americans are not fortunate enough to have employer provided healthcare.

Remember why you were elected - it was not to serve the interests of the lobbyists or the president. You were elected to serve your constituents. Talk to us. Listen to us. Make the right decision for ALL Americans.

Thank you,
Ann Lundquist

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rosemarie Gallichio <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:33 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy vote NO

Dear Senators,

I implore you to vote NO on Graham-Cassidy.

As the parent of a child with severe anxiety, and as an adult with an autoimmune disease, I have no choice but to fight access to the medical care of us and for all Americans.

Despite many of your colleagues' false assurances to the contrary, Graham Cassidy leaves those with pre-existing conditions (like anxiety and autoimmune diseases) dangerously vulnerable.

Its draconian cuts to Medicaid will leave our most vulnerable citizens—most notably our parents, grandparents and disabled loved ones—without the lifeline they so desperately need to be able to live and work in their communities, where they belong.

It may be easy to ignore the emotionally charged plea of a mother, but my stance on the bill is based on fact, not fear.

The American Medical Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Hospital Association, the Federation of American Hospitals, America's Health Insurance Plans, and the BlueCross-BlueShield Association have all implored you to vote NO on this bill.

All 50 State Directors of Medicaid, and myriad other groups including the JDRF, ALS Association, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, Arthritis Foundation, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Family Voices, JDRF, Lutheran Services in America, March of Dimes, National Health Council, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, National Organization for Rare Diseases, Volunteers of America, and WomenHeart, among many, many others have issued statements imploring you to vote NO on this bill.

This isn't about politics. It's about people like my daughter and me, and not just my but OUR sacred responsibility to fight for her Right to Life.

Please, I'm begging, VOTE NO ON GRAHAM-CASSIDY.

Sincerely,

Rosemarie Gallichio

Newington, CT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David Allen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:33 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote NO on Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senators,

I implore you to vote NO on Graham-Cassidy.

As the parent of an autistic child I have a sacred obligation to fight for those things that are in his best interest. This includes continuing to receive the services he needs to develop and live a full and happy life, but also to ensure that, should I change jobs, he can continue to receive those services in the future under a different insurer.

Despite many of your colleagues' false assurances to the contrary, Graham Cassidy leaves those with pre-existing conditions (like autism) dangerously vulnerable.

Its draconian cuts to Medicaid will leave our most vulnerable citizens - most notably our parents, grandparents and disabled loved ones - without the lifeline they so desperately need to be able to live and work in their communities, where they belong.

It may be easy to ignore the emotionally charged plea of a terrified father, but my stance on the bill is based in fact, and is in chorus with many of our Nation's most trusted health care cohorts.

The American Medical Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Hospital Association, the Federation of American Hospitals, America's Health Insurance Plans, and the BlueCross BlueShield Association have all implored you to vote NO on this bill.

All 50 State Directors of Medicaid, and myriad other groups including the JDRF, ALS Association, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, Arthritis Foundation, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Family Voices, JDRF, Lutheran Services in America, March of Dimes, National Health Council, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, National Organization for Rare Diseases, Volunteers of America, and WomenHeart, among many, many others have issued statements imploring you to vote NO on this bill.

This isn't about politics. It's about people like my son, and not just my but OUR sacred responsibility to fight for his best interests, and the interests of those who cannot fight for themselves.

Please, I urge you all to VOTE NO ON GRAHAM CASSIDY.

Very Respectfully and Sincerely,

David Allen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: CCRF Admin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:30 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: OPPOSE – Graham-Cassidy Bill Threatens Reproductive Health Access and Jeopardizes California’s Gains in Expanding Coverage and Consumer Protections
Attachments: CCRF_GraCasOPP_FinCmteFINAL.pdf

To: United States Senate Committee on Finance

Re: OPPOSE – Graham-Cassidy Bill Threatens Reproductive Health Access and Jeopardizes California’s Gains in Expanding Coverage and Consumer Protections

The undersigned members of the *California Coalition for Reproductive Freedom* write to express our strong opposition to the bill introduced by Senators Lindsey Graham (S.C.), Bill Cassidy (La.), Dean Heller (Nev.), and Ron Johnson (Wis.) (hereinafter “Graham-Cassidy”) to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA), eliminate the current financing structure of Medicaid, and restrict access to essential reproductive health services.

We strongly urge you to preserve the progress that has been made in expanding health access and consumer protections, and oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Sincerely,

The California Coalition for Reproductive Freedom

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Randy Braun <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:32 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: OPPOSE Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Graham-Cassidy-Heller (or whatever the new bill that has been drafted over the weekend is now called) **MUST BE OPPOSED**, for both procedural and humanitarian reasons.

Procedural: No CBO score. Virtually no debate. Constantly being rewritten to include even more bribes for Senators from holdout states such as Alaska.

Humanitarian: I mean, it's ridiculous I even have to write this, but 32 million people will lose their healthcare. Block grants and cuts to Medicaid will mean services will be reduced and cut to millions of our most vulnerable citizens, especially children and seniors. Changes to allow rate hikes for pre-existing conditions will ensure that healthcare is priced out of the reach of most consumers.

In short, in the name of "fixing Obamacare," this bill will destroy the healthcare market and harm **MILLIONS** of Americans. If you are truly sincere about improving healthcare and repairing the shortcomings of the ACA, I urge you to reconsider the bipartisan HELP Committee bill, and to improve stability in the healthcare market by no longer playing politics with the ACA funding to insurers.

Thank you,
Randy Braun
Swarthmore PA [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joy Schade <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:22 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill because it puts services to people with developmental disabilities at risk.

Joy Schade
Habilitation Specialist
Wyandot Co. Board of DD
Angeline Industries
[REDACTED]
Upper Sandusky, OH
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Itsik K [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:24 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposed to the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Hello,

I am writing to let you know that I am extremely opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill. What this country needs is a bi-partisan effort to expand healthcare and make it more affordable, not give tax cuts to the wealthy and strip millions of Americans of health insurance and coverage. I have friends who rely on Medicaid for health care. I have both family and friends who have pre-existing conditions (and really, who doesn't have a pre-existing condition? I remember the pre-ACA days!)

The Graham-Cassidy bill is not a path forward, it's a step back. I urge everyone to block this bill.

Thank you,
Itsik Kittila

Philadelphia, PA [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Liz Zogby <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:22 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy - testimony E Zogby
Attachments: IMG_1424.JPG; Graham-Cassidy opposition EAZ 9-25-2017.docx

Please find below (and attached) testimony in opposition to Graham-Cassidy Bill for the Senate Finance Committee.

September 25, 2017

Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Testimony submitted by:

Elizabeth Zogby

[REDACTED]

Baltimore MD [REDACTED]

Senate Finance Committee:

I would like to state my strong opposition to the proposed Graham-Cassidy Bill. I am the mother of three children, the youngest of whom has Down syndrome. Before the protections afforded to Americans by the ACA went into effect, Down syndrome was (incredibly) considered a “pre-existing condition” by many health insurers. When my daughter was born in 2010, just weeks after the enactment of the ACA provisions ensuring that her health insurance would provide coverage for medical complications due to her extra 21st chromosome, my husband and I felt the security that every family should feel, knowing our daughter would be able to access the medical care she needed.

In 2014, when this same daughter was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia, a disease 30-50 times more likely to strike children with Down syndrome than typical kids, we again had the security of knowing that her medical care would be provided and we could focus on being the best parents we could be for our daughter and our other two children as we faced this dreadful fight.

Today she is in remission and an active healthy first grader. The journey she has taken to get here has not been easy, but we made it to this point together. Our government did its part too – protecting our daughter, one of this society’s most vulnerable – and we hope it will not turn its back on her now. Her future absolutely depends on continued protection for people with pre-existing conditions (protection that must be guaranteed by federal

action and not left to states to decide), on requirements that essential health benefits be covered including habilitative services and that lifetime caps never limit the care that she requires, and on a robust Medicaid system not left to the whims of state legislatures and tight budget years.

After years of chemotherapy and endless clinic appointments, long hospital stays and additional therapy, my daughter is poised to walk into her future. She is learning to read and do math, she is a wonderful friend to her class full of typical peers, she is a light to all who meet her. She deserves a government that recognizes the value she brings to society and health care that will enable her to live a long healthy life. She deserves home and community based services that will allow her to live and work in her community. Please do not rob her of the future she deserves. Vote no on Graham-Cassidy.

Thank you.

Elizabeth Zogby

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Timothy Hathaway <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:22 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Prevent Child Abuse NY Comments
Attachments: Graham-Cassidy.docx

Statement to the Senate Finance Committee

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch, Chair, and the Honorable Ron Wyden, Ranking Member

On behalf of Prevent Child Abuse New York (PCANY), I wish to voice the organization's concerns regarding the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill.

PCANY is a statewide nonprofit that provides three primary services both locally and across the state of New York, and weighs in on federal issues when they would negatively impact our State's children and families. Our services:

- Community awareness efforts aimed at increasing understanding of how individuals can use the Five Protective Factors to help prevent child maltreatment.
- Training and technical assistance efforts geared to providing professionals and communities knowledge, tools and resources to make great environments for families and children.
- Policy and advocacy work designed to change systems that impact child maltreatment issues. We advocate for evidence-based policy solutions that target root causes of child maltreatment.

Access to quality, affordable healthcare is one of those solutions. In fact, not providing adequate healthcare to a child constitutes abuse.

Two provisions in particular concern PCANY greatly. Under this legislation, Medicaid would see a 31% cut in New York State. This would eliminate services for many children-- notably those from low-income families and those in foster care who need the services the most. It would also undermine the foundation of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

The bill would also drastically limit access to essential preconception care services. A healthy, prepared parent is much more likely to be able to care for a child, and to keep that child healthy and safe. Restricting access to care for women who are or might someday become mothers is unconscionable.

It is for these reasons that PCANY opposes the Graham-Cassidy bill. It is my hope that you will protect the most vulnerable among us—our children—by not passing this legislation.

Thank you.

Timothy Hathaway
Executive Director
Prevent Child Abuse New York

[REDACTED],

Albany, NY [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:23 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA/Gramm-Cassidy

Dear Sirs/Madams:

The latest projections are that, by 2025, Gramm-Cassidy would cause up to 32 million Americans to lose their health insurance.

Those affected would be disproportionately vulnerable children, the elderly in nursing homes, and the disabled.

The vast majority of those people will end up in hospital emergency rooms, dramatically increasing health care costs, and forcing doctors to choose between sub-optimal care and allowing unnecessary suffering.

I realize that there are partisan political differences in Washington. And I realize that President Trump wants a victory here.

But you have a duty to ALL Americans, not just to the White House.

The majority of Americans support the maintenance of the ACA - with minor tweaks and modifications.

I beg you to represent the will of the American people and vote against this horrendous bill.

Thank you for your time.

Kimberly Christensen, [REDACTED] New Rochelle NY [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Paula Turow <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:23 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

Hi,

My name is Paula and I'm a citizen from Gaithersburg MD.

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

Thank you,
Paula Turow

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ann Hayes <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:23 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham- Cassidy Bill Hearing

Dear Finance Committee,

I am writing on behalf of myself and my husband. We are very concerned about the Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing. The date of the hearing is September 25, 2017. Our full names are David and Ann Hayes. We reside at 7313 Nickett Drive, North Tonawanda, New York, 14129.

We do not want the Graham/Cassidy bill to pass. Clearly the motive behind it is not to positively reform or improve health care coverage of people that truly need those services, but to free up funds for corporations and wealthy people that don't need them. Greed, not need, is what is driving these efforts.

If the well being of the people that these proposed changes were at the forefront, there would be no urgency to get it done this week because bipartisan support would be there for a " humane" bill to consider.

As a retired RN at a local Catholic hospital I experienced first hand how the Affordable Healthcare Act assisted individuals who would otherwise not have healthcare. I have family members who also benefit currently. My husband and I were able to use it as a bridge to Medicare.

Sincerely,
David and Ann Hayes
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: William Pora <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:23 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: opposition to graham-cassidy

I wish to register my opposition to the graham cassidy bill currently in consideration in the senate. This bill would be a disaster for the American people and should not be passed

William Pora

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lauren O'Connell <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:23 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No on Graham Cassidy

Dear Madams and Sirs:

I strongly urge you to vote no on the Graham Cassidy healthcare bill. I am sure you have seen the statements from every sector of the healthcare 'system' outlining how this bill hurts - costs these systems money. In addition, I would like to provide a patient perspective. I am a developmental behavioral pediatrician and I care for children with autism, ADHD, and genetic disorders like Down syndrome and Fragile X. I also have special clinics dedicated to NICU survivors. Not only will a large proportion of these children lose access to care with the proposed cuts to Medicaid, but EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM has a pre-existing condition. They are our most vulnerable. Caring for them is a basic moral benchmark for our society.

Vote no.
Sincerely,
Lauren O'Connell

Lauren O'Connell, MD, MSc, FAAP
Developmental Behavioral Pediatrician & Pediatric Health Services Researcher
Assistant Professor, Dept of Pediatrics and Human Development
Michigan State University College of Human Medicine
Hurley Children's Hospital at Hurley Medical Center
Flint, Michigan

cell: [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mitzi Tipsword <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:23 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Opposition

I am saddened and scared by the Graham-Cassidy repeal/replace bill. My son is a Type 1 diabetic. He depends on the guarantees provided by the Affordable Care Act. He can't be without coverage because he depends on insulin to live. He can't rely on high risk pools, which history has shown are expensive and provide inadequate coverage. Without insurance my son and millions of other Americans can't afford the medical services and prescription drugs they need to survive.

This latest attempt is simply a repackaging of the problematic provisions of the previous failed efforts, only worse. It weakens consumer safeguards and access and eliminates meaningful coverage for millions. Graham-Cassidy is not designed to make healthcare better - it's a tax cut for the wealthy and a poorly disguised cost shift from the federal government to states and families.

I'm embarrassed that in a country as advanced and prosperous as the U.S. healthcare is treated like a product so that those who can afford it get and those that don't go without. As long as profit remains a factor in U.S. healthcare Americans will pay more for less and be denied the care and protection they should be able to rely on from their government.

Stop playing with people's lives. Reject this cruel bill and return to bipartisan efforts to repair the Affordable Care Act.

Mitzi Tipsword McCubbin
[REDACTED]
Wildwood, MO [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hannah <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:22 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy

To Whom It May Concern:

Myself, my family, and so many people both close to my heart and simply strangers to me in this country rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I **IMPLORE** you to vote **NO** on the Graham-Cassidy bill. As a young college student trying to further my education, I am not in a good financial situation and will have to pay back many loans. I know so many young people that are in this same situation all over the world. It is detrimental to the next generation's success if we cannot afford good, accessible healthcare. In addition, different family members and friends of mine suffer from autism, epilepsy, Chrohns disease, and other **PRE EXISTING** conditions over which they have no control. Finally, My younger sister was born with severe asthma and allergies that inhibit her immune system from working to its full potential. To protect the **RIGHT TO LIFE** of all these people and more that I do not know in this country, please vote **NO**. I would like to see a bipartisan congressional effort to **IMPROVE** the ACA, **NOT** repeal it.

Sincerely,

Hannah Gundersheim
Charlotte, North Carolina

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rollie Troup <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:22 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

I am a single mother of a 32 year old son who has cerebral palsy. I am 70 years old and I'm his main caregiver. Four and a half years ago I had open heart surgery for my aortic valve. Without the Medicaid for my son we will both be dead. We live in Minnesota and have wonderful services. Please don't take our lives! You are acting like children!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: teresa steger <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:22 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Medicaid funding

I am sending this email to give my strong opposition to any cuts in Medicaid funding. As a parent of a 26-year-old daughter, Hannah, with both Intellectual Disability and Autism, I am keenly aware of the unique needs of families that depend on Medicaid for medical and psychological care. Without Hannah's Medicaid my family would be financially devastated. Just two years ago a dental cleaning and fillings cost \$13,000 because Hannah must be fully sedated in order to cooperate. Without Medicaid, I would not be able to take care of her basic needs. This is just one instance of care provided to Hannah through government funding of Medicaid.

Please do not cut Medicaid funding.

Teresa Steger

[REDACTED]
Pasadena, Md. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Allison Floyd <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:50 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, allowing states to refuse coverage or drastically increase prices for people with pre-existing conditions, and harming some of the most vulnerable members of our communities, seniors, and people with disabilities.

Allison Floyd
Amherst, MA

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Catie McDowell <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:22 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller in favor of the bipartisan bill the Senate HELP Committee was considering. Graham-Cassidy-Heller would cause 32 million people to lose their health coverage while destroying Medicaid and harming some of the most vulnerable members of our communities, seniors and people with disabilities. I have a child with a chronic, pre-existing condition, so this affects us profoundly.

Catherine McDowell
Boulder, CO

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Myra Lewinter Malamut <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:22 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Sincerely,
Myra Lewinter Malamut
[REDACTED]
Southampton, NJ [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carole Nathanson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:22 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Bill

Dear Senators,

I am writing to implore you to vote no on the Graham-Cassidy Bill. I am an informed citizen and voter who is also a businesswoman and mother that is truly concerned and frightened as to what this bill that is not supported by ANY medical organization of ANY kind will do.

The complete politicizing of the health care of this great country is an abomination. A bipartisan method of working across the aisle on a repair/improvement to our present system is in order. My family and I will be at risk due to pre existing conditions and the cost of our premiums will be prohibitive. The risk to women's health, my daughter's future, is incomprehensible in 2017. I feel obligated to speak up for her rights to care for herself that should not be at risk ever.

Please consider the health and lives of all citizens and step outside the "win/lose" mentality that is encompassing Washington at this time. You work for ALL of the citizens of this country who deserve to be considered thoughtfully in such a serious debate. Lives literally hang in the balance - VOTE NO.

Thank you for your time,
Carole Allen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Madalyn Hanson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:21 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

To whom it may concern,

My family relies on quality and affordable healthcare, in which the Affordable Care Act provides currently. So for this and other reasons I oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill. In that would repeal ACA rather than try to take the time to make it better. I do not believe repealing it will be a step forward but a step backward because it is helping so many Americans like my family. I do however believe anything can be improved and know that spending the time, researching, discussing and coming up with new add ins or changes to the plan together as a country is what a democracy looks like. My story with affordability and pre-existing affects my parents and my sister. They each have if not one but a few different medical conditions that would fall under the Pre-existing condition category. My younger sister back in 2014 experienced a very scary but very real car incident, caused by what seemed like an out of the blue seizure. She was heading down a hill and lost all sense of vision and motor skill controls. Her car flew down the hill up a curve and around crossing three lanes of traffic ending up hitting a curb on the other side of the road at 5 pm rush hour. Thankfully no one was injured and she was safe. She couldn't drive for many months while she went to neurologists and doctors to figure out what was the cause. The diagnosis was a type of seizures, which meant they could never be predicted or known when one was going to happen. So the options were take a prescription to prevent them so she can live her life and be able to drive herself to work and live on her own without the risk, or not take the medicine and have to be taken care of in different ways. She obviously chose to take the prescription, the ACA says that kids can stay on their parents insurance until they are 26. She is going to be 23 this February. So while she may have a couple years till then, if the bill still keeps this provision, she would fall under that category of Pre-existing conditions. In which, as a woman who is in the lower working class would not be covered because of this. She wouldn't be able to afford this medication even though she works a job that is over 40 hrs a week. This medication helps let her live her life and keeps her safe. I strongly believe turning our backs on Americans who cannot afford healthcare without the ACA and especially the ones who have preexisting conditions that are life saving and life threatening is a great disservice to this country. So I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Thank you for your time

Sincerely,
Madalyn Hanson

[REDACTED] Metairie, Louisiana [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cohen, Claudia <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Why Graham-Cassidy is the wrong Bill to pass now

Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Finance -

I am a social psychologist who teaches negotiation at Columbia University. I have listened carefully to the debate on Health Care Reform and have personal and political beliefs and values that guide my thinking, as do most Americans. However, I also observe the health care conversation through the lens of my expertise in negotiation and conflict resolution. While the field of negotiation has progressed considerably since the publication in 1981 of the classic book Getting to Yes by Harvard professors Roger Fisher & William Ury, one fundamental insight has stood the test of time. In negotiations-- and I would argue in political life-- it is bad practice to state *positions* unequivocally (e.g., "Repeal and replace Obamacare") making no room for adjusting to new information. Rather it is far more effective and sustainable to proclaim one's *interests* (" Health care should be more affordable; premiums should be lower; health care should be subject to market forces... or not") Then, as new information becomes available, one's *position* may change ("Modify the ACA, with bi-partisan support) in a way that meets *interests* of the party and its followers at this point in time (e.g.,policy should be relatively stable across different majorities in Congress and/or leaders in the White House; health care should be less costly and less confusing for Americans; non-employer-provided health care should be affordable to promote entrepreneurship, etc.)

Republican lawmakers, having taken the *position* "Repeal and Replace Obamacare" for the last seven years or so, seem to feel bound to follow through, even though new information has demonstrated that repeal will not meet the *interests* of most of their constituents. **As an expert on negotiation and as an American citizen, I implore Republican Senators to have the courage to state that taking a simplistic "Repeal and Replace" position is no longer the best way forward.. Please demonstrate the leadership and courage to negotiate with Democrats in good faith to modify the ACA in a manner that will not leave hundreds of millions uninsured, that will not destabilize the insurance industry and that will demonstrate your commitment to protecting the health of your constituents - and all Americans - rather than cling to a campaign position that no longer makes sense.**

Thank you. These are extremely challenging and divisive times in America. Please use your power to work together with other leaders to heal divides--- rather than score political points and put at risk the health of millions of Americans.

Sincerely,

Dr. Claudia E. Cohen

--

Claudia E. Cohen, Ph.D.
Adjunct Faculty, Social-Organizational Program &
Morton Deutsch International Center for Cooperation and Conflict Resolution (MD-ICCCR)
Teachers College, Columbia University
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ann-Marie Lavoie <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA repeal bills Cassidy-Graham Plan

Please think before voting for this. Cuts in Medicaid would literally mean death to people like my Mother in law. Health Care should be available to every person, regardless of their ability to pay. People like my sister count on the grants for getting medications, like her insulin at a reasonable price.

This is just Republicans trying to get rid of the lower class, and it is horse pucky.

Sincerely,

Ann-Marie and Michael Lavoie

--
Ann-Marie Lavoie

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Aimee Pokwatka <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 11:59 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller in favor of the bipartisan bill 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.

With thanks,

Aimee Pokwatka
Sandy Hook, CT [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jumana Dalal <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Opposition

I opppse this Bill in every possible manner: as an athlete with sports related injuries that present as pre-existing condition. And as a woman, and mother of a preemie child.

This is an assault on decency.

--

Jumana

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeorgi Bernard <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

To whom it may concern,

My name is Jeorgi Bernard and I live in Salt Lake City, Utah. In December of 2015 I gave birth to identical twin girls at 30 weeks gestation, which is 10 weeks early. With out a doubt this meant a long stay in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) and lots of medical bills. During their stay in the NICU one of my twins got an infection in her intestines called necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC) that killed most of her intestines that she had to have removed. She came home from the NICU at 3 months old and for the first year of her life she was dependent on Total parenteral nutrition (TPN/IV nutrition) and is tube fed. She still is Gtube dependent daily and needs TPN when sick because her intestines shut down when she gets a cold. She is in and out of the hospital frequently due to illness, intestinal shut downs, and surgery. This will be her life FOREVER. We rely on no life time limits and Medicaid to help our family financially stay afloat. This proposed Graham- Cassidy bill would be devastating and make it hard for our child to thrive and get the medical care she needs and deserves.

Adding life time limits means she would have hit that before a year old. Could you imagine growing up with no chance of having insurance and being medically complex? It sounds extremely harsh doesn't it? So, please don't do this to my child.

Adding Medicaid caps means the optional programs such as the medically complex child's waiver, that my daughter is on, would be cut off. We use this as a secondary insurance to help us cover things our primary insurance will not cover. This helps us stay afloat financially and get the proper care for my daughter. Medicaid caps would drastically lower the type of care my daughter gets. Again, please don't do this to my child.

Taking away preexisting conditions protection would effect her life FOREVER. She would be discriminated against and pay more for getting sick as a child. Does this seem fair to you? I will say it again, please don't do this to my child.

There are many many more families like ours who are fighting to keep healthcare for our complex children. Please listen to our stories and see that this bill will not help us but completely turn our lives upside down and hurt us.

Sincerely,
Jeorgi Bernard

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Bad bill

Please stop trying to pass bad healthcare. Please work to bring a worthy bill forward. One that includes and protects ALL Americans.

Sincerely
Lesley McManus

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patrick O'Leary <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

To The Senate Finance Committee,

My family and I depend on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. This bill would impact myself and millions of others in a harmful, negative way. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the Affordable Care Act, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Patrick O'Leary
Brooklyn, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: JENNIFER <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposed

This bill would harm people and eliminate needed safety nets for those in the greatest need. It would cripple states' ability to help their citizens. Affordable Care act was a step to reforming our broken system. This bill would undo all the advances and worsen the problems we were trying to correct.

Sincerely,
Jenniffer J Thusing
[REDACTED]
Chicago, IL [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Louise Juneau <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 11:59 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Disagree 100% to the Cassidy-Graham Plan

I am in FULL 100% rejection to the Cassidy-Graham Plan.

As an unemployed worker presently who is under the government Subsidy plan through healthcare.gov, and my two adult children, with one having a baby recently who are on low income going to school to prosper themselves, if you take away these subsidies and programs I believe that my family and well as approx. 90% of lower income families will go without insurance if this plan passes.

Therefore, again I am in full opposition of this plan.

Thank you.

Louise Juneau-Kurylak
NH Voter
Dover, NH

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susanne South <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have been an independent computer consultant that needed individual medical coverage. The ACA gave me what I was unable to find on my own and it has worked well for me. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Susanne South

[REDACTED]
Orient, OH [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Gale Hadden <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE NO on Graham Cassidy Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members;

I strongly urge you to VOTE NO on the Graham Cassidy bill!

All Medicaid Directors from ALL 50 states have come out against this horrific bill.

Multiple national health organizations have come out against this bill including:
AMA American Medical Association, the American College of Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Hospital Association, the American Cancer Society, the American Diabetes Association, the American Heart Association, Lung Association, Arthritis Foundation, Cystic Fibrosis, ALS, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society,
AARP
America's Health Insurance Plans
Blue Cross Blue Shield
American Public Health Association
American Cancer Society
American heart Association
National Health Council
March of Dimes

"The Blue Cross Blue Shield Association warned against a new GOP ObamaCare bill on Wednesday, saying it would "undermine" protections for pre-existing conditions. The bill contains provisions that would allow states to waive key consumer protections, as well as undermine safeguards for those with pre-existing medical conditions," the association said in a statement.
The bill would allow states to repeal ObamaCare rules that prevent people with pre-existing conditions from being charged higher premiums."

Every State would have to create an entirely new health plan and system and they could all be different. This would result in unequal access to health care as some states have worked to expand their coverage, and others states have made little effort to expand coverage under the ACA. In fact, those states that expanded Medicaid would be punished as they would receive a budget cut with no funding to support people they have already signed up who receiving services.

Essential health benefits that keep the general population healthy and therefore requires LESS spending on health care overall, such a prenatal, birth and postpartum coverage, screening for various chronic diseases, mental health services and others, could be eliminated by a state. Costs would go up as sicker populations fight to find coverage that will cover their complex and chronic health issues.

This bill even in the 2.0 version, has again not been analyzed by the CBO so there is no process in place to analyze its cost, impact or effectiveness. This is fiscally irresponsible to vote on something that has not been fullt analyzed. It's a last ditch effort to repeal the ACA and nothing more. And it is the worst option presented.

Please VOTE NO on GRAHM CASSIDY!!!! Don't let this abomination be your legacy.
Thank you

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jamey Erickson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

This bill should not be introduced on the floor. It is tremendously flawed and will cause millions of Americans, myself and my family included, to unnecessarily suffer. My wife, children and I will be forced to search for new health care coverage as we will lose our current coverage under this bill. As I understand the bill, my children will both face lifetime coverage caps that would, as we estimate, hit them just shortly after they graduate college, assuming they take a standard 4 year path. Additionally my wife's sister would lose her medicaid support, which she has relied on since she was diagnosed with schizophrenia at age 14. Her parents, my mother and father in law, are her primary caretakers even still in her late 30's, they being in their late 60's now, and they desperately rely on that funding to cover her treatment & medication costs, as they are now on a fixed income in retirement. Asking them to go get a job to pay for what would be incredibly expensive care for someone in her position, at their age, is cruel and unusual.

Do not bring this bill to the floor. Do not vote on it. Do not pass it. Find a better bi-partisan mechanism for rafting real legislation that solves real problems, not just something that accomplishes your campaign promise at political retribution.

As a nation, we're better than this. Do better.

--
Jamey Erickson
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Melissa M <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham Cassidy bill

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

Sincerely,
Cliff Morrison
Eureka, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rachel <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

My household and friends rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Take what is there and improve it. You should work together to support American citizens. This Bill will hurt American Families. Please vote no.

Sincerely, Rachel

Bklyn NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carl Champney <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Keep Health Care for All!

I have had two recent surgeries, and my wife is facing medical issues. I have also been told I may well need another hip replacement. Without quality health care, these procedures (which also could be pre-existing conditions) would be so expensive they could change our lives for the worse. Also my wife was just told - TODAY - that her general practitioner doctor, whom she has seen three times in the last few months, is now out of network. No notification was given before she got the out-of-network bill. We are sorely in need of well thought out, hopefully bipartisan reform of this broken system. I heartily oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill as this would jeopardize coverage (for many people in Ohio, due to the possibility of Medicaid retraction), and make it uncertain how pre-existing conditions would be handled. This bill is not worthy of consideration. It was put together hastily for political reasons.

Sincerely,
Carl Champney
[REDACTED]
Yellow Springs, OH [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing to thank you for holding a hearing and to respectfully request that you strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill - an attempt to take health insurance away from millions of Americans.

Sincerely,
Laura Costa
Fall River, MA

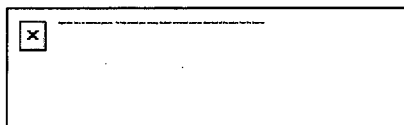
Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gloria Parker <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

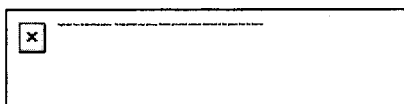
I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with Medicaid, pre-existing conditions, disabilities, and affordability is significant and painful from expensive self-pay policies that don't provide adequate coverage, carelessly deny care or treatments, and wreak great havoc on my finances and fiscal stability. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Gloria Parker
NEW YORK, NY



GLORIA PARKER
Executive Director



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dianna Rands <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Committee,

It seems like we are really living in a Twilight Zone. Many citizens have spoken (time and time again) that we will not accept any form of a health care bill replacements that takes any part of the ACA away. I personally agree that there are improvements that can be made, but repealing and replacing with the Graham-Cassidy bill is NOT in the betterment of our country. And why must Alaska and Maine get provisions just to get their vote. What about the \$6 Billion Colorado stands to lose with this bill? And ironically, the two main co-sponsors get \$3 Billion more for each of their states? And from 2020-2027, Colorado will lose \$11 Billion more. 400,000 Coloradans joined Medicaid under the expansion. What will they do for their healthcare when they are no longer insured?

Our family has been fortunate enough to be able to pay out of pocket for 100% of our health care premiums and needs. While that monthly premium is quite expensive, we have still been able to not be a burden on the system, so that those who are less fortunate are able to get the care they need. However, the ONLY reason we can do this is due to the pre-existing clause. My husband went without insurance for years due to pre-existing conditions. Once we got married, he could get on my work insurance. That was a great start! But then I started my own business, so after COBRA ran out, we struggled to find him insurance. Once the ACA was passed, we were golden again! Our fear now is that as we get older, medical issues are going to come up. Both of us could wind up with pre-existing conditions. Then what do we do? We may be somewhat financially stable right now, but if a major-medical situation comes up, we could lose everything if we don't have insurance.

You may not believe in supporting a woman's right to choose. Fine. Now Congress has cut funding to Planned Parenthood, so a woman may not even have the option of an abortion. And now the Graham-Cassidy bill will allow maternity care not to be covered?!?!? Are you kidding me?!?!? That right there should be a reason to NOT vote for this bill. You want the embryo to become a person, well, how are you going to guarantee medical care for that person?

I urge you to please vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill. Focus on DACA and the tax reform. Let this health care matter end. For the sanity of our nation.

Thanks,
Dianna Rands



Dianna Rands, LLC
[REDACTED]
Boulder, CO

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: M. K. <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein; Senator Kamala Harris
Subject: OPPOSE GRAHAM-CASSIDY

Hello,

I have several younger family members in several states who work for themselves and have no options for health care except through the ACA health exchanges. They have non life-threatening pre-existing conditions, and pre-ACA I know what used to happen if there was a hint of any condition, even allergies. Think of the long-term costs to them and our country, when people do not have access to affordable health care.

I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I exhort members of Congress to reject Graham-Cassidy and actually think about their friends and family and work to craft a better ACA.

Regards,
Kate McCormick
Mill Valley CA [REDACTED]

Sent from Outlook

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Vivian Lott <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:37 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.

Vivian S. Lott
Alexandria, VA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: SAMANTHA GIANULIS <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: daughter with kidney disease, father with Agent Orange health issues

My twelve year old daughter began urinating blood at age 4. I remember watching her sleep and crying, wondering if we were going to lose her as we went through the painful, heart-wrenching process of diagnosis. We still do not know what is specifically wrong with her kidneys, except that they don't function properly and she's developed cysts, before the age of 12, and that she has a chronic condition. We don't know what the future holds, we live in fear, but we do know that raising costs for coverage of people with pre-existing conditions would devastate us. Goodbye college funds, home equity, and hello to living at the margins, which as middle class earners, we basically already do.

My father left the Army as a 1st Lieutenant, having voluntarily enlisted for the Vietnam War. He also served his country in the CIA. But as he's aged, his health problems get the better of him -- diabetes, back surgeries, hearing loss, high blood pressure, Meniere's disease -- all can be traced back to that fatal chemical. He survived the war. Every year, less and less of his buddies show up at the Vietnam Veteran reunions, because they have died from disease caused by Agent Orange (most common, diseases of the lungs).

WHY DOES A VETERAN AND AN INNOCENT CHILD NEED TO BEG FOR THE RIGHT TO BE HEALTHY AND NOT DIE OR GO BANKRUPT TRYING TO STAY ALIVE?

Raising premiums and slashing coverage will KILL PEOPLE. Make them sicker. Is that the legacy you want to leave? Terms like "block grants" and "disaster that is Obamacare" do not fool most of the population.

The human cost of this legislation will haunt the GOP and Congressmen and Congresswomen who voted for it for generations. When people begin to die, get denied care, or are forced to suffer because they can't afford care -- and make no mistake, this is inevitable under this bad legislation -- the toll on your constituents will undo the careers.

Listen to the insurance companies. The health associations, the people who by no fault of their own are sick and have no choice but to depend on laws written with conscience.

Is undoing Obama's legacy worth lives, worth your careers? There is no good reason not to come to a bipartisan solution other than you fear public backlash of a campaign promise. Good luck enduring the public backlash when constituents, young and old, veterans, children, suffer more and pass away.

We aren't going away. And we won't be silent. And we'll make sure everyone is reminded daily that the GOP is to blame.

See you at the polling booths.

Signed,

An educated, unintimidated American mother, daughter and wife

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Matthew Vigue <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill comments

Hello,

The new healthcare bill proposed by Senators Graham and Cassidy would be devastating for Medicaid patients in many states. In my own state of Connecticut, we would lose \$37.8m in annual funding over the next 10 years under the new bill. Medicaid funding should be left in its current state, as the new changes put many elderly and disabled citizens at risk of losing health care.

Sincerely,

-Matt Vigue

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Michele Baker and I live in Florida. It is with great apprehension and concern that I write this email. Not that anyone in the Republican party will care. It has seemed that for the past 8 years, the republicans have forgotten who they represent and have been hell-bent on either blocking anything that President Obama has put in place or trying to repeal it. It seems like all else has been forgotten including those you represent. Please start focusing on the people who have voted for you, listening to them instead of trying to obliterate anything that the previous president has done. If you vote for this bill, you have totally disregarded the needs of your constituents, especially women, veterans, disabled and the elderly. There are also so many people with pre-existing conditions that you do not even seem to think matter at all. I am urging you to not vote for this bill and think about the people that have voted you into office. Most medical professionals have spoken out against this bill. This bill poses a real threat of death to so many people, leaving them without adequate health care. What if the person you took away health care from was your mother? Do you really want to sign the death certificate of people who will be left with no coverage? If you truly believe this bill will benefit the people that you represent, please feel free to drop your current coverage and prove to us that you think this will be a wonderful thing. Put your money where your vote is. If you cannot think of the needs of your constituents, please think about anyone that you love that has a pre-existing condition. What level of health care do they deserve? Or is increasing the size of your wallet and having that cushy office more important than the people of this country? I assure you that I work just as hard or even harder than you and receive a much smaller paycheck. Please start thinking about the Care part of Obamacare instead of the Obamacare. Take what's there and make it better. A lot of work went into the ACA and it took into consideration the needs of Americans, not the politicians.

I am not so naive that I think my words will make any difference but I will certainly make my feelings known in November and so will my family and friends.

Michele Baker

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Help

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members:

Earlier this month, the Senate rightly and generously voted to authorize billions of dollars in assistance to residents of the states hit hard by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

How is it that Congress is unable to see how similar illness is to a hurricane? Like floods and high winds, serious illness is personally and financially devastating to its victims. Americans who fall prey to cancer, heart disease, Alzheimer's, diabetes and countless other serious illnesses are as much the victims of a natural disaster as are those whose lives, livelihood and homes are destroyed by a hurricane. They deserve to be treated with the same consideration and generosity of spirit as the hurricane victims.

This is why I strongly urge all of you to vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill that would strip away the health insurance of millions of Americans. The United States needs to join the ranks of every other first-world nation in guaranteeing its citizens a right to be protected from the devastating consequences of serious illness.

We need a bipartisan solution. This means the Congress works as it should! Together to benefit ALL Americans .. and not to appease a president or wealthy donors.

This is still America, right?

Sincerely,

Michael Sullivan

Phoenix, AZ [REDACTED]

Mike Sullivan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Melissa <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Against Graham-Cassidy

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

Sincerely,
Candace Morrison
Eureka, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy Brown <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Please do not allow this bill to pass! It will affect countless people, myself included.

In addition, please don't even consider cuts to Social Security and Medicare. I literally cannot survive without them.

Sincerely,

Amy Brown
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laura Margolis <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Our story - Graham Cassidy ACA repeal bill

9/25/2017

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

The Graham Cassidy ACA repeal bill puts the lives of millions of people at risk. My letter addresses just one group of citizens.

I am the aunt and legal guardian of my adult nephew who is a person living with autism.

I love him;
He lives with me;
His life depends on Medicaid;
Someday I am going to die;
Who is going to fight for him if, to the people of our country, he is not worth supporting; We are worried.

The state of our nation is the state of every individual in our nation. Whether my nephew and I are Republicans or Democrats, whether we live in your state or not, you are our Senators; you represent all Americans. I strongly urge each Senator to oppose the Graham-Cassidy ACA repeal bill. Wait for a full CBO and conduct public hearings. Though every person I speak to, be they Republican or Democrat, wants the ACA repaired, not repealed or sabotaged, you will find public support in whatever proposal you submit as long as there is a transparent, studied process.

My nephew brings light into this world. I ask you to not trade and transact his life like a cheap poker chip.

Sincerely,
Laura and Ethan Margolis

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Courtney wright <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Say no!
Attachments: image1.JPG; ATT00001.txt; image2.JPG; ATT00002.txt; image3.JPG; ATT00003.txt

When my husband was in Seminary we had to be on Medicaid because he couldn't work while in school and we could not afford child care so I had to stay with our children. When we moved to another state when he graduated and got a job, our children were the only ones that qualified for Medicaid and I could not be more grateful.

When I was pregnant with my oldest daughter, I noticed at 33 weeks that she wasn't moving and she ended up having to be delivered via emergency c-section because she was bleeding out and only had 1/3 of her blood left in her body requiring 2 blood transfusions to save her. She only had minutes to an hour left to live and if I didn't go in to get her checked out she would have died. The doctor said any subsequent children will need constant monitoring starting at 29 weeks.

When I was pregnant with my second child, I had to go to the doctor twice a week to get ultrasounds to check to make sure she didn't start bleeding out like my oldest daughter. If it wasn't for Medicaid, I would have to pay roughly \$5K for each ultrasound and consultation with the specialist. Since I did this twice a week, it would cost me \$10K a week for 10 weeks out of pocket. \$100K just to make sure my baby didn't die. Medicaid helped make sure she was born safe and healthy.

Now that we are in a new state, my children have a wonderful new doctor that accepts Medicaid and can take care of my oldest daughters asthma.

Why is it that women are punished and chastised for abortions but Medicaid funding is being cut from women who would benefit from it? Please, for my babies, please vote no on this bill proposal and help women and children like mine.

Attached are pictures of my babies so you can remember them.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Liz Turi <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Email comment on Graham-Cassidy bill

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. While I get my health insurance through my employer, how public options are rendered directly impact not only the rates my provider charges to payers and individuals, but also affects the rates insurance companies negotiate with providers, and those that they charge consumers. The cost of healthcare is complex, nuanced, and contextual and cannot be adequately addressed by focusing on reducing the premiums payers charge to individuals (which seems to be the only definition of "healthcare costs" that anyone in Washington DC cares about in relationship to the ACA).

I actively work in Healthcare IT, and am working on my M. Eng. in Health Systems Engineering. My entire career is focused on looking for ways to increase efficiency, optimization of workflows (technical and business and clinical), and overall reduction of costs in healthcare across the care and payer continua.

However, I **also** have Rheumatoid Arthritis and recurrent diverticulitis. My journey has been long with heavy utilization of our healthcare system. I do **everything** I can to keep me functional, and honestly feel that I am doing more to reduce costs by keeping me functional so I can continue to work to the benefit of many. The option is succumbing to my conditions and become what I would consider a burden to all those around me - including fellow taxpayers.

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. The ACA is not perfect. There are many areas where it could be improved, and I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth M Turi
Natick, Massachusetts

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Halloran <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:37 PM
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

Mary Ellen Halloran

[REDACTED]
Pennington, NJ [REDACTED]

I am a retired government attorney, and at the age of 66, I am a Medicare recipient. I have had to purchase an ACA policy for my son for the past two years because he aged out of my state employee family plan. He is on the autistic spectrum and he is still trying to make it through college. His plan is not cheap, and if the cost of this plan goes up, it will become unaffordable for both him and for us.

The primary concern of those who participate in the ACA is the cost, and your proposal does nothing to address the cost of the plans. A proposal that is not a veiled attempt to remove health insurance from millions, that is not an attempt to slash Medicare and Medicaid, would keep the ACA and attempt to improve it. This is what you would do if you really cared about your constituents, rather than your wealthy donors. If you retained the ACA and managed to reduce its costs, you would be regarded as heroes, rather than the pariahs you are. You don't have to call it Obamacare. You can take full credit for a plan that maintains the ACA but reduces its costs. That would be the sensible thing to do. But if you persist in passing this abominable bill, Senate Republicans will be credited for the horror show that will result among citizens needing health insurance and resulting from cuts to Medicare and Medicaid.

For the foregoing reasons, my family and I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Mary Ellen Halloran

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: I Jean Wylie [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on graham cassidy

NO! Stop this madness! You cannot pretend this makes anything better. You punish Arizona for accepting Medicaid to help our citizens. You destroy Medicaid and send us Block Grants!

#1. Block grants are hand grenades designed to destroy State budgets! I am 70 years old and I remember what happens to block grants. Block grants are a convenient way to cut future payments in the name of austerity!. Every time you need money to spend on the Pentagon you cut block grants so don't lie to us about giving us money called block grants!

#2. When Arizona lost funding in the last Great Depression it used it as an excuse to destroy education!!! So Arizona citizens have no hope of getting any kind of healthcare out of this citizen-punishing state government. Governor Ducey approved Graham Cassidy because he plans on running for Senator and he doesn't have to be the governor that makes Graham Cassidy work!

#3 there are not enough exclamation points to get across to you how mean-spirited you Republicans are being. You are determined to destroy Healthcare because the Koch brothers told you to because they want a Big Tax cut. You think that somehow you can lie to us and we won't figure it out?

Republicans lies are now bold and bright and upfront and nobody can hide you anymore. 2018 is coming. The only way you can stay in office is if you don't allow people to vote at all ever again. Take that to the bank and sit on it!

Jean wylie
[REDACTED]

Cochise
Arizona
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Skye Cornell <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments for Sept 25 Senate Finance Committee Hearing on Graham-Cassidy Bill
Attachments: SFC-Letter-SCornell-CT.docx

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

Attached please find my comments in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal.

Sincerely,

Skye Cornell

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham healthcare bill - vote no

Dear Congress.

The bill you are considering puts too many Americans at risk, including me. I have a preexisting condition. So do the millions of people with obesity which causes many other diseases. This bill is heartless and less a healthcare bill than a disease facilitation bill with huge negative affects for suburbanites like me, poor inner city communities, rural areas and older people.

Vote no and get to work on a bill that fixes flaws in the current ACA healthcare instead of punishing tens of millions.

Will Hignett
Pittsburgh PA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Liz Delfert <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy 2.0 is harmful to US citizens

The current (and former) version of the Graham-Cassidy "healthcare" bill will harm millions of Americans. Do not let it go to the floor for a vote.

My husband I are 62 year old middle-class Missourians (with preexisting conditions) who were raised in middle class families. This devastating bill will endanger all of us and harm our health and economic security.

I want you all to understand that your constituents' lives are more important than your reelection and money from your donors!

Graham-Cassidy is an assault on so many of us!

VOTE NO!!

Liz Delfert
Florissant, MO [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Justine Schneider [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: info@kamalaharris.org; Politician Sen. Dianne Feinstein
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing to share my thoughts on the proposed ACA repeal/Graham-Cassidy bill which is set to be voted on in the Senate this week. I have heard conflicting things about protections for pre-existing conditions, but most recently that they will NOT continue to be protected if this bill passes. This could have devastating effects on my entire family, and I'll briefly explain why.

Shortly before I was born, when my older brother was three years old, he began having seizures with no known cause and no cure. He is now 39, and has been having uncontrolled seizures for 36 years, with devastating impact on his physical and mental functioning. He needs 24/7 support (and has for many years) for all basic needs such as getting dressed, getting around, eating and drinking, and going to the bathroom. He lives with my parents and they care for his needs. They are middle-class, hardworking people - a librarian and a nurse - who have played by every rule, paid back every bill, been good citizens and public servants, and generally worked themselves to the bone to provide a good life, high-quality education and real opportunity for their five kids, including for my older brother. Exactly the type of people that all politicians claim they want to support. However, my parents - and my entire family by extension - could be devastated by insurance companies once again having free reign to raise premiums sky-high for pre-existing conditions. My parents are 67; my mother has already had to retire to stay home and provide care for my brother, but as his level of functioning slowly but steadily continues to decline, there will come a time when my father will need to stay home as well, to help her. He currently works to provide income and insurance. What will happen to them if insurance costs go totally out of reach?

Please consider my family and the millions like them as you look at the viability of this bill. Please don't punish people and their families with pre-existing conditions, increasing the burden on people like my parents who already have a great deal to bear. The ACA needs work and revision; why can't Congress reach across the aisle and work to fix what we already have in place? Please work for the best interests of the American people, and that means working together so that people have some peace of mind that the healthcare they receive today will still be available tomorrow - or in four years, when political power may have again shifted into the hands of the other party.

Thank you for hearing my comment,

Justine Schneider

[REDACTED]
Cobb, CA [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beth Finke [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please don't let the Graham-Cassidy amendment go through

My son is 31 years old and is well-cared for at a group home in Wisconsin. Our family is grateful. This bill is harmful to people like Gus, who was born with severe and profound disabilities. Please do not let it pass.

Beth Finke

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeffrey Richardson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

Testimony on the Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

Submitted by
Jeffrey Richardson
[REDACTED]
Bend, OR [REDACTED]

to the
Senate Finance Committee Hearing, September 25, 2017
on the above-referenced proposed legislation

Dear Senators:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I live on a fixed and limited income and do not yet qualify for Medicare. The ACA has been a huge blessing to me since my wife retired and enrolled in Medicare. Without the ACA, I would simply be unable to afford insurance, and unable to afford health care.

I have several concerns about the Graham-Cassidy Bill. First, one hearing is not nearly enough to collect the input necessary to craft an effective bill. Second, it would seem to be prudent to wait for the CBO score so that all are dealing with the same, objective cost-estimates and other important forecast data.

Third, to the substance. I have no problem with allowing states to innovate health insurance/health care delivery systems. But this bill goes way to far in simply turning money over to the states without any of the necessary guidance to insurance that ALL Americans, regardless of where they live, have a fair shot at affordable health care.

What is needed is some real, bi-partisan work on improving those aspects of the ACA that are falling short of expectations. This bill does not do that.

And any legislation that passes, besides ensuring equal access to affordable health care, MUST guarantee no loss of coverage due to pre-existing conditions.

Thanks, and best wishes,

Jeffrey Richardson
[REDACTED]
Bend, OR
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Melissa of Troop 202 [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

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

Sincerely,
Melissa Morrison
Eureka, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: please...

do not repeal aca. such a decision would have a bigger picture catastrophe: those of us with serious medical issues, including care of our adult daughter, would sink into financial ruin and THAT means the government would face a much larger burden.

i implore you to do the right thing. keep ACA

felice data
california and arizona

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patty Lawless <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: For Senate Finance Committee Hearing-Sept. 25, 2 pm
Attachments: Action Alert-Graham Cassidy Sept 2017.pdf


Please see our comments on the Graham-Cassidy Health Care bill to be heard in the Senate Finance Committee at 2 pm today, signed by 61 Colorado Clergy & Faith Leaders.

Thank you,

Patty Lawless
Lead Statewide Organizer/Organizadora Estatal Principal

[REDACTED]
cell [REDACTED]

Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has. Margaret Mead

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Together Colorado is a non-partisan interfaith organization and member of the PICO National Network

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David A. Wells [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

My family relies on having quality, affordable healthcare. We are lucky to have good employer-sponsored health insurance options, but that is not the case for everyone. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. A few years ago, my wife underwent open-heart surgery to replace one of her heart valves. Without good insurance, the more than \$250,000 price tag of this operation would have caused us utter financial ruin. No one should have to choose between healthcare and anything else, or undergo bankruptcy because of medical bills. Rather than repealing the ACA, I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve it.

Sincerely,
David Wells

[REDACTED]
Stockton, CA [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mike and Tammy Sullivan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members:

Earlier this month, the Senate rightly and generously voted to authorize billions of dollars in assistance to residents of the states hit hard by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

How is it that Congress is unable to see how similar illness is to a hurricane? Like floods and high winds, serious illness is personally and financially devastating to its victims. Americans who fall prey to cancer, heart disease, Alzheimer's, diabetes and countless other serious illnesses are as much the victims of a natural disaster as are those whose lives, livelihood and homes are destroyed by a hurricane. They deserve to be treated with the same consideration and generosity of spirit as the hurricane victims.

This is why I strongly urge all of you to vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill that would strip away the health insurance of millions of Americans. The United States needs to join the ranks of every other first-world nation in guaranteeing its citizens a right to be protected from the devastating consequences of serious illness.

We need a bipartisan solution. This means the Congress works as it should! Together to benefit ALL Americans .. and not to appease a president or wealthy donors.

This is still America, right?

Sincerely,

Tammy Sullivan

Phoenix, AZ [REDACTED]

Mike and Tammy Sullivan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Vicki Teague-Cooper <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:35 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 & affordability is typical. I always had issues because I have Type 2 Diabetes as a pre-existing condition. And my income is low so affordability has always been an issue. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Vicki Teague-Cooper
Santa Fe, NM

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Allison Galbraith <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: leni@mdchcr.org
Subject: Protect Our Healthcare!

To Whom It May Concern -

Please do not support the Graham Cassidy bill.

I own a business today only because the ACA's Essential Health Benefits. I am also a single mother and a caregiver to my aging father. My mother recently passed away after being in poor health since 2014 when she had several small strokes. My employer was not especially understanding and I was laid off shortly after. This happens frequently to caregivers, despite laws.

My business has given me the flexibility I need to balance paying my mortgage, caring for my child, and caring for my parents.

In 2008, my son's father switched jobs and we lost health insurance. The children went on MCHP which is an amazing program. I was able to purchase an affordable policy for their dad in the private market. When I switched the box from male to female, the prices shot up. When I entered that I'd had postpartum depression and a c-section, most policies dropped off. What was left were policies that cost \$300-450 just for catastrophic coverage. The postpartum depression I needed treatment for would not be covered. The high risk pool would have cost me \$450 a month and not covered anything for 6 months. I was 25 years old. We made around \$50k a year as a family of 4. I opted to go back to work full time because I had no other option — but had ACA been around then, I could have stayed with my infant longer and not paid most of my salary towards health insurance and childcare.

In 2015 I separated from my spouse. Had it not been for ACA, there is no way I could have afforded private insurance which allows me to keep the business.

If I lose the insurance, the business will follow. I would have to find a job that pays what I make now PLUS the cost of childcare to begin to break even. I would lose all the flexibility I have and would likely still have issues with an employer due to my father's doctors appointments.

The ACA EHBs are my livelihood. Perhaps Maryland will keep them, but somewhere in another state is a woman like me who stands to lose everything she has left if the wrong thing is waived.

I beg you, protect ACA. Do not vote on Graham Cassidy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Allison Galbraith
Resident of Maryland (CD-01)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laura B. <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: This bill is murder to Americans

You should be ashamed of throwing millions of Americans off medical care. Emphatically no!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shelby Baumgartner [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee:

I respectfully ask you to reject the Graham-Cassidy-Heller Healthcare Bill in favor of the bipartisan bill the Senate HELP bill was considering. This repeal will destroy Medicaid, defund Planned Parenthood, and rip health coverage from 32 million people in the next decade. This is not in keeping with a government protecting its people, but instead leaving its most vulnerable without a basic need and human right--healthcare! We are better than this as a nation who cares for children, elderly, and disabled citizens.

Shelby Baumgartner
[REDACTED]
Perry, Michigan [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cynthia Adkins <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: please vote no on Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senators,

Like all Americans, my family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

My husband and I each founded our small businesses, and we are insured because of the Affordable Care Act. Everyone needs and deserves preventive medical care, and it should be understood that each person and family is just one diagnosis or accident away from needing urgent medical care.

I also oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill because the U.S. Senate should follow regular order. The Senate hasn't had adequate time to understand the impact of the G-C bill on Americans, our healthcare providers, our insurance companies, or our economy. What's certain is that the G-C bill will destabilize the already unsteady insurance market, which will cause them to raise rates, and make insurance too expensive for many.

Public policy requires laws that reflect good public policy, are easy to understand, and are evenly applied. There is no good public policy reason to abandon the bipartisan progress that was being made by Senator Murray and instead push through a vote on the G-C bill before the CBO score has been released.

Senators, you are better than this. You didn't go to DC to take away people's healthcare. Vote no, and work on a bipartisan bill that improves the Affordable Care Act. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely
Cindy Adkins
Medina, Washington

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alyssa LaBelle <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Improve the ACA, Don't Repeal It

Dear Sir or Madam,

I rely on the ACA for quality, affordable healthcare. Many of my friends, loved ones, and acquaintances do, too. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I work as an early literacy specialist for a public library system. It does not pay a ton of money, but I am passionate about my work and contributing to my community, and that makes it both worthwhile and rewarding for me. I rely on the ACA and its subsidies to make my monthly premium payments for basic, important healthcare coverage affordable in relation to my income. If not for this, I would not be able to continue my work helping to prepare families with young children for reading, school, and life success. In the course of my work, I meet families who need Medicaid to keep their families insured. In the past, I, too, have needed to rely on Medicaid during a rough period in my life. These services are critical to all Americans, and should not be reduced or rescinded. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Alyssa LaBelle
Peoria, Arizona, [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: alia gee <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy amendments

My family is full of pre- existing conditions.

I oppose the Graham Cassidy amendments and anything that dismantles the ACA.

Americans deserve single payer healthcare.

Thank you for your time and attention,
Alia Ganaposki

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathryn Gelder <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

Dear Senators,

My name is Kathryn Gelder, and I am a resident of Illinois. I am deeply concerned about the current health care bill being considered by the Senate. While I have been lucky enough to have quality health care provided first through my father's job, then through my own and my husband's careers, I have many friends and family who are not so lucky. My best friend is self-employed, and the Affordable Care Act exchanges provide her with care she could not get at the same price or quality ten years ago. My brother would not be alive today without the quality health care that his wife's insurance provided for him.

I know how vital quality, affordable insurance is for all members of our great nation, and even though I have not struggled as many have to receive it, I am writing in their stead. Our country is founded on many principles, but one that speaks to me in health care discussions is the widely held value that we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers--when someone else is in great need, we work together to help them access it if their own efforts have not proven to be enough in the struggle.

I am therefore opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill for the simple reason that no major health organization supports it. It has been estimated to both increase costs for those who manage to keep their insurance and to decrease the number of people covered by insurance. I am deeply concerned that a bill opposed by all major organizations dedicated to our citizens' health care is this close to passing the Senate.

The Affordable Care Act needs improvement. However, I expect the members of the US Congress to find a bipartisan approach that better funds the foundering insurance exchanges, perhaps by increasing taxes on people who, like me, make enough to give more.

I, personally, am tired of partisan bickering over the lives of those who depend on the Affordable Care Act to remain healthy and, in some cases, alive. Please put foremost in your thoughts both those who depend on the ACA and those who are currently financially strapped by its rising costs. There is a solution, a better solution, to be had in compromise than in narrowly passing this bill through budget reconciliation.

Thank you for your time and for your service to our country,
Kathryn Gelder
[REDACTED]
Geneva, IL [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christa Williams <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Senators,

I am writing to ask that you not push through the Graham-Cassidy bill. A bill that affects human life to this extent and relates to 1/6 of the American economy should not be passed without substantive, open, bipartisan debate and a CBO score, to, at a minimum, give an idea of its impact.

I am not sure what our government has come to that you would even consider passing a major bill like this under those circumstances.

Christa Williams MD
Family Physician
Chelsea, MI [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julia Kirchhausen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not repeal the ACA

To the Senate Finance Committee,

I urge the members of the Senate to not repeal the ACA.

This is a dire and critical moment for our country. I think, as a person who is basically a centrist with Democratic leanings, that this is an opportunity to start coming together as one nation--not to continually stress our differences. The repeal of the ACA without a coherent replacement would put into motion a series of devastating circumstances for millions of Americans of *all* political viewpoints--not just Democrats.

I think we can all agree that the ACA is flawed. But it was never meant to be an end-all, completely polished system when it was established.

Rather, it was meant to be a system that established a baseline of coverage for many more Americans than ever before, to be fine-tuned and improved over time.

Let's work on fine-tuning rather than starting over, please.

Our lives depend on it.

Respectfully,

Julia Kirchhausen
American Citizen

--

Julia Kirchhausen Communications, LLC
Strategy and public relations for arts and cultural institutions.

[REDACTED]

M: [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Plaza, Carla <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Alliance for Strong Families and Communities Comments on Graham-Cassidy Proposal
Attachments: image002.emz; 9_25_17AllianceSFCGrahamCassidy.pdf

Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

United States Senate Committee on Finance

215 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden,

The Alliance for Strong Families and Communities is a strategic action network of thousands of social sector leaders across the country driving to achieve a healthy and equitable society. As leaders in the health and human services sector, Alliance network member organizations work at the nexus of people, community, and public systems. We know every family and community is more likely to achieve optimal health when they have a strong foundation that enables them to thrive, no matter their race, socio-economic status, or geographic location. Our network holds itself accountable to ensuring that all people have equal access and opportunity to health and wellbeing.

Unfortunately, the current proposal in the Senate to reform the country's health care system, the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson (Graham-Cassidy) proposal, is a missed opportunity for our country to create a model health system that builds an affordable, preventive, fully-integrated physical, mental and behavioral health system that accounts for key cost drivers, including the social determinants of health and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), and the influence they have over every individual's health and well-being over their lifetime.

As drafted, the Graham-Cassidy proposal takes a wrecking ball to the Medicaid program, without fully understanding the repercussions. Medicaid, together with the Children's Health Insurance Program and the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting program (CHIP and MIECHV are set to expire at the end of this month) provides strong foundational supports to children and their families. Research has shown that policies and interventions that promote healthy development throughout the early childhood years create cost-saving benefits over the lifespan, including a foundation for later school achievement, economic productivity, responsible citizenship, and effective parenting. Several studies show the economic benefits well into

'Research has shown that policies and interventions that promote healthy development throughout the early childhood years create cost-saving benefits over the lifespan, including a foundation for later school achievement, economic productivity, responsible citizenship, and effective parenting. Several studies show the economic benefits well into adulthood for those children who continuously receive access to health care services. One study by the National Bureau of Economic Research found that each additional year of Medicaid eligibility from birth to age 18 increased tax payments by these individuals by \$186 and reduced payments out of the Earned Income Tax Credit (ETC) by \$75. More significant was the impact that additional health services, paid for by Medicaid, had for girls; by age 28, women increased their wages by \$656, contributed \$247 more in taxes, and received \$109 less in ETC benefits. '

adulthood for those children who continuously receive access to health care services. One study by the National Bureau of Economic Research found that each additional year of Medicaid eligibility from birth to age 18 increased tax payments by these individuals by \$186 and reduced payments out of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) by \$75. More significant was the impact that additional health services, paid for by Medicaid, had for girls; by age 28, women increased their wages by \$656, contributed \$247 more in taxes, and received \$109 less in EITC benefits.

Policymakers must come to view Medicaid as a key investment in building our nation's human capital, not a financial burden that needs to be imploded. Federal and state governments, together, can make a big leap forward in improving health outcomes and generating cost savings if policymakers steer the health care system to better address underlying causes of cost drivers, such as the social determinants of health and ACEs. Wise federal investments can better support mechanisms that invest in community-based innovation, scale up what is already working, better integrate the health and human services systems, and align financing to support outcomes that help achieve the full potential of every person in America.

On behalf of our strategic action network of hundreds of organizations representing the health and human services sector, we call on you to vote against the Graham-Cassidy proposal. Once again, we insist that the political deadline of September 30th be taken off the table. The Senate must act responsibly and slow down this chaotic process before it becomes a confusing and costly reality for state and local economies, individuals, families, and communities. The Alliance urges Congress to take the necessary time to involve communities, consumers, and health and human services professionals in the critical decisions that impact millions of people. Let us return to regular order and craft a health care bill that will allow the country to take a big leap forward to building an affordable, preventive, fully integrated health care system.

There is no greater investment for our nation to make than in its people. Therefore, your paramount responsibility as a senator is to be a strong and effective advocate for building human capital and creating equitable and healthy communities.

Regards,

Marlo Nash
Senior Vice President, Public Policy and Mobilization
Alliance for Strong Families and Communities

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patrick J. Lamb <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Date of Hearing: September 25, 2017

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members:

I am strongly opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill, for several reasons.

1. As an older American with pre-existing conditions, affordable coverage, without limits, is essential. Not access to coverage, but actual coverage. Giving the states the right to change this depending on political whim and economic conditions in local areas is a non-starter.
2. Penalizing older Americans by letting insurers charge greater premiums defeats one of the great strengths of the ACA.
3. How can you possibly pass a bill that directly and indirectly impacts one-sixth of the US economy without studying the impact, without hearing from experts, without acting like a deliberative body?
4. If you pass this bill without Democrat support, you are not fixing the issue, you are perpetuating it as a political issue. It's time for you to grow up and act like legislators—debating, but ultimately compromising, finding common ground and passing bills with bipartisan support.

Submitted on this day,

Patrick Lamb

Patrick Lamb | Valorem Law Group
[REDACTED]

Chicago, IL [REDACTED]

T [REDACTED]

C [REDACTED]

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Paget, Alia <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

Myself and my family rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story is of life with a pre-existing condition and the reality of not being able to afford the medical care and supplies that I cannot live without. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Alia Paget

[REDACTED]
Seattle, Washington, [REDACTED]

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Melanie Mitchell <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

I am an American citizen writing to strongly oppose the Senate voting on the Graham-Cassidy bill without a full set of hearings and an evaluation from the Congressional Budget Office. For something as important as health care, please take the time to allow all voices to be heard, and and to allow the American people, as well as our representatives, to understand the likely financial and insurance-coverage impacts.

Melanie Mitchell
Portland, Oregon, USA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alice, family <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

My name is Alice Ramadan. My son, Henry Bass, attends a progressive program at OCA in Winter Park, Florida. OCA stands for Opportunity, Community and Ability and it offers Behavior therapy, recreation programs, adult vocational training, summer and holiday camps as well as after-school programs for individuals with special needs.

Its programs are funded predominantly through Florida's CDC+ monies which are Medicaid Waiver monies from the Medicaid program that will be greatly impacted by any block grants, cuts or caps as proposed in the Graham-Cassidy bill.

I have worked so hard to support my child so that he can be part of our community and do not want to see that go away or be forced to make a decision about an institutional setting.

I respectfully request that you oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill and oppose any cuts or caps to Medicaid, on behalf of my son/daughter.

Sincerely,

Alice S. Ramadan

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Orlando, FL [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mariam Khan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: NO on Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

Hi there,

As an aspiring physician who currently works at Kaiser Permanente, I am writing to you to express my sheer disgust with this piece of legislation. Even the most optimistic outlook shows this bill leading to millions uninsured and bringing volatility to the private health insurance markets. Insurance premiums will go up as people will only get sicker.

Are the creators and backers of the Graham-Cassidy bill even aware of how insurance operates? Insurance is a form of risk management that is predicated on there being a large, diverse pool which spreads the risk around. Given the costliness of health care in this country, low insurance premiums will only become a reality if all Americans sign up for coverage which gives way to far better risk-sharing arrangements. More people contributing to the insurance pools means more affordable premiums for all of us. Any health economist will tell you that without an individual mandate or its alternative, young healthy Americans will likely forgo health insurance, resulting in a sicker population seeking coverage. Insurance companies in response will have to hike premiums to cover the cost of insuring the sick. Under this bill, Americans with pre-existing conditions would see their insurance premiums rise dramatically.

Senator Graham and Senator Cassidy are under the delusion that their block grants are the panacea to our health insurance woes. Sure, giving back agency to the states so they can create their own health care experiments sounds like a great idea in theory... if millions of American lives weren't at stake. There is no language in the bill guaranteeing each state will work towards expanding health care access. States are given the freedom to use federal funds however they please - which may or may not include "help[ing] high risk individuals in the purchase of health benefits coverage". Grant funding instead could be used towards paying doctors for uncompensated care or creating health reimbursement accounts at the state level, neither of which are financially sustainable in the long run or do anything to reign in the actual costs of health care in this country.

Moreover, the bill plans to penalize states that have increased health coverage for their residents by redistributing their funds to those states who have not yet made the same strides. Senator Graham and Senator Cassidy may call this egalitarianism when in fact it is the most counterintuitive policy I have ever come across. Why are we punishing some states for expanding access to health care? What happens to all those Americans with subsidized health insurance plans when these states are no longer able to pay for them due to shortage of funding? While certain states receiving the additional funds stand to benefit today, what will happen in 2027 when federal funding sunsets? Will they too be punished if they expand health coverage? Will the federal government renew its funding to the states in 2027? What we do know is that the bill codifies the GOP's plans to disinvest in health care over time, which begs the question: what's the point of offering block grants today when funding will either be pulled altogether or deeply reduced in the future? Why offer a lousy Band-Aid 'fix' that is deliberately designed to be temporary and does nothing to stabilize the private health insurance markets? If the goal is to give everyone access to affordable, high quality health care, which is the

case in every other developed nation, the GOP must recognize that health care investment needs to be a fiscal priority. The GOP argues that the Affordable Care Act is financially unsustainable, but fails to point out that Graham-Cassidy is even less viable as it eventually leaves the American people at the mercy of the insurance companies. Seems like health care access for all Americans isn't the goal here...

It astounds me that Congress knowing full well that their own health care coverage will never be in jeopardy can conceive a bill that eliminates subsidies for middle- and low-income Americans. How dare Senators Graham and Cassidy put forward this piece of legislation when their health care is heavily subsidized by the federal government? Be it under the Affordable Care Act of today or the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program of the past, Congress has come to enjoy federal subsidies for insurance that cover 72% of their premium costs. Yet, the creators and backers of Graham-Cassidy have the audacity to limit the expansion of Medicaid and heavily reduce federal subsidies for hard-working Americans. By decimating Medicaid, Republicans are making it clear to all that they believe health care is a privilege only for those rich enough to afford it. We already know that the GOP is morally bankrupt given the ease with which they are able to sentence millions of Americans to medical debt and poverty. However, do they not understand that this bill does not bode well for the country's economy either? Listen, more Americans with poor health means a less productive and shrunken work force with fewer Americans able to contribute to the economy.

Furthermore, the bill proposes to completely eliminate the Prevention and Public Health fund, which is a devastating blow to public health programs that focus on keeping populations healthy and out of the emergency rooms. We should be increasing not decreasing our investment in public health if we want to control health care costs and promote the well-being of Americans. If you don't want to subsidize health insurance plans, then at the very least, you need to strengthen your commitment to public health. But of course, Congress lacks such foresight.

I know the GOP is under pressure to repeal the Affordable Care Act and is latching onto this sub-par bill as a last-ditch effort, but if our elected officials have any integrity and care even the tiniest bit for the American people who voted them into office, then they would vote 'No' on this poorly thought-out, disastrous bill. Please, I request you to leave the party ideology aside and think about the suffering you would prompt for millions of Americans. If you pass this bill, history will not remember the GOP kindly. We the American people will not vote for oligarchs who enjoy benefits on the backs of the working class.

Sure, the Affordable Care Act isn't perfect and certainly needs to be improved upon, but this bill isn't the solution - not even close.

Thank you,

Mariam Khan
Clinical Trials Research Associate
Kaiser Permanente Oncology Clinical Trials

Direct Line: [REDACTED]

Tie Line: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

Pager: [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Eng <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Hearing

My daughter and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with Medicaid is that my daughter and I began receiving Medicaid after my husband passed away in June 2016. My daughter is now 3 years old, and I am a single stay at home mom. Medicaid is essential for us since I am not working at this time. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Mary Eng

[REDACTED]
Sunnyside, NY [REDACTED]

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lees, Lynn Hollen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No on Graham Cassidy Bill PLEASE

To the Committee:

I urge you to vote NO on the Graham Cassidy Bill. It would be a disaster for my family and my neighborhood.

My family includes an adolescent with Down's syndrome and with complex medical needs. My sister-in-law has had two bouts of cancer and recent joint replacement surgery; My brother has had multiple hospital stays and rare infections during the past two years. Although ALL of us have good medical insurance now, all of us have pre-existing conditions and fear the imposition of life-time caps on certain benefits and the removal of guaranteed coverage from basic plans. The health insurance of many of my neighbors depends upon medicaid and upon continued coverage of women's health needs. All are imperiled by the Graham Cassidy Bill. Senate Democrats and Republicans need to work together to develop a bi-partisan approach to improving the coverage and containing the costs of health insurance under the ACA.

Think of the needs of all the American people when you vote today.

Lynn Lees

Lynn Hollen Lees
Professor of History Emerita
Ombudsman
[REDACTED]
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA [REDACTED]
Tel: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Fax: [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Murphy, Coleen T. <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill: NO

Dear Senators,

I am writing to you to urge you to vote NO on this healthcare bill. It is bad for everyone but healthy, wealthy Americans. The Medicaid cuts are going to leave our seniors without access to adequate health care. Graham-Cassidy will once again make it virtually impossible for those with pre-existing conditions to get health insurance coverage.

We are the richest country in the world. We are better than this. Go back to committee and FIX the ACA.

Sincerely,
Coleen T Murphy,
Princeton, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laurie Vette <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham-Cassidy

Importance: High

Dear Senators,

Please oppose the upcoming legislation proposed by Senators Graham and Cassidy to repeal and replace the ACA. It has been created in a rush in order to help those and other Republican senators save face with their constituents. Is this how you govern – protecting your own best interests while ignoring the plight of the citizenry? This is not why I vote; this is not what I pay you to do.

The Graham-Cassidy bill has not been thought through, nor has it been allowed to be debated and weighed by experts. It threatens to do more harm than good. I would like to see a bipartisan effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Laurie Vette
Seattle, WA

Laurie Vette
Principal
Laurie Vette Design, LLC
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maryann Ranson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday 25, 2017

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare....I am 76 years old and have been disabled since 1995. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with disability, pre-existing conditions, affordability (which over 50% of my SS goes to my medical expenses) is leaving me little money to live on, it is a constant struggle to try and outlive my money with the increasing costs of medical expenses. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Maryann Ranson
Lambertville, NJ

Please excuse iPad errors

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mariann Wilson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Medicaid Waiting Lists

Hello from Natchitoches, Louisiana. My twin sons were born with the permanent disability, Spina Bifida, and they have been on a waiting list for 8 years in the hopes that one day they'll receive Medicaid as a supplement to their private insurance. This bill is devastating for the disabled and their families. From what I understand, Medicaid federal funds sent to the states would be slashed and the expansion ended. Our state is poor, so kids with disabilities don't automatically receive Medicaid, while in many other states they would qualify. I cannot support any healthcare bill that puts caps or cuts on Medicaid for the poor and disabled or on the health benefits their private insurers must provide. I have heard Senator Cassidy say that his plan is more sustainable long-term, but what about now? What about my kids? What about families making life and death decisions today and in the near future. Please say no this bill.

Mariann Wilson



Mariann Wilson
Instructor of English
[REDACTED]

Northwestern State University
Department of English, Foreign Languages, & Cultural Studies
Office: [REDACTED] Fax: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Natchitoches, LA [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Heather Schmucker <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose GCH

Hello-

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have several pre-existing conditions and repealing ACA and transferring the financial risk to the states will make it impossible for me to consider ever pursuing another line of employment, starting my own business, or even taking the risk of moving out of the state I currently live in. This bill will be disastrous for American business, as it will create intense barriers if rules and coverage are different state by state, and it will limit mobility for American workers.

I am terrified of this bill and urge you to pursue the bipartisan effort to improve on the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I consider it our patriotic duty to oppose this bill and make sure that Americans have access to affordable healthcare.

Heather Schmucker
Chicago, IL [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: LOUISE J ELBAUM <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy comments

I am a widowed mother of two grown sons with developmental disabilities. They depend on getting affordable, consistent health care for their well-being. Without such care, their general expenses would be far greater than they currently are. Both young men are in competitive employment, which helps support their needs. Without affordable health care, they might find themselves using emergency services, a costly alternative. Or, worse, they may require institutionalization.

It makes so much more sense to address the health needs of the total population in a reasoned, careful, bi-partisan manner than to continue to try to force a worse, less affordable system on the population. Let us try to unite as a reasonable country and address the real issues of health care. Please do not let this legislation pass, And Please, please do not rush through any health care legislation without a well considered evaluation of what it would cost the citizens of our country in dollars and in well-being.

Louise Elbaum
[REDACTED]

Madison, WI [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathy Putnam <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy healthcare plan

Dear Legislators,

I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy "healthcare" plan. I have a Bachelors in Social Work and a Masters in Public Health, and have worked since I was 16 years old. I left my professional position as Director of a Domestic Violence Shelter to take care of my 79 year old father, whom had been diagnosed with dementia, so we would not have to put him in a nursing home. I thank God for the ACA healthcare, as I could not afford COBRA, which is only available for six months anyway. Do you realize that 80% of Americans are against your healthcare plan for the following reasons:

- * It brings back pre-existing conditions clauses.
- * It allows insurers to raise rates when a patient receives a new diagnosis.
- * It allows states to cut funding for, or let insurers exclude:
 - * maternity services
 - * hospitalizations
 - * laboratory tests
 - * dental benefits for children
 - * mental health
 - * substance abuse programs
- * Individual states will be allowed to prevent women's clinics from charging Medicaid for services like cancer screenings and birth control.
- * It shifts billions of dollars of costs onto states, giving them incentive to cut the above items.
- * It lets states spend block grants on non-healthcare spending.
- * Federal aid for Medicaid would plummet.
- * Insurers would be able to double their surcharge on elderly customers.
- * It kills the ACA's insurance subsidies.

Please put American citizens health concerns before tax cuts for your rich campaign donors. We're not stupid, and as I said, 80% of us realize how cruel and awful this plan is for Americans.

Sincerely,

Kathryn P. Putnam
Covington, Virginia

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lynda Anderson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare Bill

Dear Senators,

Please reconsider supporting the proposed replacement for the ACA. Yes, the ACA needs work, but the proposed changes will harm a lot of people. There are a lot of experts out there that will provide statistics of how much harm it will do. I am worried about its effect on some very real people.

My granddaughter was born with a birth defect. She didn't do anything wrong. Her parents didn't do anything wrong. Sometimes things happen. She's had surgery and is doing well. However, the possibility that pre-existing condition protections may be waived means that she will not have access to affordable insurance - ever. Protecting people with pre-existing conditions from price-gouging is one of the things about the ACA that does work. Please leave it alone.

The second person I care deeply about is my friend Mary. Mary has an intellectual disability. She's an avid football fan and she loves cars. She has no family. I have known her for about 30 years and am now her legal guardian. Mary needs 24 hour supports to be safe. She needs support for employment - she loves work and never misses a day. She doesn't even like to take vacations, but she needs help knowing what to do. She also lives in a small group home in the community and needs staff to help her with her meds and to support her in performing both daily living activities (like cleaning) and to do participate in her community (such as shopping). The plans for Medicaid deeply concern me. People like Mary are vulnerable - they need to be protected and cared for.

The third issue I have is that this bill, as it stands, punishes states that expanded Medicaid in an attempt to make the health care system work better for everyone while rewarding states that refused to even try. This is unjust.

Lynda Anderson
St. Paul, MN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tacey Miller <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I Oppse the Graham-Cassidy Bill!!!

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

Pre-existing conditions are a reality for the majority of the American population. Some conditions are worse than other, some even life threatening. Is this the best America can do, the greatest nation in terms of coverage and affordability? Why are you trying to pass a bill so quickly with little review? I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Your constitueimts lives are in your hands. This is why you were elected. Not to profit personally, but to make America better.

Do better.

Tacey Miller
Seattle, WA
Urbana, IL
Kennett Square, PA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Martha Hurley <[REDACTED]@m>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

My family, my neighbors and my community rely on quality, affordable healthcare. I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Affordable healthcare for all is a right, not a privilege. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Martha Hurley

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Steller <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Insurance

Don't repeal the ACA! Try to put yourselves in the shoes of people whose lives depend on it. You don't really want to be responsible for killing them,

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eric Beam <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no on Graham Cassidy

Hello,

Adding my voice, even if there's nothing I can add to the mountain of damning statements by knowledgeable members of the medical industry.

Please vote in the best interest of the people.

Sincerely,

Eric Beam

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Brooklyn, NY [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kate McArdle <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

Dear committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill, for several reasons. First of all, it would be devastating to the health of millions of Americans who rely on the ACA. Women and people with preexisting conditions will be especially hurt by the Graham Cassidy bill.

In addition to the moral issue of taking care of our own fellow Americans, there is also an economical issue at stake - when a person has insurance coverage they can afford and rely on (as with the ACA), they will cost less to the public than a person who doesn't have insurance, can't afford to go to the doctor, and instead ends up in the ER due to not treating minor issues until they spiral out of control, and unable to pay the ER bill. In addition, healthy people are better employees in our workforce, while sick people who don't have the insurance coverage they need often cannot hold down a job due to illness, thus negatively impacting our economy further. I feel strongly that for these reasons, it is imperative to make quality healthcare coverage available to all, to help everyone in this country have a shot at contributing to our workforce.

Finally, I disagree wholeheartedly with the approach being used to pass this bill. Healthcare is such an important (and expensive issue), any bills related to it should be carried out in an open, transparent, and bipartisan fashion - the opposite of how this bill was developed.

For these reasons, I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill. Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion.

Regards,
Kathryn McArdle
Austin, TX [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jim Griffin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Never contributed to a candidate running for office. If any incumbent votes for this abomination of a health care bill, not only will I be contributing to their opponents, I'll be actively working to make sure they're defeated.

Please work with everyone in Congress to pass a rational single payer system.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: T Rae <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GrahamCassidy Bill

Congress can do better than the Graham-Cassidy bill. Too many Americans will be unable to afford insurance if this bill is passed.

Vote "No."



Virus-free. [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Phyllis Heumann <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

My extended family relies on quality, affordable health care. Because of this I oppose the Graham-Cassidy health bill. I have a nephew who is severely disabled, due to Tubular Sclerosis Complex, which was diagnosed when he was 4 months old. He has aged out of his parent's coverage, and desperately needs Medicaid coverage.

I would like to see a bipartisan effort made to improve the ACA, rather than repeal it.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Phyllis Heumann,
Marlboro, NJ

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margaret Marsh <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senators,

The new version of Graham Cassidy is no better than the first, and the first was worse than the so called "skinny repeal."

Protection for pre-existing conditions will not be guaranteed, and it will be left to states as well to decide how much more to charge older rather than younger Americans. It is a regressive and cruel bill. The American people do not like it. Look at the polls.

Congress can do better than this.

Sincerely,

Margaret Marsh

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sam Arnold <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy Graham is a travesty

If you believe in markets and capitalism, you know that providing basic health care for all citizens helps our competitiveness and improves labor participation and efficiency. Also, it keeps people ALIVE!

Do you care about life and capitalism? If so, oppose this dumb cruel bill.

--
Sam Arnold
Austin, TX

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Emily Lauer <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the GCHJ Healthcare Bill

I am writing to add my voice to the many who oppose this bill. I oppose the idea of giving states lump sums. I oppose the elimination of cost sharing subsidies. I oppose the proposed changes to policies on pre-existing conditions, and I oppose the idea that insurers could refuse to cover essential benefits.

I want Americans to be alive.

Sincerely,
Emily Lauer
voter
zip [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Erin Coleman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham/Cassidy bill

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. On behalf of myself, my family, and the disabled and elderly individuals who depend on Medicaid funding for home and community-based services, I urge my Colorado senators, and all senators, to vote NO on the Graham/Cassidy bill.

My brother, as well as many of my friends, experience disability. Without home and community-based services, they would not be able to maintain their active, independent lifestyle. One of the women I recently spoke to said that, without those services, she would lose not only valuable opportunities, but also her sense of self. Nursing Homes (which are the alternative) are no place for young, active citizens who, through their careers and talents, are making valuable contributions to our communities! Please join me in supporting the services that will allow them the freedom to continue participating as social equals.

Specifically, my brother has Down syndrome. And, my father has Parkinson's Disease. So, additionally, I urge you to support affordable healthcare for these, and all, pre-existing conditions!

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

Thank you!

Erin Coleman
(Denver, Colorado)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: mima tipper <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearine to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, September 25, 2017

Regarding the: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, September 25, 2017

From: Mima Tipper, [REDACTED] Burlington, Vermont, [REDACTED]

Dear Senators,

The Graham-Cassidy bill is morally reprehensible and fiscally irresponsible. Those who vote "yes" on Trumpcare will be remembered in next year's election and history books as anti-American. I am against it, the medical profession is against it, as are the majority of voting citizens in the country.

There is a sound reason why Medicaid Directors IN ALL 50 STATES are against this bill, which is touted as giving them more flexibility and power. Clearly it does not. The health insurance industry came out forcefully against it since the bill's state-by-state block grants could create health care chaos in the short term and an uncertain insurance market. The Blue Cross Blue Shield Association and America's Health Insurance Plans both made statements referring to allowing states to waive key consumer protections and undermine protections for those with pre-existing medical conditions, and the legislation reduces funding for many states significantly and would increase uncertainty in the marketplace, making coverage more expensive and jeopardizing Americans' choice of health plans as well as further destabilizing the individual market. I stand with the dozens of national advocacy groups representing patients, doctors, insurers and hospitals that have strongly condemned the Graham-Cassidy. Please vote no on the bill and work toward a bipartisan solution with open, transparent process.

Thank you for your attention,

Mima Tipper, VT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on the GCH bill

Hello,

My name is Julie Welch and I am completely opposed to the Graham-Cassidy health care bill.

I am 56. Self-employed. Healthy.

Thanks to the ACA, I am spending a \$600 per month on my health insurance premiums, as opposed to \$1400. And also, thanks to the ACA, my annual checkups now cost me \$50, as opposed to \$1200.

I know the ACA is flawed. But this new health care bill is NOT the solution.

Sincerely,

Julie Welch

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:16 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because I am an independent contractor in a healthcare field that relies increasingly on independent contractors. I have no choice but to buy my insurance on the open market. Independent contractors and small business owners like my husband suffered for years before the ACA was passed, wondering if we would be kicked off our plans for preexisting conditions. I was kicked out of two plans because I am a middle aged woman with asthma.

Healthcare reform should stabilize the marketplace and make insurance more affordable for people like me. This bill seems to do neither.

Tamara Sepe

Tamara Sepe

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not pass the Obamacare repeal

Dear Finance Committee, I can not stress too much how devastating this repeal legislation would be for millions of Americans. I beg you to reach across the aisle to come up with health care legislation that actually addresses the problems we are facing. Any effort to rush this through without hearings and in the face of widespread opposition is grossly irresponsible. Please do the right thing. Thank you.

Anne Comber
Milton Ma

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Natalie Winslow - Natalie.Winslow@finance
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Input on the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Hi there,

My name is Natalie Winslow, and I currently live in Culver City, California. However, I move relatively often and in my adult life I've lived in Boulder and Denver, Colorado; Shawnee, Kansas; Riverside, California; and Los Angeles, California. I am a small business owner and the single mother of an elementary-school aged child.

I am incredibly concerned about the potential effects this bill could have on people like me, who pay for my own health insurance out of pocket through the ACA exchanges. I have a pre-existing condition, and I am afraid that if this passes, and if I need to move to a different state for work opportunities or any other reason, I could potentially encounter horribly confusing and expensive struggles to get the insurance I need.

While my pre-existing condition is relatively mild, my brother's is not. He has lived in Florida for almost 25 years and was recently diagnosed with Leukemia. He also relies on the ACA exchanges to get medical care, and my senior citizen parents help him with his premiums since he's often too weak to work, but not eligible for disability. If he's expected to pay more than his annual salary for health insurance, then you've given him a death sentence. You're giving millions of Americans a death sentence.

I understand that this plan gives block grants to states to do with as they choose, but one of the great things about the American Dream is that we should be able to go where opportunity takes us, whether that's Hollywood or Oklahoma City. Our health should not be politicized based on whether our state is red or blue. Health care should be guaranteed to be accessible for everyone: healthy, sick, young, old, rich, and poor.

If we can afford the largest military budget in the world, we can afford to continue to help subsidize healthcare. Please take my concerns to heart. Our nationwide health and happiness is just as vital as our nationwide security. In fact, they're interconnected.

Sincerely,

Natalie Winslow

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy Bill currently being pushed through the Senate because everything I've read indicates that it will result in worse coverage and people losing coverage. It provides no protections for essential care, and no protections to prevent companies from offering much higher rates to people with preexisting conditions and gouges medicaid. It has been openly denounced by the AARP and projections say MILLIONS will lose coverage under it by 2026, not to mention the fact that it has not been fully analyzed or received a CBO score. HOW is this better for citizens? This is clearly a partisan vendetta, and a capitulation to the business interests of an inhumane and predatory insurance industry. I'm sure in your life and your world you vaguely hear about people struggling to afford health care, maybe you repeat one of those stories on the campaign trail, but let me tell you EVERYONE in my life struggles to afford health care. My 38 year old partner had coverage for the first time in his adult life through the ACA. MANY of my friends who struggle from a variety of health problems made worse by completely inadequate access to medical care PRE ACA have coverage for the first time through the ACA. Every week there's a new crowdfunding post or we are scrambling to raise money to pay for the health care of newly sick and endangered people we know who stand to lose not just their comfort or mobility but their LIVES. Their families lose their homes, people lose their chance at an education, they give up pets, they lose their career because of the cascading affects of lack of access to healthcare and the overwhelming costs. The impression I get is that this is abstract to lawmakers because they don't actually know what it is to feel this fear so I need you to understand that ANY bill that worsens our ability to access healthcare, like this one CLEARLY does, is absolutely unacceptable. We cannot go backwards like this. To even think to make ANY changes to our healthcare without adequate and thoughtful review tells me that you have very little regard for our lives and no concern for our ability to thrive and live. Vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill or expect enormous pushback from your many constituents who recognize that we have a right to healthcare.

--Jeanne D'Angelo 19148

Jeanne DAngelo

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Don't. Please don't. Fix that which is wrong with the ACA...of course. But to gut medical coverage from millions of Americans is wrong and vile. Do the right thing, not the most politically expedient thing, not the Tea Party thing....the path for your country-wide constituents to better healthcare.

Sincerely,
Hadley Taylor

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Please do not support repeal, fix what needs to be fixed. These are people lives. It appears there is another attempt to save face. Do the right thing, work together to fix not replace!!!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy Bill currently being pushed through the Senate because it does not consider the increasing numbers of seniors who are aging and will require more medicaid funding not less. There are ways to incentivize the health and services sector to reduce costs as has been proposed by Pennsylvania's medicaid expansion. It is irresponsible to rush a bill through without taking an appropriate time to consider such a vital issue.

Charles Line

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <derek.mcclurg@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for the record

To whom it may concern,

I strongly oppose the legislation under consideration to alter the ACA.

This bill will not help anyone that needs affordable health insurance.

All senators should vote No.

Derek McClurg
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:04 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 doesn't include mandatory coverage for pregnancy. It creates a situation where a woman's pregnancy becomes a pre-existing condition. Expectant mothers without healthcare coverage cannot access proper pre-natal care and thus jeopardize the future health of their child. In 1993, I purchased a healthcare plan (unbeknownst to me) that did not cover my pregnancy. I became pregnant, couldn't obtain adequate pre-natal care, and experienced complications during delivery which resulted in lifelong disabilities for my child. Expensive therapies and costly special education services ensued. As an adult living with a permanent disability, he receives a Medicaid waiver and currently participates in Social Security's Ticket to Work program.

This cruel and misogynistic bill is not only penny-wise and pound-foolish for all Americans, but also immoral.

Very sincerely yours,
Christine Bradley

Christine Bradley

[REDACTED]
10090
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy statement, Brooklyn NY 11209

To Whom it Concerns:

This email serves as my testimony, per the Senate Finance Committee's request, in response to the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill that is currently to be considered by the Senate and, if it passes, the House. I would like this email to serve as my strong opposition to Graham-Cassidy, based on its high cost and poor care, specifically as it pertains to New Yorkers like myself.

Devastating cuts to hospitals would disproportionately impact health care services for low-income and uninsured New Yorkers, and this last-minute attempt to repeal the ACA will cost New York \$18.9 billion annually by 2026 and put 2.7 million New Yorkers at risk of losing coverage. Governor Cuomo has called on Congress to not push through Graham-Cassidy—which has only 90 seconds of debate time allotted to it—due to these devastating effects to New York State and New York City, one of the largest states by GDP in our union.

Additionally, billions of federal dollars would be cut from hospitals due to the cuts in Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital payments. Hospitals must be reimbursed through the Medicaid program for uncompensated health care costs; hospitals cannot turn away those in need of care due to lack of ability to pay for care, but cutting this money would bankrupt them, preventing those of us who are insured who need hospital care from receiving it.

Graham-Cassidy also defunds Planned Parenthood, which serves as a provider of preventative care for incredible numbers of low-income women. If these women are no longer able to receive cancer screenings, birth control, and STI tests at Planned Parenthood, eventual costs to the city will skyrocket as those women become ill and require—you guessed it—hospital care.

Most personally, however, Graham-Cassidy penalizes those of us who work for our healthcare in several ways. The largest complaint I hear against Universal Healthcare and even Obamacare is that a hard-working person should not be “forced to pay for the insurance of those who do not work.” It is not the time or place to argue against this misconception; though I believe this is a false narrative, let's pretend for the moment that it is the case. I work. I pay for my own insurance. But Graham-Cassidy, in its desire to serve only the interests of the insurance companies and not the people, would penalize me as well.

At present, I work three jobs, as an adjunct associate professor of English at several New York City and New York State institutions of higher learning. Due to my adjunct status, I am ineligible for organizational benefits, and so my partner and I pay for our health insurance out of pocket through the marketplace and exchange. At present, we pay close to \$1,000 per month to cover two healthy adults in their 30s. However, I have a pre-existing medical condition that this coverage, costly as it may be, is required to insure me for. As a result, I am able to get my life-saving medications at an affordable price. This makes insurance worth it for me. Graham-Cassidy would allow states to opt out of the law's “essential health benefits,” which means there will no longer be a prohibition on charging higher premiums to people with preexisting medical conditions. My insurance rate would skyrocket, as would my finance's, as we are co-insured as a household.

Additionally, the elimination of the individual mandate would mean people like my partner—who is incredibly healthy, has no pre-existing conditions, and visits the doctor rarely—could opt out of being part of the insurance pool. This would drive up premiums for people like myself—who cannot afford to go uninsured—tremendously. Additionally, it would put him at risk should he become sick in the future, as his potential cost-saving withdrawal from the exchange would only cause him to re-enter when sick enough to require serious care. This costs everyone money, in addition to him, as he would now be insured as an individual with a pre-existing condition. This one-two punch in Graham-Cassidy makes opting in AND opting out of healthcare a financial burden for the working middle class, like my fiancé and me.

As a woman, if I could no longer afford insurance, I would have been able to seek some of my care at Planned Parenthood, which, if defunded, means my only options in the face of skyrocketing premiums and bare-bones care would be to seek attention in the emergency room, and not pay the bill. This will in turn cost my state dramatic amounts of money, due to the costs to hospitals.

What Graham-Cassidy does is create a dangerous loop for individuals, taxpayers, and local governments: by cutting essential services, people are forced to pay premiums they can't afford for coverage that does not meet their needs, or do go without insurance and skip on the bill. This makes waits at hospitals longer, care worse for everyone, and results in massive costs for all except the wealthy insurance company owners.

It's also worth noting that New York State currently has a Medicare for All bill in our state Senate; lobbyists are attempting to add amendments to Graham-Cassidy that would prevent states from changing their own healthcare laws to provide coverage to those who need it. If nothing else, this fact exposes that, in its very nature, Graham-Cassidy is designed to feed the insurance companies, not Americans. If states have the opportunity to experiment with healthcare for all, why would the federal government attempt to block that? The only answer must be that they fear the cost to insurance companies if major GDP-carrying states moved to universal healthcare. They fear it, because they know their interests are financially motivated, rather than related to truly providing care for the American people.

Though the new York Times article at <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/09/18/us/cassidy-graham-health-plan-aca-repeal.html> claims that the latest healthcare repeal plan would give states sweeping discretion, it appears that this discretion is limited when it comes to blue states. This healthcare bill appears to be an attempt to penalize those who reside in the states that have never voted for Trump, and who have been active in the fight to prevent the repeal and replacement of the ACA with something far worse for the American people.

Instead of considering Graham-Cassidy by pushing through a cruel, inhumane piece of legislation, I encourage you to work together in a bi-partisan effort to improve Obamacare. Additionally, if you would like to consider new measures in Healthcare, the Medicare for All bill that has been proposed by Senator Sanders might be a good place to start.

I formally request that this message be read aloud, and am available for comment. I also request that this message be submitted as part of the legislative record. If Graham-Cassidy is passed, I do not want the stain of it on my hands; I'll leave that to the elected officials who value the pocketbooks of the insurance companies over their constituents' lives and, ultimately, their jobs. I would like my strong objection to be added to the record because, as an American, it is my moral and national obligation to stand up against this sort of treatment of my countrymen.

Sincerely,
Mallory McMahan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marge [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Bill

I am a parent of a child with a disability. You take away her Medicaid, her Medicare, etc. she will have no insurance coverage for anything and she won't be able to work. This is not a good bill and it will cause problems for all people with every kind of disability.?

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mrs. Doris White <dor22766@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:03 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 becausethis healthcare bill will kill me,as I have preexisting conditions. Please, I beg you to vote against it.

Mrs.Doris White

[Redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham - Cassidy Healthcare Bill

I'm writing to voice my opposition to the Graham Cassidy bill. I believe this is an attempt to strip Americans of their health care just to be able to say they repealed the ACA. Fix what is there but keep it.

Thank you,

Caroline Pflum
Carmel, IN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Citizen Testimonial on Health Care

Dear Members of Congress -

We understand perfectly well that the proposed Graham Cassidy bill will take away health care benefits gradually over the years, excluding more and more people from the timely and Quality Healthcare as time goes on. You can't take more than 400 billion out of Medicaid without having a huge impact on the American population and that impact would be negative.

This bill would have the greatest impact on children, the poor, the underemployed, the disabled, and seniors. For Minnesota alone, through Republican malfeasance the CBO score is not yet complete and there has been no public debate, the most recent data I have seen says the new bill will keep more than 400,000 people from care. By excluded from care, I mean for example, pre-existing conditions causing care to be priced out of their range, or care would simply be lost because Medicaid would be not available to them.

As a grandparent, I have an extended family that includes children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews, siblings, great-nieces and great-nephews. Among these are people with pre-existing conditions, disabilities, underemployment, significant health challenges, and other reasons which place their medical care at Great Jeopardy. Some of these are even Trump voters who didn't realize they were covered by Obamacare until they had cast their vote! They now see, sadly, their livelihood and their very lives depend on the continuation of the ACA.

And let's please discontinue use of the term "pre-existing" conditions. Most of us just have conditions that are part of the basic fact of our seeking Health Care in these United States. It might be diabetes, or epilepsy, or high blood pressure, or migraine headaches, the ability to get pregnant, etc. But let those among us who have never had, and never expect to have, a medical problem be the first ones to cast a vote on Health Care! We all understand the Graham Cassidy bill must not pass.

And please don't waste our time quoting from Jefferson, VP Pence, to suggest we want states to have the power to take care away from us. This is an obligation of the federal government to deliver on this right to American citizens -- that right to access to Quality And Timely Healthcare.

Amend and update the ACA.
Do not pass the Graham Cassidy bill.

Regards,
Sue Plaster

6 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 36

Sent via the Samsung GALAXY S® 5, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:03 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

We need to be moving toward a single payer system and your plan is reversing strides that were made in our health care system towards this goal! Health is a universal right, not a privilege! Better health better economy!

Danielle Sager

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators:

I am strongly opposed to Graham Cassidy because I am a type 1 diabetic. Graham-Cassidy allows states to roll back pre-existing condition protections without any sort of enforcement as to how they plan to keep people like myself insured. This is a terrible plan. Please vote no.

Jared DeLoof

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <steve.mcdonald@mammie.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators:

The Graham-Cassidy Bill currently being pushed through the Senate causes me great concern. I lost two close relatives who died prematurely before Obamacare for lack of insurance even though they worked their whole lives, but at jobs without decent benefits. Bipartisan action to work together to improve Obamacare is the proper course, repealing it is not. Graham Cassidy would strip Planned Parenthood of funding depriving many women of essential healthcare. People with pre-existing conditions could be denied coverage. This biss is a huge step backwards.

steve mcdonald

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tanya Dapkey [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:02 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 hurt more Americans than help. It does not pass the Jimmy Kimmel test. When will you just accept that ACA is the Law of the Land? The ACA may be imperfect, but your attempts to gut and destroy what we do have is hurting all of us! Stop tearing this country apart, stop this bill. I do not support the Graham-Cassidy Bill. My MoC, please vote NO on this bill. Thank you.

Tanya Dapkey

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Dear Senators,

I object to The Graham-Cassidy Amendment. Removing healthcare access to millions of Americans in order to cut taxes for the wealthy is immoral. Making the states takeover Medicaid will result in the collapse of Medicaid. People will die if this passes. More Americans will be bankrupt and lose their homes after unexpected injuries or illnesses. The medical doctors among you swore to do no harm. This amendment will harm millions of Americans, your constituents among them. I can't believe MD's, much less any moral person, would allow this to take place.

Truthfully Yours,
Brian Molony

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:01 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 take healthcare away from so many who need it. Those with pre-existing conditions will not be able to afford the care they need, and that is not acceptable in our country.

Laura Berg

[REDACTED]
7177999002

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margaret Reif <mreif134@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 organizations such as the American Cancer Society, American Diabetes Assoc, American Heart Assoc, American Lung Association, Arthritis Foundation, the National Health Council the March of Dimes, the AMA, AARP and Blue Cross and Blue Shield have all issued serious warnings regarding the impact passing this bill could have on millions of people across the country.

They believe this bill will cause millions to health insurance coverage, it will destabilize insurance markets and decrease access to affordable coverage and care.

PLEASE DO NOT DO THIS!

Margaret Reif

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0107215410

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@pepperbabe@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA Repeal

Dear Leadership,

I am writing to plead with you as leaders and as human beings to not Repeal the ACA. So many Americans depend on this. Children, the disabled, veterans and the working poor will lose health coverage, risk catastrophic expenses and lose vital services. As a mother I sit and think how can our leaders, the people we trust to take care of the American public, do something that is so morally wrong. Work together to fix what's wrong with the ACA. Make it better! How can you sleep at night knowing this will harm children and the disabled? How can you live with a legacy of being part of doing something so cruel. Please think about the people and not just a party win. Your votes will be remembered. Your actions will follow you.

I have health insurance through an employer but many of my fellow citizens do not. You all have the ability to get healthcare. Please don't take that away from our most vulnerable.

Begging you do the right thing,

Tammy Stemple

West Virginia

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] m>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stop Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

I am writing to ask that Congress not hold a vote on Graham-Cassidy without a thorough analysis by the Congressional Budget Office. Attempting to pass legislation that impacts tens of millions of Americans and 1/6th of the economy without fully understanding the ramifications of the proposed legislation is irresponsible, callous, and an affront to the American people.

Please return to regular order and focus on improving the Affordable Care Act through bipartisan solutions to increase coverage, lower costs, and stabilize the markets.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 10/12/17

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:25 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

I myself have multiple medical conditions. Of the 8 of them, I asked for 0 of them to be diagnosed or even happen. No one ever wakes up asking to become sick. But it happens and then the fall out is emotional stress and the costs. I need medications and treatments and doctors in order to be a functioning member of society and do my part. Without my medication I would not be able to function. The stress of losing insurance or having to pay an extra premium puts me at a disadvantage due to a situation I had no control over. I didn't get a choice in the onset of my conditions and you don't get a choice in deciding that I have to be punished more than my body does already because of something out of my control. Punishing people who are trying day in and day out to fight for their lives and their abilities to work and live a life that is not normal is cruel. Chronic illnesses and terminal illnesses are stressful enough without worrying about whether a treatment is affordable. Give us the tools to focus on getting better and living to our potential and not withering away. I didn't chose this life so don't chose to say I deserve a punishment.

Zosia Protasiuk

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 4

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy Bill

To whom it may concern,

As an American and someone who works in healthcare, I am writing to express my extreme disapproval for the Cassidy Bill. It is an embarrassment and would absolutely hurt so many Americans for no reason. The ACA, while not perfect, had positively impacted millions of Americans. The Cassidy Bill would literally harm millions and put them into bankruptcy or worse. Please vote American and do not allow this monstrosity to move forward.

I will actively work against any congressperson who supports this bill regardless of political party.

Sincerely,
Liam Moy

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:24 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 as shamelessly immoral as the last attempt to overturn the ACA. You should go directly to Hell if you support what would result in so many Americans losing any health care at all.

David Kagan

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO

No CBO score? Why not?

No public presentation? Why not?

In a hurry? Why?

Then there's that whole pre-existing conditions issue.

And the punitive pricing for illness.

And what's with the nonsensical non-coverage for women's healthcare?

And why in the world would ACA be ok for Alaska, but no other state?

Please withdraw this foolish mess of a bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:24 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

....

There have been no public hearings, no CBO score, no bipartisan crafting of this bill. Republican senators commenting in public seem to want everyone to believe that this legislation will not cause millions to lose insurance coverage. Why should we believe those kinds of statements when so many healthcare organizations and medical professionals have come out against it? Keep and improve the ACA!

Nancy Bixler

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: D.C. Holliday, zinn@dohdoh.com
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy Act

I have always been a regular voter since I registered when I turned 18. Although I have oftentimes disagreed with my representatives and former Presidents, I have never been more fearful of harmful legislation than I have these past 9 months.

ACA was a life saver for me and my family. My father was a physician and also ran a substance abuse clinic in Indiana, my mother was a registered NP and earned a MS in Addiction Medicine. For a short time I was the Director of that Clinic following my father's passing. I was born in Healthcare. Unfortunately, as much a family doctor as my father was, he was powerless against insurance and drug companies.

I have a pre-existing autoimmune condition that I have had since childhood. I remained fearful of maintaining constant employment through to qualifying for Medicare so that I would never fall into a dreaded coverage gap and be denied coverage. I also fell off of my parents policy at 21 and had a bare bones catastrophic plan just in case (and to keep coverage until I found full employment). The plan did not cover routine gyn exams and tests and I was a regular user of Planned Parenthood for routine screenings. I had abnormal Pap smears that THEY caught and received my first treatment there to get rid of abnormal cells. Planned Parenthood is a GodSend for so many and a lifesaver for me.

I have also used HMO coverage when I was able to move to California which had Kaiser. Indiana had no such option. When I found employment with an employer that offered healthcare I had to wait 3 months to use it. During that time I became pregnant with my daughter. Imagine not being able to use vital services for the first three months of pregnancy. My pregnancy was high risk because of my autoimmune disease.

I made just enough then to disqualify me from Medicaid at the time.

ACA changed EVERYTHING. I no longer have to live in fear of losing coverage through unemployment. I was laid off at the end of last year and, since I could not afford COBRA, I was able to qualify for California Medi-Cal until I found full time employment. And this time, coverage started immediately after I began working.

I have witnessed the "state" solution before ACA and thank God I was able to move and live in California. I have experienced the mistreatment of those unlucky to have pre-existing conditions beyond their control before ACA. I was also an unlucky young 20-something unable to qualify for her parent's Healthcare. I have witnessed the devastating effects of addiction and the need for coverage and compassion.

Millions do not have the luxury that I have now and I speak for them. This is a HORRIBLE BILL that will devastate the very working middle class that you claim to represent. Move forwards, not backwards and work in a bipartisan effort to FIX ACA and not rush a bad bill under an arbitrary deadline.

Yours truly,
Dawn Holliday
U.S. Citizen and Active Voter

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Dear Committee,

I am writing on behalf of my children. I am a middle class secretary from central Illinois. My husband and I have affordable healthcare through our long term employers. Currently we cover ourselves, our 20 year old son, 19 year old daughter, 10 year old daughter, and 7 year old daughter. My son is not sure what he wants to do for his future. He works, goes to school, and was born with heart and kidney defects. So while he's figuring out his future he's covered by us. If this bill passes, and as he matures he gets his own policy will he ever be able to afford his own home? Or a new car? Or getting married and having kids? The answer is NO. Not if the Graham-Cassidy bill passes. Because he won't be able to afford anything but a policy that may or may not cover him with his pre-existing conditions. My daughter - works full time, seems to have a plan, we keep her on our insurance so she can work for slightly over minimum wage and still afford her own car and her own place. When she was in high school she had an emergency appendectomy, missed some school and became depressed. It's in her chart - pre-existing condition. So when she's ready to afford health insurance she'll have "access" but not affordable healthcare coverage if the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill passes. Our 10 year old - 98% healthy. Prone to the flu for some reason. May or may not be charged more for her own coverage when she comes of age considering experts say this plan will destabilize the market for years to come. And my sweet flibberdeegibbit 7 year old. Seasonal allergies, debilitating seasonal allergies. With climate change they are expected to worsen. Automatic pre-existing condition. While her symptoms are manageable with medication, what will be the amount she has to pay when she grows up? The health insurance, medical care, and pharmaceutical companies charge more and more every year. The Graham-Cassidy bill does nothing to curb the increasing costs for Americans like me and my family. This bill harms our present. But more importantly it harms our future. Our children will pay the ultimate price financially. If they cannot invest in homes, education, retirement, because of their healthcare, what exactly will happen to our economy? While the Senate attempts to push through legislation that has no CBO score, no debate, and nothing good for the American people, I ask you to listen to us. Please. Our representatives are only listening to the industry that is paying them the most money. Thank you,

Susan Wiechman - Concerned United States Citizen

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

Dear Government,

Please do not pass this legislation. You will be denying millions of people the care they need. Just because people have "access" to health care, doesn't mean they can afford it. Yes we need to fix our system, but the bills you have proposed these past months are not the solution. Please work slowly and deliberately with all members of congress to enact legislation that is moral, ethical, and feasible to all. This bill is not that legislation. When so many groups of insurers, hospitals, doctors, and other medical professionals are raising big alarms about the bill, that must mean something. Do the right thing and find a bill that can fit everyone's needs better than this one can. This one puts more money in the already-wealthy coffers. Please do not pass this legislation...

Thank you,
Sue Aaronson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because of the need for certain elected officials to win ! The fact is all people will lose. Healthcare is a right not a privilege. Access to care needs to be available to all not just those who can afford it. Access the healthcare needs to be available to those on the margins, to those with pre-existing conditions, to children to adults to the elderly. Please vote no, please stand up and do not let this move forward. Work to refine what is in place. Put you effort into creating better more affordable care instead of just pulling the plug. I pray for wisdom and compassion as you discern your response. Peace, love and Justice, Rev Joanne Miles

Joanne Miles

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL

My brother is being treated for a Grade 3 astrocytoma brain tumor. He is unemployed, since his seizures prevent him from working. He relies on Medicaid through ACA for his care, medications, treatments, MRI's and other health needs. He, and I, both have Type 2 diabetes.

Your plan does not offer equal protection to every U.S. citizen. You are grabbing money from certain targeted states and giving it to others, with NO regard for how many people need this care regardless of where they live.

The projected increases in premiums, or reductions or caps in coverage under your plan mean that hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of people will no longer be able to have health coverage, or will eventually exhaust their benefits with a cap in place. That means they get to suffer and die. I am astounded that so many elected officials are so callous as to disregard the morality of this issue.

I refuse to believe that other countries can provide health care for all of their citizens, and we can't figure out how to do the same. It's not that we can't. It's that far too many politicians don't want to do so.

Those same politicians have health care, though, don't they? This should not be a luxury for the rich, it is a basic necessity. And now, yet again, certain factions are trying to rush to judgement without discussion, debate, or analysis.

I implore you to STOP this nonsense and vote NO to the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: robertkingham [mailto:robertkingham@pahealthaccess.org]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:22 PM
To: gchcomments; info@pahealthaccess.org
Subject: Reject Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing to urge the Senate to reject the Graham-Cassidy bill, which is even more extreme and cruel than the bills that failed due to their devastating impact on lower-income and older Americans. Graham-Cassidy is based on the slogan "repeal and replace," which is now out-of-date as the vast majority of Americans want a bipartisan effort to improve healthcare. It is outrageous to try to ram through a bill, with no committee hearings, no CBO score etc., based on a slogan rather than current reality.

Please do the right thing and represent the will of the people.

Sincerely,
Robert Bingham, PhD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elizabeth.Christian@...com>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2017 3:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment for Graham Cassidy Health Bill

Dear Committee,

I am concerned about the new health bill. It does not protect against pre-existing conditions or against insurance caps. Both of these things fundamentally goes against what insurance is. Insurance is not supposed to punish people for using it. Everyone is supposed to be in the pool and then those that are sick use it. By having these conditions and pricing people out of insurance the government ends up discouraging using the insurance which makes it to where there are less individuals in the pool, and therefore less people paying into the pool. I don't understand how this is difficult to understand. Please make insurance affordable for all, discriminating against no one, and where citizens of America do not go broke by from going to see a doctor.

I realized something this week at work. I came down with a really bad cold where I had a terrible scratchy throat and high fever for most of the week. Now I never take off work. I left last year with 9 of my 14 sick days unused. But this cold was killing me. And I could only take one day off and still needed to go back to work before I was well because going to see an actual doctor to find out if I need medication to recover because it would cost me more than I make in a day, and probably more than I make in a week. This is wrong. How can citizens in countries with GDPs much lower than ours go to the doctors for colds or when they need one, but we cannot?

Please do not repeal Affordable Care Act and instead think of Americans and fix Affordable Care Act.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kristin Hovis <khovis@...>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

To Whom It May Concern,

I am deeply troubled by the proposed Graham-Cassidy bill. From the enormous number of people who would lose healthcare coverage, to the lack of coverage for people with pre-existing conditions, to the lack of coverage for women's essential needs, to the impact on care for children with disabilities, I am truly appalled by this bill.

Most people do not have the resources to pay for exorbitant health care costs should they or a loved one become ill. Healthcare should be available and affordable to all. A family should not have to choose whether to get medical attention or whether to put food on their table.

Please do not pass this bill and unleash its resulting devastation.

Sincerely,
Kristin Hovis

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maxine Gluck [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Please do not pass this bill. I am a state's rights person but this will not be handled evenly across states. Health care like Medicare should not be different by state. We all know that the underserved populations that are now served by Medicaid are not represented well in GOP politics. I fear that the law will not be enacted in good faith. As a business person with stores in many, many states, we need a consistent policy that can be applied to those using employer based programs and the individual who is insured differently. The ACA while not perfect has helped us add meaningful programs to our young population and pay competitive rates. Insurance climbed 20-30% pre ACA and now only 5-10%. Needs improvement but it works.

Please think of your fellow Americans and not politics. The best way to get re-elected is to work together to fix the ACA—GOP will look like heroes of compromise and putting Americans first.

[REDACTED] dation
[REDACTED] hop

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Please vote no on this bill to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. Millions of people depend upon the Affordable Care Act for health care. From what I understand, this new push will not only take health care away from many; it will also raise the cost for everyone. It can also make the coverage for pre-existing conditions substantially more expensive or states can choose to let insurance companies not cover those who have those conditions. This will kill people and bankrupt those who try to pay for their care. How is this healthcare? Most Americans are not wealthy and need their insurance to actually work to cover expensive things so that they can afford to live. Please stand up for the majority of us who you represent and vote no on this bill.

Thank you,
Heather Johnson

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: gov cuts

To: Senate Members

Please make cuts but not our military they need more not less.

Thank you

Abigail J Napier
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:30 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. I've been reading a lot lately about what the proposal states and am saddened that so many supporters can so readily, and obviously throw the very people they voice for, out in the cold.

I have a young family, and while I'm currently employed and covered, I fear for ever having to start over somewhere else with the current, and previous proposals. My brother-in-law who is in business for himself, and his wife who nannies, will be seriously affected as well, if something like this went through.

I have not heard/read any reports of productive, or even comforting efforts from the majority in the past several months. I have tried to contact you in the past to no avail (esp Sen Toomey). You have come across as someone who is hiding behind his office, claiming he's too busy and is falsely speaking for the people. Please give me a reason to vote for you next year and turn down these sad attempts at providing worthwhile healthcare.

Jonathan Nicol

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:30 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

....

This is not good for the people and needs to b stopped. I have esrd and will die under this proposal.

Floria Josepj

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
195555466

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: vote NO on Graham-Cassidy

I urge you to vote no on Graham-Cassidy, for many reasons.

In practical economic terms, it will be a burden on families, small businesses, independent contractors all over the country.

It will be harder to take risks and start new enterprises, especially for people with pre-existing conditions.

Procedurally, G-C is bad for bipartisanship and regular order. We need to bring our country back together, not drive it apart.

Morally, it is an abandonment of our duty to our fellow citizens.

Please save the ACA and amend it according to bipartisan regular order.

Joel VanderWerf
San Francisco

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it is projected that many Americans would lose health insurance coverage under this bill. I think we should only replace the ACA with a bill that would result in more Americans covered, not less. I know some have argued that it's not necessarily a bad thing if some Americans lose coverage, because maybe they didn't want it in the first place. However, with taxpayers on the hook for the expensive ER visits of the uninsured, we can't afford to just let 32 million more people go uninsured. It's not good for anyone. (Even the health insurance companies are arguing against it!)

Zoe Boekelheide

1 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to GrahamCassidy.

Finance Reform Committee,

Please do not pass the Graham Cassidy Bill. It is Cruel. Unmerciful, and ANTI-LIFE.

Senators Lindsey Graham and Bill Cassidy, the sponsors of the Graham-Cassidy repeal bill, claim that their bill is different—that it simply shifts health care decisions to the states. This is false. Just like the failed repeal bills that came before it, Graham-Cassidy would result in millions of Americans losing health coverage. And in crucial respects, it's the most harmful version of repeal yet.

The state flexibility is designed to get rid of important consumer protections and essential health care.

It is a kill bill, as the premiums for pregnancy, mental health, and cancer are exorbitant, and many people will die. If we do not care for mothers, and women in our country, we do not care for children. This is not a pro-life bill in any capacity. It is the cruelest healthcare bill yet.

Helen Crawford
Mother

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham-Cassidy

This bill has not been scored by the CBO, how can it be voted on to change 1/6 of the economy and affect millions?

All the other analysis indicates it is not a good bill, it will make the lives of americans worse, not better.

Please vote no

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jon Hull <jonhull@...>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No!

Please vote "no" on the travesty of a bill. People would die! Graham-Cassidy will make my brother unable to afford his medication. People shouldn't have to choose between dying from starvation and dying from not having their medicine.

Jon Hull

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carolyn Majd [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy

This bill SHOULD NOT PASS, it will throw everyone back to ERs. Obamacare saved my life along with millions of others! This bill is unfair, the REPUBLICANS ARE PLAYING POLITICS WITH PEOPLE'S LIVES! SHAME ON THEM. They should work on a bill which the Congress will also need to have, no special healthcare for Congress, we pay their salaries & they strip us of life saving care!

Thank you for your time,
Carolyn Majd

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

The rush to push forward the Graham Cassidy bill concerns me as a voter and taxpayer.

Bills of this nature, which will affect such an enormous part of our economy--and of our population, deserve to be studied and deliberated. They must be.

The CBO needs to be brought in; considered debate among members of Congress has to happen.

We cannot rush and disrupt such an essential bill. It is dangerous to move impetuously on this bill.

Please help.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@msrh.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable Health Care Act

How dare these senators take away opportunity for low income Americans to get help with insurance payments. You who have no souls and are beholden to donors, those wealthy individuals who never fear being without healthcare coverage. May all who take away our benefits, by selling their souls, one day experience the fear and heartache that they are causing others.

Kathy Forte
Rhode Island
Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: MIMI Blanchard <mimi519@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy

Please put people before politics and save our ACA. Cancer patients and survivors, those with life threatening illnesses, those who may become victims of all diseases and illnesses deserve the right to have affordable, quality healthcare. The proposed Graham/Cassidy bill is a death wish for millions of Americans. If you have a beating heart, how could you even pretend that this is a solution at all, let alone a good one. You will never be forgiven if you vote for and inflict the unbearable and undeniable consequences of this bill and allow it to become law. You work for US. Please remember that and show it be speaking for US. Thank you. Ms Blanchard

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

There is a permanently disabled firefighter I know, Craig F., living in Moorhead Minnesota. He has *thirteen* incurable diseases or conditions. If Graham-Cassidy passes, *he will die*, slowly and painfully over the course of two or three months, either from multiple heart attacks, multiple strokes, or *his muscles literally turning to stone*. He would die because the caps you will be placing on Medicaid will exhaust his benefits within the first couple months of the year. This is a man who would literally have run into a burning building to save you. The least you can do is vote NO to save him.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public comment on Graham Cassidy bill.

I am writing today to object as strongly as possible to the Graham Cassidy bill.

It is a matter of repeated public record that it will deprive millions of Americans of Health Care. Millions of people will die if this bill is passed. There is no conceivable advantage that is worth that.

It is a matter of common knowledge that it will make coverage for pre-existing conditions unobtainable for any but the super rich. This would be, for all intents and purposes, a death sentence for at least one member of my family.

It has been proved multiple times that the American people do not want the affordable care act repealed. This exact measure has been proposed multiple times, each time public opinion has been very vocally opposed, each time has been promised to be the last time. How many times do we, the American People, have to explain that we want to be able to go to the doctor when we are sick? That that had to be explained even once is already a disgrace to you as the senate and to America as a democracy.

Do not pass this bill. There is no possible way to pretend that it benefits anyone.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Chairman Hatch, Ranking Member Wyden and members of the Finance Committee,

I respectfully must state my concern about the Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill which is absolutely not in the best interest of the American people but rather a "Hail Mary" bill that Republicans want to push through because as Senator Pat Roberts said, "If we do nothing, it has a tremendous impact on the 2018 elections."

This bill will keep people... one of whom will be my father. He is a Type I Diabetic senior citizen on a fixed income. Monthly, he struggles to pay for his health insurance and the insulin which his life depends on. This bill will either kill him by raising premiums or denying coverage for his pre-existing condition. You choose.

I cannot believe Republican Senators would choose their own reelection over the lives of millions of Americans they are charged with representing. Please, I beg you, do the right thing. For my father. For the American people. For your own conscience.

Thank you for your time.

Gabrielle Tabak
Hermosa Beach, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Totally opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill

I side with everyone in the health care industry and all Americans who care about, well, the health of America. I am opposed to the shameful political stunt that the GOP is calling a health care bill.

The Graham-Cassidy is economically and morally vacuous.

It should be voted down.

Best regards,
Linda Vigdor

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: healthcare

Dear Sirs,

Having worked in health care for twenty years,I notice that a large majority of patients use Medicaid as their primary payor in nursing homes,or after a time need to switch to Medicaid.Health care should be for the young!We should have Medicare for all paid for by VAT.

Sincerly ,Lynn Allen RN

Sent from Outlook

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL

My brother is being treated for a Grade 3 astrocytoma brain tumor. He is unemployed, since his seizures prevent him from working. He relies on Medicaid through ACA for his care, medications, treatments, MRI's and other health needs. He, and I, both have Type 2 diabetes.

Your plan does not offer equal protection to every U.S. citizen. You are grabbing money from certain targeted states and giving it to others, with NO regard for how many people need this care regardless of where they live.

The projected increases in premiums, or reductions or caps in coverage under your plan mean that hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of people will no longer be able to have health coverage, or will eventually exhaust their benefits with a cap in place. That means they get to suffer and die. I am astounded that so many elected officials are so callous as to disregard the morality of this issue.

I refuse to believe that other countries can provide health care for all of their citizens, and we can't figure out how to do the same. It's not that we can't. It's that far too many politicians don't want to do so.

Those same politicians have health care, though, don't they? This should not be a luxury for the rich, it is a basic necessity. And now, yet again, certain factions are trying to rush to judgement without discussion, debate, or analysis.

I implore you to STOP this nonsense and vote NO to the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for the record

Healthcare is a basic human right.

No one asks to be sick. No parents wish their child to be born less than healthy. No family deserves to be destroyed physically or financially by illness or accident.

What Americans need is a government that protects them.

Cassidy – Graham will hurt far more people than it helps; and the only future it secures is Medicare For All.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please don't pass the Graham Cassidy Bill

The Graham Cassidy Bill will deny many of my friends and family access to health care. No one should have to worry about having access to healthcare. Especially when we live in a world where everyone is temporarily abled-bodied. More importantly it will be a death sentence for people with disabilities who rely on the ACA to survive. Gutting it without supporting those populations will never get my support.

Please do not pass the Graham Cassidy Bill in any form.

Thank you.
Kristen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@BostonBrowns.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Bill

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.

Sincerely,
Marie Brown

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gary C. [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:14 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
....

I feel very strongly that any potential law needs to be vetted by the entire House and Senate, created under normal and accepted practices, with expert witnesses giving testimony, open to amendments and scored by the CBO before any vote should be taken, especially a law that potentially could effect over twenty percent of the US economy.

Have you had Cancer in your family? The American Cancer Society is against this bill as drafted. Cystic Fibrosis in a friend or family member? The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation is against the bill. MS ? The multiple Sclerosis foundation opposes this bill. Heart Disease? They oppose the bill.

As does:

Vote Vets

Blue Cross Blue Shield

AAFP

American College of Physicians

American Congress of Obstetricians

American Congress of Gynecologists

American Osteopathic Association

American Psychiatric Association

American Lung Association

AAFA

Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine

American Academy of Pediatrics

March of Dimes

American Heart Association

American Stroke Association

AARP

AMA

American Diabetes Association

Children's Hospital

Arthritis Foundation

ALS

American Society of Hematology

Volunteers of America

Family Voices

National Coalition for Women

National Organization for Rare Disorders Lutheran Services of America National Health Council Michael J Fox Foundation

Parkinson's Foundation

These all organizations have come out publicly opposing this horrible bill, they are the experts, they all should be included drafting a bill to fix our health care system. To draft a bill behind closed doors, with the help of just four senators is a disgrace. This is just way to important to ram something through just for the sake of a "win" or the very real possibility that a bi partisan bill could actually be drafted and passed by the House and Senate and signed by the President.

I am retired, and have insurance through my wife's employer. It not a "Cadillac " health care policy, but it does prevent us from having catastrophic losses if we ever had a major claim, for that we are grateful. We are luckier than most, however that policy costs \$880 a month, with high deductibles. It's not just the ACA policy's that are so expensive, all insurance has increased astronomically across the board. Thats the big picture, the insurance costs to everyone have far out paced wage increases to the point that insurance costs take up 30-35 percent of disposable income. Money that could and should be used to buy goods, driving the economy. This is a race to the bottom for the insurance industry, rates continue to climb, to afford yearly increases, people reduce coverage, raise deductibles. Soon insurance only covers catastrophic losses or nothing at all. At that point people make a decision that insurance isn't worth the price, drop coverage, insurance companies raise rates to compensate.....where does it end? federal bailout?

Gary Siter

Gary Siter

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
610-28 [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Attempt to repeal ACA

I am someone who has benefitted enormously from the ACA. I work in the Arts. I freelance. Without the ACA, I would not have been able to afford health insurance. I am about to join those who are on Medicare and I am profoundly grateful for it. Let me also say that everyone should have the equivalent of Medicare; no matter who, no matter their age, no matter their income. It's 2017. The rest of the world does this for their citizens. Why can't we?

But, I'm writing this to share a story that I am sure is echoed by millions throughout this country. My nephew, who is 6, has cerebral palsy. He died at birth. He was revived, but those precious minutes without oxygen resulted in cerebral palsy. He is enormously bright, funny and charming. But those qualities, though wonderful, will not help him get the therapy he needs, the braces, the crutches, all the services that Medicaid helps pay for. Without Medicaid, he will not thrive. He will not have a chance to move forward, to get the help he desperately needs. Do the disabled, the elderly, all those who depend on Medicaid not deserve a chance to thrive?

How can you put a cap on Medicaid for a 6 year old? How does that even compute?

My mother spent the last three years of her life in a nursing home - a nursing home my family would not have been able to afford had it not been for Medicaid. It was a blessing in a time when we were witnessing my mother decline. We had no choice. She had to be cared for. How are families supposed to afford that kind of care for the elderly without Medicaid?

It is more than clear that your goal is to overturn the ACA no matter what. No matter how many millions are going to lose their healthcare, no matter how many die because they couldn't get care.

Senate GOP - **those deaths will be on your shoulders.** You will be responsible. And the very fact that you even think for a moment that this is acceptable tells me you have lost your humanity in the quest for power.

How very sad. You've sold your souls for money and power. And to overturn anything that President Obama did for us, to make our lives better.

I thought you were working for us.

Sincerely,
Claudia Hill
Gardiner NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Obamacare saves lives

To Whom it May Concern:

My fiancé was diagnosed with desmoplastic small round cell sarcoma in October of 2015. He was in law school and about to turn 26 and be off his parents insurance. He was able to get Medicaid through extensions to Medicaid through Obamacare and get the treatment needed to save his life. He now has a pre-existing condition, through no fault of his own. Under the Graham-Cassidy bill, he could be denied treatment and treatment costs could be so high that we would not be able to afford them. How can Republicans call themselves pro-life when they are supporting a bill that will result in the death of so many? My fiancé's cancer probably will come back one day and I am scared to death now that I will lose him because Republicans want to deny him insurance because he has a pre-existing condition. Obamacare is not perfect but a bipartisan effort is needed to fix it. Republicans cannot be allowed to do this alone.

Thank you for reading these comments. I hope I can help my fiancé and millions of others with pre-existing conditions in danger of losing their health insurance.

Sincerely,

Ursula V. Buzzacco

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy

To Whom It May Concern:

Graham Cassidy is a nightmare to America and all the people who live here. Allowing people to die just to pass legislation that only 12 percent of the country wants is a moral crime. We are better than this.

Sincerely,

Adam Szymkowicz
06415

Pardon any lack of nuance. Typed on a pocket computer with my thumbs.

Pardon any lack of nuance. Typed on a pocket computer with my thumbs.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Voting on the Graham-Cassidy bill without the CBO results is unconscionable. The Senate needs to know exactly what they are voting on before they vote. Allowing on 90 seconds of debate is horrific. If the authors believe in their bill, they should be able to stand up to a robust discussion about it.

Wait for the results and allow a real debate.

Michelle Teixeira
[REDACTED]
Hudson, MA 01749

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Obamacare repeal

Please, please don't take away our insurance. This feels like a blatant disregard to human lives. This isn't what we as Americans should be worrying about. Isn't it bad enough that we worry about the incompetence of the potus? Please leave our health care alone. It is not wonderful, but what is being proposed is a death sentence to do many. I cannot go without my medicine for neuropathy. The pain is excruciating. My meds are over \$900. Monthly. With this plan being proposed, I would fall under pre-existing conditions and I just couldn't afford them at all. Please think of your constituents, and not your party. I am begging you. Thank you for your consideration.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

I am writing in to offer my comments about the Graham-Cassidy health care bill. I am writing to state that I am VERY WORRIED about this bill. When I was pregnant with my first child, in 2010, our family lost health insurance because my husband's job changed and I was unable to buy insurance on the market because pregnancy was considered a pre-existing condition.

I am terrified of any bill that would allow insurance companies to go back to the days of refusing to insure pregnant women, and Graham-Cassidy would allow states to do just that.

It's appalling that there has been no debate, no hearings, and no CBO score. What this bill will actually mean for American families is unclear and alarming.

I should be home tucking my kids into bed, but instead I am writing you an email because I am terrified.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Fortenberry

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:11 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 help the majority of people in America. It has major flaws. Please vote no on this horrible bill.

Sincerely,
Ellen Freeman

ELLEN FREEMAN

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill Will Hurt Citizens

You're going to vote without a CBO score??? You hear citizens and organizations condemning this bill publicly and you'll proceed with a vote???? Without the CBO analysis? This is morally and financially reprehensible. Are the Koch brothers' threats behind your horrid actions?

You've awakened a "sleeping giant." The masses are angry and feel betrayed.

Please kill this bill instead of innocent Americans.
Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathy Hamilton <bhaklava@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repeal and Replace

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,
I am OPPOSED to the current Repeal and Replace bill. This ill-thought out proposal will hurt millions of Americans. Please reconsider your votes and come up with a plan that will cover ALL citizens, regardless of health or ability to pay.
Thank you,
Kathy Hamilton

Throw your dreams into space like a kite, and you do not know what it will bring back, a new life, a new friend, a new love, a new country.

Anais Nin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Teresa <teresa@terensboone.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I say No to Graham Cassidy bill

Please stop the Graham Cassidy bill from ruining health care.

Teresa Francoeur
Shelton CT
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No

It concerns that the rapidity of the bill's trajectory with no CBO review probably means the sly Congress is trying to harm Americans rather than assist us.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathy Hamilton <kathyhamilton2001@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repeal and Replace

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

I am OPPOSED to the current Repeal and Replace bill. This ill-thought out proposal will hurt millions of Americans.

Please reconsider your votes and come up with a plan that will cover ALL citizens, regardless of health or ability to pay.

Thank you,

Kathy Hamilton

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repeal effort.

I do not support the latest attempt to repeal Obamacare. The bill would usher a number of shocking cruelties into law, not least the possibility that 32 million Americans could lose coverage. That's 10 percent of the population. I do not support the loophole it creates allowing insurers to deny coverage for things like:

- Pregnancy and maternity care
- Prescription drugs
- Mental health services
- Reproductive health services, including birth control
- Substance abuse treatment

This is unacceptable and un-American. Please do not move forward with this bill

Thank you.

Robert Rooney

Fairfield CT

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No Graham/Cassidy

No on this bill, we need a return to regular order with bipartisan legislation, I am 36yrs old and I am pretty sure the last time congress operated normally was before my 20th Birthday...RETURN TO REGULAR ORDER

Russell Anderson
Tuscaloosa, Al

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care bill

This is a terrible plan. Seniors and low income people would be the losers. If the Republican Party is so happy with this plan why don't the members of congress have the same plan they want to push through.
Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am asking you to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill that will be discussed in your committee on Monday. There are many flaws in the bill, but two in particular make the bill cruel. The bill does not retain protections for people with pre-existing and chronic conditions and does not mandate that plans include maternity coverage. My 11 year-old child has an asthma diagnosis that could make her insurance rates soar for the rest of her life! When each of my two kids was born, I took 12 weeks of unpaid maternity leave. I could not have afforded even that if my Care during pregnancy, delivery, and post-Parthum wasn't fully covered by my husband's insurance. Please oppose this bill so that families like mine aren't hit with financial hardship due to typical medical costs such as childbirth or childhood asthma.

Thank you,
Ann Walsh

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller in favor of the bipartisan bill the Senate HELP Committee was considering. Graham-Cassidy-Heller would cause 32 million people to lose their health coverage while destroying Medicaid and harming some of the most vulnerable members of our communities, seniors and people with disabilities. I and many of my friends and family deal with chronic illness and disability and are seriously concerned about our ability to receive/afford healthcare if this bill should pass. We should not have to worry if we are going to have to choose between death and bankruptcy because of the cost of life-giving medical treatments. Please do not force us to make that choice.

Jonathan Kestin
Sacramento, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: #GrahamCassidy

The Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill should roll over and die to spare the lives and futures of countless Americans. As GOP Senator Chuck Grassley told CNN, "You know, I could maybe give you 10 reasons why this bill shouldn't be considered. But Republicans campaigned on this so often that you have a responsibility to carry out what you said in the campaign. That's pretty much as much of a reason as the substance of the bill."

Keeping a campaign promise when it is NOT in the best interest of the people you represent is not only ridiculous, but dangerous. It is most definitely NOT as much of a reason to pass it as is the substance of the bill. It is no reason at all! And no potentially life-changing bill should be passed without bipartisan input, a valid CBO score, and time for all concerned to read and consider the ramifications of said bill. This bill is none of those things.

Kathy Carrai

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I am strongly opposed to Graham-Cassidy. Caps, age tax, no pre natal and no protection for pre-existing conditions is a bad deal for Americans. Fix ACA.

Jody Wilson
Morton Grove, IL

Sent on my Samsung Galaxy S7 edge.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Graham Cassidy here's why

Dear Committee;

I'm writing to urge you to not allow this bill to become law. I suffer from SLE Lupus. A chronic & debilitating disease that until ACA was passed most people like myself

Essential Health Benefits (EHBs) are central to pre-existing condition protections because they define what an insurance policy is required to cover. GrahamCassidy allows states to opt out of Essential Health benefits. That could mean a person with diabetes can be charged extra for a plan with Rx drug coverage. Allowing states to opt out of EHBs under GrahamCassidy could also mean a person w/ depression may not find a plan with mental health coverage. Sen. Bill Cassidy says his bill ensures that people with pre-existing conditions have access to "adequate & affordable" coverage. With no EHB requirements and no subsidies, "adequate" and "affordable" is left up to states and does not guarantee coverage. Many states did not participate in the ACA, how can constituents believe that States will cover their illness? Vote NO.

Sincerely,

Sharon DiGiovanni

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote against Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

I am writing to let you know I disprove of efforts to end the ACA. It is short sighted. Americans who do not have insurance use the hospital emergency room which is very expensive healthcare. There is actually money to be saved by Americans having access to health insurance.

Sincerely,

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

Sent from my lovely iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re: #GrahamCassidy hearing.

Please do not take away millions of American's healthcare in order to fulfill a promise that was motivated by blind opposition.
Please do not take away millions of American's healthcare in order to finance a tax cut for the wealthy.

Nick [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Kevin [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sam [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

~~We're In The Morning~~
~~Weekdays 6am-11am~~
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
2x Telly Awards
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

....
It is opposed by a resoundingly clear majority of the American people and professional organizations. It is opposed by virtually everyone because it is a terrible bill. Less Americans will be covered. Coverage will be worse and more expensive. Caps on coverage will happen. Pre-existing conditions will make coverage unaffordable. States won't be able to manage or afford it. PA will lose billions from the federal government. How will we make up for that, Pat? Enough already! "Keeping your promise to repeal Obamacare" is an incredibly stupid idea when you have NO CLUE on how to make a better plan.

Melissa Sundahl

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: PLEASE SAY NO TO GRAHAM-CASSIDY

Please vote against Graham-Cassidy. All Americans NEED health care! This bill will drop millions from health care and they will end up DYING!

THIS IS AMERICA! Stop Graham-Cassidy before it comes to a vote!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not repeal the ACA

To the GOPers who are trying to destroy our country, specifically health care:

We're middle class, get family HC benefits from the SMWIA union, which is a very good plan. Our premiums and co-pays have increased considerably recently.. Every single one of the moronic "repeal/replace" bills the GOP has presented not only took HC away from millions of our fellow countrymen, but would further increase premiums. If my premiums need to increase to help others keep their insurance, that would be a much easier pill to swallow than this current abortion of a bill that will increase my premiums and cut Medicaid funding for those who need it. "There but for the grace of god goes I." Just remember reversals of fortunes have happened to better...

Stop being greedy. This is about lining the top 10%'s pockets. Those proposed tax cuts are a farce. Middle class won't see much if any of those tax savings and our premiums will increase. YOU obviously will benefit from the tax cut but obviously don't care that the deficit will increase (save the BS that it will stimulate growth and pay for itself, you intellectually dishonest schmucks know that's a bunch of lies you use smoke and mirrors to sell) and you'll blame everyone else but your greedy ol selves.

Now it's time to stop lying. You are not only screwing your constituents you were elected to serve, you're screwing all of us. I come from Massachusetts (you know, one of the states that thinks your plan is terrible) so I don't worry about the preexisting condition opt out, but you know if you give backwater states like Alabama and Louisiana the option to increase premiums for preexisting conditions, you know they will because it will screw the poor and minorities. They won't use the "block grants" for those who need it. They'll probably use the funds to erect more confederate statues. Graham and Cassidy's states are the worst. Makes sense they're the sponsors. Ignorant.

Fix the ACA. Stop trying to destroy our country's health care and economy. Repeal the ACA and you all will be voted out. By the time your reelections come, the extent of your betrayals will be known. I'm certain all those effected will be sure to make it to the voting polls to vote you out.

Your votes effect us all, we will not let you get away with destroying our health care.

Most of the GOP are greedy and you all should be ashamed of yourselves. Ashamed for you. Pathetic. Sad.

Michael and Cara Joyce
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My son...

...has a pre-existing condition...how much will premiums cost him after this bill passes?

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Chairman,

We have a daughter with multiple disabilities Her life's services depend on Medicaid. We urge you not to cut Medicaid or place caps on the services.

Thank you for listening!

Paul and Marcia Yochum

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: m [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Collins healthcare bill

I am VERY unhappy with the proposed Graham-Collins healthcare bill. Giving block grants to the states for Medicaid means that many people will be cut off, because there will not be nearly as much money accessible as there is now. Half the births in this country are financed by Medicaid. Most people in nursing homes eventually end up being financed by medicaid because their finances are so very depleted that they end up destitute.

Leaving the states to decide how to work with those who have preexisting conditions, with no federal guidelines, means that there will be some states that do not cover as they should. Plus having NO CBO score to tell us what the ramifications are, both immediate and long term, is just reckless.

The ACA needs to be fixed. One of the fixes is that the insurance companies need assurances of the future, since the administration keeps threatening NOT to pay them. (If I were an insurance company, and the federal government threatened not to pay what I am owed, I would be ready to pull out.) There are other issues. But, if both Republicans and Democrats could come together to fix the rest, the ACA could be awesome. I hear that Patti Murray and Lamar Alexander have been working on a temporary fix to shore up the exchanges. That would buy some time until the ACA could be made stronger.

BTW, I could care less if you want to change the name of it. Strengthen it and call it whatever you want, but do not end the ACA!!!! Marci Adelston-Schafer Champaign, Ill

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No on Graham Cassidy

Hello.

You probably don't know me, so I'll introduce myself. I am Shanna and I have OCD. That's obsessive-compulsive disorder. I take three medications for my OCD, one of which is for side effects that are caused by the previous one. Before the ACA, I was unable to get insurance because I had a pre-existing condition. I've had that condition since I was seven years old.

Since the ACA, I've been able to join Medicaid and I don't have to pay over 400 dollars for medications anymore.

Graham Cassidy wouldn't take my Medicaid away right away, but I know it could cut Medicaid, especially in my state of Illinois. That means less money for people like me and more discrimination, including caps, for a condition I never asked for. Nobody asks to have OCD or any other pre-existing condition. Please don't punish those who work hard combating disorders like mine by passing a bill that won't help us at all.

Sincerely,

Shanna Simpson

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Allison Barlow <alb450@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I strongly opposed Trumpcare

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

I am writing to voice my opinion on the Graham Cassidy health bill. As a self employed young American, I strongly opposed the repeal of Obamacare. Affordable health care has allowed me to join my family's small business and has also allowed my husband to start his own business. Both of us are following our American dream and would not have health care without Obamacare. We are both healthy now and hope that families who are less fortunate are able to get the care they deserve. Without free women's health coverage I would be hesitant to start a family of our own.

I hope you consider the people who cannot rely on employer sponsored health care and reject Trumpcare for good.

Best regards,

Allison Barlow of CT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to this bill

Dear Senators,

This bill will cause incredible financial hardship, irreparable declines in health, and death of the people you represent. Why do it? Don't do it.

Sincerely,

Cat Peretti

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Glenn Gries [mailto:glenn@gries.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not vote for the Graham-Cassidy Bill

To our Republican Senators,

I've summarized the three best reasons not to vote for this bill.

- 1) It will be a death sentence for many Americans.
- 2) You are misreading why Americans voted for you. They did not want you to repeal the ACA and replace it with something worse. They wanted something better - and this ain't it (which is why only 12% of Americans support it). The political consequences of passing this bill will be worse than not repealing the ACA. Those who want single payer will now have no reason for compromise if Republicans pass Graham-Cassidy. It will all but ensure single payer in the near future. Think about it.
- 3) It will kill Americans.

If reasons 1 and 3 don't convince you, I hope reason 2 might.

Please don't do this.

Thank you for your time,

Glenn Gries

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <iquigrey@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please don't enact the Graham-Cassidy bill

That thing looks poised to doom large swaths of America to early deaths, with no obvious benefit that I (nor all patient groups, insurance groups, retirement groups, hospital groups, etc.) can see.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GrahamCassidy

Dear Committee,
Please do not support this bill. This is a country, not a collection of states. Every American deserves the same protections when it comes to health care. Consideration and possible passage of this bill, which every major health care association opposes, is short sighted at best. Take time, get the CBO score. Work to make HC better, put people lives above a few dollars. Reject Graham Cassidy.

Sincerely,

Christopher Sovak

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anne Dall <anne.dall@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:03 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 I am a healthcare provider (physician) and a mother of a son with asthma. I am asking you to consider the needs of the American people and act accordingly. To pass a bill that results in Americans losing health care access is regressive and inhumane. I believe that our lawmakers can do better. I have seen the effects of poor access to health care in my patients. Chronic illness is the norm in our country, and removing protection from those with pre-existing conditions is inhumane. Please consider putting human lives before corporations. Thank you.

Anne Dall M.D.

Anne Dall
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

You know, I know, and the American public know that this bill is a farce perpetuated by cowardly Republicans who would rather take American lives than stand up to the autocrat they placed in power.

This is more than a political game, this bill will KILL people. NO human being is too expensive to live.

The ACA is not a perfect solution. By all means, discuss ways to improve it. Once you have a valid plan that helps all Americans, by all means replace the ACA with something better. Do it in the clear light of day, with real investigation, a legitimate CBO score, and actual genuine hearings.

Is your power really worth millions of American lives?

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy Cawman <amy.cawman@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham-Cassidy Bill

I hope you are getting a lot of these so I will keep it short. Please stop the Graham-Cassidy Bill!

Sincerely,
Amy Cawman
Fairfield, CT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on ACA Repeal Bill

I implore you to vote NO on the ACA Repeal Bill. This is unconstitutional! This will be impacting everyone living in the United States! This is unacceptable! This bill is corrupt, has loop holes, and simply supports the 1%. You will be on the wrong side of history! Stop the Corruption in Congress! The GOP is being funded by the Koch Brother's The Mercer's, The DeVos's, and more! We know what you are trying to accomplish and you will not get a way with it! We The People, know what you are doing and we will RESIST you the whole way!

Concerned Citizen,

Kelly A. Daggett
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham Cassidy!

Attempting to pass a bill of this magnitude and with such sweeping and disastrous changes without a full CBO analysis is an outrage.

This bill, if enacted, will devastate American families! The full measure of harm is being hidden from the American people.

Please stop trying to destroy of healthcare system. Congress attempting to radically restructure our healthcare without even knowing the financial impact is completely inconsistent with the supposed Republican commitment to fiscal responsibility.

Graham Cassidy cannot be passed into law without a full and thorough CBO analysis!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Kill The Bill Now!

Hello,

The last 10 1/2 months have had me in agony. Our nation has been bought and sold to the highest bidder, and there is absolutely zero integrity left in our political system. This last ditch effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act and replace it with the shittiest iteration of a healthcare bill that we've seen this year (and that's saying a lot after the AHCA, BRCA, and the skinny bill) is utterly surreal. This bill will kill and/or bankrupt countless Americans. It is cruel to its very core. Please consider this email my strong rejection of the Graham-Cassidy bill. Shame on anyone who supports it!

Sincerely,

Emily Burchfield

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I urge you to reconsider voting on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal.

As with all important decisions, we must defer to experts in the field who have dedicated their lives to their profession. The bill is being opposed by the American Medical Association. Isn't that enough information??

"Similar to proposals that were considered in the Senate in July, we believe the Graham-Cassidy Amendment would result in millions of Americans losing their health insurance coverage, destabilize health insurance markets, and decrease access to affordable coverage and care," wrote AMA CEO and Executive Vice President James L. Madara, M.D. "We sincerely urge the Senate to take short-term measures to stabilize the health insurance market by continuing to fund cost sharing reduction payments."

Theresa Deckebach

1 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham- Cassidy Bill

My name is Pamela Scott. I am a Registered Nurse although I no longer practice. I was hurt in an accident. I have a spinal cord injury. I'm also a single mom to a daughter who suffers from mental illnesses. My daughter went to college, and ended up in an inpatient psychiatric hospital unit. My daughter, Kelli has had multiple inpatient psychiatric hospitalizations since then. Because I am disabled I rely on Medicare for my primary health insurance. My daughter depends on the Medicaid Expansion portion of the ACA for her healthcare. If not for these two safety net programs, we would be homeless! These programs are important for people like me and my daughter! Truly my daughter most likely would not be alive right now if not for the ACA! You should look at how this bill would affect people like myself who have been put into these difficult situations by circumstances beyond their control! People like my daughter Kelli who was a cheerleader throughout high school, and then in her late teens was diagnosed with mental health illnesses! Mental health illnesses don't usually present themselves until teens and early twenties. For those of you who have children, I hope that you never get the phone call that I received at around 2:30am. When one of the directors who oversaw students in the dorms called me, and said, "the ambulance is transporting your daughter to the hospital now. She attempted suicide. The paramedics were working on her as they took her out." Since that night there's been like seven, maybe we're at nine now, suicide attempts. Just because someone suffers from mental illnesses doesn't mean that they can't have a productive life. There's people who have mental illnesses that go on to lead full, productive lives and contribute to society! Please don't forget about these individuals! My daughter's life has meaning! There's no way any one of us can predict every scenario that plays out in people's lives, so please don't forget the situation that I'm in or Kelli's situation! Thank you for your service to our country and for your time.

Pamela Scott
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Represented in Congress by: Representative Bill Foster Senator Dick Durbin Senator Tammy Duckworth

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Cassidy-Graham

Please vote no on Cassidy-Graham!
Kari

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:30 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 anyone of us could suffer a catastrophic health issue at any moment and no one should be left thinking they have to die if they get sick or injured. Additionally, if passed, Graham Cassidy will cause my state (PA) to face job losses of over 100k, 1 million + will lose coverage, premiums will increase over \$4700 and that's just the tip of the iceberg. This bill is unconscionable and demonstrates that the Senators who are pushing this bill are more interested in keeping their wallets lined and their donors happy than representing the individuals who they supposedly represent.

Abby Godfrey

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christopher McKinnon <cmckinnon@[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Gch comments

Please support this bill. Obama care must be replaced. Oh... and whatever the American people have for health insurance... congress should have the same coverage. Complete bs you jerks. Put yourself in our shoes for once. We are broke. We are sick. We are paying out our rear-ends. Be human for once in your life and stop thinking about being re-elected. If you're going to force this garbage down our throats then its going down yours too.

Sincerely and respectfully submitted,

Christopher McKinnon
(202) 527-9590
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

This is a terrible Bill and should not come up for a vote on the floor of the Senate. 🙄👎

Richard Sitnik, CCM

Sent from my iPhone

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy Graham Helath Bill

Dear Senator Shaheen,

My name is Mike and I am a 62 year old who is disabled due to Diabetic Neuropathy as well as acute prostate problems. My wife who is a Director at a child care facility in Somersworth NH also has preexisting conditions including having had thyroid cancer. I have contacted your offices several times by phone during the recent attempts to repeal Obama Care. I cannot believe I am having to experience this again. I am constantly losing sleep and we are extremely frightened of losing our affordable health care that we have through my wife's employer.

We depend on medications to stay alive.

Each time the republicans make an attempt at this it feels like going through another cancer diagnosis. It is extremely stressing for my wife also. I am very proud of you and Senator Hassan for your continued work to keep Obama care on the books. I have watched you on the Senate floor during each battle and am very grateful to have you as our Senator representing us in NH.

Please try to persuade Senators Collins, McCain and McKowski to continue to tow the line for us.

I have coffee twice a week with two friends at a local fast food restaurant who are in the same boat as I am and they have expressed to me that they would contemplate suicide rather than losing their families home and/or going bankrupt due to losing their health care. This is one of the most cruel and unthought through and debated bills that I can remember being pushed through in my 62 years of life. Please continue to do your best for us. We know you will!!

Thank you so much for your time!

Sincerely

M [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 5

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy Meleck <Amykm@congress.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:49 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 too many people will lose health insurance, it hasn't been shared thoroughly enough for the public to understand or elected officials to digest.

It will not provide healthcare for women who depend on Planned Parenthood for medical screenings and testing. Why rush? This could prove devastating to people with pre-existing conditions. Slow down.

Amy Meleck

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: (SENDER VALIDATION FAILED --- May not have originated from apparent sender)
Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because I have several pre-existing conditions. Between my doctors and medications, I go through about \$4000.00 a year, and that's just my copays. Without insurance, I would not be able to afford my doctors or meds; I can barely afford them WITH insurance!

John Ritter

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments for hearing record: NO on Graham Cassidy

This bill is an outrage, for any premie infant in a NICU who hits a spending cap in the first weeks of life, for any American with cancer or other serious preexisting condition who will face crippling debt for themselves and their family on top of the fight for their life.

Shame on the Senate for even considering Graham Cassidy, let alone trying to bully it through without CBO scores and full hearings. We've been through this already. Medical provider associations and everyday Americans stand against Graham Cassidy. Americans need affordable, high quality healthcare.

Offering to repeal the ACA for everyone *but* Alaska in order to secure Senator Murkowski's vote is a weird and clear indication that Graham Cassidy is bad for America. All 50 states. Come up with a bipartisan solution that improves on the ACA, not destroys the good that is there.

Sincerely, furiously,

Lisa Guido
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], NY 11215

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators;

Please vote "no" on this final iteration of "Trumpcare".

Though it starts out with pre-existing condition protections, as well as others, that is neutralized by the clause allowing states to opt out. I'm so glad I wasn't poor and sick and living in one of the southern states who opted out on medicaid expansion!

Though you say states are in the best position to form their own health insurance laws, drastically cutting their funds and throwing it all in their laps hardly seems like a responsible solution.

This bill is a sham and I believe you know it.
Vote No!

Regards

Elise Timpe

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Repeal and Replace

How dare you put your reelection coffer over the health of our nation

Jeannette Temple

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because every major health organization opposes this bill. This proposal would leave millions of Americans without health insurance. Also, you are considering this bill without a CBO score. Please do not push this through because the Republicans need a "win". Country before party!

Thank you.

Janice Prevail

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:47 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 healthcare is a right. Every American should have access to affordable healthcare. They also have a right to have healthcare even if they have a pre-existing condition. Cuts to medicaid only hurt our most vulnerable. My son has autism and verbal apraxia. He is 7 and has been receiving services since he was 2. Without medicaid getting him those services would not have been possible. Because of the advances he has made, he will be a productive member of society. Without those services he would need to be taken care of the rest of his life.

Please don't pass this bill.

Krista Brown

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: G-C Bill

This is a shameful act that has not been given the due diligence for a bill that would affect so many people. The idea that any of you would vote YES on a bill that could even potentially kill babies and children with life-threatening illnesses, shows a body of lawmakers who have been so corrupted by money and power that even common sense compassion is now a thing of the past. I know my words don't matter - only the Koch brothers' donations can sway this Congress- but I will remind you that history will remember your actions, as well as the Lord above, who surely must be wondering where the real Christians have gone - those who seek to help the poor, carry the weak, and tend the sick. As a D, I've never liked R policies, but today I can truly say your party is evil & corrupt, and it's a terrible, terrible shame that I have so many examples to prove my point. I can't even imagine how you sleep at night, knowing how much pain and suffering you are causing - to children, the elderly, immigrants, Muslims, transgenders....This bill is a monstrosity, and you know it. I pray on bended knee that you won't kill Americans, but I know those prayers land on deaf ears. We have billions to pour in to defense, and none for our old and our young. How, how have we fallen so far??? THIS IS NOT WHAT DEMOCRACY LOOKS LIKE!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Vote no on Graham Cassidy Bill !

No!
No!
No!

Fix what needs fixing on ACA !

Bren
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <john.b.dinsmore@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill is an Abomination

The bill will strip 30+ million people of coverage and the Senate doesn't even want to wait for a CBO score WTF?!?! This bill shall not pass!

John Dinsmore

**Typos brought to you by iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beverly Lacy <bevl@bavercy.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: And another thing

I am a retired grandmother. I worked hard all my life, working full time from age 17. I'm getting by, but just barely. I see that AARP predicts my health insurance will cost an addition \$16,000 annually thanks to you. That's on top of the \$7,000 I'm already paying. And \$16,000 for my husband! Guess what? I haven't got it. Maybe if I stop eating, sell my car, cancel my power and water.

Tell you what. Why don't you give me your home address, and I'll just come and die on your front sidewalk.

Why don't you give up your cushy insurance and live like the normal folk you claim to represent? Jerks.

Beverly Lacy

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators,

Please vote No for this bill! This is the worst try yet! It will take away the right for insurance from millions of constituents! Each and every one of you know the States will take away preexisting conditions. Taking away Women's benefits is sending this country back to 1950's. You work for us Americans, not the big corporations test pay you to pass these ridiculous bills.

Us Americans have the Right to healthcare.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Michelle Johnson

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy comments

My husband and I are college (plus) educated. Since obtaining degrees (avoiding debt along the way) we've both been continuously gainfully employed and have benefited from employer based health plans. Yet, my family would be destitute and likely without access to insurance today, if the ACA had not been passed just months before our almost 4-year-old twins were born.

They arrived without warning – almost 4 months early, weighing less than 1.5 pounds each – stunning us and turning our lives upside down. But this is not a sad story. Today they are strong, vibrant, funny, preschoolers that walk into a room and fill it with life. Of course, factors outside our or anyone's control played a role but Georgetown hospital's top-notch care and the many doctors and therapists that we saw in the years following discharge are what allowed them to truly defy terrifying odds.

You are considering a healthcare bill that most likely will allow health insurance companies, in at least some states, to impose lifetime and annual caps on benefits. I can't fully imagine what would have happened to my family had such caps not been outlawed. Despite our resources, there would be no way to recover from a \$1.5 million bill (the amount we would have owed after reaching our plans prior lifetime limit). There would have been no way for us to provide our twins – who fought so hard to stay in this world – with access to the basic things needed for them to keep thriving.

I've been told the Republican party values life and holds it dear. If this is the case, why are Republicans considering this law, that SO VERY CLEARLY devalues the lives of all but the healthiest and richest? Please do the right thing. Please put people over party. Please put young babies ahead of a hollow political victory. We know, you know, this is not a good bill for American. Please don't betray yourself and us in supporting it.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy "Bill" Must Be Destroyed!

I don't know how many times the American people have to plead with their lives for our Senators and Representatives to do the will of the people.

Time and time again the message you've been ignoring is to not only keep the ACA but to EXPAND ON IT AND make it better. Put aside any thoughts of being re-elected or pandering to the very few who are dead set against anything that resembles reason. FORGET ANY THOUGHTS OF REPEALING ACA. DO SOMETHING CONSTRUCTIVE WITH YOUR TIME AND OUR MONEY.

If even half of the energy that has been put into destroying the Affordable Care Act was used to create something on behalf of the people who need the ACA even with its flaws, your approval ratings would not be in the tank.

Janis Flagg

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

DO NOT REPEAL THE ACA!!! STOP LYING TO THE COUNTRY!!

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: barbara.marchoce [mailto:barbara.marchoce@pahealthaccess.org]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: info@pahealthaccess.org

Graham-Cassidy is a pathetic excuse for a healthcare bill to improve the ACA! No real public debate, no CBO scoring, no clarity about the impact on the consumers of healthcare. Republicans just want "CREDIT" for appealing Obamacare. **There is no evidence that the majority in the Senate are really interested in providing healthcare fairly to all Americans.** The only path to a healthcare bill that works is through bipartisan discussion and compromise. Start working together for ALL the people!!!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

The "healthcare" legislation being shoved through the Senate is unconscionable. My husband and I have worked all of our lives to try and provide ourselves with a comfortable retirement and we should not need to worry about having affordable health insurance/care. Additionally, kicking millions of people, including the least fortunate amongst us, off their insurance is the height of depravity and indifference. We are not a third world country. We are The United States of America. That used to mean something. Now, I am ashamed to call this country mine.

Instead of gutting The Affordable Care Act, Senate and Congress should be working to fix what is broken. As you don't throw away your cellphone when an upgrade is pushed, or throw the baby out with the bath water, you should not throw out something that is working and insuring millions of people, some who have never even had insurance before. You fix it/upgrade it/enhance it. It is absolutely detestable that this is being done to rob from the poor and middle class to give to the rich.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] Darwin <SusanaDarwin@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: OPPOSING Graham-Cassidy

To the Committee:

The Graham-Cassidy bill is the latest confirmation that Republican domestic policy is not conservative but dangerously radical and may be summarized in three words:

LET THEM DIE.

Enormous opportunities in the middle ground between ACA and this so-called legislation are ripe for exploration and development. Why the GOP elected not to undertake the hard work of drafting and debating an improved successor system for the past seven years risks a permanent mark against the Party.

Please vote "no."

Thank you,

Susana Darwin
Chicago

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My healthcare is in peril if Graham-Cassidy passes

I am a senior living in Arizona. When I worked for big companies, I had employer sponsored healthcare. When I stopped working for big companies, I needed to buy my own healthcare. I have been purchasing healthcare on the individual market for 17 years. I don't qualify for Medicaid or subsidies because of my income. Yes, the premiums are high, but I gladly pay them because I understand the need and value of insurance.

At my age, 60, I have several pre-existing conditions. None are severe or disabling but they are still there to be managed.

This past year, my husband broke his hip and as he recovered from that, he was diagnosed with lymphoma cancer. I have seen how injury or disease can strike quickly and deeply, even to people who lead a healthy life.

His care was quite expensive, but luckily, he had good insurance (Medicare plus a supplemental policy) and a good outcome. Without it, we would have been on the hook for \$500,000 for his life saving treatment.

I am concerned that if Graham-Cassidy is passed, I won't be able to afford insurance because of my pre-existing conditions. And if I go without insurance, I am terrified about having a health event through no fault of my own that I can't afford to treat or will have to go bankrupt afterwards because of the costs. My entire future (health and financial) could be at risk.

This situation causes me great anxiety - it shouldn't have to be that way. People in the greatest country in the world shouldn't have to worry about basic healthcare events. It makes me incredibly sad that not everyone who has lymphoma like my husband will get a chance at a good outcome because the treatment is so expensive. I don't want to be one of them.

Please craft a bipartisan bill to shore up the individual market short term and then work together through regular order to create a longer term solution that addresses access and affordability. Regular order allows for input, evaluation, feedback, and buy-in. All are vital for a policy that affects 1/6 of our economy.

My life and others literally depend upon it.

Thank you,
Jill Schneider
Tucson, Arizona

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing Testimony for Graham-Cassidy Bill

September 22, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing in strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Bill. If adopted it would have serious consequences for people with disabilities.

Medicaid doesn't need to be cut, modified or block-granted, in order to repeal the affordable Care Act (ACA), though I'm strongly opposed to such a repeal as well. As the Director of a large not-for-profit organization, I see issues with the ACA, especially regarding reporting requirements for the "employer mandate". However, I support efforts to "repair", not repeal or replace it.

Below is an example of a woman who will likely be affected by passage of the Cassidy-Graham bill. The woman is my mother.

My mother is about to turn 89 years old, is on Medicare, and about six years ago applied for and received Medicaid because of her increasingly debilitating arthritis, as well as cognitive issues due to a series of mini-strokes.

She is no longer able to walk, and relies on a power wheelchair to move around. She has extremely contracted fingers, and is sometimes unable to even hold a fork or spoon. My mother depends on assistance from a personal care attendant (PCA), an "optional service" under Medicaid, to assist her with most everyday tasks. These include: meal preparation, sometimes feeding her, brushing her teeth, dressing, showering and even wiping her clean after she uses the toilet. She was always a healthy and very active woman, until her arthritis worsened to the point of being very incapacitating. The adjustments she had to make to remain in the community were many, but she never wanted to live in a nursing home. Once she was in a rehabilitation/nursing facility for a broken arm, and she was abused several times by the workers. She would surely die if institutionalized.

My mother is also on New York's Nursing Home Transition and Diversion Waiver (NHTD), which is a 1915(c) Medicaid waiver, and receives Service Coordination (case management), and help with funding equipment, including for her Personal Emergency Response System, that she can use when her aide isn't there to summon help in an emergency. The PERS unit is critical, since she is unable to dial a phone anymore.

We live in the United States of America, the richest and greatest country in the world. Is this really how low we've sunk, to force poor, elderly and disabled people into institutions or to simply go without health care? I am completely aware of the supposed flexibility in this bill, but the bottom line is, that when all is said and done, these changes to Medicaid are about saving money at the expense of those who truly need the services.

These changes will have a serious impact on those with pre-existing conditions, because there are no provisions to monitor states' implementation or usage of their block grants. Republicans are the party in power now, show us your humanity and care for the citizens of this country, instead of the usual partisan politics that afflicts this nation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to Graham-Cassidy

Based on the research I have done, it is clear to me that the Graham-Cassidy bill takes our country backwards in its mission to provide healthcare coverage for all.

1. It punishes states who have already taken on expansion of Medicaid (my state will lose billions - with a B - and this is untenable for my state as well as the other states who will also lose billions - with a B).
2. It cuts cost-sharing reductions, which benefit small businesses.
3. It puts the most vulnerable at risk by providing loopholes for insurers to deny coverage for those with pre-existing conditions. This is unacceptable in ANY form. We cannot go back to that world.
4. It disproportionately affects rural healthcare providers by reducing or eliminating the support they require to continue to operate.

Please use all tactics of logic, common sense, compassion, and understanding of the impacts this would have on the American people to arrive at the obvious conclusion - this bill is NOT the right bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

You need to work on this until you have a good bill. So far, all you've tried to do is ram something through to get Obama off of it. People are counting on their government to give them something affordable and comprehensive, without limitations for age, pre-existing conditions or any other loopholes. I have retirement and social security and a good drug plan. I worked many years for that and I'm probably still alive because I have Medicare and a secondary for which I pay nothing. I am almost 81 and have several conditions - glaucoma, emphysema, congestive heart disease, spinal stenosis and chronic sciatica. I need a lot of meds, inhalers, oxygen and regular doctor visits to monitor my condition. I AM ONE OF MILLIONS. THINK about what you are doing.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose health care bill as written

Bob was brain injured as an infant after illness. He is now in his 40s. He is of good spirits and infects others w his cheerfulness. He works and volunteers w assistance. He cannot speak clearly so shows people what he means. He depends upon direct care staff who know him to help him get his message across. His some of decision making must be supported to keep him healthy and safe. He has paralisis on his right side which he compensates for to be able to walk. His syaff help him w all personal cares as fine motor skills are not possible. He shares the cost of all his supports, spending Medicaid based support funds on jo for staff

Hi spends his Social security on housing payment an other payments to bankers, Doctors,, power companies and grocery stores

All money that feeds local economies

The healthcare bill as currently written would significantly reduce his ability to pay others. He would be forced into very unsafe in-human living conditions. He would not be able to communicate,, he would have to give up his home, he would have to live w strangers. Conditions none of us would choose..

His staff would loose jobs. I and my husband are his court appointed volunteer guardians. We advocate a no vote for the health care bill because we know him and care what happens to him. Thank you for listening and showing us you care by refusing any health care bill that doesnt improve Bobs Chan e at a humane life.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

I am writing to object to the Graham-Cassidy bill.

I find it reprehensible that this bill would be pushed through to satisfy the desires of big money donors, rather than focus on what will be good for patients in America. This bill is the height of insanity in terms of what it does to hurt the current health care system.

Fix the ACA! That's an better solution - although it's not that easy, I realize. The goal for health care should be "Do no harm."

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Kaye Campbell

[REDACTED]
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

Good Morning,
Thank you for the work that you do. Please hold off on repealing the ACA until there is a properly thought out health plan. My sister in Delaware completely relies on this health care and would not be covered with her previous health care concerns with ovarian cancer.

Thank you for your consideration.

Chris Best

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

Please save Medicaid funding. Millions rely on it--this is too important to cut!
Amanda Louden

[REDACTED]
Indianapolis IN 46220

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:44 PM
To: gchcomments; Pearson, Beth (Warren); Hurt, Nikki (Markey)
Subject: Comments about the Graham-Cassidy Bill

To whom it may concern,

I am a Massachusetts resident and am writing to voice my strongest opposition to the healthcare reform bill that is before the Senate at present. The reallocation of Medicaid expansion dollars will have a devastating effect on small states such as Massachusetts. Massachusetts is estimated to lose \$5-\$8 billion with this bill. It will ultimately result in a loss of coverage for children and adults with disabilities.

On a personal note, this new law will have an immediate adverse effect on my family. I am a mother of three adult children. All three of my children have an inherited autoimmune disorder. Due to the ACA, our family was able to keep our children on our family policy until they were 26 years old and able to get themselves launched in their lives. Two of them, however, continue to get their own healthcare coverage through the ACA exchanges. They have been able to purchase excellent coverage at fairly reasonable costs. I have recently become disabled and am looking to sign up soon on the Massachusetts Health Connector as I await a SSDI determination. To purchase BCBS coverage comparable to what I had previously through an employer would cost \$1186 a month. If the restrictions on how premiums are calculated, I cannot imagine how much higher this could go! While these premiums for a 56-year-old such as myself are high, they will become unaffordable if key ACA provisions are lost. Like many other families across the U.S., the ACA has worked well for my family and we don't want to lose it.

I feel confident that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with its track record being on the vanguard of health reform, would not waive the pre-existing conditions provisions should the Graham-Cassidy bill become law. One of my children, however, lives in a state where there is no such assurance. A massive spike in her insurance premiums or a loss of coverage would be devastating for our family.

Something as critical as health insurance should be standardized across states just as Social Security benefits are standardized. I strongly support a national single payer system, or at least, a public option that would stabilize the markets and add more competition. Even a modest compromise, such as allowing adults ages 55-65 to buy into the Medicare system would have a tremendous beneficial effect.

Please oppose this bill!

Sincerely,

Miriam DeFant
[REDACTED]

Shutesbury, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: RE: G/C Health Care Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing you today to express my outright horror and dismay at the proposed Graham-Cassidy health care proposal. This bill would affect my family in so many negative ways it is difficult to enumerate.

This bill:

Destroys Medicaid by turning it into a capped system.

Hurts children, seniors and people with pre-existing conditions.

It's an outright assault on women's health and it provides tax cuts to the wealthy.

It is being jammed through without any bipartisan input and without a CBO score.

This bill would affect my children and my elderly father who has Parkinson's. It is a cruel bill. I urge you to defeat it. If this bill is approved it all but guarantees that those who voted for it will be out of office come 2018.

Fran Silverman-Larkin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Obamacare Repeal

Please do not destroy affordable health care for millions of Americans. It's cruel. It's heartless. It's selfish. It's ugly. It's beyond absurd that the richest nation on Earth wants tax cuts for the wealthy while the insurance industry profits off of people in need of health care. That philosophy is sick. The GOP behind this sick scheme will pay the price come November 2018.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary P McHale
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill September 25 hearing

Greetings!

My name is [REDACTED] at 5009 Izard Street in Omaha, NE [REDACTED]

I am urging the Senate to vote No on the Graham-Cassidy Bill as this bill would have a devastating impact on my son and my family. My son has a disability and relies on Medicaid for funding for services such as finding a job, job coaching, and transportation to and from the job. Without those supports that Medicaid provides, either my husband or myself will have to quit our job to provide those needed services for our son. Those services allow our son to be a contributing member of society. Without those services, he will spend his days sitting at home. This proposed Bill would also allow states to waive protections for anyone with a pre-existing condition, which would mean that Daniel would not have any health insurance as he has a congenital heart condition, is deaf in one ear and wears a hearing aid in the other ear, has hypothyroidism, among other health issues. This would mean that he wouldn't receive the medicines that he needs (living on \$735.00/month SSI), wouldn't see the doctor for checkups and ultimately his health would be so impaired that it would mean a trip to the ER, hospitalization, etc. Is this what the Senate wants-- to have those individuals who are least able to advocate for themselves not be taken care of? Any cuts to Medicaid (whether through per capita-based caps, or no pre-existing conditions) will mean that all we have worked with with our school district to make sure that Daniel can work competitively will be for nothing as those necessary Medicaid supports will be gone.

Thank you,
Mary P McHale

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Healthcare bill

I am writing as an Autism mom. My son will be on medicaid in one year. He has autism. Autistic people generally have a 95% unemployment rate. Optimistically, he will be able to work 15 hours as he has anxiety issues, in addition to his autism.

This current incarnation will be detrimental to people like my son. Block grants are bad for special needs people as it limits the amount of money that they can use. He will, most likely use the additional money that my state generously adds for things like personal health care (he is unable to shave or give himself a shower). I shudder to think what will happen if this bill passes or if it goes to reconciliation with the house bill.

Even if I did not have my autistic son, I would believe we need to protect our most vulnerable population. I don't understand why the government hates people who are poor or special needs.

Thank you for your consideration. We need to support the fixer caucus who is trying to help 'fix' the ACA. We need to do tweak, yes...destroy NO.

Thank you,
Kathleen Pahre-Andrade

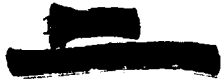
Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gemma Rosato [mailto:GemmaRosato@crna.com]
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]
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, 9:23:42 AM
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, "Jennie Dohner" [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: Marj Kleinman
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] entary
[Redacted] 98
[Redacted] om/
[Redacted] Kleinman/

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <jillhagemeier@yahoo.com>
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.

Jill Hagemeier
999 E. Leach St.
Sullivan, IN 47882
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [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

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nicolay Kreidler <Nicolay.Kreidler@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]
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 Holcomb [mailto:linda.holcomb@frontrange.com]
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: Megan Sandberg-Zakian
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

Watertown, MA 02472

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: PAMELA DAVIES <Pamela126@comcast.net>
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] <[REDACTED]@gch.com>
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: [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

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

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]
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]
[REDACTED]

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

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

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: K [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

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: Sherri Kotimsky [mailto:sherrikotimsky@gmail.com]
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: [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.

Marnie Olson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jason Duchan <jeduchanartiste@yahoo.com>
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] <[REDACTED]@sbcirobban.net>
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]
Apple [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCHJ - ACA Repeal Plan

September 21, 2017
To: The Senate Finance Committee
Re: Graham-Cassidy-Heller Johnston Health Care Repeal Plan

The current attempt to gut the ACA in favor of block grants and tax cuts for the wealthy looks and smells like a sham to this law-abiding, tax-paying US citizen.
How can your committee meet on 9/25 without full debate or even full information on the anticipated effects on these massive cuts to health care provisions? Do you agree with estimates of 30-32 million losing health insurance? Do you actually believe that replacing Medicaid funding with block grants to states will help cover costs better than what we have now, and that states won't simply spend the money elsewhere?
I am self-employed and currently pay over \$800 per month for health insurance for myself and my husband. We receive no financial assistance, and the high deductible, co-insurance and & OOP max means we pay most bills ourselves, but at least it covers (i.e., reduces fees for) most of our care. Before the ACA, we had a cheaper policy, but it covered nothing -- virtually every claim was denied. The company's corruption was finally exposed in a class action suit, which restored at least a small percentage of our wasted money.
Is this the insurance what you want us to return to? Or no insurance?
Is this really the health care future you want for all except the wealthiest Americans?
I shall be contacting senators to register my opposition in the strongest terms.

Jan Elliott
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 025 13

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: [REDACTED]
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]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public comment

There is zero justification for a politically driven and socially unacceptable bill that will eliminate healthcare coverage for 32 million Americans. Shame on the GOP for letting their anti everything Obama-ism trump moral responsibility. Vote NO.

Neil

Neil D. Wernick

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose health care bill as written

Bob was brain injured as an infant after illness. He is now in his 40s. He is of good spirits and infects others w his cheerfulness. He works and volunteers w assistance. He cannot speak clearly so shows people what he means. He depends upon direct care staff who know him to help him get his message across. His some of decision making must be supported to keep him healthy and safe. He has paralisis on his right side which he compensates for to be able to walk. His syaff help him w all personal cares as fine motor skills are not possible. He shares the cost of all his supports, spending Medicaid based support funds on jo for staff

Hi spends his Social security on housing payment an other payments to bankers, Doctors,, power companies and grocery stores

All money that feeds local economies

The healthcare bill as currently written would significantly reduce his ability to pay others. He would be forced into very unsafe in-human living conditions. He would not be able to communicate,, he would have to give up his home, he would have to live w strangers. Conditions none of us would choose..

His staff would loose jobs. I and my husband are his court appointed volunteer guardians. We advocate a no vote for the health care bill because we know him and care what happens to him. Thank you for listening and showing us you care by refusing any health care bill that doesnt improve Bobs Chan e at a humane life.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

I am writing to object to the Graham-Cassidy bill.

I find it reprehensible that this bill would be pushed through to satisfy the desires of big money donors, rather than focus on what will be good for patients in America. This bill is the height of insanity in terms of what it does to hurt the current health care system.

Fix the ACA! That's an better solution - although it's not that easy, I realize. The goal for health care should be "Do no harm."

Respectfully submitted,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chris Best
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

Good Morning,

Thank you for the work that you do. Please hold off on repealing the ACA until there is a properly thought out health plan. My sister in Delaware completely relies on this health care and would not be covered with her previous health care concerns with ovarian cancer.

Thank you for your consideration.

Chris Best

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

Please save Medicaid funding. Millions rely on it--this is too important to cut!
Amanda Louden

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:44 PM
To: gchcomments; Pearson, Beth (Warren); Hurt, Nikki (Markey)
Subject: Comments about the Graham-Cassidy Bill

To whom it may concern,

I am a Massachusetts resident and am writing to voice my strongest opposition to the healthcare reform bill that is before the Senate at present. The reallocation of Medicaid expansion dollars will have a devastating effect on small states such as Massachusetts. Massachusetts is estimated to lose \$5-\$8 billion with this bill. It will ultimately result in a loss of coverage for children and adults with disabilities.

On a personal note, this new law will have an immediate adverse effect on my family. I am a mother of three adult children. All three of my children have an inherited autoimmune disorder. Due to the ACA, our family was able to keep our children on our family policy until they were 26 years old and able to get themselves launched in their lives. Two of them, however, continue to get their own healthcare coverage through the ACA exchanges. They have been able to purchase excellent coverage at fairly reasonable costs. I have recently become disabled and am looking to sign up soon on the Massachusetts Health Connector as I await a SSDI determination. To purchase BCBS coverage comparable to what I had previously through an employer would cost \$1186 a month. If the restrictions on how premiums are calculated, I cannot imagine how much higher this could go! While these premiums for a 56-year-old such as myself are high, they will become unaffordable if key ACA provisions are lost. Like many other families across the U.S., the ACA has worked well for my family and we don't want to lose it.

I feel confident that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with its track record being on the vanguard of health reform, would not waive the pre-existing conditions provisions should the Graham-Cassidy bill become law. One of my children, however, lives in a state where there is no such assurance. A massive spike in her insurance premiums or a loss of coverage would be devastating for our family.

Something as critical as health insurance should be standardized across states just as Social Security benefits are standardized. I strongly support a national single payer system, or at least, a public option that would stabilize the markets and add more competition. Even a modest compromise, such as allowing adults ages 55-65 to buy into the Medicare system would have a tremendous beneficial effect.

Please oppose this bill!

Sincerely,

Miriam DeFant

[REDACTED]
Shutesbury, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Urgent Correspondence from State Independent Living Center

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Emily Roberts, and I represent one of nine independent living centers in the state of Colorado. The goal of these centers is to assist people with disabilities to live as independently as possible, by helping them with everything from housing to SSI applications, to job hunting, independent living skills, self-advocacy and more. We are able to offer these services to people free of charge in large part due to Medicaid, which helps us fund our programs. If Medicaid is cut, it is not just the lives and physical health of disabled individuals that will be in jeopardy, it is their ability to access services which improve their quality of life.

I run a program called the Colorado Choice Transitions program, the goal of which is to help people move out of nursing homes and back into the community, where they can be successful, contributing members of society. I provide these people with the medical and independent living services they need in order to succeed in the community, and my program is funded entirely by Medicaid. The cost of living in a nursing home is staggering. In Colorado, the average cost is \$228 per day, which adds up to over \$83,000 a year. There are two nursing homes within walking distance of my office; one has 75 residents, the other has over 150. Accumulated, the average annual cost of housing those residents in the facilities comes to over eighteen and a half million dollars, and I can tell you with certainty that most of that is being paid for through programs like Medicaid and Medicare, through the state. By contrast, living independently costs these individuals less than \$3,000 a month, barely a third of the annual cost of keeping them in a facility. If you permit Medicaid to be destroyed by this new bill, my program, and the potential for successful, happy lives for the people that I work with will fall apart.

Not only would my program be at risk, but the people who depend on Medicaid and Medicare to live in nursing homes, where they receive appropriate, life-sustaining care, will have no way to afford to stay, and will be discharged to the streets, where they will die. This is not an exaggeration. I worked with an individual earlier this year who was determined to be too high-functioning, in terms of needed services, to qualify for long-term care Medicaid any longer. When he lost that, he was discharged from the nursing home without the supports that he needed. As of last week, this individual is in the hospital, with an uncertain prognosis. This is a tiny example of the mass-scale devastation that the destruction of Medicaid could cause, and it would be at the hands of the individual in whom we as a state placed our trust and our faith to do what was best for us, and to ensure our wellbeing.

Separate from my role as a case worker, I am myself an individual with a disability, and I utilize Medicaid in order to afford my needed medical services and medication. Without these things, I would not be able to be a successful, contributing member of society. I could not work, and would be forced to turn to SSI or SSDI in order to survive. The loss of Medicaid would mean the loss of independence for myself and thousands of others in my position, to the detriment of everyone in the state.

It is with these thoughts in mind that I strongly plead with you to vote against the proposed Medicaid cuts, as doing so would have a devastatingly deleterious effect on the state of Colorado, and on the nation as a whole. Thank you,

Emily Roberts

*Emily Roberts, Bac.Psy
Disabled Resource Services*

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: RE: G/C Health Care Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing you today to express my outright horror and dismay at the proposed Graham-Cassidy health care proposal. This bill would affect my family in so many negative ways it is difficult to enumerate.

This bill:

Destroys Medicaid by turning it into a capped system.

Hurts children, seniors and people with pre-existing conditions.

It's an outright assault on women's health and it provides tax cuts to the wealthy.

It is being jammed through without any bipartisan input and without a CBO score.

This bill would affect my children and my elderly father who has Parkinson's. It is a cruel bill. I urge you to defeat it. If this bill is approved it all but guarantees that those who voted for it will be out of office come 2018.

Fran Silverman-Larkin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amelia Costigan [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill

To whom it may concern

My father was a school teacher for 35 years. He taught industrial arts and helped hundreds of kids find jobs as auto mechanics, plumbers, electricians and carpenters. 15 years after he retired he got Alzheimer's. Eventually he was so confused he was getting lost and we needed to find him a nursing home. We relied on Medicaid to cover the cost of a decent nursing home for him. There is no way we could have covered that cost without Medicaid. **My dad was not a freeloader or lazy.**

I would like the Republicans to stop trying to destroy and repeal the ACA and instead to please work with Democrats to fix the existing problems. Like my father, they are PUBLIC servants and they need to work FOR the public and not just to get a "win". Especially when we do not even have the CBO score yet! We need to know the impact of changing 1/6th of the economy.

Regards,
Amelia Costigan
Brooklyn, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beth Weidner <[REDACTED]@n>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

This bill is unconscionable and would result in many people losing their health care insurance. It does not protect those with pre-existing conditions and would likely result in unaffordable insurance for many elderly people. The most vulnerable members of our society would suffer. Vote NO! This country can find a way to provide universal health care for all and should do so! The Affordable Care Act was a good start, and as with all societal programs, revisions are needed to make it function more equitably for those that need it. Thank you for acting in the best interests of the vast majority of citizens.

Beth Weidner
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Al FINKELSTEIN <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:32 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.

I have a 13 year old son who is on Medicaid for disabilities that he was born with. He will need assistance to fully function in society all his life. Medical assistance provided by Medicaid will be the least of his needs. Rest assured, I will vote based largely on the issue of healthcare and the needs of my son.

Respectfully,

Al Finkelstein
Medford, NJ

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gwendolynn Combs [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Concerns

Thank you for allowing anyone who has an opinion on what Graham Cassidy would mean for our health care system to send thoughts to the Senate Finance Committee

I am a 42 year old veteran of the U. S. Air Force. By cutting Medicaid and other healthcare programs to millions of Americans, the bill will reduce the number of non-elderly veterans who have access to healthcare. Funding is the bottom line. I live with not one but multiple pre-existing conditions. Right now, the VA bills my insurance provider for my care. If I lose my insurance, or if I change jobs and become subject to pre-existing exclusions for services, the VA will still have an obligation to provide my care, but it will not be able to bill those services to an insurance company. That will cause a decline in staffing, cuts to programs, and maybe even further limitations to VA health care eligibility criteria. Funding cuts hurt services to veterans all around. Wait times are already bad now; if this bill passes, wait times and other components of veterans' care will suffer greatly.

I teach in an urban, Title I school. Every single student at my school lives with poverty. Medicaid funding helps to provide a healthcare clinic in our school that provides vaccination, limited lab services, etc. It also provides funding for speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and behavioral therapies that our children who live in poverty so desperately need. When that funding is taken, education takes further budgetary hits, and nothing impacts the future of our country like the quality of our education programs. We can't afford the negative impact Graham Cassidy cuts will inflict upon our schools.

The ACA needs changes, but Graham-Cassidy doesn't propose the changes that we need. It only hurts people. We need a healthcare plan that 1) insures more people, not fewer 2) at lower Out-of-pocket costs 3) with the same coverage we have now or better regardless of age, income, or pre-existing condition, 4) and preserves Medicaid and Medicaid Expansion. Anything less is ineffective, elitist, cruel, and inhumane.

Sincerely,
Gwendolynn Combs
Little Rock, Arkansas

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dahna Goldstein [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Finance Committee Members,

Millions of Americans rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Eliminating the Affordable Care Act's marketplace subsidies would potentially imperil 10 million Americans who rely on those subsidies to access affordable healthcare. No one should die or suffer because they are unable to afford reasonable care.

The full impact of the Graham-Cassidy bill isn't even yet known. Voting before the CBO scores the bill is simply irresponsible.

The ACA isn't perfect. There is lots of room for improvement. Please pursue a bi-partisan approach to improving the ACA rather than throwing the baby out with the bathwater.

Sincerely,
Dahna Goldstein
Silver Spring, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Keith Trummel [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I would like to express my strong resistance to the Graham-Cassidy Bill which is to be the subject of the Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing on September 25, 2017. The passage of this bill would cause millions of people to lose their health care. In addition, it would undermine protection for preexisting conditions and cause increases in rates for insurance, especially for older Americans. Please, for the sake of all Americans, do not pass the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

Keith E Trummel
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Becky McKenzie [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: see below

I think quality health care for all should be considered a human right!!

Two years ago my nephew was diagnosed with a glioblastoma (brain cancer). If health insurance for pre-existing conditions had not been available he would have died in 3 months.

I am very opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill and would like to see a bipartisan effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it!!!!!!

Sincerely

Becky McKenzie
Corvallis OR

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hilary R. [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I am an American citizen with a preexisting condition

To Whom it May Concern,

Through the ACA healthcare plan I signed up for back in January of 2015, I have been able to seek an enormously effective preventative treatment for chronic migraines. Needless to say, chronic migraines are a preexisting condition. The treatment I've been able to seek has made the world of difference both for my work life and for my quality of life generally. Before this, I suffered from debilitating migraines anywhere from 3 to 4 times per month, each lasting from 1 to 3 days in duration, and as a result I either missed work days or functioned well below my potential. I now get an average of just 1 migraine every couple of months, and the migraines are both less severe and don't last as long, all of which has changed my life dramatically for the better. If the Graham-Cassidy bill passes, I will no longer have access to this crucial, for me, preventative treatment, and this will obviously negatively impact my ability to work and therefor my finances, so both momentarily and physically this will have a hugely negative impact on my life.

Thank you,

Hilary Rand

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cathy Douma [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

My son Jeffrey is 33 years old and has autism. The current system for adult services in New Jersey through the Division of Developmental Disabilities requires that he be on Medicaid. Threats to Medicaid are therefore threats to his day services and housing in the future. My husband and I will not be alive forever, and so we cannot ensure that his needs will be served unless there is a strong system of support services in New Jersey. This requires Medicaid to be there for him.

Please do not endanger Medicaid. Graham Cassidy would do that, so I hope you can reject it.

Thank you!
Catherine Douma
Mother of Jeffrey

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robin Clark [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

To: Senate Finance Committee
From: Robin Thomas
Re: Comments regarding healthcare for the Graham-Cassidy Bill hearings on Sept 25, 2017

Dear Senators,

As you consider improving the lives of your fellow Americans and the most essential ingredient to pursuing happiness-our health-I wish to offer my views.

First off, I'm exceptionally healthy. I've been privileged to spend time outdoors, in the most beautiful parks and wilderness areas in the world. When we are healthy it is our duty to contribute to the well being of those who are sick, and when we are sick or in need, it's a great comfort to know we will be cared for.

I have also been a caregiver for the past 4 years. It's been a great gift to spend the last year's of my parents life with them as much as I am able, but also dismaying to see how the looming stress of medical care weighs upon all our elderly. Geriatric patients have a lifetime of accumulated ills, and to subject them to financial pressure seems to me to be the ultimate disrespect and disregard for our elders.

If you want to repeal Obamacare, let it be but do it to provide healthcare for all, to make medicine fair and available to anyone in need.

Thank you,

Robin Thomas
(Harrison, Maine)

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: HERBERT MALAMUT [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Dear Senators:

I am a 62 year old cancer patient is has benefited from the ACA. I am strongly against the new healthcare bill put forth by Graham-Cassidy as it will cause my premiums to go up in a dramatic way as to make health insurance un-affordable. In effect this bill is a death sentence for me. Please vote NO!

thank you

Herbert Malamut

Southampton, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marian Miller [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I disagree with Graham Cassidy bill

I am an attorney in Flowery Branch, Georgia, but currently stay home with my three young girls. My seven year old has Type 1 Diabetes. We are small business owners, and buy insurance through the exchange. I am very concerned about protecting people with pre-existing conditions, like my daughter, as well as poor children and the elderly who depend upon Medicaid and Medicare.

The Graham-Cassidy bill is awful. It does not protect any of these vulnerable groups and, if anything, throws them under the proverbial bus.

Please consider the financial impact this bill would have on my family; a single income small business family trying to pay for insulin, an insulin pump, and a continuous glucose monitor so my child's disease can be managed and she won't suffer neuropathy in her 20's.

Please consider Georgia, and how our rural hospitals are being shut down due to not expanding Medicaid. How these hospital shut downs are devastating small towns and causing a negative economic impact on the state.

Sincerely,
Leigh Miller
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Naomi Miller [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:30 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.

This bill has not been fine tuned, modified, time-tested. Pre existing conditions cannot be subject to individual state whims. This bill is not ready for prime time, folks!

Go back to fixing/improving the ACA with no-partisan participation!

Naomi Miller
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Don Bryant <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy

IF YOU VOTE FOR THIS BILL YOU

-- NEED TO HAVE A HEART TRANSPLANT

Don

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Doug Price <[REDACTED]@gman.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

Senators:

I am sending this email in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill. Like many health care professionals and organizations, I believe that this bill would have a negative impact on our health care system and a negative impact on many Americans, particularly those who are most in need of health care services.

Rather than rushing to enact this bill, I would encourage members of the Senate and House of Representatives to work in a collaborative bipartisan manner to develop legislation that will improve rather than harm our health care system and will help rather than harm millions of Americans who depend on that care.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

Doug Price
Stanardsville, VA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Becky Leff [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony for Graham-Cassidy hearing

My family relies on dependable, affordable healthcare. Because of this I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband, who is on Medicare, has an auto-immune disease that requires expensive medication, which he is able to get at a reasonable price today. Our daughter is a young professional with several sources of income, none of which offers health insurance as part of her employment. She needs to be able purchase health insurance that will cover enough of her health expenses that she can afford the care and medications that she needs for debilitating migraines. Without access to affordable healthcare, she will have difficulty continuing to be a productive member of society.

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

Sincerely,

Rebecca Leff
Buffalo Grove, IL



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laurie Stokes <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Testimony for Graham-Cassidy hearing

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with affordability is that my son must pay for his healthcare because his employer will only pay a portion of his healthcare bill. My daughter will soon be off of my work insurance and will have to pick up her own coverage also with pre-existing conditions. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Laurie Stokes
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mignon S Adams [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassiday Hearing, Sept. 25

The Graham-Cassiday bill will NOT provide quality, affordable healthcare. I oppose it.

I am currently receiving immunotherapy for metastasized melanoma...metastasized by definition is a "pre-existing condition," based on the melanoma lesion removed 4 years ago.

If I had to pay for itself myself, it would be over \$200,000 a year. Senators may have that much money..but I sure don't.

My daughter has multiple sclerosis, a "pre-existing condition" for over 20 years. Her husband would like to apply for a different job--but he can't, because enough health insurance may not be available through another employer.

A bipartisan Congressional effort can improve the ACA. Let's do that instead of repealing it and replacing it with health insurance that will only help those who are healthy.

Mignon Adams
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to Graham-Cassidy

>
>
> This bill is a travesty that would hurt and kill thousands of Americans every year.

>
> Sent from my iWalkieTalkie

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dave Breedon <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Dear Senators (Finance Committee):

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my opinion on the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill currently under consideration in the United States Senate. I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill in the strongest terms.

As a former Republican, I believe that the Senate should engage in bipartisan efforts to address the problems with the Affordable Care Act rather than repealing it altogether. The Affordable Care Act is a complex statutory scheme that grew from bipartisan input and amendments. (As an aside, one of the reasons I left the Republican Party was because of the relentless falsehoods perpetuated by the party, including the ongoing lie that the Affordable Care Act was a purely partisan endeavor with no Republican participation.) Whatever problems that may currently exist with the ACA deserve a bipartisan solution.

I am also gravely concerned about the effects that Graham-Cassidy will have on millions of Americans whose healthcare is now affordable under the ACA. By all accounts, Graham-Cassidy will make healthcare coverage vastly more expensive (sometimes prohibitively so) for tens of millions of Americans, and the coverage itself will be cut. These aspects of Graham-Cassidy are likely, in turn, to decrease productivity, trigger hospital closures, eliminate healthcare jobs, and increase medical bankruptcies. Why would reasonable Republican senators seek measures that cause these outcomes?

Finally, I oppose passage of Graham-Cassidy without a full CBO score. Republicans would rightly decry any attempt by the Democrats (if they were the majority party) to pass a bill without knowing the associated costs and the effects on the federal budget. I find it both baffling and infuriating that Republicans would abandon all fiscal responsibility once they have control of both Houses of Congress and the Presidency.

In light of these considerations, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Thank you,

David H. Breedon

I implore you to reject the Graham-Cassidy Bill and work towards a true bipartisan solution. I'm not a number on a spreadsheet. I'm a person whose life will be made worse by this bill and I refuse to accept that!

Sincerely,

Avery Olmstead

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Avery Olmstead <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Noyes, Michael (Collins); Collins, Susan (Collins); angus_king@king.senate.gov
Subject: Opposition Testimony to Graham-Cassidy Bill...

Dear Honorable Members of the US Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Avery Olmstead and I live in Old Town, Maine. I'm writing to oppose passage of the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

I have a Master's degree and I am currently employed as the Communications & Development Manager for Maine's Self-Advocacy Organization, Speaking Up For Us. I am also a person living with the developmental disability, Cerebral Palsy, and I also happen to use a wheelchair.

Some of the personal care services that I receive through Medicaid, that allow me to live on my own, get out of bed in the morning, get washed up, get dressed, and go to work, could be severely reduced or eliminated completely over time, with this bill.

I'm also extremely worried that these severe Medicaid cuts over time, will keep people with disabilities and the elderly who want to live independently in their homes, unable to do so because the support will not be there. This is something that keeps me up at night. I firmly believe that people should be able to live productively in their homes for as long as possible. We shouldn't have to go into a nursing home or an institution because we live in a society that doesn't understand who we are.

I don't think that it's asking for a lot to get basic needs met, to live my life completely. People with disabilities shouldn't have to be punished because we happen to be born differently. There is still an overwhelming assumption from too many people that if you have a disability, you aren't able to contribute to society. That is simply not true! However, if this bill goes through, one of the unintended consequences will be the continued perpetuation of this myth. This myth isn't a Democrat problem or a Republican problem. It's everyone's problem and it needs to stop!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Steven Goulden [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am very strongly opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill, the latest effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act. It would, among other things, result in the loss of health coverage for millions of people, sharply reduce Medicaid coverage and permit the denial of coverage for pre-existing conditions. These changes would severely and negatively impact the health of this country. Please do not allow it to pass.

Thank You,

Steven Goulden
Brooklyn, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kirschner, Marc [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: the Graham-Cassidy proposal

Dear Senator Warner,

I, like all of our citizens, have a stake in the provision in providing healthcare for all of our people, so in that way I am no different from any of us. But in another sense, I have a very special interest. I have devoted my life to fundamental medical research, supported in large measure by the NIH. I have made important discoveries that have led to treatments for both cancer and for neurodegenerative disease. In all of that effort I assumed that my discoveries would be turned into treatments that would be available to rich and poor alike. The Affordable Care Act, with its acknowledged imperfections, along with the Medicaid expansion has greatly increased the return on our country's and my own personal research efforts. In contrast the Graham-Cassidy proposal disenfranchises tens of millions of our countrymen for medical coverage. It would open the door to backtracking on allowing people to apply and receive coverage with preexisting conditions. It is such a step backward that I cannot imagine why the two senators who proposed this would have done so. Anyone pro-life, in the fullest sense of the word, would not want to see Graham-Cassidy become the law of the land in place of the ACA. You must do everything you can do to stop it. I am sure that Republicans who favor passage for short term political reasons, will in the long run thank you for helping them avoid a cruel mistake that would weigh heavily on their consciences. Thank you for your efforts

Sincerely,
Marc Kirschner.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Diana Stallard [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill input

Hello—

I rely on quality and affordable healthcare. The Graham-Cassidy bill leaves me fearful of coverage in the future because of my pre-existing conditions.

Please work together on a bipartisan effort to repair the ACA.

Thank you,

Diana Stallard
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chamberlain, Kathleen [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

To the Senate Finance Committee:

I can't be more eloquent about the need to defeat the Graham-Cassidy bill than all the medical personnel at the Cleveland Clinic. So I'll let them speak for me. Please head their expert words: the very lives of the American people depend upon it.

Here's a powerful quotation; please read the rest.

"According to a recent Kaiser Family Foundation poll, nearly 70 percent of Americans want Congress to fix the ACA by stabilizing the insurance market. At a minimum, legislation should do just that, while also supporting widespread insurance coverage for Americans, maintaining coverage for pre-existing conditions and improving access to affordable coverage and care.

The Graham-Cassidy bill fails to deliver on any of those priorities. In fact, it actively pursues the opposite."

<https://newsroom.clevelandclinic.org/2017/09/22/why-cleveland-clinic-opposes-graham-cassidy-healthcare-bill/>

Sincerely,

Kathleen Chamberlain
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marci Waters [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Marcianne Waters
Moorestown NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: BROOKE GRIFFITHS [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy is a dangerous bill
Attachments: IMG_3516.JPG

I think Graham-Cassidy is a horrific, dangerous, cruel bill. And I beg you to stop its passage.

I am a 45-year-old mother of 3, a wife and a small-business owner. Ten years ago my doctors discovered I had a brain tumor the size of a peach. I was quickly taken to surgery to remove it, but the scarring on my brain has left me with epilepsy and other neurological deficits.

That surgery – which saved my life – would also have gone A LONG way toward maxing out any Lifetime Cap that existed before the Affordable Care Act. And I now have a Pre-existing Condition requiring annual MRIs, regular neurological supervision, and \$1000/month+ medication (before insurance).

And of course Essential Benefits are key to any American family. Not only do we pay for our insurance to cover them to ensure our general health, but as someone with a serious life-long illness – who pays my taxes and my premiums! – I deserve to know that the insurance company I pay is required to cover my emergency or hospitalization, if needed.

Millions – MANY millions – of Americans would be put into dire financial situations and even more health circumstances if the Graham-Cassidy bill passes – gutting Essential Benefits & Pre-existing Conditions coverage and re-introducing Lifetime Caps. Not to mention all the children, disabled and elderly who would die without Medicaid.

Brooke Griffiths | [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lynda Sorenson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Impact of Graham/Cassidy

My name is Lynda Sorenson.

Three-and-a-half years ago I was diagnosed with breast cancer. I had a lumpectomy, and we found my cancer had metastasized to my sentinel lymph node. I had surgery again to place a chemo port, and began chemo in early July. I had to be hospitalized for a week after my first chemo because I became severely neutropenic.

My third chemo treatment of a planned four reduced my immune system so greatly that I had a ruptured diverticulum, which, fortunately for me, ruptured internally instead of into my abdominal cavity, which would have been fatal. Three days later I had surgery yet again to remove the damaged area of my colon, leaving me with a temporary colostomy. I spent a week in ICU after surgery. I was out of work for a month to recover. For five months I required medical supplies daily to manage my colostomy care.

I underwent 6 weeks of daily radiation treatments, before going into work each morning. Two months after finishing radiation I had surgery to reverse my colostomy. A month later I started on adjuvant therapy to prevent recurrence of breast cancer. A year later I had surgery again to repair a hernia at my ostomy site, and missed another month of work.

All through this process, my insurance company took care of my medical needs, and I was able to keep my job thanks to Obamacare. My insurance has paid for untold testing: PET/CT, PETs, MRIs, bone scans, mammograms, sonograms, bloodwork.

When my husband had a heart attack a month after my last surgery, my health insurance covered the ER visit, his hospital stay, his surgery, his stay in CCU. Now our health insurance covers the medications that keep both of us alive, productive, contributing.

The negative impact of this proposed travesty of a "healthcare" bill, if passed, is not an abstract concept to us. I'm terrified. Even with my health insurance coverage, we struggle. I can't afford to pay more for insurance coverage for the two of us. We barely get by now. Repealing Obamacare will kill us. It's not an abstract concept. It's my life, it's my husband's life. Repeal Obamacare and *you* will kill us.

You cannot do this. I beg of you, don't do this. Our blood, and the blood of millions of our fellow Americans will be on your hands. It will never wash off.

Lynda Sorenson

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joan Bickford <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no on Graham-Cassidy

This is a travesty to take away health care for 32 million Americans. Our children, disabled, seniors.. those in senate have no idea what it's like to worry about this. Take their health care away and put them in the same situation. Shame on them for playing politics with American lives at stake.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Viking Hedberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

I am a pediatrician in NH and serve a socio-economically diverse population. I have also had leadership positions at a small, rural Critical Access hospital. Prior to coming to NH, I practiced in Rochester, NY and Camden, NJ.

I am dismayed with the process Republican leadership is pursuing. Health care financing is incredibly complex and represents nearly 20% of our GDP. Rushing an untested bill through an abbreviated process amounts to governmental malpractice.

I strongly urge the Senators to pursue a thoughtful, bipartisan and methodical process of IMPROVING THE AHA. Loose the moniker of "Obamacare" to deescalate the rhetoric and commit to an incremental process that allows the stakeholders to plan and adjust. The stakes are too high to do otherwise.

Viking A. Hedberg, MD, MPH
Plymouth, NH

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Betsy Cabell [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing

My family relies on high quality, affordable healthcare. My husband and I have Medicare coverage and with fixed incomes are very fearful of reduced Medicare benefits and therefore increased costs. We both have several pre-existing conditions which could greatly increase our costs and/or reduce our coverage under the Graham-Cassidy proposal. In addition, our 37 and 35 year old sons, although basically healthy, have significant pre-existing conditions that could make health insurance unaffordable for them and their families. Consequently, I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. From what we do know about this bill, which is limited at this time, it is much worse than the previous two repeal-and-replace bills, and it has not even been rated by the Congressional Budget Office so we do not yet know critical details about its cost and impact on our citizens. I hope that a bipartisan Congressional effort can come up with a proposal to truly improve our national healthcare system.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Elizabeth Cabell
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margaret Nielsen [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy bill repealing ACA & replacing w reduced block grants

I urge the Senate not to support the Graham-Cassidy bill.

I write as an older adult with a physical disability from childhood polio. During my working years, I was fortunate to have employers that provided employee health benefits. Otherwise, my history of polio meant I would have been unable to purchase affordable health insurance on the individual market. The Affordable Care Act now puts the fear of losing health insurance after losing a job behind us - and has opened more flexible careers to young Americans.

In Michigan - and other states that have expanded Medicaid - low-income workers, including low-income workers with disabilities, have healthcare coverage. This makes an enormous difference for working people - and for their employers, families, and communities. Congress must not destroy these programs.

Sincerely,
Margaret Nielsen, PhD
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara McLaugh [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:25 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.

Thank you for putting the American people first.

Barbara McLaughlin
Brick, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Rubio <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Grassidy healthcare

You must vote no to this monstrosity of a healthcare bill. It will kill millions of Americans!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeff & Erin Fitzpatrick-Bjorn [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

I am writing to express my concerns over the Graham Cassidy bill.

Millions of Americans rely on the ACA to keep health care affordable, and repealing it puts millions of Americans, including our most vulnerable citizens, our children, at risk. Any bill that does not protect those with pre-existing conditions and those with mental health issues is a step in the wrong direction for our country! Please reject the Graham-Cassidy bill that's currently before Congress.

~Erin

Erin Fitzpatrick-Bjorn
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Valerie Aurora [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Small business owner depending on ACA

Hello,

I am a small business owner with a pre-existing condition who can't go without health insurance for even one month. The Affordable Care Act made my small business possible. If ACA is repealed or replaced, I will be forced to go out of business.

Two years ago, I started my own business, Frame Shift Consulting, teaching technology companies how to improve diversity and inclusion.

I also have a genetic disease called Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome. If I take about ten prescription drugs every day, see several medical professionals regularly, and exercise carefully, I can live a semi-normal life and even work full-time if I don't have to go to an office every day. Without access to prescription drugs and medical care, I would be unable to work full-time or even care for myself, and would have to go on disability, SSDI.

Before the Affordable Care Act, no health insurance company would sell me a policy on the individual market. My only option was to get a salaried job at a company large enough to offer health insurance to their employees. If I lost my job, I could buy one or two coverage options under COBRA or HIPAA, but I was always just one missed payment away from losing my access to health insurance at any price. (I once tried to apply for health insurance on the open market; after two questions about my medical history they told me I'd never get approved.) The ACA let me quit my job and start my own small business free from fear of losing my health insurance and becoming unable to work.

At my new small business, I am doing far more innovative and valuable work than I ever did for a big company. I love being my own boss, and the flexibility I have makes it far easier to cope with the bad days of Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome. I love how high impact my work is, and that I am training other people to do the same work. I could never have done work that changed so many people's lives for the better while working at any other company.

Every time I hear about a new bill to repeal or replace the ACA, I study it to see whether I would still be able to afford health insurance under the new system. So far, the answer has been a resounding no. Without the individual mandate, coverage for pre-existing conditions, price controls, and minimum coverage requirements that states can't waive, no health insurance company offer me an individual policy at a price I can afford.

I'm one of the luckier ones; if the ACA is repealed or replaced and I lose my health insurance, I can probably get a salaried job at a big company with health insurance benefits. I don't expect anyone to care about my personal satisfaction in doing work I love, or having the flexibility to stay home when my Ehlers-Danlos is acting up. But I do expect my elected representatives to care that a cutting edge, high-impact small business would go out of business if they passed Graham-Cassidy or any other repeal or replace bill. The ACA is good for business, good for innovation, and good for people. Instead of replacing it with an inferior system that would cover fewer people for more money, let's work on improving the ACA and filling in the many gaps in its coverage.

Thank you for your time,

Valerie Aurora
Proud small business owner

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Halstead [mailto:jennifer.halstead@...]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:24 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.

This is another horrible option about politics and not people. Would you support this bill if you were poor or disabled?

Jennifer Halstead

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michael Griffin [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not repeal ACA

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Private insurance obtained through the Affordable Care Act has saved my life. I am grateful that it is available and affordable to me in California, and would like to see the same benefits extended to every person in America.

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Because I have HIV and other health problems that are considered as pre-existing conditions, I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the Affordable Care Act, not repeal it.

Thank you,

Michael Griffin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Penny Reynolds [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

I do not in anyway support the Graham-Cassidy bill. I agree with John McCain that any change to the ACA must come after thorough debate and input by all parties. The Republicans rush to pass this bill is pure politics. You are throwing under the bus 1/6 of the economy and millions of people who will loose their insurance. I have a preexisting condition and I fear for how much it will cost me to get insurance.

I am truly ashamed at the Republican party's disregard for good policy.

Sincerely,
Penny Reynolds
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am writing to implore you not to pass a bill that has not gone through the regular order of the Senate. I do not oppose the bill because I am a Democrat; neither do I support Medicare for all because I don't believe it is financially sustainable.

I support Republicans and Democrats working together to craft legislation that will last. If only one party creates the bill and it passes, it will only become a "hot potato" for the next administration to try and repeal. Surely your experience with that can lead to bipartisan legislation that will stand.

Thank you,

Maryellen Waters

[REDACTED]
Sent from my MetroPCS 4G LTE Android device

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elly Holmgren Vandegrift [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

Dear Committee Members,

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

Health care should not be for the rich who can afford to buy expensive insurance but for all Americans.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA (for example, improving the market place nationally so everyone has real choice), not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Vandegrift
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Allie Horton <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing To Consider the Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill Opposition
Attachments: Graham Cassidy Bill Opposition .docx

The attached document is a statement of opposition to the Graham Cassidy Health Care Bill. It is intended for the Senate Finance Committee.

Thank you for your time,
Allison Horton

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Charmin Dahl [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject Graham-Cassidy

When you look at all the medical organizations who are against the Graham-Cassidy bill, the fact that *anyone* is willing to vote for it is frightening.

The ACA is much more than insurance plans. It helps babies, children, and their parents. It helped me get plans and care for my grandparents when they were unable to help themselves. My grandpa is 96 years old and served in WWII.

The ACA helped me get insurance after I was rejected by several insurance companies due to a preexisting condition. When I was rejected, my daughter (then a toddler) was rejected too because they only offered plans to minors if their parents had plans.

My wife is a general surgeon and used to work for the Indian Health Service. Afterward, she specialized in Trauma/Critical Care surgery at rural critical access hospitals. We know these hospitals first-hand and how important they are to the communities they serve. Graham-Cassidy is predicted to have a devastating affect on rural hospitals and entire communities who rely on them.

I support Senator McCain's call to return to the regular order, that legislation should be carefully crafted, subjected to hearings, reflect bipartisanship and adhere to fiscal responsibility with a full CBO score. It should also kinda help people too, you know?

So far, Graham-Cassidy has been none of those things. Please reject this hurtful, irresponsible bill and go back to work improving healthcare in ways that actually improve health.

Thank you,

Charmin Dahl
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 05122

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Fudold10 <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Marilyn Storrow
Lexington KY

"Since Love is Lord of Heaven and Earth, How can I keep from singing?"

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Debbie Moon <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

My husband and I rely on on affordable healthcare. My husband is a Vietnam combat veteran with disabilities. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely ,
D.Moon
Kalispell, MT

It is “the worst healthcare bill yet.” – *American Nurses Association*.

It “would erode key protections for patients and consumers.” – *American Hospital Association*.

The “process [in the Senate] is just as bad as the substance. ... Most Americans wouldn’t buy a used car with this little info.” – *AARP*.

The bill will “weaken access to the care Americans need and deserve.” – *American Heart Association, jointly with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, the American Diabetes and Lung associations, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the March of Dimes and others*.

“This bill harms our most vulnerable patients.” – *American Psychiatric Association*.

It would hurt “consumers and patients by further destabilizing the individual market; cutting Medicaid; pulling back on protections for pre-existing conditions.” – *America’s Health Insurance Plans*.

It “would lead to a loss of health insurance for at least 32 million people after 2026. ... By repealing the ACA’s coverage expansions and cutting deeply into the Medicaid program, the Graham-Cassidy bill threatens the health care of as many as 100 million people, from newborns to the elderly.” – *Sara Collins, The Commonwealth Fund*.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joyce Woods [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Against Graham Cassidy bill

Thank you for reading my email.

People count on you to represent our interests not work against our health, security and well being.

Even in this new hyper-divisive era, this Graham-Cassidy legislation is shocking. I really don't understand what the purpose of this is. Just exactly who wants to take away health insurance to so many Americans. Why on earth would the Republican party consider legislation so destruction to American health and potentially to our economic stability.

People like my dear, deceased mother relied upon Medicaid to supplement her care when, in her late 80's she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. What would we have done without it!?

My handicapped brother has made major improvements in his health and wellness since becoming eligible for health coverage in Ohio from Medicaid.

I thought that the purpose of "repealing" the ACA was to improve it. Instead it seems that it's just another example of extremist ideology leading Republican Congressional leadership around on a leash.

Please reconsider the where you put your time, energy and focus. We have serious issues to deal with in our country and globally.

Sincerely,
Joyce A. Woods

P.S. Please also see a blurb from the NYT this pass week on this issue from real experts, not pretenders.



David Leonhardt
Op-Ed Columnist

Defenders of the new Trumpcare — the Graham-Cassidy bill — are telling Jimmy Kimmel to be quiet and leave the health policy debate to the experts. So I wanted to give you a quick rundown this morning of what the experts are saying about the bill:

It "violates the precept of 'first do no harm'" and "would result in millions of Americans losing their health insurance coverage." — *American Medical Association, which represents doctors.*

challenges. Without Medicaid, he will lose all of this; millions of vulnerable citizens will lose their coverage. This is unacceptable.

My Mother is a three-time cancer survivor, without affordable healthcare and coverage through Medicaid; she would not be with us today without it. She is a retired school teacher, she chose to help our children and sacrifice a larger income in another profession, because she felt passionate about teaching our future leaders. She is a loving, generous person; she has worked incredibly hard her entire life.

My father is an Army Veteran; he sacrificed for our country and is now dependent on Medicaid. He survived quintuple-bypass surgery, a diabetes diagnosis, but is now suffering with only 20% kidney function left. Without Medicaid, he would not be with us.

Now we hear that the GOP is trying to bribe Republican Senators by allowing their states to keep the ACA. If the ACA is a carrot for a "yes" vote, doesn't that tell you that the ACA is a GOOD thing? This is the United States of America, not the United States of Alaska, or Maine, or Kentucky. This attempt at bribery is shameful, this bill is shameful!

My son, my Mom and my Dad, and millions of Americans have pre-existing conditions. Please, do the right thing by your constituents, for the citizens of America, protect the vulnerable, Save and Protect Our Care. Affordable healthcare should be a right not privilege. If you truly want to "Make America Great Again" you will start with ensuring all Americans can count on affordable health care, otherwise you are sentencing us to bankruptcy, sickness, and death.

Thank you,

Jennifer Hurlburt

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hurlburt Jennifer [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators,

I am writing today to ask the Senate to do the right thing and Vote No on the Graham-Cassidy Bill. The overwhelming majority of Americans do not want this bill to pass. We want the Senate and House to work together, for the good of the country and its citizens, and improve the Affordable Care Act. Our most vulnerable citizens are in the crosshairs of this cruel bill -- newborns with medical needs, the disabled, the elderly, anyone with a pre-existing condition, veterans...very nearly ALL Americans. This is not how we "Make America Great Again", this bill is reckless, inhumane, and completely without regard to human life.

My son Max is 22 years old and disabled. When he was 17 months old he suddenly stopped talking. He didn't smile or look us in the eye, he couldn't communicate, he was locked within himself. After a year and a half of testing, we found out he had severe autism and apraxia. At 3 years old he began going to school for early education services, he started speech therapy, occupational therapy, he started Applied Behavioral Analysis services at home, his life revolved around appointments. As his parents, we were desperate to help him achieve the best life he could achieve.

Through the years we have many highs and lows. Max never did start talking, but with the help of his Speech Pathologist he did learn American Sign Language and can communicate his wants and needs using ASL and pictures. With help from his Occupational Therapist, Max is able to feed himself and even learned to ride a tricycle and bike. Max did develop a great sense of humor and a love for music. His smile and his laugh are infectious. But Max cannot brush his teeth or bathe or toilet by himself. He still does not grasp abstract concepts, Max would not know to evacuate the house if there was a fire, he does not understand danger. Max is vulnerable to those that would prey on the disabled; he loves everyone and would never understand someone's desire to hurt him. Max requires 24/7 care, he attends Day Support Services for the disabled while we are at work. He has made friends at the center and has the opportunity to go out in public and participate in fun activities.

Max will always be dependent on others; he currently receives SSI and funding for Personal Support Workers who come to our home to care for him while we are at work. The funding that covers his Day Support Services is a life line for many with disabilities and the chance to make friends and live "normal" lives. Max has secondary medical issues and relies on Medicaid to meet those health

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Erica Wagner [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am a Californian, and I am writing to urge you to please vote against this bill. Not only will it reduce the money my own state receives for health care programs, it will cause millions of people around the country to lose their health insurance. It will also make it harder for people in some states to be covered affordably (or maybe even at all) if they have pre-existing conditions.

I have friends and family members--my brother, who owns his own medical practice and is a cancer survivor, a friend who owns a dog training business, and a cousin who is the mother of two and works for a very small company--who were only able to obtain affordable insurance after the ACA passed. I am fortunately married to someone who has a decent health insurance plan through his job, but if something happened to him or to our marriage, my own jobs (I am an adjunct instructor at different colleges) don't pay enough for me to purchase my own health care without help.

The ACA isn't perfect, but I think Americans would be better served if Congress focused on improving it and *expanding* coverage and benefits rather than trying to repeal it or replace it with a bill that helps *fewer* people get affordable and comprehensive health care. America's GDP is higher per capita, in inflation-adjusted dollars than it has ever been. Surely we can afford to make sure all Americans have access to comprehensive health care.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Erica Wagner
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Erickson, Kaitlin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re: Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Correction: *\$700 billion, not "\$700"... but I'm sure you knew that.

Apologies for the mistake.

Kaitlin Erickson

Kaitlin N. Erickson, RN, MPH
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The information contained in this message may be privileged and confidential. If you are NOT the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately with a copy to hipaa.security@yale.edu and destroy this message.

Please be aware that email communication can be intercepted in transmission or misdirected. Your use of email to communicate protected health information to us indicates that you acknowledge and accept the possible risks associated with such communication. Please consider communicating any sensitive information by telephone, fax or mail. If you do not wish to have your information sent by email, please contact the sender immediately.

On Sep 24, 2017, at 6:53 PM, Erickson, Kaitlin <kaitlin.erickson@yale.edu> wrote:

To whom it may concern:

My name is Kaitlin Erickson. I am a nurse, a public health professional, and a family nurse practitioner student, but first I am a family member of many who would be placed at serious risk if the Graham Cassidy healthcare bill passes.

I implore you to do the right thing and vote no. Moreover, this bill is completely antithetical to what the American healthcare system should resemble. It is absolutely **SHAMEFUL** that Congress has approved a budget of \$700 for the military, while we have a maternal mortality rate in many pockets of this country that is similar to that of a developing nation.

If we want to be a strong and prosperous country, health has to come first. It is our responsibility to offer healthcare that is accessible, safe, and affordable. If this bill passes, the blood of many Americans will be on your hands.

Thank you in advance for supporting your fellow citizens by voting no.

Best,
Kaitlin Erickson

Kaitlin N. Erickson, RN, MPH
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jonathan St Clair [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments

Graham-Cassidy is a disaster. It hurts Americans as every medical organization can attest.

This bill is a disgraceful abuse of power. You represent the people, not Donald Trump.

Yes your voters wanted Obamacare repealed - but they wanted something better, not worse. This bill is worse.

If you think you can win re-election by hurting people then you don't know the American people at all.

You work for us. If you pass this bill then Americans - including your own voters - will say Trump's favorite phrase -- you're fired.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gail Kent [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The ACA

To the Senate Finance Committee:

Until January, I was covered by the Affordable Care Act. Had I not become eligible for Medicare then, I still would be. As a small business owner who did not qualify for group health insurance, I was very grateful for the plan, which allowed me to obtain coverage for a reasonable premium in spite of pre-existing conditions.

I have a 28-year-old son with Crohn's disease who will never be able to obtain healthcare without the ACA because he is starting his own business and will not be covered by an employer. There are many other people with devastating illnesses who either can't work or do not work for employers who are required to offer healthcare insurance. You were elected to represent the people — not special interests — including the wealthy few who do not need a massive tax cut. It is up to you to vote compassionately by forever killing these attempts to destroy the ACA and start working across the aisle to correct the deficiencies in the ACA rather than playing politics with people's lives. You will not be forgiven for doing otherwise.

Gail Kent
Newport News

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Sue Twohy [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Healthcare

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members;

As a citizen of the United States, I would like to state I am not in support of the latest Graham Cassidy Health Care reform. Yes ACA needs fixing. However it is not broke, people are receiving healthcare they need. The Graham Cassidy reform does not have support of the medical community and from the current ACA recipients.

Thank you,
Mary Sue Twohy
University Park , MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: John Ziegler [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

The Graham Cassidy Bill is a horrible reprehensible and vile bill. Graham and Cassidy should be ashamed for writing such a bill that will cost millions their insurance coverage.

In addition their bill does NOT cover pre-existing conditions.

The blatant and open lies by the Senators who support Graham Cassidy Bill are shocking but not surprising since they likely would sell a member of their family if they were told to do so.

At the end of the day you work for us the people who elected you. Why can't you work with the Democrats to come up with a healthcare bill that will help the most Americans?

You know this is just another devastating bill to replace the ACA that was introduced by President Obama.

Man and Woman Up and Work with All for the best healthcare coverage for All.

I will be watching and will donate to your opponents when you are up for re-election.

Vote No on Graham Cassidy Bill Save ACA Let Us Live.

John Ziegler
Atlanta, Georgia
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Heather Kintner [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I'm a 38 year old, petite woman, who was diagnosed with an autoimmune thyroid disorder 5 years ago. Because of this I take prescription medication twice daily and have to go for 6-8 week check-ups, with lab work, in order to make sure my thyroid levels are in the healthy range. In the last month I have also been experiencing pain and swelling in my wrists and fingers, along with chronic hives, which has led me to numerous clinic, dr. and specialist visits, an array of blood work and x-rays to try to get to the bottom of the diagnosis and cause, with no answer yet. Luckily, I am insured through my workplace and am responsible for about 25% of the cost for these appointments, tests, and prescriptions. The last month has been scary and many nights have ended with me in fearful tears because I feel like I can't trust my own body and I'm terrified for what the diagnosis might be as well as frustrated that there is not a diagnosis yet. In a world where the Graham-Cassidy bill is reality, additional fears and stress, not to mention sky-rocketing costs, would be added to an already scary and stressful time. Access to affordable, quality healthcare is a human right — one that the Graham-Cassidy bill does not provide. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Heather Kintner
Chicago, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Clay Payne [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Dear Senators,

I am writing to let you know that I am opposed to the repeal and/or replacement of the Affordable Care Act via the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill and opposed to the Graham-Cassidy Bill in general.

So many of my friends and family members depend on Affordable Care Act coverage for their insurance and so many of us depend on the ACA protections from pre-existing conditions.

As one of the wealthiest nations in the world, it is shameful if we do not continue to provide healthcare coverage for United States Citizens and it is disheartening and maddening to see the ACA undermined by not funding advertising, etc. This seems like a petty partisan effort and if this passes, I will be sure to support those who vote against the Graham-Cassidy Bill while supporting those running against those who support this. Our HHS Secretary can spend ridiculous amounts of money for chartered flights, not to mention all of the other government expenditures, yet we cannot afford to offer healthcare? The majority of U.S. citizens now support the ACA and it must be fixed..

While I am for the ACA and feel that our Senators and Congressmen should work together to fix the issues with it, I am opposed to a single payer system or Medicare for all. I saw firsthand how single payer works and the issues with it as a temporary Canadian resident while my spouse was working there and found that U.S. healthcare is better. On the other hand, Medicare requires a supplement for medications, extended care, etc.

Thank you in advance for considering my request and thank you for representing your constituents and United States citizens.

Sincerely,

Clay H. Payne

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kelly [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:41 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.

Kelly Clark
Medford, NJ
Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eddie Jones <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:41 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.

Edward Jones
Swarthmore, Pennsylvania

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gayle Tupper [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote NO on the Graham Cassidy Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Our healthcare is so important for all Americans. Please work together to improve this critical need for all of us, beginning with new focus on bipartisan efforts, time for and consideration of the CBO score, open committee hearings and full senate hearings, and dependable and affordable coverage for those with pre-existing conditions.

The Graham-Cassidy bill does not meet any of these key needs. **Please vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill.**

Thank you for hearing my plea.

Very sincerely,

Gayle Tupper
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Victor Sunstar [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VICTOR SUNSTAR - - - NO MORE PAY or DIE in USA

NO MORE PAY or DIE in USA...

The heartless cruelty and obscenity and treason of any Legislator in trying to pass legislation which is a death sentence is immoral and totally inhumane..

DO NOT REPEAL THE ACA... HEALTH CARE !

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Phyllis Kirschner [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE against Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senator Warner and members of the Finance Committee,

From my experience as a teacher over the course of 40 years in 3 states - mainly in inner-city schools - and as a person with close relatives with serious pre-existing conditions, I know how essential it is for people to have healthcare and - before the ACA - how prohibitively costly getting insurance was before the ACA. Many of my students' parents had 2 or sometimes even 3 part-time jobs, but such hourly wage jobs usually with health insurance. Before the ACA - buying such insurance was prohibitively expensive. This current bill (Graham-Cassidy) is the worst presented so far in the numbers of people it will hurt. - and there isn't even a CBO score out analyzing the costs and effects over the next 12 -20 years (all federal funding will be gone to the states by 2027 so it is important to look beyond the decade in the CBO analysis.ss.

Graham-Cassidy DOES NOT preserve protection from outrageous premium increases for people with pre-existing conditions (states can opt out of this protection) Federal payments for Medicaid expansion will be reduced and payments will be phased out entirely by 2027. The burden of providing health care to its residence will fall too heavily on the statesc

Campaign promises never justify passing what you KNOW is bad for the individual people, bad for our economy, bad for providing health care to everyone. a

Thank you,
Phyllis Kirschner

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

Dear Senators:

The American public counts on you to stop this bill that will cause incredible hardship to so many families.

My daughter suffers from chronic Lyme Disease . Without the protections that exist in the Affordable Health Care Act, her "pre-existing" condition will cause her premiums to rise exponentially. The state of Michigan is not in a position to help everyone like her. This disease has made her unable to work full time. She struggles to make ends meet. She will not be able to afford her medicines nor her doctors.

Please do not pass this bill.

The ACA (Obama Care) may need improving but making life more miserable for thousands of Americans is not the solution. Further without proper review from the CBO it is impossible to really tell the impact of this bill on the economy. This is not a good bill.

Sincerely,

Sara Gay Dammann

[REDACTED]

--
Sara Gay Dammann

email: [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stephen A Kupiec [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

I and my family rely/relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story is that I am over 50 and thus subject to huge increases in premiums if the Graham-Cassidy bill is enacted. In addition my aged parents are dependent upon Medicare and stable hospital arrangements to survive particularly my father who is suffering from chronic kidney failure. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, particularly with a public option and medicare for 50 and over individuals, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Stephen A Kupiec PhD.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: JOAN MARCOUX [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Obamacare

As a N H citizen , I am writing to ask that you vote against the passage of the Graham Cassidy health care bill. This bill will be an injustice to the many Americans who need medical health insurance , especially those with pre-existing conditions. Please consider instead to work with the imperfections and problem areas of the Obamacare bill . Many Americans who did not have medical insurance have benefitted from the medical coverage afforded by Obamacare

Sincerely
Joan Marcoux
Sent from XFINITY Connect Mobile App

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chris Deutsch [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy health care bill

I would like to share a health care issue that affected our family. At age 48 my husband was diagnosed with stage 3 colon cancer which shocked us to the very core. The surgery and 6 month chemotherapy regime saved his life but was only possible because we had health insurance coverage. Today he remains in remission, healthy and for that we are so grateful. We could never have afforded the cost of the treatment without going into bankruptcy and he would have used a significant portion of a lifetime cap. The proposal advanced by the Graham-Cassidy bill would not have adequately covered this major health event cost and would put him in the incredibly expensive pre-existing conditions pool and again impose a lifetime cap. This is ludicrous!! Healthy Americans are amazingly hard workers and innovators, leading the world. Leaving some citizens to fend for themselves for access to affordable healthcare is unconscionable. This bill must fail and senators must be true to their constituents, not their donors.

Chris Deutsch



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David Miller [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller, which 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.

David K. Miller
Barbourville, KY



Our son at his 4th birthday party—in his power chair, he can play with all the other children.



from respiratory therapies to power wheelchairs to standers—all of these treatments and equipment—are expensive. It would put any family into financial trouble if they had to pay for it on their own.

I have had to worry about many, many things in the last four years since my son was diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy, but I didn't have to worry about hitting a lifetime cap, which could come quite quickly with a medically fragile child. I never had to worry about choosing respiratory therapy over drug therapy, because both are essential to his care. I never had to worry that if I lost my job or chose to take on a new role somewhere else and make a better life for my family, that my son might not get coverage because of his pre-existing genetic condition. I didn't have to worry about the loss of Medicaid as a secondary insurance for my son, without which we might have gone bankrupt long ago.

My amazingly bright child (SMA affects the muscles but not the mind) with the bright smile and amazing heart (and all of his friends who have complicated medical needs) have the right to medical care that will help keep them thriving. They continually defy the odds but their health--their very lives--will be in jeopardy if the Graham-Cassidy bill passes. These children (and adults) have so much to offer to the world. Give them a chance and see how they thrive!

I beg you, stand up for the children. Stand up for the vulnerable. Stand up for the disabled. Stand up for my family and the families like mine who struggle every day with extraordinary medical conditions. Help us not just keep our children alive—help them to thrive.

No annual or lifetime coverage cap. No exclusions for pre-existing conditions. Save Medicare and Medicaid. Do not put politics above people. DO NOT REPEAL the ACA unless you have something in place that will BETTER protect all of your constituents. This is literally a matter of life and death.

Sincerely,

Kara M. McClurken

Kara M. McClurken

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kara McClurken [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please enter the following into the SFC hearing record: The Graham Cassidy Bill will risk the life of my son and children like him.
Attachments: Devastation of Graham-Cassidy.docx

Hello,

I have attached a document I would like entered into the record. I am also including it below in case the attachment does not work. I hope you will take the testimonies of so many individuals and experts to heart.

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I still remember the day when I realized something was wrong—my son, who was perfectly healthy when he was born—who scored at the top of the charts in the minutes and hours after his birth, was not like his sister. He was not crawling or even sitting up on his own. And so, when a nurse mentioned she thought he was a bit “floppy,” it hit me like a ton of bricks—something was wrong with my precious son....we just weren't sure what.



Our son (who has SMA) with his big sister. They adore each other and bring so much light to our lives.

What followed were months of doctors' visits to specialists, blood work and procedures, physical and occupational therapies...we have excellent insurance and I have a great job, but those co-pays were adding up and we started having to make some difficult decisions—maybe OT/PT every other week instead of every week, asking our parents to help pay for some of the genetic testing. And the fear. Such great fear. Because few of the explanations were minor medical problems.

It turns out that our son has the most common of the rare diseases—Spinal Muscular Atrophy—and one of the most severe types of it (Type 1). When he was diagnosed at the age of 1, we were told we only had a few years with him. Words cannot convey the sense of devastation we felt-- we loved this child with all of our being. We are one of the fortunate ones--Thanks to changes in therapies and new, life-saving treatment approved by the FDA in December (this first and only drug available to treat his condition), I hope we will have him for a long time. He has gotten SO MUCH STRONGER! Instead of wasting away, his muscle strength is improving! But that life-saving treatment is expensive—hundreds of thousands of dollars a year. And the equipment needed,

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Wright, Kevin (Finance); Dent, William (Isakson)
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Hearing Comments

Hi,

We are from Woodstock, GA. My son, Jack Clark is currently 12 years old and has had the Katie Beckett Medicaid waiver since he was 2 years old. Jack has cerebral palsy and other developmental disabilities. The therapies that he received since he was a baby have been crucial in developing the confident soon to be middle schooler that he is today. Without them, he may never have learned to walk, communicate or meet basic self-care needs. While our family has not been without private insurance, we have had both very high deductible plans and very limited plans that would make therapy unaffordable. His Medicaid coverage is also crucial to covering certain medical and pharmaceutical expenses.

My husband and I have raised Jack with the expectations of working, paying taxes, and living in a semi-independent setting. Jack loves to swim, play on his iPad, tease his friends and watch football like many of his peers. My husband and I are not only concerned about losing his current Medicaid services but also that he will never have the future opportunity for ongoing medical coverage, job support, and semi-independent living assistance. Jack's future would be dismal if it is in an institution versus an inclusive community setting.

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill because it supports decimating Medicaid. My husband and I have been lifelong Republicans, but we will not support any public official or legislation that leaves the most vulnerable parts of society at risk. Please implore Senator Isakson and Senator Perdue to do what is best for the state and vote "NO" on the Graham-Cassidy bill. It is not a good bill in terms of humanity and for the future financial health of GA!

Thank you,

Christine
Christine Clark
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Leon Henrichs [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Comments

To the Members of the Finance Committee

We want to express our personal concerns about the Graham Cassidy Health Care Bill.

Our granddaughter was born with Spina Bifida. We find it hard to understand how our society is willing to take away services for its most vulnerable citizens. Children like our granddaughter and others with permanent disabilities depend upon Medicaid to cover expensive out of pocket expenses they require to help them to gain independence and to become contributing members of society. It is truly so incredibly sad that our government and those who represent us care so little about about the fate of our granddaughter and others who will suffer if this bill is passed.

Please. Put away the partisan politics and vote NO on this horrible bill. Go back to regular order and work with ALL the members of the Senate to legislate a real solution to health care. Our nation and our citizens deserve nothing less.

Sincerely,

Judy and Leon Henrichs

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jo Fisher [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Bill

Dear Congressman,

Please vote no on the Graham-Cassidy bill. The majority of Americans have expressed their desire to keep the health insurance they now have. By voting for this bill, you will be penalizing insureds with pre-existing conditions and thereby making it impossible for these individuals to afford the new premiums. Please work together to improve what we have.

Way too much of our tax dollars go toward defense. While it is necessary to take care of our military needs, there is a lot of wasted money in this large area of our budget. Surely we could tighten our belts here to help offset some of the cost of health care.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jo Ellen Fisher

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Licensed Realtor in the state of Virginia!

The mission of the Health District of Northern Larimer County is to enhance the health of our community and this proposal fails to provide Coloradans and Americans with what they need to maintain their health. Therefore, on behalf of the Health District Board of Directors, we **STRONGLY OPPOSE** the Graham-Cassidy proposal **and encourage bipartisan efforts to find much better solutions for the future!**

Karen Spink

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Spin [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: PLEASE Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy - The Harm is Real and Severe!

Re: Senate Finance Committee Hearing on
Graham-Cassidy Bill
Monday, September 25th at 2:00pm EDT

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden,

The Health District of Northern Larimer County (Colorado) would like to share our **strong opposition** to the most recent health care proposal presented to the Senate by Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA) and strongly urge that you **PLEASE** protect the health care of the 600,000 Coloradans, and the tens of thousands of Larimer County residents who have gained coverage under the ACA and even more that rely on Medicaid programs covering seniors, people with disabilities, and children.

A new report released by the Colorado Health Institute on the results from the 2017 Colorado Health Access Survey (CHAS) revealed that for the first time ever, over 5 million Coloradans have health insurance and the uninsured rate is now down to 6.5%. **Larimer County** also continues to see more people gain coverage and the uninsured rate drop to an **all-time low of 4.9%**, which is the 5th lowest region in Colorado. **However, those who have gained coverage over the past 4 years are the ones at most risk of losing it under the Graham-Cassidy Proposal!**

The Graham-Cassidy proposal would be a huge step backwards, providing far less care for higher costs, and resulting in worse outcomes for Coloradans. It could take us back to a time where people with pre-existing conditions were turned away from coverage, could not seek care due to costs, and faced bankruptcy due to the cost of care without coverage. This proposal removes or puts at risk **critical** protections and assistance; without them, there will be severe harm to real people.

The proposal will, among many things:

- Eliminate the financial assistance that helps over 100,000 Coloradans purchase health coverage;
- End expanded Medicaid coverage that 450,000 Coloradans rely on;
- Eliminate consumer safeguards - a similar step found in the previous health care repeal proposals that were already rejected by Senators from both parties. State waivers would effectively end critical national standards for private coverage, which could strip away essential benefits and take away coverage from people with preexisting conditions; and
- Jeopardize access to life-saving and effective treatments for addiction and weaken states' efforts to address the current crisis of drug overdose deaths.

This proposal impacts real families whose health will be negatively impacted and lives will be turned upside down and if this proposal advances. The development of health care policy is incredibly complex, with unintended consequences lurking around every corner. It requires the expertise of economists and health care experts from both sides of the aisle. We urge you to engage in bipartisan efforts to safeguard the stability of the marketplaces (exchanges) for 2018 and beyond in order to help Americans maintain their coverage and protections gained under the Affordable Care Act, and help to further reduce the number of uninsured.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joyce Lipman [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Healthcare Bill and Medicaid Block Grants

I am extremely concerned about the effect of block grants of Medicaid on people like my 50-year-old daughter Elise, who has intellectual and physical disabilities. Her care needs have escalated over the last couple of years and she has required extra funding.

In terms of insurance, we are among the lucky ones. Our daughter went on Medicare and a secondary plan based on my husband's government service. I don't know what we would do without the insurance coverage she has, as her medication alone costs thousands per month. The John's Hopkins specialist she needs is not cheap, and we've had many trips to Urgent Care or the emergency room. A differential for pre-existing conditions or a lifetime cap would be devastating for someone with disabilities who did not have Elise's coverage.

In Elise's case, to quote her doctor, her intestines are simply too big for her 4-foot-2, 53-pound body. They are not properly formed and configured, and the peristalsis is weak. As a result, her diaphragm has been pushed into her lungs and has compromised the capacity to about one-third. Not only has this caused breathing issues, especially after she eats, but she also has developed the severe anxiety and panic attacks that often accompany lung conditions. Elise also has arthrogryposis, which causes stiff joints. As she has gotten older, she has gotten unsteady on her feet and falls easily.

Because of these issues, her care costs in her group home have skyrocketed, as she needs someone awake watching her one-on-one 24/7. The way the system is now, when the state approved her emergency funding, the Medicaid match was automatic. What would happen to people like Elise if that were not the case? Would the state be so squeezed that it would have to cut back on augmented funding? Like the rest of the population, many people in disability services are aging. Their needs are only going to grow.

On top of this, every state in the Union has long waiting lists for services and in essence triages emergencies due to funding limits. Even families who are not deemed "emergency" are most often in dire situations and stressed almost beyond endurance, no matter how much the parents love their children. Without the automatic match, states would be forced to cut either kinds of services or number of people served. That is what "flexibility" would mean to the disability community. Trust me, for us the results would more pain.

This is not a system with fat in it. Most of the money goes to direct care workers whose salaries are barely above those of fast food workers and to their necessary on-call supervisors. Elise has three shifts of caregivers on weekdays and two on the weekends. They more than earn their salaries.

Please consider the needs of people with disabilities and vote down the latest healthcare bill. We deserve a bill that keeps Medicaid matches intact and includes bipartisan solutions to make the Affordable Care Act work better for everyone. Thank you.

Joyce Lipman
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cindy Snyder [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:37 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.

Cindy Snyder
Moorestown, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Arlene John <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

My husband and I rely on the ACA. We both have pre-existing conditions. If insurance companies are allowed to discriminate against us because of this we will not be able to get insurance again. In addition, as I am over 55 and my husband is over 60 and has had 2 heart attacks due to a family heart condition, our insurance could easily quadruple. We could not afford that even though we are middle class. Because of this, we oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Due to our story with pre-existing conditions and affordability, we would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Mr. and Mrs. John Heglin
Julian, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dawn Stern [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:37 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. I am a person with a preexisting condition. I have a rare form of sarcoma called Gist (yes I had never heard of it either until they found a grapefruit size tumor attached to my stomach) I currently am covered by an employer based insurance. If I should become so ill that I cannot work I could be priced out of health insurance. There is currently no treatment for my cancer so I go for frequent testing. I was diagnosed in October of 2015. I have had 2 surgeries, 19 cat scans , a renal scan and numerous blood tests. Without health insurance my bills would be over \$200,000. More than I have in savings for retirement , more than my home is worth. I would be bankrupt with no way to pay for the specialists I need. Therefor I am asking you to oppose the passage of this bill Dawn Stern Forked River NJ

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Radha Vijayakumar [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Beth_Pearson@markey.senate.gov; Hurt, Nikki (Markey)
Subject: Graham-Cassidy ACA repeal

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

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

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

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

*Thank you.
Sincerely,
R. Vijayakumar, M.D*

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sean Stemas [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Letter Regarding Graham-Cassidy Bill
Attachments: Dear Senators.docx

I ask that the attached letter is read before the Senate before voting on the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill.

Thank you,
Sean Stemas

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patricia Schmidt [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Health Bill

I would like to protest the Graham/Cassidy Bill mere existence. It is imperative that this death sentence for many be DEAD ON ARRIVAL before it actually hits the Senate floor. The thought that such a bill could even be presented for consideration is a terrible thing. PLEASE KILL IT before it kills millions.

Seriously, Pat Robinson Schmidt

--
Pat Robinson Schmidt

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

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: cboushele [redacted]@gchcomments
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Please vote no on the bill. We, the people you represent do not accept that the states determine health care. Leep the ACA and work bipartisonly to improve it and close the gap for states who do not suppliment it with medicaid funding. This needs to be administered federally. Cut costs by reducing the prices drug companies charge for medicine.

Other countries have made health care resonable to all their people at resonable cost. Let's use their models.

Susan Boushele
[redacted]
[redacted]

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Heltemes [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, September 25, 2017
Attachments: image2.jpeg; ATT00001.txt; image1.jpeg; ATT00002.txt

My Family's Story

Our daughter, Savanna, has big plans for her life. She wants to work at a job she loves, live in her own home, and serve in her community.

She also has Down syndrome and multiple medical conditions. These are: Crohn's disease, autoimmune hepatitis, hidradenitis suppurativa, hyperthyroidism, and a congenital heart defect. She is constantly in medical treatment and monitoring of all her conditions. Any one of these could kill her without treatment.

Without Medicaid, we could never afford all her medications, tests, medical treatments, and monitoring. We would be destitute and she would not be who she deserves to be

Savanna attends a transition program daily and requires transportation to and from that program. Without Medicaid, she would not have these rides. She would not be able to continue her life skills and work training.

Savanna serves her community and in her church. She loves everyone and if you were ever to get a "Savanna Hug", consider yourself blessed!

Please do not take away her chance to be a successful person. Please do not take away her Medicaid benefits.

These photos show her "graduating" from school and at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin receiving her every 8 week treatment to keep her Crohn's disease at bay.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: S [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:35 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. Please consider a bill that is good for America and Americans, not one that would take healthcare away from the citizens of the country.

James Dulong
Mantoloking, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beverly E Sha <[REDACTED]@rush.edu>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy bill

As a physician who has seen the benefit of the Affordable Care Act I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. It is irresponsible to push through a plan that affects the lives of thousands of Americans without a CBO analysis.

Instead of yet another "Take Away Healthcare Bill" Congress needs to pursue a bipartisan fix of the Affordable Care Act.
Do the right thing. Do the responsible thing. Oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Beverly E. Sha, MD
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 443
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: kathi scholz [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please help

I am 62yrs old and very healthy. I just got back from Yosemite where one of my hikes was the Upper Yosemite Falls which is equivalent to climbing up the Empire State Building twice. But here are my three biggest problems. I have a pre-existing medical condition, I am in the older age group and I am self-employed.

Until Obamacare, I couldn't get health insurance at all because of my pre-existing condition.. And it's not my illness that is the problem, I am in very good shape and my Rheumatoid Arthritis is in remission. But my medication is expensive and because of that, insurers wouldn't touch me. I had to stay in a lower paying job in order to get health insurance through a group plan.

Obamacare gave me the freedom to become self-employed and follow my career dream. Now I am hearing that because of the three factors I stated above, I might lose all of that. The current insurance I have as an elder, self-employed person with a pre-existing condition costs me over \$1000 per month, with a \$2500 deductible and then 30% coinsurance. In other words, with my deductible satisfied, I still have to pay \$580 for an MRI. My health insurance/medical care uses up 15% of my income. I am in the position of having to choose which of my medical concerns can I afford to take care of.

Yes, ACA has problems. Work on fixing them rather than starting over again for the purpose of satisfying empty, thoughtless political promises. Rather than pursuing the repeal of ACA for political reasons, like undoing everything Obama has done, can we please think about the damage you are causing? The people who are being penalized?

For the richest nation in the world to not have affordable health insurance for all is deplorable. Stop the politicking and start the compassion and careful planning. And as an elder, self-employed person with a pre-existing condition, please tell me what I should do about health insurance should this plan go through. I want more options to take better care of myself and I want to feel that my country believes the health of every one of us is important. I want to be able to not have to choose between what medical issues I can afford to treat and which I will have to ignore. Stop the Graham-Cassidy healthcare repeal bill. Help us. Please.

Kathi Scholz LPC, NCC
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
10100 E [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Becky Ross [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not repeal the ACA

As a retired woman on a fixed income whose husband has pre-existing conditions, and a daughter who depends on affordable healthcare under the ACA, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. There are fixes and a real bi-partisan effort is what is required. Additionally, as a resident of a rural state, repeal or lack of real support for the ACA will devastate the health care situation for rural lowans and the small community hospitals that support them. There are many good aspects of ACA that should not be repealed. Please work together for the absolute best health care for the citizens of the United States.

Becky Ross
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Natalie Rigelman-Hedberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senators,

As a pediatrician, 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. This bill will be a disaster for kids, 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 much needed programs. Communities in rural areas will also be particularly hurt by this bill.

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 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,

Natalie Rigelman-Hedberg, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jan Kulp [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

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

Jan Kulp
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The above bill is a healthcare disaster. This is just a plan to kick tens of millions of people off off healthcare insurance with NO recourse to access for healthcare.

In no way, shape or form should this plan ever see the light of day. We need to sit down with each other and devise a fix for Obamacare (ACA) that will serve the people of the United States regardless of political party, region of the country or ability to pay. We need to work together and put together a realistic and economical plan.

This is not it.

This plan will take us back to square one, which was a broken healthcare system that did not work and was hugely expensive. This fixes none of the problems which you claim the ACA has. It does nothing whatsoever to address the growing medical and prescription costs or making access affordable to all.

The United States already has the worst healthcare system in the entire world, with higher costs and lower life expectancy than many third world countries. This plan will drive us even lower in comparison and do nothing to fix our system.

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cindy Jerome [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:34 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.

Cindy Jerome
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Vickie Keen [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I Oppose This Bill

Ronald W. Keen
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Bill

RE: Senate Finance Committee-Graham Cassidy

Sunday, September 24, 2017
10:33 PM

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Graham Cassidy bill. To me, the hurried manner in which this was written by only a few GOP Senators, without extensive input from the medical professional communities and organizations, without a full CBO report and without almost any testimony from stakeholders whose very health and lives will be affected, is nothing less than shameful. It is particularly troubling that the supporters of this bill are anxious to radically re-order 1/5-1/6 of the national economy based upon such a flimsy and one-sided approach. I expect much more from the Senate. Clearly the ACA has some problems. Instead of working together with the Democrats to identify and fix those problems and actually help people, you are ripping people's lives apart and creating severe anxiety and angst by threatening the healthcare that they depend on for their very life.

It is highly persuasive, and almost unheard of, that virtually every professional medical community and association has publically advocated AGAINST Graham-Cassidy. Here in Ohio, even the renowned Cleveland Clinic has denounced the bill! The cogent conclusions of this extensive list of medical associations are, to me, far more credible than a few of the bill's spokespersons trying to push their product. My perception is, quite frankly, that these partisans will lie and misrepresent anything just to get what they consider a "win". And, again my perception is that they simply do not care about children losing their healthcare, grandma being kicked out of the nursing home, or people with serious medical problems and pre-existing conditions being priced out of the market. This is a startling lack of empathy.

While proponents of Graham-Cassidy have worked hard to sell the "block grant" advantages of the bill, I see absolutely no logic in their talking points. To take Ohio \$\$ and give it to a state that did not chose to offer Medicaid expansion to its residents, seems crass. Further, to give healthcare money to state politicians to develop 50 different plans of wide ranging benefits, defies common sense and I strongly oppose it.

I strongly urge you to work on a bipartisan basis, as many Senators want to do, and as polls show Americans support, to fix the problems with ACA. If there are a number of people whose premiums have drastically risen under the ACA, then that obviously needs a fix, but not a complete re-write of ACA that removes healthcare of tens of millions. Further, the HHS Secretary, who has proven to be a disgusting hypocrite regarding the insider stock deals and private jets, should be directed to spend the money that was allocated to support the ACA on actually doing that instead of him attempting to sabotage, in number of ways, the healthcare of Americans who pay his salary. This subterfuge includes his efforts to destabilize the healthcare markets. He is supposed to enforce and support our laws, not kill them from the inside!

And finally, I would ask Senators who are pushing this rather "deadly" bill, to give serious thought to who they wish to represent and work for. If they wish to work for their wealthy donors, then they should leave the senate and seek other employment. But if they want to stay in the Senate, then they need to remember that they work **for us**, the American people, and they should keep our "needs" as their primary goal. Further, they need to commit to work in a bipartisan manner—we want Senators to work together cooperatively and transparently. No more closed door, backroom deals made by a few men.

Sincerely,

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kacia Lee [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: OPPOSE Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

Senators,

As a physician working at a safety net hospital serving primarily Medicare and Medicaid patients, I urge you to OPPOSE the Graham-Cassidy health care bill currently under consideration.

This bill would be a disaster for the most vulnerable of our citizens: low income people who depend on Medicaid, seniors who depend on Medicare, and children who depend on CHIP and/or Medicaid for their health care. This bill would NOT improve the health of Americans.

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,
Kacia Lee, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patricia Mondelli <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:34 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.

Patricia Mondelli
Manahawkin, NJ

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michael Jackson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA repeal

I would like to give a thoughtful and reasoned explanation for my thoughts regarding ACA repeal. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

First, I understand you are attempting to make America a better place, with more affordable healthcare for all and under the leadership of the White Supremacist in Chief.

But this bill is terrible, you are terrible and I am diligently working towards making sure Democrats regain the House and the Senate so we can impeach the dotard and fire dumbasses like Jeff Sessions, Steve Mnuchin, Jared Kushner and Stephen Miller. Trump, Sessions, Mnuchin and Miller are the Four Horsemen of Racism.

#ImpeachTrump #FireMiller #FireKushner #TakeaKnee

Best Regards!
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

market to collapse. It will end Medicaid expansion funding by 2020, and leaves in its wake only a capped block grant for the remaining Medicaid coverage, sharply reducing the funds available for adults by 37%, for children by 31%, for disabled Americans by 15%, and for the elderly by 2% by 2036, for a total loss of more than four trillion dollars from this essential program.[i] My state alone would lose 800 billion dollars, a 41% drop from current funding levels, by 2036.

This bill is not the path to resolving problems with the Affordable Care Act. Instead, it is a path to contracting care, leading to increased illness, despair, and destitution. Under the guise of “flexibility,” by reducing the available funds it will force states to deny care to children, especially disabled children, as well as the elderly, and those in the grip of poverty. This bill will also result in increased premiums in the individual market, and deprive Americans of federal protections regarding access and affordability of health coverage. It is a bad bill, born of a bad process.

While Senators represent their state, it is the nature of the Senate that Senators also consider the good of the country as a whole. This bill will devastate health coverage, and the health safety-net, across America. Along with virtually every major provider, hospital, and patient advocacy organization, I ask that you please vote “no” on Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson.

Thank you.

Bruce Hinze
San Francisco, California

[i] “Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Bill Would Reduce Federal Funding to States by \$215 billion”, Elizabeth Carpenter & Chris Sloan, Avalere, Sept 20, 2017. <http://avalere.com/expertise/life-sciences/insights/graham-cassidy-heller-johnson-bill-would-reduce-federal-funding-to-sta>

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bruce Hinze [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Sunday revised text, Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson: OPPOSE

Dear Chairman Hatch, Ranking Member Wyden, Members of the Senate Finance Committee, and members of the Senate

These following provisions from the revised version of the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill released Sunday will expose Americans to defective, expensive coverage that will make health insurance effectively unavailable to the sick.

Section 204 of the bill (pp. 144-145) will:

- 1) Vary premiums based on health status, so that sick Americans can be charged more
 - (1) *The criteria by which, and the degree to which, a health insurance issuer of such coverage may vary premium rates for such coverage, except that in no case may an issuer vary premium rates on the basis of sex or on the basis of genetic information.*
- 2) Permit higher premiums for preexisting conditions, or based on changes to an insured's risk once insured:
 - (2) *Whether, and the degree to which, a health insurance issuer of such coverage may require an individual, as a condition of enrollment or continued enrollment in such coverage, to pay a premium or contribution which is greater than the premium or contribution for a similarly situated individual enrolled in such coverage.*
- 3) Degrade the benefits provided by a policy:
 - (3) *The benefits or levels of benefits which a health insurance issuer of such coverage shall be required to include in such coverage.*
- 4) And, throw sick Americans into separate, death-spiral separate premium pools, based on their illness:
 - (4) *The number of risk pools into which a health insurance issuer of such coverage may group individuals enrolled in such coverage.*

These revisions make a bad bill worse, and compel a "no" vote.

Thank you.

Bruce Hinze
San Francisco, California

On Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:38 PM, Bruce Hinze <brucehinze@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Chairman Hatch, Ranking Member Wyden, Members of the Senate Finance Committee, and members of the Senate:

I urge the members of the Finance Committee, and the Senate as a whole, to reject the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill regarding changes to the Affordable Care Act and the Medicaid program.

This bill would devastate the health safety-net that Americans have relied upon for 50 years, placing billions of dollars in costs on states and imperiling health coverage for all Americans. This bill fundamentally, and catastrophically, restructures Medicaid by going far beyond any attempt to "repeal" the Affordable Care Act. This bill eliminates the ACA's premium subsidies by 2020, which will cause the individual insurance

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Liz Shockley [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:59 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.

Liz Shockley
Warminster, PA

Sent from my iPad

and supported by the American public, which would require the opportunity for stakeholders, including industry experts, providers, consumers and state policymakers to weigh in.

Suzanne Cohen

19107


No eligibility category would be immune to the impacts of these cuts. Children, individuals with substance use disorders, seniors and people living with disabilities would all face painful cuts and additional barriers to comprehensive health care.

This proposal would push the financial burden of healthcare onto states. 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 Pennsylvania 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; however, the block grant formula comes nowhere near to making up for Pennsylvania losses, even before it ends entirely in 2026. The 700,000 Pennsylvanians, most of them working poor, who have gained healthcare coverage through Medicaid expansion would go back to reliance on hospital emergency rooms for the minimal care in crisis situations, driving up uncompensated care costs for local communities, state budgets, safety net providers, and hospitals.

Pennsylvania has taken great steps toward making Medicaid an efficient program – lowering costs while greatly expanding the number of people eligible for coverage. Reform should focus on initiatives that utilize value based payment strategies to maximize quality while reducing costs, rather than these draconian cuts that will send us back to the bad old days of millions of people with no coverage and no recourse.

This proposal's repeal of the individual mandate and elimination of advanced premium tax credits and cost sharing reductions 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. This proposal puts the 301,632 Pennsylvanians who currently rely on financial assistance at risk for sharply higher out-of-pocket costs and coverage loss.

Insurers currently selling in Pennsylvania's marketplace would face extreme uncertainty. Allowing states to change the market reform rules under the ACA, and the lack of requirements or standards on how states must use the block granted money, would create 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.

In addition, 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. 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. States could waive the requirement that insurers cover essential health benefits including mental health services, substance abuse treatments and maternity care, leading to discrimination against segments of the population (e.g., older adults, women) or consumers with specific chronic conditions (e.g. mental health or substance use disorders). Before the ACA, almost half of plans in the individual market excluded addiction treatment. In our current crisis, this is unacceptable.

Finally, we believe that everyone should have a say in the decisions that affect their health. With only one hearing scheduled days before a possible vote, and without a full CBO score to properly evaluate the budgetary and coverage loss impacts, it is impossible to have an open and deliberative process. This proposal would affect millions of people and one sixth of the US economy. We encourage a return to "regular order," as requested by many members of the Senate

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Suzanne Cohen [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

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

The Health Federation of Philadelphia is a nonprofit public health organization that has the mission of improving access to and quality of healthcare for traditionally underserved communities. Therefore, we are extremely concerned that the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal threatens the affordability and availability of health coverage for consumers and will likely result in at least one million Pennsylvanians losing coverage by 2027 and will undermine the financial stability of our health care system and place additional fiscal strains on our state budget.

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. The block grant all together ends in 2027, leaving states and individuals without employer sponsored coverage with no help whatsoever. It is highly unlikely that Congress would reauthorize additional funds for these programs at a later date.

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 Pennsylvania 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.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Celina Ferencz [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

I rely heavily on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with affordability is that I am a one income household with no safety net working as a freelancer in film in a state that has had tax incentives cut, greatly reducing the amount of work (and income) that comes into the state. My income fluctuates and as I get older, my fear of being diagnosed with breast cancer grows as I think of my maternal grandmother who died of breast cancer at a young age. Unlike my grandmother, I have no family to support me, should this become my reality in the future- I'd be going it completely alone. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Celina Ferencz

Austin, TX

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Abby Buchanan [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The ACA

To The Senate Finance Comity,

I am writing to urge you to vote "NO" on the **Graham, Cassidy bill to repeal the ACA. I am one of millions of Americans that has a pre-existing condition. This bill will only harm people like me and my family. I can not understand how any good and decent person could vote to strip away anyone's access to affordable healthcare. It is also baffling to me how our leadership would even consider bringing this to the floor for a vote when no one has any idea how this bill will affect 1/6th of our economy. I also find it quite disturbing that none of the republicans on the hill seem to care what every healthcare organization including the insurance industry is says about how this bill will devastate hospitals and clinics all over this country. This can only be seen for what this is, political sabotage of our country and abuse of power to benefit only the President, his family and the greedy 1% . Again, I urge you to vote "NO" on the Graham Cassidy bill and serve the people of this country not just the donor class.**

Sincerely,
Abby Buchanan
Brookeville,MD
Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Annie Tuttle [redacted] <[redacted]@[redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: CBO score

The idea of the senate voting on a measure without a CBO score is so very very wrong.
No score no vote.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Roberta Jameson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to the Graham, Cassidy, Heller and Johnson Proposal to replace ACA with block grants

To the US Senate Committee on Finance -

I am writing in support of maintaining and improving the access to affordable healthcare available under the Affordable Health Care Act and in opposition to the Graham- Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal intended to replace affordable health care with block grants to states.

I have an adult daughter and son-in-law who will soon be applying for another year of health insurance under The Affordable Care Act, and my daughter has a pre-existing condition. Despite the problems with implementation, opportunities for my daughter and son-in-law and for many others to obtain affordable care are better because of the safeguards of the Affordable Care Act.

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal would remove the guarantee that affordable health insurance would provide ten essential health benefits including mental health care, prescription drugs, maternity care, laboratory services, rehabilitative services and preventative care. It would remove requirements that insurance would not penalize those with pre-existing conditions by charging them more for insurance. It would remove life-time caps on the costs that insurance would cover. It would remove the individual mandate that requires that everyone be insured so that access is made available to all at an affordable rate.

The ACA needs to be fixed, not repealed. The repeal proposal does not make health care more affordable. It will make it less available.

I was taught that the preamble to the Constitution was part of the Constitution. The preamble identifies six purposes for the federal government. "We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this **Constitution** for the United States of America."

One of those six purposes is to promote the general welfare as a positive goal, not as a negative weight on the body politic. Please do all that you can to support all Americans in gaining and maintaining access to affordable health care for people of all ages, able-bodied and disabled, the mentally ill as well as mentally healthy, the addicted as well as the non-addicted.

In education we aim to leave no child behind. In healthcare it's time to agree to kick no sick, old, young or disabled person to the side.

Thank you for your attention to the welfare of the citizens of your country of all ages and conditions,
Roberta Jameson

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nora Donoghue [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Trump are

I strongly oppose this newest version of Trumpcare. I have a 20 year old son who has a seiUre disorder and special needs. My son Coke was just released from yet another hospital visit. Without Medicaid, he would probably die.

What politicians may not know is there are very few options for adults with disabilities once they turn 22. And since Trumpcare shifts funding from the states which saw Medicaid expansion to states which tried to avoid adopting Obamacare; this will leave even less for disabled adults.

Please do the right thing. Vote against Trumpcare.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: e t [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Save our health care

The only thing that is more important than healthcare is food. There is no way to justify taking away affordable healthcare. Period.

Anyone that votes to reduce or deny our healthcare is not a decent human being.

The greatest and richest country ever on the planet earth should be able to afford to take care of its citizens.

Elizabeth Thomas
[REDACTED]

Senators,

When it comes to healthcare, "choice" isn't what really drives people, neither are the litany of numbers which I'll just summarize as "premiums"; no, what the average person really only cares about when it comes to their healthcare is that it is easily accessible when they need it without fear of financial devastation after the fact.

While imperfect, the Affordable Care Act made vast improvements in reaching that goal of an easy healthcare system. This is why I am emphatically against the current iteration of ACA Repeal as well as the ones before it, why every organization in the country that represents providers in healthcare is against this bill, why the Medicaid administrators in each of the fifty states have united in opposition to this bill. Graham-Cassidy will do nothing to make healthcare easier or more attainable, it will instead do everything to make it more unattainable, more difficult to get care. The only effect this will have is people's lives, plain and simple.

Senators, I urge you to trash this bill immediately and begin working in a true bipartisan fashion to strengthen and improve upon the Affordable Care Act, stabilize the health insurance marketplaces, create competition among insurers, and lower the costs of health care for all Americans. Rather than destroy the work that has already been completed, amend current laws, through regular order, with hearings, debate, and committee mark-ups, sufficient time for independent analysis by the Congressional Budget Office, independent experts, and most importantly the clinicians and patients directly affected by any the proposed changes.

Thank you,

Nicholas Stallbaumer

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nick Stallbaumer [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Attn. Editorial and Document Section

Nicholas John Stallbaumer
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Senate Committee on Finance
Attn. Editorial and Document Section
Rm. SD-219
Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510-6200

Senators,

When it comes to healthcare, "choice" isn't what really drives people, neither are the litany of numbers which I'll just summarize as "premiums"; no, what the average person really only cares about when it comes to their healthcare is that it is easily accessible when they need it without fear of financial devastation after the fact.

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Thank you,

Nicholas Stallbaumer
Nicholas John Stallbaumer
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Senate Committee on Finance
Attn. Editorial and Document Section
Rm. SD-219
Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510-6200

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Lundy [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill comments

This bill should not be passed as it will take away healthcare from millions of Americans. It is a repeal bill but the replace is barely thought out, incomplete, and done only to meet the 9/30 deadline as the Republican leadership knows this cannot garner any more votes than the bare minimum.

If you take away healthcare from millions, their only recourse may be the emergency room as a last resort when care will be more expensive and possibly too late. This is not right for America. We can and should do better.

Karen Lundy
Arlington, VA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nisi Skyhorse [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Denise Skeen
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
215 Dirkson Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

This nation is in vital need of a health care system that works: One that works for patients and physicians, family members and caregivers all all kinds, and NOT one that works for the CEOs, the stockholders, and others profiteering off the needs of people who happen to fall ill. We need preventive care, proactive care; not reactive and thus expensive care.

Because my state did not expand Medicaid, I have not had insurance (except for those times I was pregnant) since 1994 or so. That means no preventive care -- because it is impossible to find out how much anything in the medical field is going to cost up front and thus impossible to save to meet the need. I work as a private contractor which means I work without workman's compensation insurance and thus in fear of being injured on the job and simply thrown away as the coal miners of old were thrown away when the unsafe conditions they worked in crippled or killed them.

If our state was unwilling to expand Medicaid, what makes you think they would have any interest in seeing their people cared for under a block grant? We have some things in this country that we believe in: One is equal protection under the law. Please do not allow some people to become "more equal" than others as this bill would, but instead work in a bipartisan manner, together, with policy experts not ideologues, to reach consensus with no one holding out for their own "win" but rather working toward a win for the people currently unable to access even basic healthcare. No country can be "great" while some die for lack of health care.

Graham-Cassidy, conceived in back rooms, proposed as a hail Mary pass for a possible political win without concern for those it would affect, with no CBO score, does not deserve to see the light of day.

Sincerely,

Denise L. Skeen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carey Creed [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Say no to this bill, please

Dear Senators,

Please put our citizens' welfare before political concerns, in this instance, by voting against this unhealthy bill.

Thank you,

Carol A. Creed
Kensington, Maryland

housing and a Direct Support Professional to assist with daily living tasks. Jacob will receive residential supports through Medicaid.

Recently Nebraska DHHS has decreased provider fees to the organizations that support individuals with disabilities because our state general fund budget was cut. These providers already operate on a shoe-string budget and the decrease has caused organizations that provide services for our most vulnerable to lessen their quality and ability to provide needed services and has put some providers out of business. With additional state budget cuts, individuals with disabilities are currently seeing Medicaid budgets that only sustain congruent day programs, much like an adult daycare, and are not providing the individual with supports they need. **Per capita-based caps on Medicaid payments to the states** will cause the state of Nebraska to face further Medicaid cuts and not be able to support individuals with disabilities **to live and work in their community, develop assets that reduce dependence on public benefits and avoid costly and segregated institutions.**

Nebraska Medicaid is struggling to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities with their Long-Term Services and Supports needs. Imagine what will happen to these critically needed services if the proposed per-capita cap becomes a reality and profoundly restructures the financing of the Medicaid program. **Funding would not be based on the actual cost of providing services.** The state would not be able to cover the actual costs of meeting people's needs. It is highly likely that the optional Medicaid Long Term Supports and Services would be cut. Other critical services such as mental health, prescription drugs and rehabilitative services would also not be able to be provided. **What kind of society will we be living in if we do not protect and care for our most vulnerable?**

People with disabilities rely on Medicaid for the services that enable them to live and participate in the community. Allowing states to waive protections for people with pre-existing conditions is allowing states to waive protections for everyone with a disability;

Please oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill or any other bill that cuts, caps, or block grants Medicaid. This will ensure that funding for the needed optional Medicaid services such as employment supports through Long-Term Services and Supports and Home and Community-Based Services will remain in place for individuals with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Denise Gehringer

Program Coordinator Next Chapter Book Club/Ultimate Life/ PRISM/
Family Services/ Tween Scene / Stars Basketball/ Parent 2 Parent
Ollie Webb Center, Inc.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Denise Gehringer - Ollie Webb Center, Inc [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Sasse, info (Sasse); Fischer, Senator (Fischer)
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing Testimony
Attachments: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing Testimony 9-25-17 Denise Gehringer.docx; Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing Testimony 9-25-17 Denise Gehringer.pdf

Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

September 25, 2017

Denise Gehringer
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

(Full testimony including photo attached)

Dear Finance Committee-

My son Jacob is 22 and has an intellectual disability. Throughout my son's academic career, we have set goals and worked to reach them so he could be as equipped as possible to be a **productive citizen living and working in his community**. Jacob is a 22-year-old young man who worked very hard during the three years of his post high school transition program to train and prepare to be a Pre-school Aid so he can be a **working and tax paying member of society**. Mr. Jacob, as his pre-school student refer to him, is capable and hard working. He also **requires a job coach** for on-the-job training as it sometimes takes him longer than average to learn new procedure or practice. The job coach takes the burden of supporting the worker with intellectual disabilities off the employer and thus **creates a win-win situation for both the individual with special needs and the business**. Medicaid optional services provides funding for this job support.

Jacob also needs continuing education to **retain employable skills and expand his skillset** in a continuing education program. These continuing education classes are funded by optional Medicaid Long-Term Services and Supports.

Learning to operate independent of his parents is extremely important as it is likely he will outlive both of his parents. Jacob strives to live an independent life and it is very possible if the correct supports and services are available to him. Residential supports or Home and Community-Based Services is another support that Jacob needs. Supports for

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pat & Jerry Ward [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: proposed Graham-Cassidy Health Care bill

I am extremely concerned that the procedure of floor debates, committee proposals for proposed bills has not been followed. The process being followed now is sneaky. I am adamantly against this proposed bill; it is worse and crueler than the "skinny" bill. I know Sen. Graham states that covering pre-existing conditions is still included, but only if the states decide to do so with their block grants. I have watched over the years too many states ignore where the block grants are supposed to go and use the monies for other things. People with pre-existing conditions need to have a guarantee that they will be covered no matter in what state they live and with no caps allowed. I have three grandchildren with life-long pre-existing conditions and they need a guarantee that those conditions will be covered by insurance for as long as is needed. We cannot in good conscience cut back on medicaid, do away with medicaid now or in the future for the poor, the working poor, and children with disabilities. This is why it always seem to me that the Republicans do not care about people, only money, but money only for certain people not the poor or working poor.

I believe we need a health care bill that will be the same no matter in which state you live or where you move. As I stated before I do not trust grant blocks to states. I do not trust the Governors, legislatures especially to continue to use the funds for health care.

The idea of taking monies away from the states that expanded Medicaid and covered millions of people who had not been covered before and giving some of those monies to the states that disliked Obama so much they would to not expand Medicaid, like Senator Graham's state, let many of their constituents go without health care, looks like a sneaky revenge move to me.

We need a bipartisan bill. So why did Sen. Alexander pull out of working with Sen Murray on a bipartisan bill??????

The ACA is not horrible for many people. Over 50% of the American people like and want to keep the ACA.

Please, vote no on this bill. Thank you. Patricia Ward

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sheryl Foster [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy

Senators,

I am encouraging you to oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill. It has not received a CBO score so its impacts are not fully known. However, estimates indicate that millions of people will lose insurance coverage. The costs of insurance premiums will escalate, making healthcare unattainable, especially if someone has a pre-existing condition, which many people have. Finally, caps on coverage are unthinkable.

We need a healthcare system that is created through a bipartisan partnership that makes healthcare accessible, efficient, and affordable. Truly affordable for all Americans. Our system also needs to be simplified. Simply, GoFundMe should not be a component of our healthcare.

Please kill the bill and go back to the drawing board.

Best,

Sheryl Foster
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eleanor Hughes [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I am appealing to our Congress people to stop thinking about getting re-elected through approving a health care bill that is going to hurt more people than it will help. Surely you can all work together to do what is right for your constituents! It is time. There is an incredible amount of stress that is being generated from the bickering among you. Please start thinking about the people in the US as real people who are struggling to make ends meet. The last thing we need is a health care bill that will cost us more and cover us less.

This bill looks as though it will make it easy for states to no longer write policies to cover people with pre existing conditions. Now days if you live long enough you are likely to have a pre existing condition. Many people will die without the medication they are now able to afford with the present health care. People on medicaid will lose benefits.

Perhaps if you people in Congress stop thinking of each other as Republicans or Democrats and start thinking of each other as humans and begin to relate to each other on a human level you could begin to work together and truly fix the problems with health care. It doesn't matter to us what you call the bill, but please make it help us, not hurt us. You were elected to do good for the people you serve. Ask yourselves if this plan would be good for your families.

Thank you,
Eleanor Hughes

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marjory Morford <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

Please do not pass the Graham Cassidy Bill. Let the Bi-partisan committee come up with the right solutions to improve the affordable care act. You should be doing the best for this country. This bill is not your best.

Marjory S. Morford

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Haylie Tate <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy

My family, like the majority of American families, relies on affordable healthcare. Because of this, and because I care about my fellow Americans, I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am disgusted that senators in support of this bill are so callous as to turn to the sick among us, even dying children, and say that their lives don't matter. I would like to see a bipartisan effort to fix the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Haylie Tate
Troy, MI

Sent from my iPhone

Most of us want you to follow regular order. We want GOP and Dems to work together. We expect that each senator will have enough time to read the bill and discuss it with his constituents. We want you to give each bill enough time for discussion and for input from all stakeholders. Most importantly, we expect that you would not pass a bill out of committee without knowing the impact it will have on people. Passing the bill without a CBO score would be irresponsible.

People

The key reason I ask that you don't pass this bill is that there are people...millions and millions of people...who would be negatively impacted by the bill. Citizens would not have the "more, better, cheaper" healthcare that President Trump promised them. Citizens with pre-existing conditions may be priced out of having healthcare at all. Why would you want to do this to American citizens?

Honor

From following this bill, I'm left with impression that you are pushing this through only for political reasons. Angry donors? White House pressure? I don't know. Those are reasons being reported on.

Please, put politics aside and act honorably. Our nation is in dire need of having its leaders act with honor, respect...with "reputation"...the good 'ole way. Our new ways are tearing our nation apart.

Thank you.

Nidia Stone
Citizen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nidia Stone <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please stop Graham-Cassidy

Honorable Orrin Hatch and Other Honorable Members,

I would like to add to my comments below, please.

My understanding is that the numbers in the bill are still being modified today. Can you assure me and other citizens that you will be familiar enough with the numbers to truly debate them tomorrow?

You are the political leaders of this country. I am counting on you to do the right thing.

Thank you.

Nidia Stone
Citizen

Begin forwarded message:

From: David & Nidia <davidandnidia@yahoo.com>
Date: September 23, 2017 at 6:14:40 PM EDT
To: Gchcomments@finance.senate.gov
Subject: **Please don't proceed with Graham-Cassidy**

Honorable Orrin Hatch and Other Members,

As a concerned citizen, I beg you not to move forward with the Graham-Cassidy bill.

I have a number of reasons...the most important one being that the passage of the bill would hurt American citizens. But, since you are the Finance Committee, let me start with some financial questions.

Financial

1. Have enough extra dollars and other safeguards been put in place to stabilize the economy as 1/6th is disrupted?
2. How much would it cost to decommission the ACA? What would it cost my state, NJ? (I assume you are aware that Governor Christie is against this bill.)
3. How would the decommission affect jobs...net gain or loss? How would it affect jobs in NJ?
4. How much would it cost to rebuild healthcare markets and systems in 50 states? How about in NJ?

Process

Most of us law abiding citizens want to lead our lives right and we want our government to govern right. So many of us were deeply touched by Senator McCain's moving speech on the Senate floor...and his more recent re-statement of it.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mschiffm Schiffman [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:43 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 am a primary care physician practicing in Philadelphia. I have seen patients finally be able to control their diabetes and blood pressure, get necessary health screenings, and establish primary care, now that they are able to obtain health coverage. It would be immoral to deny these people their basic and cherished right to health care. Please help me continue to care for these people who could be your family or friends.

Mschiffm Schiffman

19034
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: theresa barnes [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: HEARING TO CONSIDER THE GRAHAM-CASSIDY-HELLER-JOHNSON PROPOSAL - SEPTMEBER 25,2017
Attachments: IMG_2207.JPG

Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal
September 25, 2017
Theresa Barnes
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sixteen years ago our son Lukas was born. Sixteen years ago I had no idea I would give birth to a child with Down syndrome. I had no idea what it meant to have a child with a disability. We found out our son Lukas had Down syndrome minutes after he was born. Typically, when a family announces the birth of their child, excitement fills the air, phone calls are made immediately and family and friends rush to the hospital to welcome the newborn.

When you are told that your child has a disability, you grieve, you wait, you worry, and you are left alone with angst and confusion. Our son was born early in the morning, and we did not have the strength to call anyone until hours later. We were overwhelmed with the concerns and all of the health issues that may or may not occur. Babies born with Down syndrome have a host of health issues we were not aware of; these can include heart defects, low thyroid, failure to thrive, and digestive issues to name a few.

Thankfully, our state has an incredible program that is funded by Medicaid - the Birth to 3 program. We were immediately connected with occupational therapists, physical therapists, and a speech therapist. The low tone in a baby with Down syndrome makes it difficult and tiring for a baby to eat. We were trained by our Birth to 3 therapists on how to feed our son. Without the support of this life saving program, Lukas along with thousands of other babies born with a disability would not thrive and benefit from early intervention. Early intervention saves the state money by providing the necessary therapies to assist a child to reach developmental milestones. All of this allows them to become functional members of society.

Medicaid also provides us with respite for our son when our work schedules during the school year conflict. Lukas can not be left alone. With the social reasoning of a 5 year old, he is at risk for not staying safe. He needs to be supervised and through the Children's Long Term Waiver we are provided with qualified care from people we know and trust.

We worry about the future of our son, what supports would be there if we lost Medicaid? Would he be able to live independently with the support of a life coach or would he cost the state more money by needing to live in a nursing home? Would he be a tax paying individual, or cost taxpayers by being forced to work in a sheltered workshop?

I chose to bring my son, this life, into the world. If we are a society that values life, then we need to provide the desperately needed resources and supports to ensure that people with disabilities have the same opportunities that you and I take for granted.

Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Juliedelara [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Dear Honorable Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to you today to ask you to vote “no” on the Graham/Cassidy Healthcare Bill.

My youngest child Michael is 13 years old and has a chronic, life threatening seizure disorder. He became uninsurable when he was an infant. Without Medicaid, we would never have been able to afford the medications or therapies which he has needed. My husband has an MBA and works in banking. I am an attorney but due to Michael’s condition I have been unable to work. While we have always had insurance through Francois job, it has only paid a fraction of the costs that were necessary for Michael’s therapy and medication. Medicaid has picked up the rest. In addition, Michael would have run through his lifetime caps with insurance and Medicaid by now. Without Medicaid and had lifetime caps been operating, Michael would probably be dead and we would be bankrupt.

I share with you a slice of our lives: a piece I wrote for Parent Magazine and a poem written by Michael’s devoted older brother, Daniel. Daniel wrote the poem when he was in middle school. The stress of having a child with a chronic life threatening illness is enough. It's el to make parents worry as well about how they'll cover their child's medical costs.

Think twice before you vote to decimate Medicaid. Daniel deserves to have his brother and we deserve to have our youngest child survive us.

Respectfully,

Julie Corbier de Lara

- I am in the family room with my sons Daniel and Michael at about 4 pm on a Monday night. Daniel is seven years old at this time and Michael is about 9 months old. I am cooking, Daniel is watching television and Michael is toddling around. It appears to be a typical early evening with a family gathered together, relaxing and preparing dinner awaiting the arrival of the rest of the family.

In our case however the tension is mounting. I turn periodically to watch Michael. Each time I turn around I catch Daniel watching Michael as well. My heart is beginning to race and every time I hear a bump or a thud I whip around to see what it is. I can tell that Daniel is getting worried as well by the way his eyes dart back and forth from the T.V. to his brother. I say to Daniel, "Don't worry. He seems fine." I take a deep breath and exhale slowly. I stir my pasta and then I hear a crash and Daniel saying urgently "Mom, Michael is having a seizure!"

Daniel and I leap into action. I run to Michael and crouch over him, rolling him to his side and away from the furniture. I grab the anti seizure medication and give it to him. My seven year old calls 911 and says, "My baby brother is having a seizure. We live at 2712 Prairie Avenue. Please come quickly." Then he grabs a flashlight and runs outside into the darkness that ordinarily frightens him, to waive the ambulance to our home.

I never asked Daniel for this assistance. Daniel assumed these responsibilities out of love and a desire to help. I am awed by Daniel's composure and his courage.

My husband arrives home at the same time as the paramedics, filling my tiny kitchen with their big bodies, their big boots and their equipment. I say to my husband, "Honey don't take off your coat. We're going to the Emergency Room again." My thoughtful and steadfast neighbors, Jane, Pam, and Lynne, magically appear and turn off the stove, put food away and take Daniel to their homes to feed him dinner and wait with him until my husband and I return with Michael many hours later.

This was our routine at least once a week for about a year. Michael's seizures occurred often on a Monday, but not always and often between 4pm and 7pm, but not always. Things have calmed down a bit since then although we still call the paramedics from time to time to our home, to the beach, to Michael's pre school, to my mother's house and even once to the doctor's office. We carry the emergency seizure medication with us at all times even when we go for a walk around the block.

We now have a diagnosis for Michael; Dravet's Syndrome a severe and intractable form of epilepsy that has a spectrum of psychomotor delays from learning disabilities to severe mental retardation. The seizures can be life threatening and mortality rates are high. It is one of three "catastrophic" epilepsies that exist but perhaps the most rare.

Dr. Charlotte Dravet is the French neurologist who identified this epilepsy syndrome. She is still living in Marseilles, France, when she is not consulting and lecturing all over the world. When we received Michael's diagnosis and we discovered that Dr. Dravet was still working we sent her an email in French. We wrote, "Our son has just been diagnosed with Dravet's syndrome. We don't know what to do and we are in despair." She sent us an email within 24 hours. She wrote, "Courage. I will help your child."

We met with Dr. Dravet shortly thereafter. She examined Michael and spoke to us at length. She told us his long-term prognosis was impossible to predict. He seemed to be doing well but that could change. Science knows very little about the brain and even less about epilepsy. However, Dr. Dravet did give us an invaluable piece of advice:

"Have courage. Don't give up hope. Michael depends on you to believe in him and tell him that he will be okay."

There is an expression "Desperation is the enemy of a parent with a sick child". The grief can be overwhelming, paralyzing. It can leave you breathless. It is so hard sometimes to push it away but of course you must pull yourself together to take care of your child. There is no one else.

Michael is 4 ½ years old now and doing better. He is a warm and engaging little boy with a sense of humor and full of mischief. Although he is behind his peers his development continues to progress, defying the odds. We are lucky and we work hard with him to maximize his potential. Daniel is better as well. He is less traumatized, less worried about leaving Michael to go to school, or a friend's house or to visit his grandmother. As for my husband and I, our dreams for Baby Boy De Lara burned to ashes but new dreams are rising and taking flight and we see their reflection every day in Michael's sparkling blue eyes.

Have courage. Don't give up hope. Your child depends on you to believe in him and tell him that he will be okay.

Julie de Lara

August, 2008

Published in Parent Magazine 2009

SHAKING by Daniel de Lara

February 27, 2011 at 1:17am

Daniel de Lara
Open Mike Friday
2/8/11
Period 7/8

The world goes cold,
Frozen in time,
Except for him,
On the floor,
Shaking.

Hearts stop,
Brains race,
Except for his,
Electrified, yet rhythmic,
Shaking.

Sirens break the silence,
Paramedics rush in,
Panic takes over, and all Hell breaks loose,
Yet he's unresponsive, unaware of the world,
Shaking.

Medication is given,
Wires are attached,
His eyes cold, dead,
His body in turmoil,
Shaking.

I'm calm and cool...
On the outside,

But I'm crying inside,
Heart in more pieces than a puzzle,
Crushed.

Finally it stops,
But it's taken a heavy toll,
Questions flood in like a sad river,
Overflowing with despair,
Calm and cool melt away,
Dropping to the floor like dead gnats,
Everything has changed again,
But at least the shaking stops...
Until the next time.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: RO LERARIO [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:42 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.

This bill is not about health care. It's about appeasing big donors to steal from us so you can give people who don't need it a huge tax cut. You are public servants. Act like it.

Rosemary Lerario
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: nancy kline [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: New Health Care Plan

My son has Schizophrenia and he is on Medicaid and Medicare. I am very concerned about the cutting of Medicaid funding. If it is cut he could end up on the street and homeless. This could lead to jail because he is bound to get into trouble pan handling and we can not afford to increase the financial support we give to him.

I have Leukemia and it is a pre existing condition. Will I get health care. I am just one person. Look at all the damage you will do to so many people.

Please keep Obamacare or make it better not worse

Sincerely,
Nancy Kline