

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Tracie Blackwell <tracie@...>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:03 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Hearing

Graham Cassidy Bill Hearing  
September 23, 2017

I Can't understand how any Senator, who represents their state and works for all CITIZENS can in good conscience, take away the healthcare we get from ACA. **It's NOT Obamacare, It's the Affordable Care Act and one that millions of American Citizens rely on.** To push this horrendous, mean-spirited Graham/Cassidy bill it would be detrimental to all citizens that now have healthcare for the first time.

**It is incomprehensible to us why you won't work to fix the problems with ACA so that it takes care of all health issues. The only explanation for this failure on your part is extreme prejudice against the first black president who managed to provide coverage for healthcare for all Americans.**

**Pres Trump's willingness to remove online reminders about renewing healthcare from the internet, threatening to withhold payments to insurance companies so they withdraw from the insurance pool in states and you Republicans letting this happen, tells all of us that you work for your donors and yourselves and not for us.**

The extreme right-wing, like Rand Paul, that feel your awful bill doesn't go far enough, are selfish soulless individuals. They don't understand or know the plight of millions of fellow Americans.

**Less military spending and boondoggle spending by GOP would provide more than enough \$ to provide good healthcare for all Americans.**

This is what happens when GOP try to hurt so many. Never mind the tax cuts you're trying to push through once ACA is gone. The ones who really benefit from these tax cuts are the extremely wealthy 1% people, who pay little or no taxes. Warren Buffet admits that the 13% tax rate he pays, VS the 33% tax rate his secretary pays is totally wrong. Removing ACA would benefit the 1% in this country, but not the 99%. This is what this awful bill is about. **If the GOP really cared about the citizens of this country, they would work to fix and make ACA better and stronger. We deserve a good, strong, caring healthcare system in the best country in the world.**

**Maybe if we vote all GOP out in 2018, we will get that. For sure, if you vote to remove ACA and put Graham/Cassidy bill in, we will fire all GOP. You will then have shown all voters that we can't trust you to care about our country, only your mega-donors.**

Tracie Blackwell  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** sandra nelson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:10 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

sandra nelson  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Laura Jewell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:12 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare concerns

Senators,  
I am writing to express my concern about the Graham-Cassidy bill.

I have three young children. At the moment, they are quite healthy, but it is terrifying to think that if any of them ever became very ill, we might not be able to afford the treatment they needed. The premiums for pre-existing conditions I have seen for this bill make me think that it would be a very likely possibility. I am also healthy, but had high blood pressure during my pregnancies. Would I be denied coverage? Can we afford for me not to have health insurance?

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Please seek a bipartisan effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,  
Laura Jewell  
Richardson, TX

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Cecile Burandt [REDACTED]@gmail.com >  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:10 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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Cecile Burandt

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] 14  
[REDACTED] 6

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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

Finance Committee,

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

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Lynn Buehler  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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

Finance Committee,

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

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Natalie Smith

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] 7

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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

Finance Committee,

Instead of tax breaks for business, let's invest in the health of our people by giving the weakest the opportunities of healthcare that the wealthiest are afforded.

Also, protecting our environment from dirty energy and rampant pollution will keep us healthier and require less medical care.

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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Suzy Sledge

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Rd

[REDACTED] 03

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Maria Rosales <[REDACTED]@gchcomments.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:25 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.

Maria Rosales  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] r.  
h [REDACTED]



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Sylvia Duncan [redacted]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:10 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

Sylvia Duncan  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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

Finance Committee,

Is this a bill for citizens or a big welfare tax cut benefit for corporations and the wealthy? You have single payer health coverage - for life. Shame!

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

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

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

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

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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

Finance Committee,

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

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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.

Jon Mullin  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] 2  
[REDACTED] 2

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Ruth M <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:59 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Opposing Graham-Cassidy

I am a retiree living on my precious social security benefits. My health is already in decline as I age, and I am very fearful of moves to destroy the ACA.

I have lived in two countries where so-called socialized medicine works well and citizens can be assured that health care will not be denied them. I don't understand why the US cannot do as well.

I keep asking, hoping, and praying that our politicians can set aside party rivalries and inflated egos long enough to work together FOR our welfare. I oppose Graham and Cassidy approach. Not a solution.

Ruth Martin  
Dallas TX.

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Aliza Geretz [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:00 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy

To whom it may concern:

Many families I know 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, Aliza Geretz

Houston, TX [REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Marta Kvande [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:01 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** comment on Graham-Cassidy bill

I --- along with everyone I know --- rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with affordability is really my mother's story. When she suffered a stroke, there was no way that she and my dad could have paid for the hospital bills, the cost of her physical therapy, and her ongoing medical care without health insurance! Without affordable health insurance, they would have lost the home they'd owned for 20 years --- they would have lost everything. But because she had affordable health insurance, they did not lose the house.

Everyone deserves this same chance. No one deserves to lose everything they own just because they get sick. And there's no other developed nation in the world where people fear losing everything if they get sick. Please protect Americans!

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

Thank you,

Marta  
Kvande  
Lubbock, TX

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jen Turner [mailto:jturner@turner.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:38 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Several of my family members (all women) rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

In the gerry-mandered Republican-run State of Texas I do not foresee a good outcome for my mom or sisters. The legislative track record here proves the lack of priority or concern given to women and their health. That doesn't even begin speak for children (born and unborn), the poor, the old, minorities, et. al.

I would like to see a bi-partisan Congressional effort to improve the current ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Jen Turner

Austin, Texas

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Kelly Link [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:57 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Paul  
**Subject:** Public testimony for Graham-Cassidy bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story illustrates the benefits of the Affordable Care Act. Due to its affordability, my family had healthcare at a reasonable cost during a very difficult time when we were a one-income family. Without the Affordable Care Act, we would not have weathered our situation as easily. I would like to add that the HMO needs to go away; had we known the difficulty we would face due to the HMO we would have selected the PPO. It was almost impossible to get my son medical care when he broke his arm due to the ridiculous constraints of the HMO.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. I have urged my senators to vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill and to work to improve the ACA.

Sincerely,  
Kelly Link  
Dallas TX [REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Shelby Rexrode [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:54 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

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

I am asking you to stand up for the rare disease community by opposing the Graham-Cassidy plan. Please don't leave rare disease and chronically ill patients in the dark!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ms. Shelby Rexrode  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Vanessa Dempel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:59 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** public testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am fortunate to be in good health and not require much medical attention; however, I am young and healthy. For those who are sick or older and require immediate and consistent health care, completely repealing their health options would be a detriment to their health and potentially their lives. Vote with your conscience and what would encourage the continuation of a full and healthy life for all.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. This is not just a political act, repealing today and hope for the best tomorrow, people's lives are at stake.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Dempel

[Austin, TX]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** natali valdez [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:47 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 has a preexisting condition and would not be covered without the ACA.

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

Sincerely, natali valdez

Houston, Texas

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Khan, S Angela [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:54 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Repeal of the ACA

Dear Senators:

I am opposed to the repeal of the ACA. While my family is fortunate to have quality, affordable healthcare coverage through our former employers and medicare, that could change in the blink of an eye. My husband is a diabetic who must monitor his glucose regularly and take daily medication. If he were to lose his health coverage, we would not be able to afford the high cost of his continued health needs. The consequences would be dire. Without the ACA which ensures that people with pre-existing conditions can get coverage, he would have no hope of obtaining health insurance with a reasonable premium. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill and repeal of the ACA. **I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, *not* repeal it.**

Quality, affordable health care should be considered a basic human right, not a luxury reserved for those who can afford it.

Sincerely,

S. Angela Khan  
San Antonio, Texas

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Eldo Bergman, MD [REDACTED] t>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:19 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare. I am displeased that the Graham-Cassidy bill contains a \$20 billion tax break for the 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 not the way to get public comment on health matters that affect millions of people.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy.

Eldo Bergman, MD  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

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

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.

Hillery Earl

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 5

J [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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

Finance Committee,

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

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Suzanne Livesey  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jennifer Thall [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:47 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Reject Graham Cassidy

My name is Jennifer Thall and I live in Austin, TX.

Like so many millions of Americans, I too have relied on the Affordable Care Act and still benefit from its provisions.

In 2013 I was laid off from work, and faced with the prospect of steep COBRA costs, I gladly found new insurance coverage on the [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov) exchange. This allowed me to continue visiting my doctor for my chronic back pain and to continue receiving my prescriptions.

These days I am far more fortunate, and I receive coverage through my employer. I am still benefiting -- I know that I can count on my birth control to be covered, thanks to the Affordable Care Act. I know I still have that safety net if my employment/financial situation ever turns south. And I know that the Affordable Care Act is helping MILLIONS of Americans who are less fortunate than I.

Please reject the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill, or any other bill that repeals rather than improves the Affordable Care Act.

Last, shame on any elected officials who have tried repeatedly to bulldoze their way through the legislative process, running ramshackle over bipartisan ideas, public input, or informed debate.

Thank you,  
Jennifer Thall



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Harlin, Karol [REDACTED]@edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:04 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Fwd: Graham Cassidy bill

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** [REDACTED]@u  
**Date:** September 22, 2017 at 4:02:41 PM CDT  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill

My senators are Ted Cruz & John Cornyn.

I am opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill . Too many uninsured people left out w no insurance.  
My husband is unable to be insured due to cost already, why make it worse?

Karol G. Harlin  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Leslie Ruthven [redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:02 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.

I am asking you to stand up for the rare disease community, as both my son and I have been adversely affected by a rare disease and we need your help by opposing the Graham-Cassidy plan. As a former Texas Children's Hospital Employee, I am well aware of the high cost rare disease and chronically ill patients will pay if this bill passes.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind Regards,  
Leslie Baldwin-Ruthven  
Research Grant Writer, Administrator, Advocate, Patient & Mom

Leslie Ruthven  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Greg Romero [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:59 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** please OPPOSE the Graham-Cassidy amendment

Dear Members of Congress,

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

Sincerely,

Greg Romero  
Austin TX [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Heathyr Personal [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:47 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Statement for the Record, RE: Graham/Cassidy Bill

Hello,

This bill is an affront to all Americans. It shows a disregard for the wellbeing of women, the poor, and minorities in this country. This bill should not go through and I urge the bill to be voted down. It's awful.

Thank you,

Heathyr Brockett  
Denton, TX

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Joyce Brown [redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:17 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill

Hello...

My name is Joyce Brown. I am 63 years old, working full time at a good job. I have voted both Republican and Democrat...depending on the candidate.

I am writing to IMPLORE you to not allow the Graham Cassidy bill to move forward. I am firmly in John McCain's camp that this bill has NOT been fully vetted and what we have seen is shameful.

There is NOT any guarantee for pre-existing conditions/life time caps, etc. And you are GUTTING Medicaid. I don't use it, but know of plenty of elderly folks in nursing homes who absolutely depend on it. I know young families who have a chronically sick child.

The senators going out on TV shows have been very dishonest in their misrepresentation of the FACTS. They constantly revert to the flaws of the ACA instead of saying what is good about this bill. That is because there is very little that is good. If Congress were doing it's job, they would fix the ACA. Every piece of major legislature has needed tweaks and fixes...check your history...which I am sure you know better than I.

The Congress of the United States needs to get it's act together and quit playing games with people's lives. And of course, the special interests are glaringly obvious. Please do what is right.

Sincerely,  
Joyce Brown  
Houston, Texas

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[Redacted signature block]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]n  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Fix Obamacare

Don't repeal it. All Americans deserve health care when they need it and preventive care before the need arises. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jairo Argueta <jairo@argueta.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:30 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** press@cruz.senate.gov  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy HC Bill

Honorable HC Committee,

As an American Citizen, resident of the Great State of TX, I'm concerned that the proposed Graham-Cassidy HC bill being considered in the Senate next week, will allow states to waive protections of essential benefits, currently guaranteed by ACA. This has the potential for insurance to out-price patients with pre-existing conditions out of affordable health care.

In addition, the partisan rush to push this bill through congress before the COB has scored raised many concerns. The American public will not know the impacts or benefits that this bill can potential have as consequences of moving healthcare regulation from the Federal level to the State.

As Senator John McCain has stressed, the Senate should return to regular order and address the issues with ACA in a bipartisan form.

Sincerely,

Jairo Argueta

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Straight, Matthew [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:26 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

I am a medical student in San Antonio, TX. I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill because I want it to be easier for my patients to access healthcare, not harder. Stripping money from Medicaid harms everyone, including the physicians that are already barely reimbursed for caring for these patients. Work together to improve the ACA, not dismantle it at the expense of patients just to claim a political win. This is insanity.

Matthew Straight

--

Matthew Straight

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]edu



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Megan Gordon [mailto:meg.gordon@graham-cassidy.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:48 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

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

My 18-year-old son had a stroke in utero, and subsequently suffers from hemiparesis (hemiparagic Cerebral Palsy). While he is healthy, he requires seizure medication, and medical equipment to keep his lungs clear. He will also require other treatments in the future due to his condition. The idea that at such a young age he could be priced out of insurance to manage his condition should be unthinkable. We should be protecting out most vulnerable.

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

Sincerely,

Megan Gordon

Addison, Texas

## **Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Debbie Guy <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:50 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** please vote no on anti-small business Graham-Cassidy

Graham-Cassidy is an anti small business bill that will force the very entrepreneurs who make this country stronger with new technology and provide jobs for the future back into traditional 9-5 jobs just to get access to healthcare.

My husband and I were able to quit our traditional tech jobs and start a small business because we could get healthcare policies under ACA. My husband is Type I diabetic and could never have qualified previously.

Graham-Cassidy seriously undermines protections for those with preexisting conditions and will force us to disband our small business (and the potential jobs it will create as we grow) so that we can go back into the traditional workforce just to have access to reliable healthcare. That seems un-American.

Please vote no on Graham-Cassidy and preserve entrepreneurship in our country.

-Deborah Guy  
Plano Texas

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Janet Thompson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:25 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mrs. Janet Thompson  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Marcia Carberry <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:26 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Meeting 9/25/17 2pm

Stop pushing a healthcare bill that is going to adversely effect millions of Americans  
Medicaid will be robbed of 11 billion in Texas alone.

Pre existing conditions will be used to raise insurance rates or just cancel our coverage.

You talk about block grants to the states but I can only wonder where this money will be used to help those that need healthcare.

This whole bundle of lies looks to push the healthcare problems onto the states and your hands will be clean with no blame on you. If you wanted to kill Obamacare for 8 years why didn't you work together to create a better system. ??

Stand up to Trump and be the men you momma,s raised you to be. Vote No on this Graham Cassidy bill. Trump is dragging all of you into the swamp.

Marcia Carberry  
Canyon Lake Tx

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Emily Weinberg [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:57 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Affordable Healthcare

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

Thankfully, after I had a 3D mammogram and an architectural distortion was detected, I was able to get the tests, surgeries and treatments I needed in order to remove a carcinoma and prevent further recurrence.

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

Sincerely,

Emily Weinberg

Odessa, TX

Emily Weinberg



*At any moment you have a choice, that either leads you closer to your true self or further away from it.*

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kate Kelly <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:20 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** The ACÁ

My family and I depend upon quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband has afib and I am a cancer survivor. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Lois Phillips [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:33 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

I want the ACA repaired and not repealed. I want the GOP to stop undermining and attacking this bill because they have destabilized the insurance market through their efforts. I want the President to do his job enforcing this law and to stop undermining it by neglect and shortening the enrollment period in HALF! Neglecting informing the public of open enrollment is simply cruel. He and HHS need to do their jobs.

The states that didn't expand Medicaid and did not set up exchanges should be encouraged to do so in a bipartisan fashion. We have the worst healthcare system of any industrialized country. The ACA was a good first step to fixing this except it's been sabotaged rather than fixed in areas that need help. People do need options and one of those needs to be Medicare for all.

The ACA helped people with small businesses be able to offer benefits and made them more competitive with larger companies. The ACA allowed me to take early retirement and open up a job for a younger person. After breast cancer, I wanted to spend more time with my husband and travel some. I was only continuing to work because I needed insurance. When the ACA took effect, I bought my first policy through the marketplace at full price, no subsidy.

I have had cancer twice and am a survivor, Graham Cassidy (GC) is a nightmare for people who actually need healthcare. When the Risk Corridors were sabotaged by Marco Rubio's bill, insurance premiums started to rise because insurance companies were to be reimbursed for helping people like me. The Risk Corridors need to be restored in order to stabilize the insurance market and premiums as is the intent of the ACA.

GC is also a nightmare because it disproportionately hurts women, making pregnancy a pre existing condition and then also makes birth control an option for states while keeping erectile dysfunction treatments available. This is discrimination. No one but the woman herself with possibly her significant other should make birth control decisions. States should not be allowed to decide these things.

GC is a nightmare because there aren't any standards for insurance policies so junk insurance policies will be sold. I've been purchasing insurance on the private market since 2012 and, without those standards, insurance decisions will be impossible. People like me will purchase what they think is a good policy and find they aren't covered for some reason. Then we are left to fight a losing battle. We need federal standards to insure that products out there are comparable. The ACA DOES THAT.

I hope you all will listen to John McCain and return to normal order and stop behaving like spoiled children and really work on a bipartisan repair of the ACA. It is based, after all, on a GOP healthcare plan.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Melani Lee <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:59 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

Please do not pass this bill. Many Americans, including myself, have pre-existing conditions. This bill allows insurance companies to charge us more. This is just one of the many reasons why this bill is bad for America.

Melani Morgan  
Texas



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Annette Baltrip <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:06 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Annette Baltrip  
[REDACTED]  
2 [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Tina Garza <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:07 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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Tina Garza

[REDACTED]om  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Mitzi Perkins <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:07 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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Mitzi Perkins  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] le  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Lee Ann Wright [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:07 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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Lee Ann Wright  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@gmail.com  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Janna Miller [REDACTED] m>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:20 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I oppose Graham-Cassidy bill

Hello,

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am currently needing to pursue infertility healthcare. Affordability is incredibly important throughout this process. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Janna Greeson

Austin, TX

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kathy Kravitz [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:14 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Affordable Health Care

I am writing to inform you of my position on the ACA.

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

I have a brother who has been diagnosed with schizophrenia as well as diabetes. He depends on medicaid to stay alive. The Graham-Cassidy bill gives me no assurance that he would be able to get the healthcare he needs.

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

Sincerely,

Kathy Kravitz

Austin, Texas

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Diane Blair <[REDACTED]> m>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:10 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

I stand against this bill. It is cruel and limiting to women and children. Moreso, I have zero confidence that the state of Texas will distribute dollars for healthcare in any meaningful way for our citizens. Texas is already weakened by its almost powerless Governor, so how is a bigger block grant going to benefit Texans?

Vote no. I stand against this bill and hope you do too. We the people demand better.

Sincerely,  
A concerned and engaged citizen.  
Diane Blair  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my US iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Elsa Cook <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:11 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy ACA Hearing

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

My story with pre-existing conditions is wrapped up in the fact that my mother died of breast cancer many years ago. At this point, I have not chosen to be tested for the BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene because it has been cost-prohibitive for my family. Even though I am under 40, I rely on annual mammograms and have had to fight every year for the proper coding of this preventative care so that it could be covered by my health insurance. If a diagnosis were to arise, it would cost more of my family and the insurance to fight the disease. It is absurd to me that this has to be a constant fight for an ordinary citizen trying to best care for their health.

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

Sincerely,

Elsa Cook

Salado, Texas



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jolie Willis <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:11 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy comment

Because of the Affordable Care Act, my husband was finally able to start his own business. The ACA gave our family the safety net we needed and still need.

For many reasons, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. From the lack of coverage for people with pre-existing conditions, to block grants, and the negative impact on Medicaid, this bill is not an acceptable replacement for the ACA.

Many leading health organizations have also made public statements opposing the Graham-Cassidy bill. Some them include:

- American Medical Association
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- AARP
- American Heart Association
- Association of American Medical Colleges
- HIV Medicine Association
- The Alzheimer's Association and Alzheimer's Impact Movement
- American Cancer Society
- American Hospital Association
- American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
- Children's Hospital Association
- Public Health Institute

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

Sincerely,  
Jolie Willis

Austin, Texas

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Natalya Cherry [mailto:cherry@rowletttx.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:12 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Repair, don't repeal ACA! Please reject Graham-Cassidy

My closest friend, a hard-working doctoral student trying to make a difference in the world, relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Leslie is a brilliant, single woman, who takes very good care of her health, but who has an inherited thyroid condition that affects every woman in her family differently. Without lifesaving, regular treatment, she is in danger of blacking out while driving and other life-threatening effects of her chronic disease. She is currently in a position, as a doctoral candidate, between qualifying for the university's student health care coverage, for which she would have to pay full price that she cannot possibly afford, and gaining a job in a few years that will likely offer benefits. The ACA is her lifeline, as its provision for preexisting conditions makes it affordable in ways that Graham-Cassidy most certainly would not.

She didn't ask for and cannot control or change her condition, so a vendetta against ACA/Obama seems a truly wicked reason to put healthcare out of her reach. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

I already pay for health insurance for my family through my husband's employer, yet I don't mind my taxpayer dollars also supporting the healthcare affordability of Leslie and millions of others.

Sincerely,

Rev. Natalya Cherry

Rowlett, TX

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Natalya Cherry  
[Redacted signature block]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** edwardlebrun . [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:26 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

Dear Senators,

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,

Edward LeBrun

Austin, Texas

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Mimi Dionne <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:28 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No to Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. As a diabetic who has also had cancer, I rely on a cocktail of medications and an incredible healthcare team that allows me enough personal self-sufficiency that I can return millions of dollars in savings to my employer every year. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Mary Dionne

Houston TX

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kirsti Krejs <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:50 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I oppose Graham-Cassidy

Good afternoon,

In order to keep my family healthy and safe I need to be able to count on quality, affordable healthcare. I absolutely oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have a pre-existing condition and would be left without affordable coverage if this horrible bill passes. I want to see thoughtful bipartisan legislation to improve the ACA. I do not want to see it repealed!

Many thanks,  
Christiane Krejs  
Austin Texas

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Rhonda Pawlowski [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:46 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the bill. My story with pre-existing conditions is about my two daughters. My oldest daughter has been diagnosed with bipolar, and my youngest daughter has been diagnosed with endometriosis. Unfortunately, both of them greatly depend on receiving quality healthcare in order to live normal lives.

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

Sincerely,  
Rhonda Pawlowski

Corinth, Texas

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Alicia Collins <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:55 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Rd  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Wayne Lewis  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Mia McLeod <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:40 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

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Mia McLeod  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Tracy Doyle [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:33 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 is happening right now! My daughter has just had a large pituitary brain tumor removed this morning, which had debilitating, life-threatening effects on her life. Had she not had the surgery, she would have ended up with a potentially life-threatening disease. We would not have ever been able to afford to have this procedure done were it not for the ACA, which made it possible for my family to be able to get decent affordable health care for the first time ever! I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Bryan and Tracy Doyle  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Tracie Blackwell [REDACTED] m>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:58 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill Hearing, September 25, 2017

*#GrahamCassidy has no support from physician/patient groups.*

It effectively has little in terms of "replacement" for estimated 32 million citizens.

There is no complete CBO score, no Democrat input, hearings. This is a "no health care" bill if it was, much more thought and time would have been put into it and MORE people would get coverage than the current system.

*#Graham Cassidy is vile as written and removes protections for pre-existing conditions, increases cost for the elderly, puts women, children, and veterans at further risk.*

*This is not "health" care it is "wealth" care. It is robbery. It is shameful.*

*Pew Research= Majority support the ACA!*

*Republicans aren't listening to the MAJORITY for the sake of the richest.*

*Most Americans see and know the truth.*

*Republicans, we see what you're doing. We will remember this the next time we vote!*

The Graham-Cassidy bill is cruel and poorly written and lacks good judgment and common sense.

*Stop trying to repeal the ACA for childish political and bigoted reasons and work in a bipartisan manner to fix it.*

*The ACA is not perfect, but it is far superior in practicality and humanity than the Graham-Cassidy bill or any of its predecessors.*

How can any of the GOP call this "healthcare" with a straight face? Calling it such is an affront to the intelligence of ALL of the citizens of this United States.

*It should be called "DEATHCARE" because KILLING people is EXACTLY what this bill will accomplish.*

How will you all live with yourselves when disabled children, the elderly, and people with pre-existing conditions can no longer get, or afford, the healthcare they so desperately need to stay alive?

*Stop the hurtful fighting on Capitol Hill and do the jobs you were elected to do.*

*You have a moral duty to protect the American people, not hurt us.*

Tracie Blackwell  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Jae <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:04 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

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

My family members are not protected by this bill because of pre-existing health conditions. My wealthy state ranks low in quality healthcare and infant mortality. I don't believe that my state will effectively use block grants to remedy these unbelievable conditions.

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

Sincerely,

Justine Cherne

Needville, TX

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Ashley Fant <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:13 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Repealing the ACA

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with Medicaid, pre-existing conditions, and lifetime caps disabilities revolves around my premature twins. I was a healthy 29 year old when I got pregnant with my twins. I had access to an amazing Doctor and had a perfect pregnancy until I didn't. I went in for a regular apt when they discovered I was in full blown labor and my cervix was 100% effaced. After attempting to control for 12 hours I had an emergency c-section and delivered my twins at 27 weeks... we spent the next 3 months in the hospital, my children racked up bills of over \$1M... I only got paid disability for 5 weeks and then had to go back to work while my children fought for their lives... once they came home they were too small and sick to go to daycare so I had to take the rest of my school year off unpaid. My children were 2# at birth and automatically qualified for Medicaid to supplement their insurance. Without that we would have gone bankrupt.... my children are now healthy bouncing toddlers, but without the ACA they would have reached their lifetime cap before they ever felt the sun on their face, and they would be uninsurable with prematurity as a preexisting condition. My story is not unique, prematurity has struck many people close to me in the past few years and the ACA has saved our children. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. For the sake of humanity.

Sincerely, Ashley Fant

Little Elm, TX

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Summer Turner <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:36 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Dr  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Veronica Vaupel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:50 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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.

Veronica Vaupel

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Denise Loya <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:45 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] m  
[REDACTED] ea  
[REDACTED] 000



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Carla Repass <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:19 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

We know Republicans want to keep their donors happy and give them a big tax break. The American people know what you are doing. So your donors are more important than the people who put you in office? Our voice and our vote will speak loud and clear come 2018. Stop this healthcare bill and give the tax breaks if any to the middle class, the ones who work their butts off everyday!!!

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] et  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** misty ferguson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:25 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No ACA repeal!

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. As a woman of child-bearing age, I do not want to pay a surcharge for my gender or have to decide based on legislation the size of my family. That's not freedom. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Misty Ferguson

San Antonio, Texas

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Denise Snyder <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:11 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

Reject this latest version of Trumpcare that will kick 32 million people off of healthcare.

This Graham-Cassidy bill also gives 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. Also, where is the work-up on the costs???

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.

Denise Snyder  
[REDACTED] m  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Louis Cowen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:15 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Louis Cowen

[REDACTED] m  
[REDACTED] 17  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Maria Martin <[REDACTED]@m>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:25 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** KEEP AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE: my atory

This is to let you know that I and my family rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Before the Affordable Health Care Act, because I worked as an independent contractor, I could not afford insurance...When it was passed and I had a mammogram, I was diagnosed with breast cancer and was able to get treatment...

If any of you in Congress have had the experience with lacking health care because of pre-existing conditions, disabilities, affordability, I don't believe you would consider for even a second this terrible legislation which would leave millions without affordable insurance.

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

Sincerely,

Maria Martin

Houston, TX

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Emy Lou Sawyer [REDACTED]@m>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:21 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Opposition to Graham-Cassidy bill

Many in my family and in my state of Texas depend on affordable healthcare; therefore, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Emy Lou Sawyer  
Austin, Texas [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Martha Kubala <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:19 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Martha Kubala  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Sonja Geisselbrecht <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 3:59 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy ACA repeal

My name is Sonja Geisselbrecht, and I a constituent living in 77036 zip code. There many reasons to scrap this bill. As one Republican stated, "I could give you 10 reason not to pass this bill....."

There were 8 years to develop a new well thought out bill, but it was not done. So, for the good of this country, please work across the aisle and develop improvements to the ACA. If this bill is passed, it will mean the end of health care for my husband and I. We are elderly with preexisting conditions. We have always paid for health insurance and paid full taxes (no loopholes, etc.) That's just one reason for dropping this bill. Nearly every life you look at has another reason.

Please don't help with the passage of this bill.



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Tracy Thirion <tracy.thirion@chc.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 3:35 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** opposition to Graham Cassidy Bill

Hi there,

I am writing to adamantly oppose the tenets of the Graham Cassidy bill. This kind of legislation will hurt all of us even more than we are already hurting. You need to stop trying to make the insurance companies more money, and protecting the interests of the rich investors in these corporations who are making year over year profits off of the health of our society.

Why you are not looking to Australia who has a high performing system is beyond me. My husband is Scottish and even their system is 500% better than the US and our uncle who just had brain cancer did not go bankrupt trying to pay for treatment, as one could in the USA. To not allow everyone to have free healthcare is inhumane and an irresponsible use of our taxpayer dollars.

Lobbyists are bribing many of you to vote the way we do, and we are all aware of it. You owe it to the real PEOPLE who are in your districts, not the corporations and lobbyists who line the pockets of the people who support this kind of legislation, to vote against this bill and anything like it.

Sincerely,

Tracy Thirion  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

*I can't imagine a person becoming a success who doesn't give this game of life everything he's got.*  
-Walter Cronkite

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Rita Wittwer [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 3:01 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy bill

My name is Rita Wittwer and I'm a constituent in 53937.

The ACA was not the best healthcare bill because the GOP forced amendments that watered down its potential effectiveness. Improving the ACA would be a noble cause, but the GOP has, over and over again, tried to replace the it with several disastrous options. If Koch brothers money wasn't waving in the wings, the GOP might have actually tried to improve the ACA. As it is, their preoccupation with losing this funding source has led them to forget who they work for.

Our governor, Scott Walker, refused the federal Medicaid expansion money putting children and elderly at risk. In 2020 we will lose \$1.8 billion. He also refused to create a state exchange thereby limiting insurance options which kept insurance costs higher. Putting healthcare in the hands of state politicians is a recipe for disaster, as we've seen in Wisconsin.

My husband and I are served by Medicare, and we live in Richland County, Wisconsin. This is a fairly poor county and, in spite of our Governor, the ACA has provided thousands with healthcare coverage. The Graham/Cassidy bill would take away insurance that these people are depending on to live.

It is also irresponsible to try to pass a bill that affects millions of people's healthcare, whether they live or die, without debate, public input, and a CBO score. The reasons for this bill are obvious and not in the best interests of our citizens.

This bill must be defeated. What we need is a bipartisan effort to improve the ACA. I strongly believe that mandating state exchanges will stabilize the ACA and prevent insurance premium spikes.

Very sincerely,

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

*After Nov 1st:*  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Rachel Gollay [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:30 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO on Graham-Cassidy

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Graham-Cassidy makes access to health care more expensive, complicates matters for those with pre-existing conditions, and is abysmal in regards to health care coverage (or lack thereof) for issues specific to women. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Rachel Gollay

Fort Worth, Texas

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Shirley Hessong <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED].m>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:02 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.

Shirley Hessong  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jill Jordan [REDACTED]@m>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:31 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

All Americans rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. This bill would cause prohibitive costs, causing many, including our most vulnerable citizens, to lose their coverage. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Jill Jordan

Arlington, TX

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** NotLiz Proctor <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:16 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please stop the repeal!

Let me add my name to what I imagine is a monumental list of others who would like to see the healthcare repeal effort stopped.

I live in Texas and currently I am insured by my employer, however, if this newest repeal passes I fear for myself, my family and everyone in my community and beyond as this new plan will no doubt have horrific consequences for everyone. In our family of four, three have pre-existing conditions. Two of us are women, one has yet to have children. Every aspect of this new bill will harm Americans all across this country.

It is shameful that politicians can be so focused on their own personal gains that they would put the welfare of our elderly, the disabled, our women and our children in such peril.

I have never been so disappointed in those who were elected to protect the citizens of this country. What have we allowed this country to become? It is shameful.

Elizabeth Proctor  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Alan Gibbs <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:08 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Alan Gibbs  
[REDACTED] et  
[REDACTED] ak  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Nancy Sprouse <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:08 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Nancy Sprouse  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Joanna <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing comments

- Title Of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
- Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017
- Joanna Slimmer
- [REDACTED] 73080

I was a healthy 34-year-old until my body developed a life-threatening DVT in October 2010 as a side effect of prescribed medication. Thankfully I had health insurance through my employer at the time, which helped cover a trip to the ER and the ultrasound that saved my life.

In 2012 I attempted to purchase health insurance in the open market as a self employed individual prior to the opening of the exchanges and marketplaces. BCBS basically laughed me off the phone (was not even willing to write a policy w/ that pre-existing condition). United HC wanted \$800/month in premiums, which was unaffordable. I was unable to afford health insurance until the ACA Marketplace went into effect.

The ACA now allows me to be able to buy and keep affordable insurance as a small business owner. A small business owner! I am the sort of person the GOP is supposed to be fighting for. Instead, Republicans appear not just willing, but EAGER to sacrifice the health and well-being of poor and middle-class Americans for tax cuts for the wealthy and more milk from the corrupt Koch money teats.

Graham-Cassidy is a DEATH SENTENCE for millions of Americans. What's worse is that you all clearly know it is! It is UNCONSCIONABLE that you would even consider putting this bill up for a vote.

May karma get ya where the Lord split ya.

Joanna Slimmer  
Houston, Texas

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Stephanie Thompson [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy Hearing

Hello,

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

Sincerely,

Stephanie Thompson  
Austin, TX

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Julia Strange <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:38 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

I'm an early childhood special education teacher at a Title 1 school, and my students and their families rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have a student whose Mom is terrified that she will not be able to afford health care for her daughter who has Down syndrome. If this bill passes and the protections for pre-existing conditions are removed, then her many health conditions related to Down syndrome will no longer be covered by her insurance. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Julia Strange

Austin, TX

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Laura McAllister <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:53 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.

Laura McAllister  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Ivan Weissmann [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:54 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.

Ivan Weissmann  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Deanna Koenigsberg <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:17 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare.

Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. The current affordability of insurance through the government allows my children to receive the medication they need for their disabilities. Without this insurance I would have to pay close to \$2000 per month just for medication. I don't have that much discretionary income.

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

Sincerely,

Deanna Koenigsberg  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jennifer Kramer [REDACTED] m>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 3:24 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Registering opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators,

Please look carefully, with data, at the financial devastation potentially wrought by the Graham-Cassidy bill. Please refuse to even consider such hugely-impactful legislation without a CBO score.

Thank you for acting on behalf of our most vulnerable citizens to do what is right,

Jennifer Kramer  
[REDACTED]

## **Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Joanna [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:28 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** To be added to the official hearing record for Monday, 09/25/17

I was a healthy 35-year-old until I developed a life-threatening DVT in October 2010 as a side effect of prescribed medication. In 2012 I attempted to purchase health insurance in the open market as a self-employed individual prior to the opening of the exchanges and marketplaces. BCBS basically laughed me off the phone (was not even willing to write me a policy w/ that pre-existing condition) and United HC wanted \$800/month in premiums, which was unaffordable. The ACA now allows me to be able to maintain affordable insurance as a small business owner. A small business owner! I am the sort of person the GOP is supposed to be fighting for. Instead you are willing to sacrifice American lives for tax cuts for the wealthy and more milk from the Koch teats.

Graham-Cassidy is a DEATH SENTENCE for millions of Americans. What's worse is you all know it! It is UNCONSCIONABLE that you would even consider putting this bill up for a vote. May karma get ya where the Lord split ya.

Joanna Slimmer  
Houston, Texas



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** James Sliger <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:56 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.

James Sliger  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]e  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Cheryl Bagley <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:45 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Cheryl Bagley  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Silvia Stea <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:01 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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Silvia Stea

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Paul Haggard [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:04 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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Paul Haggard  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Charles Johnson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:04 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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Charles Johnson  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Lloyd Adams [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:04 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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Lloyd Adams  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Bonnie Lynn MacKinnon [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:03 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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Bonnie Lynn MacKinnon  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Kay Foster [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:03 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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Kay Foster  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Leslie Sherriff [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 12:01 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** This is not in your best interests

Dear Sirs,

I am an American citizen aged 47. I am also part of the wealthy "1%". You need me to be an active part of your tax base. But, I am not.

I live in The Netherlands with my husband and son. We have considered moving back to the US but something always stops us. Right now it is the latest health care bill designed to repeal the ACA. If it passes, our return will be exceedingly difficult.

How would we get health insurance under your new plan? We work as consultants and can't rely on employer sponsored insurance. While our net worth is high, our disposable income is just above average. The ACA gives us some sense of security that we could come back and not worry about health insurance costing thousands per month.

To give you a sense of what we would be giving up:

- our health insurance premiums for a family of 3 are currently 300 Euros per month.
- we have no copay at all and a 500 Euro deductible.
- I have never paid a cent for my son's health care. He's free until 18. He's 9 and has had ear tubes, multiple stitches, etc.
- I had a hysterectomy 3 years ago and have never seen a bill.
- our dental insurance is several Euros per month extra and we do have a copay: 7 Euros every time I get my teeth cleaned.

Why on earth would we give this up? We pay high taxes, but this WORKS. We prefer to pay those taxes and have health insurance security.

You are losing us, gentlemen. Please reconsider.

Sincerely,  
Leslie Sherriff

Leslie Sherriff  
Meidoorn 24  
6226 WB  
Maastricht  
The Netherlands  
06-8180-0044

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Michelle McHatten [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:26 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** America's health care

I'm writing regarding the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill.

I understand that under this bill many things are not covered and the things that are still covered are done so at an astronomical price. Such as pre-existing conditions, maternity care, veteran care and care for children. So I need to ask: if many of the things that are now covered under the ACA will not be covered under this "repeal/replace bill", please tell me what WILL be covered.

Before anyone even considers voting on taking away healthcare coverage for millions of Americans, please consider the following:

Realize that if this bill passes, it will still be several years before it goes into effect. If you think otherwise, things will get really interesting.

Something nobody has mentioned (except Senator Angus King from Maine and my husband), is how this will effect EVERYONE. I don't mean the people who need healthcare. I'm talking about the healthcare *workers*. I'm talking about the *pharmaceuticals*. i'm talking about small town hospitals. Does anyone know how huge the medical field is? How many hospitals, doctors, nurses, administrative people, pharmacists this bill will affect? Even nursing homes and rehab facilities. Think about it. If nobody can afford to have health insurance, how will any of these medical facilities remain in business?

Here's the great part. You know how Trump keeps pointing the finger at Obama blaming him for this "awful" healthcare that we have? You know, the *Affordable Care Act*? Well, if this new healthcare from Graham and Cassidy gets passed and Trump signs it, guess what? HE CAN NO LONGER BLAME OBAMA FOR SHIT HEALTHCARE! He won't even be able to blame McConnell BECAUSE Trump's name will be on the bill, along with Graham and Cassidy! So, you know what THAT means? WE can point the finger at Trump and *he* will be the only one to blame.

Once Congress gets sick of the mess they created and Trump signed off on, along with all the chaos it has caused, they don't even need Trump to repeal the shit bill and replace it back with--you guessed it--OBAMACARE!

Best of all, if this bill does stick around, Americans get to send all their medical bills to Trump, Graham, Cassidy and any other member of the GOP who voted for this. Because we're not going to be able to pay for our medical bills. Somebody's going to have to so it may as well be the ones who ripped healthcare from us.

Then maybe someone will wake up and realize that you didn't need to repeal and replace ACA. You only need to stop being so jealous that a black man created it, get over it and fix it.

Sincerely,

Michelle McHatton

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Amy Ziegelmeier [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:25 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy

Please note my opposition to this legislation. As a self-employed, small business owner this legislation would be devastating. It is incomprehensible to consider making health care more difficult and more expensive to obtain. Health care is a right and this legislation is a travesty. BOTH sides need to come together and do what is right for the PEOPLE of this nation, NOT the Koch brothers or the big corporations. We need to invest in the health of our nation, not destroy it.

Amy Ziegelmeier  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Joshua Shiffrin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:26 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comment on Graham-Cassidy

To Whom It May Concern:

My 3 year-old daughter suffered two seizures out of the blue this past summer and has now been diagnosed with epilepsy. We have no family history of epilepsy. Such is the nature of illness: it strikes indiscriminately. It is not my daughter's fault that the electrical signals in her developing brain just don't fire correctly, but living with this illness will be her lifelong challenge.

You hold my daughter's future in your hands, along with the lives of millions of Americans. There will be real, concrete consequences from what you decide to do. Graham-Cassidy is an immoral and reprehensible attack on the American people; it is the height of cynical politics. My family will be paying close attention to what all Senators choose to do on this bill. In honor of my daughter, it will be my lifelong project to hold all who choose to vote for this awful bill politically accountable.

Sincerely,

Joshua Shiffrin  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Rogena Thurber [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:25 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare

I am an Air Force veteran and a registered Independent voter, who served this country with honor! I am appalled that you people are so dishonorable! Serving the BEST interest of the citizens is your historic mandate. Don't support this legislation and disregard the needs of "The People!"

Please vote NO!

Rogena Jones-Thurber

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## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Hannah Schrum <[redacted]@[redacted].com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:25 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill

This bill is the worst thing that has ever been proposed be done to the US healthcare system in my lifetime. I work as a provider of healthcare services, make above the median US income, but nowhere near the top 10%, and I still find myself struggling with medical bills occasionally. I haven't had anything major happen, but I have a health condition which I manage with regular healthcare, which I would be unable to treat without health insurance. If my insurance became more expensive, and I couldn't afford to manage my health, the system would not just lose a patient, it would lose another healthcare provider if I were too sick to work.

This bill will force all kinds of choices like this. With less money in the system, states cannot just magically "work smarter," they will have to make tough choices. And those choices are life and death for some, they are jobs for some, they are community services for others. People will get sick and die from lack of affordable care. Hospitals will close from lack of funding. Nurses, CNAs, and other healthcare workers will lose their jobs to budget cuts. Communities will lose primary care services when there are not enough "paying customers" to support the services. Either you don't care that this will happen or you are ignoring the impact. But it will happen. And fast, based on the numbers. Please don't do this. Please vote no.

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Cohen, Mark [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:25 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Universal Healthcare

Does it occur to your caucus that many of the millions of Americans who will invariably lose all or substantial and meaningful elements of their healthcare coverage are voters who many very well see fit to voice their disapproval of your actions when they next cast their ballots?

Mark A. Cohen  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] University  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:25 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Obamacare

Senators...  
The vote is Monday. Phones are busy, voice mail full.  
I am urging you to vote "**NO**" on any repeal bill.

Sincerely,  
Minor Kelley

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Joel Shattles Jr [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:23 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GC Healthcare Bill and its ill effects on children's lives

Children born with disabilities require so much care their entire lives. If insurance companies have no incentive or mandate to accept them then their lives will have no chance to progress or improve. With the elimination of billions of dollars from Medicaid and the loss of incentives for insurance coverage many of these children and their families are condemned to life long struggles, many of which will terminate in early death for the child. Please don't permit this to happen on your watch.

Thank you,

Joel Shattles, grandfather of a child born with a genetic problem, Phelan-McDermid Syndrome.

--

Sent from JRShattles Gmail Mobile

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Frank Dugan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:22 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

I was without health insurance from 1983 till the day the ACA went into effect. If this bill passes I will be without insurance again, and I am just turning 60 and starting to have more medical problems. Fix the ACA. Do not pass this tax break disguising itself as healthcare. If you take away our health care we will be in the streets. Know that.

Frank Dugan  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Michelle Eliason [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:22 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote No on HR 1628

Michelle Eliason  
219 2nd Ave South  
Glasgow, MT 59230

September 21, 2017

Dear Senate Finance Committee - GCH Comments,

The Graham-Cassidy Amendment (H.R. 1628) is a disaster for disabled Americans. It imposes cuts to Medicaid in the form of block grants, which will force States to cut home and community based services which support the lives and liberty of disabled people, as well as the elimination of the Community First Choice program that provides in-home personal assistance services for individuals with disabilities.

Here in Montana we are already facing severely debilitating budget cuts at the state level and we cannot afford to undergo further budget reductions! The American people have already spoken loudly against the cuts that Graham-Cassidy imposes.

Right now in Medicaid, home and community based services are "optional" which means States are not required to provide them. Prescription drugs are "optional." Durable Medical Equipment such as wheelchairs are "optional." As Graham-Cassidy cuts Medicaid funding over time, States will pare down these "optional" services, which are very much necessary for disabled people to enjoy the liberty which the Constitution promises to all Americans and that allow states and the federal government to serve individuals with disabilities in lower-cost care settings in the community rather than in costly nursing homes or other institutional settings.

Republicans did not win office by promising to cut Medicaid and destroy the lives of disabled people. Indeed, President Trump promised the opposite, that Medicare and Medicaid would not be cut under his administration. the Graham-Cassidy bill goes out of its way to cut Medicaid services that disabled people and seniors rely on to live our lives.

Please vote against the Graham-Cassidy bill (H.R. 1628) and any legislation that cuts Medicaid home and community based services, which millions of people with disabilities have no choice but to rely on in order to survive let alone participate in their communities or even be employed, tax paying citizens.

Sincerely,  
Michelle Eliason

## **Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Traci <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:22 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy law

Dear Senator Hatch & other members of Finance Committee,

As a physician practicing in US in private practice for 13 years and now in hospital based practice, I implore you to take your party and politics out of this decision and desist in your attacks on the ACA! This law has stabilized medical costs and care for the last few years and it needs work to strengthen & expand it but not to repeal it. Do not start from scratch and offer the American people a poor substitute that will end up costing them more to finance their health so you can fund tax relief to the wealthy. We clearly see, Republicans and Democrats and Independents, what you are doing and how harmful it is to most Americans who now rely on ACA or regulations to private/group insurance based on ACA.

You will be responsible for American lives disabled, lower productivity and deaths by continuing on this path and we won't forget or let you forget. Just to degrade a law passed by a former Democratic President is not a reason to destroy people's lives and God will witness this action and know it for the crass behavior it is. If you are true believers, then your conscience would not allow you to harm others in the eyes of God.

All the major medical, insurance and health organizations are opposed to this bill. Why? Because it is harmful to our patients! Those of us who actually work in medicine now unlike Sens. Cassidy and Price and Paul know exactly how important the ACA has been for better care and it needs to be expanded and improved in a bipartisan manner moving forward.

Do your duty to represent the American people as you were elected to do and protect all and not just your wealthy donors or those who want a tax break! Stop being so obstructionist and start working with your Democratic colleagues to actually find solutions to this problem and others our country faces right now. Please do your jobs like we doctors, nurses, social workers, medical assts, PAs, & volunteers working in front lines of medical care do every day & trust us to know what is best for patient care.

Stop Graham-Cassidy & support ACA! THANKYOU!

Traci Kurtzer MD  
Evanston IL

Sent from XFINITY Connect Mobile App

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** sabine hoffman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:21 PM  
**To:** gchcomments

please do not endorse changes to current bill- i am opposed to loosing health care for millions of fellow citizens  
kindly,  
sabine

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jay Jaronko <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:21 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

Republican Senators,

Please do the right thing. Your incessant petulance has grown tired.

Please end the cruelty.

Please be statesmen & stateswomen.

Please reject this awful bill and reassess your morals and priorities.

Respectfully yours,

Mr. Jason Jaronko  
CT - Fifth Congressional District

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Lianne Morrison [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:21 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO to Graham-Cassady Bill

This bill is yet another entry into the roll call of heartless Republican efforts to hurt millions of people by taking away their basic right to go see a doctor or to buy medicine affordably if they are ill. In my state, which has worked so hard and collaboratively to create access to affordable health care in the past five years, children, the poor and the elderly, among many others, would lose coverage over the next few years.

I suggest that rather than continuing to waste the time, energy and good will of the citizens of this country, many of whom have been hit hard by natural disasters in the past few weeks, you focus on a bipartisan effort to bring affordable healthcare to our nation.

Sincerely,  
Lianne Morrison



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Suzanne Longo [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:20 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

My son had to have emergency surgery in January. A year ago he found out he lost his lost insurance under his deceased father's union plan. he is 23 and working part-time to put himself through college, I am disabled. If it were not for our state taking Medicaid expansion he would be drowning in debt right now. A social worker signed him up for Medicaid in the emergency room. He is now working at a job where he gets health insurance but is also trying to continue his education at community college. Without these protections, I think he would have given up on school. This bill is terrible for young people, children, the elderly and the working poor. It is cruel. Keep the ACA and work on it. Don't burn down the house.

Thank you.

Suzanne Longo

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Deidre Hayden [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 12:11 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Grassley bill

This bill is unacceptable as a replacement to the ACA. It hurts vulnerable people, especially those with disabilities and special health care needs and pre existing conditions. There has been no estimate by the CBO as to what the impact is...there should be no vote until that information is available and there has been opportunity for bi partisan discussion and input. Stop this travesty now.

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Zachary Lesser <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 12:10 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators,

Please do not support this bill. This bill will strip insurance from about 30 million people. Let that sink in for a minute. It will devastate communities, take us back to the days of medical bankruptcies, being frozen into a job you don't want, being unable to start a new business for fear of getting sick.

No one wants this bill; only 24% of Americans support it. Why would you pass a bill that has near-universal opposition among the American people? Even Republican voters oppose this bill, as does every major insurance industry group, health care group, and medical association.

This bill was hastily written, with no bipartisan input, no hearings, not even a true CBO score available. It is madness to attempt to re-order a huge chunk of American society in this way.

Stop, pause, and think. Put country above party.

Sincerely,  
Zachary Lesser

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jan Kempe <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 12:01 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** testimony on Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

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

From: Janice M. Kempe  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

To: Members, United States Senate Finance Committee

Prior to 2014, I lived without health insurance for more than five years. In February of 2014 I signed up for health insurance through the Illinois health care exchange, mostly because under the Affordable Care Act I was legally required to do so. Because Illinois participates in Medicaid expansion under the ACA, my low income qualified me for Medicaid. In May of 2014 I was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer.

I was accepted into a special Medicaid program for women with Stage Four (metastatic) breast and cervical cancer. With this program supporting me, I am living a full and productive life.

I receive hormone-targeted therapy via an intravenous port in my chest every 21 days. The IV drugs that prolong my life, Herceptin and Perjeta, would not be available to me without this special Medicaid program. I have researched all the health insurance policies available to me on the Illinois health care exchange and there is only one that would provide me with Herceptin; none would include Perjeta in my treatment. This one insurance policy, that would allow me just half the treatment I receive from Medicaid, would cost me more than \$700 per month – a price I am completely unable to pay.

Under the provisions of the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal, Illinois would lose the funds it receives for Medicaid expansion programs, to the tune of \$18 billion between 2020 and 2026. There is no possible way to slash funding by this drastic measure and continue to provide high-quality health care to those who need it.

Perhaps it is too optimistic for me to hope to live another three years, even with the treatment I now receive. Median life expectancy for my disease is five years after diagnosis. I am now entering my fourth year. But Senators, taking away funding for the program that keeps me alive and contributing to my community will undoubtedly speed my death.

I write to you, however, not only for myself. My days are numbered no matter what. In 2016 in the state of Illinois, a full 21% of our population under the age of 65 – that's 2,220,600 people – received their health care through Medicaid. These people, 1,097,800 of whom are children under the age of 18, need your help. And they deserve your help.

My own personal situation – and the impending health care crisis in my state, should Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson pass – is far from unique. Similar repercussions will be felt by people in every state in the country; particularly as this proposal cuts a full \$4.15 TRILLION from Medicaid across the nation in the next two decades.

Senators, there is absolutely no benefit to be gained from Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson. I pray you will recognize this to be true. I thank you sincerely for your consideration.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Janine Pineo [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 12:09 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

My name is Janine Pineo and I have a health insurance policy through the Affordable Care Act via the exchanges in Penobscot County in Maine.

The Graham-Cassidy bill as proposed would price a policy far out of my reach.

I had employer-sponsored insurance for nearly a quarter century until I was laid off. During that time, my insurance policy went from full coverage until it finally eroded into having lifetime caps and huge deductibles. I had to pay a weekly amount that slowly crept upward even as the policy covered less and less.

Afterward, I found a cheap policy that partially covered catastrophic medical costs. I know if I had needed to use it for any crisis, I would have found myself in financial trouble.

I certainly couldn't pay more than \$700 per month in a COBRA fee to keep my insurance from my previous job, not when I was unemployed and trying to find work in my profession. The COBRA fee alone was about half of the monthly unemployment benefits I received.

Finally, I managed to find an excellent policy on the exchange. I have the same policy now, several years later. I pay a substantial amount of the policy myself and only use a partial amount of the credit.

I am terrified I will lose my health insurance.

Why? Because I don't have just me to worry about. I have four people over the age of 70, all with major health problems. Three are on Medicare and one is on Medicaid. Two are completely disabled, and one of them, whom I live with, requires 24 hour care.

24 hour care. Do you understand what that means, to have an adult unable to care for their basic needs? This particular person relies on family to do everything, while the other disabled individual is covered for home services through Medicaid. The problem with that is she is in a rural area where there are not enough health aides who can cover the 3 hours per day of care that will help keep her living at home, where it is less expensive than a nursing home.

That is where it will end for likely all four of my relatives, simply because I cannot work and manage the care of four people as each of them age and their health will never improve; it only has worsened steadily over the past few years.

Did I mention two of them live more than two hours away?

My younger sister who is disabled also relies on Medicaid.

My family is not rich. None of my relatives can afford to move into a nursing home, which would require Medicaid assistance to pay.

I don't want them to have to face that. It is why I have sought services for them that they are eligible for and can accept.

But if I don't have health insurance, which I have had all my life to take care of me so that I can function to work and take care of my family, I may well find myself either facing a future crushed under medical bills or unable to take care of them because I can't afford treatment now available to me through the Affordable Care Act.

Please, do not inflict the harm of Graham-Cassidy on this country.

Please do not inflict this on me and my family.

Janine Pineo  
Hudson, Maine

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Sandy Olson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 12:09 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Do Not Repeal ACA

I urge the Senate to not vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act until a replacement that would not throw tens of millions of Americans off insurance is actually found. The current proposed Trumpcare will abandon the Americans who need healthcare most.

During his campaign the president promised his replacement plan would be better, cheaper, and cover everyone. He was going to negotiate with drug companies too. Trumpcare will accomplish none of those things.

Our family would be very adversely affected by Trumpcare because our son has a pre-existing condition. I honestly do not know how he could pay for his care.

Please put careful consideration into creating a healthcare plan that would help Americans and not hurt them. Why not repair the ACA?

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED] m  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 12:08 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

Senators,

Everyone knows the Graham-Cassidy Bill is an absolutely awful proposal. It is both heartless AND unworkable. Its only chance of passing depends on lies and questionable bargains.

You know it, and the vast majority of Americans know it.

The odd idea that President Trump, Senator McConnell, and some others have -- that the GOP must pass something to replace ACA, no matter how bad it is -- is... peculiar.

People who refuse to think in humanitarian terms should at least consider the consequences of their actions to themselves.

If the Graham-Cassidy Bill passes, the damage to the GOP will be incalculable. Personally, I think it would "put the nails in the coffin" of the Republican Party.

The GOP *\*can\** survive President Trump. It cannot survive the optics of potentially killing 32 million Americans (including children and pregnant women) so that the money saved can then be handed to the wealthy as tax cuts.

Please let the bi-partisan committee which is seeking to repair the ACA do its work.

And, please, find a way to prevent President Trump from sabotaging the ACA any further.

Thank you.

-- Marilyn Timbs



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** erica white <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 12:05 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No on graham Cassidy

Dear representatives of American people, Please understand every day I live in agony without lifesaving medication that is \$699/month without insurance for only ONE of the multiple daily medications I take to make it thru each day. I'm a 34 yr old single mom to 8yr old and right now we have Medicaid thru the state which is saving my life literally. Please pass something that will help our society be a healthy and productive country, not this monstrosity of a 'health care' bill Graham Cassidy is. I love Bernie Sanders idea of a single payer system. Please take care of your people.

Sent from your mom's phone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** micki zurcher <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:57 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

Lipstick on a pig

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Rozella Clyde [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:57 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Cassidy Graham bill

We saw the struggles of people in states that refused the Medicaid expansion offered by the ACA. Block grants to states with far less funding and providing an option for states to opt out of coverage for pre-existing conditions will kill people. Also the amendment/provision that would block states from enacting their own single payer options is mean spirited and in violation of the 10th amendment.

I am covered under Medicare insurance. I pay a monthly \$149.00 premium for it and \$139.00 monthly for my GHI co-insurance. There are still additional expenses for many standard procedure above those charges. People without plans like mine pay much more. My arthritis would be considered a pre-existing condition, that would not be covered under the current proposal. My grandson had asthma. That would be considered pre-existing.

It is time for a universal single payer healthcare plan. We need the ACA in full force until we can phase into that plan. Please do not destroy the lives of so many people who live on extremely limited incomes!

Dr. Rozella G. Clyde, PhD.

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Lou Nunez <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:57 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** HC

Those making HC decisions should have a stake in the outcome. Congress exemption from HC bill should be eliminated.

Thanks and Regards  
Lou

No me.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** JD [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:56 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

I am sending this in hopes that the committee listen to all the medical organizations and all Americans who oppose this bill. The committee should reject this bad piece of legislation as it would force millions of Americans off insurance in return for giving the rich a tax cut. Please represent the well being of all good Americans and say no to this bill!!

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** jeff williams <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:56 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy comments

Do not support Graham-Cassidy Bill. It will drop millions form healthcare, killing tens of thousands, mostly kids.

The bill was crafted in the most partisian way possible, the process moving it forward is a hoax. No true CBO score means the impact is truly unknown. It is a mockery of the Senate's tradition s and processes. One apparently nessisary because the bill is so bad and lacks any public support so that is must be snuck in the backdoor. No complete CBO score means the impact is truly unknown, and no Senator can tell his constituents it was for the best.

Republicians claim they are fulfilling a promise to voters, but in truth are filling one for rich donors. The promise of tax cuts for the rich. They are trying to undo the legacy of a black man man in office, in support of a white supremest base.

Voters overwhelmingly want to keep ACA. If the promise was really to the voters then the GOP promised the wrong thing.

Are those tax cuts worth our kids lives?

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** M Chpmn [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:55 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Statement on GCH

I would like to enter the following statement on the proposed legislation:

Never in my 44 years have I witnessed a piece of legislation be proposed in such bad faith, in such an undemocratic process, and with such contempt for citizens. We cannot let these Banana Republicans destroy this great country just because their feverish base is apocalyptic about a black president's accomplishments. Shame on you, Senator Graham, for being so afraid of the Orange Toddler's Russian propaganda machine.

Thank you,

Mark Chapman  
Boise, Idaho

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Lisa Lombard <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:54 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote AGAINST

Hello,  
As a psychologist, parent, and citizen I urge you to vote against the  
**Graham Cassidy bill.** I do not support the bill because it will be regressive -- allowing pre-existing conditions to  
stand in way of folks getting healthcare

Lisa Lombard, Ph.D.  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist



**mindbody possibilities**

*For information about my private practice, visit [REDACTED]*

email me: [REDACTED]

phone me: [REDACTED]

*now affiliated with*  
**Center for Community Health (Food Allergies and Psychosocial Factors)**  
**Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine**

\*\*\*\*\*  
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and destroy all copies. Thank you.  
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## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Kathy Elliott <k[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:54 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health Care

Please don't do this. Health care for profit is immoral. How is it every first world country in the world can figure out how to provide their people with health care, but we can't? I am a 2%er who is much more interested in health care for all then tax cuts for the wealthy. Please, please don't throw away my children's and grandchildren's futures. Your children and your grandchildren. Life changes in an instant. Please protect all of our futures.

Kathy Kamm Elliott

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Sharon Finnegan <f[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:53 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 Graham-Cassidy would dramatically reduce federal funding and redirect money from states that currently have high Affordable Care Act enrollment (largely through Medicaid expansion) to those with fewer sign-ups. It is being said that only 8 states would see their funding decline between 2020 and 2026, and only by a small amount, and that California's funding would actually increase. This is not true at all. This leaves out current law altogether, acting as though the Affordable Care Act was already repealed.

Sharon Finnegan

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Anne Zolfaghari [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:49 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

Dear Finance Committee,

Members of Congress willing to support the Graham Cassidy Bill, or any bill, that takes away health care and coverage from millions of Americans are wrong. The bill is unethical.

Please examine the CBO score, letters from all State Medicaid leaders and US citizens. Keep the ACA until we have implemented Universal US Healthcare.

Thank you,

Anne

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Gail Salantai <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:52 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** gail  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

Please vote no on this disastrous bill. I have numerous relatives on Medicaid for a variety of reasons. Others on the subsidized exchange plans. These have made it possible to obtain medications, mental health treatment and diagnosis of complex auto immune conditions. People making \$8 an hour cannot afford health insurance premiums. People living on \$18,000 cannot pay \$10,000 for insurance. They will simply be unable to obtain insurance and therefore not seek medical care. Not take medications for bipolar disorder. Live in constant pain that makes it impossible to function. Not seek diagnosis for lumps or moles and die of cancer discovered too late. Please decide that this is not acceptable to you. There is no reason to repeal ACA other than hatred for President Obama. Fix it. Work on the Alexander-Murray bipartisan bill. Get 60 votes. Follow Regular Order! Do what is best for the country-not what Koch Brothers want.

Gail Salantai  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Elizabeth Spitzer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:51 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Save Healthcare

We need Medicare for all, not this cruel bill Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Amy Tipton <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:51 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

I ask that you vote no on Graham-Cassidy. I realize The Affordable Care Act needs Repairs but the people didn't vote to destroy healthcare for millions.

I ask that any bill have a CBO score and a debate with reasonable timelines for both sides. Any bill considered must have 100% protection for pre-existing conditions and essential health requirements. Medicaid dollars for seniors must be protected and not reduced. Too many frail, elders at risk with this plan.

Please run our country with a wise compassion. We are entrusting our health to you. That must not be taken lightly.

Thank you for your consideration

Amy Tipton  
West Virginian.  
304-634-6435  
Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Connie Hall <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:51 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health Insurance

My husband and I have two sons. One is 30 years old, diagnosed with high-functioning autism and depression and the other son is 13 years old and diagnosed with autism, mood disorder, and ADHD. Our oldest son has been depending on his Medicaid based upon his diagnosis since he was 19 years old. Our youngest son is currently on our health insurance through the marketplace. My husband lost his tech job this past spring when the paper he worked for downsized his department and has been looking for a job for almost 6 months. I drive for Uber and have a couple of online shops to just survive each month. My husband is 55 years old, has had 2 heart attacks, has battled lymphoma and been in remission for 6 years and has an aneurysm in his brain stem that he has to have scanned every two years. He requires multiple prescriptions daily so that he will not have another heart attack and die. The Affordable Care Act(Obamacare) saved his life.

This new healthcare that Lindsay Graham and Cassidy are proposing would affect my whole family. Pre-existing conditions, losing our subsidy at the Marketplace would take away any chance of us having insurance. This could be a death warrant for my husband and deny both our sons the services they require.

Please submit my family's story at the Hearing on Monday.

Thank you!

-Connie Hall

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Chris Peteete [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:51 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO!!! on Graham-Cassidy!!!

Stop killing Americans for a tax cut and Koch money!!!



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Brendan Reeves [redacted] >  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:51 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GrahamCassidy

Stop trying to repeal the ACA. Just simply stop. When you are ready to implement a single payer system a Medicare for all then you can replace the existing plans. Healthcare is a right and not a privilege. Work for the people of the United States and not a small percentage of the people.

Sincerely

Brendan Reeves

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Michael Gallant <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:51 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No to Graham Cassidy

Take the time and engage in honest process to improve ACA.

Michael Gallant

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Siobhan Burke <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:51 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Stop it

This is class and partisan warfare. It won't stand. It seems clear you don't care about the 2018 election because your colleagues in the House and Senators up for reelection will lose. See polls. Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** rose.hluska@gmail.com on behalf of Rose Hluska [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:50 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Stop Graham-Cassidy

This bill is a nightmare. It is worse than the previous two bills.

I live in a state that will take care of its citizens. We had Romneycare before Obamacare became the nation's law. And as we all know, Romneycare and Obamacare were both based on conservative think-tank Heritage Foundation's roadmap.

Stop screwing around. Stop trying to kill Obamacare just because Obama's name is on it. It wasn't 'Obamacare' until RWNJs named it that. Obama called it ACA till he had to claim it. And he did. So did countless Democratic congresspeople who gave up their seats in the Tea Party wave.

We're the ONLY developed country that would even consider doing this to our most vulnerable citizens.

Please stop this.

Thank you.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Molly Yurchak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:40 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Pre-existing conditions

I'm a 43-year old mother of two. In 2015, I had open heart surgery to fix a congenitally defected mitral valve that had deteriorated to the point of necessary intervention. Because I am insured through my husband's union (SAG-AFTRA), I paid my plan's maximum annual out-of-pocket rate - \$6,000. I am now in great health, I have returned to work full time (I am a high school teacher), and I am able to raise my kids.

The EOBs sent for my surgery and related costs (tests, hospital stay, after care, etc.) revealed that without insurance I would have paid over one million dollars for my operation.

Without the operation my heart would have failed and I'd be dead.

My husband and I make about \$110,000 a year, combined. After taxes and the expenses of raising two boys in Los Angeles, we live paycheck to paycheck.

Without health insurance, we'd have lost our house and be in crushing debt for the rest of our lives.

I was denied health insurance at age 22 for this pre-existing condition--the very same prolapsed mitral valve unneeded fixed at 43. I was only covered at age 24 when I got married and was taken onto my husband's plan. Without the ACA and my husband, I'd have been left for dead.

The Graham-Cassidy Bill is immoral, craven, and heartless. What a sick vision for America.

Molly Yurchak  
Pasadena, CA

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Anne OCallaghan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:40 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 for a variety of reasons. There's no CBO score for the bill to tell us what the impact of the bill would be but the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities says the block grants being proposed would provide \$239 billion less through 2026 than the spending forecast for Medicaid expansion and marketplace subsidies. It would cut the growth in the basic Medicaid program about \$175 billion over the same period. States are encouraged to seek waivers that would allow insurers to charge more money to those with pre-existing medical conditions which very likely would result in people with pre existing conditions not being able to afford the premiums.

The bill would get rid of Medicaid expansion money by 2026 and convert all Medicaid spending to a per capita cap, which means that federal money per person will be lower than it is now which will result in many fewer people getting coverage. Listen to Senator John McCain and submit the bill to regular order instead of trying to ram it through.

Anne OCallaghan  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Ceci Maher [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:38 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Protect Medicare,  
Protect 'pre-existing care'.  
Protect care for pregnancies.  
Maintain the ACA.

Vote against Graham Cassidy

Ceci Maher  
Wilton, CT

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Kaitlin O'Shea [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:38 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy Bill

Hello,

I vehemently oppose the Graham/ Cassidy bill. This bill is bad for children, women, people with pre existing conditions, anyone who gets insurance through the ACA market place and anyone who received better health care through their employer because of the essential health benefits. Everyone is healthy till they're not-we will all rely on health care at some point. We pay millions into war-why is it so hard to have good, quality health care? Do insurance company CEOs, pharmaceutical company and lobbyists that court your votes really need to make millions while average Americans go medically bankrupt or go without treatment for illnesses that are curable. What will MoC health plan be because if you threaten my health care the only other care I want is the same that congress will be getting.

Kaitlin O'Shea  
Constituent of NY-01  
Not registered to any party  
31 years old

Sent from my iPhone



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Leandra Clark <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:37 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 you are rushing this through without allowing input from your constituents or anyone who wants to have questions about it answered . We are all very tired of being shut out whenever you are passing something that is controversial . If you are convinced that you are doing the right thing you should have the courage and information to be able to defend your vote . Vote no - you know that it's a bad bill . Show a little courage and do the right thing .

Leandra Clark  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Maura <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:37 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** New trumpcare bill

As a citizen and a voter I am ashamed. The GOP obviously has no regard for the people they represent or what they need. This bill is an abomination and it makes me and every other informed American ashamed and angry. We will not allow this to happen. We did not elect representatives to hijack our country to pad the pockets of big business.

Shame on you!

Shame on you!

Shame on you!!

Sent from my iPhone

Perhaps in the long run that would be best, but I prefer to avoid the widespread human misery that would entail. So I am asking you to think, if not of your constituents' lives, then at least of your own careers, and do the right thing, the sensible thing, and reject this odious, cynical plan.

We will be watching.

Thank you,  
Bruce R. McKillip

Bruce R. McKillip

On Thu, Sep 21, 2017 at 10:53 PM, Bruce McKillip [REDACTED] wrote:  
Hello –

I am a born US citizen currently residing in Easton PA, married and father of two. College graduate, white collar technician in a media industry. First voted in 1976 and have not missed a national or state election since.

In 2013, as a result of the Great Recession, I lost my job of 14 years. My family could no longer keep up mortgage payments and we were forced to ride out the foreclosure process in our home as long as we could. After about four months my severance salary and benefits ran out, and we lived as well as we could on my unemployment benefits and what my wife and I could earn from odd jobs while my full-time job search continued. We could not in our wildest dreams have afforded COBRA.

Shortly after my 9-year-old daughter started fourth grade the following year, a long-chronic psychiatric condition took a sudden and dramatic turn for the worse, and she suffered a psychotic episode while at school. She was immediately sent to an emergency room with orders that we place her in psychiatric care until she was declared stable by a doctor, only at which time would she be allowed to return to school.

Fortunately the ACA had gone into effect shortly after my coverage had run out and I had registered during the first week; we lived in New Jersey at the time and so because of our low income we qualified for the extended Medicaid program. In addition to fully covering our regular medical costs — with access to a fine selection of providers, and no co-pays or deductibles (which we could not have managed to pay) — my daughter received the care she needed at some very fine institutions, and within a few months, with regular medication and at-home counseling (also covered by Medicaid) she was stable, happy, and able to return to school.

Since then I have finally found a full-time job (paying much less than my previous one, naturally), and have employee health insurance for my family — of course it requires us to pay thousands per year out of pocket, which Medicaid did not — but it covers pre-existing conditions, so my daughter will be all right. (Until, God forbid, I get laid off again. Can you promise an economy where that won't happen?) My family and I will always be grateful for President Obama and the Affordable Care Act — I can't bear to imagine what would have become of Katie without it.

I don't think we are an unusual family. We live in a time where this can happen to anyone. And that is why America needs the coverage provided under the Affordable Care Act. It's not perfect — it was a compromise to begin with — and certainly now that it's been working quite well for millions of Americans for several years, legislators who have the well-being of their constituents at heart might find ways to improve it.

But to simply, rashly undo the ACA at a stroke, in a headlong rush under cover of darkness and with no serious plans for a workable replacement, out of a perceived political need to fulfill an expedient promise to an extreme fringe of low-information voters who will not be satisfied until all traces of the Obama administration are erased — at whatever cost to American families, American lives? This would be heartless, a crime against humanity.

Some Republicans argue that expunging the ACA will remove a "bridge" to the one thing they fear most — more than economic collapse, catastrophic climate change, or global war — a single-payer healthcare system, like every other industrialized democratic nation on earth has had for years. But if Graham-Cassidy were to become law, I'll tell you what will happen: The Democratic Party will seize on the issue and adopt single-payer as their keynote campaign issue. The millions of American voters who have lost access to healthcare — those who have not by then died of treatable conditions — will fall in behind them. And by 2020 the GOP will be a fringe party, while their worst nightmare becomes a reality.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Erica Hellerstein [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:37 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 a future Occupational Therapist this would greatly affect my patients. The changes in this bill would restrict access to services for older adults, the disabled, and young children. Therapy services can be life changing to these populations and mean the difference between a meaningful and fulfilling life.

As a voting constituent I ask you to consider working to improve regulations under the Affordable Care Act instead of spending time on trying to repeal and replace it. As both a healthcare consumer and provider I look to my elected officials to listen to those closest to the problems and help us help our patients.

Thank you,  
Erica Hellerstein

Erica Hellerstein  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Christina cowell <cowellchristina@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:37 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I am against GrahamCassidy

This bill endangers the health, safety and well-being of our people. Please listen to the vast majority of Americans who oppose this bill.

Thank you,

Christina Cowell

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:36 PM  
**To:** gchcomments

This current attempt at a Health 'care' bill has got to be voted down. There are too many of us who will suffer without services. Everyone has preexisting conditions, everyone knows many people with stories of how they need medical services to be affordable, to sustain their lives. Please, stay strong and know that there are thousands and maybe millions of unspoken voices who would say 'Please don't do this to us'

This country is too good to ignore people who need medical attention.

Thanks,

Ellen Piontek  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Cielito Lindo [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:36 PM  
**To:** gchcomments

Please save our LIVES!

We need OBAMA CARE for all our Families. Our Lives have meaning & are worth saving. We have a right to Quality Health Care just like those senators who are against us. Money is nothing compared to LIFE. Our Lives are VALUABLE! Please see us as HUMAN BEINGS!



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Carol Akerly <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:36 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare bill

U can't let this happen. We are all screwed.  
Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Lindsay Eanet <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:34 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Scheduling (Duckworth)  
**Subject:** NO to Graham-Cassidy

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my vehement opposition to the so-called Graham-Cassidy amendment. I was pleased to hear news over the past month that members of the Congressional "Problem Solvers" Caucus were getting together to discuss and draft a plan like proper statesmen to repair the Affordable Care Act and come up with solutions that stabilize the market without compromising accessibility, and am extremely disappointed that Senate Republicans are willing to throw away that measured, bipartisan, solution-oriented progress on a hubristic, destructive crusade.

Estimates indicate that my home state of Illinois stands to lose billions of dollars in healthcare funding, which will translate to devastation for our state's already shambolic economy and harm hundreds of thousands of our most vulnerable neighbors. Furthermore, I fear for my friends, family members and loved ones who live with pre-existing conditions such as cancer, Type I diabetes & childhood congenital heart defects, whose access to affordable healthcare may be put at risk under this new system.

Please do the right thing and advocate for true solutions to better our healthcare system, not more partisan destruction for destruction's sake. Millions of lives are at stake. Thank you.

Regards,  
Lindsay Eanet  
Chicago, IL 60641

--  
Lindsay Eanet

**Executive Director, Northcenter Chamber of Commerce**  
847.899.7460 (c) // 773.525.3609  
[lindsay@northcenterchamber.com](mailto:lindsay@northcenterchamber.com)  
[www.northcenterchamber.com](http://www.northcenterchamber.com)

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Kendra Gerhard <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:35 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare

I am writing to tell my story why America must not pass this proposed healthcare bill. My daughter was diagnosed with a brain tumor. During surgery she had a stroke. She fought to survive, fought to relearn to walk, relearn to do everything. She did not triumph over all of this to be discriminated for a pre-existing condition for the rest of her life. Stop this bill.

Kendra Gerhard

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Amy Sussman [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:35 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Medicaid

I am the parent of a 30 year old man with autism. Because of Medicaid, my son has the necessary coverage for his medical needs and day programming. People like my son Matthew depend on Medicaid. He has epilepsy, irritable bowel syndrome and other medical needs in addition to those behavioral needs associated with autism. Any bill that suggests cutting Medicaid is inhumane and unacceptable. Our children need insurance coverage, and so do other at- risk populations.  
This bill is disappointing and frankly, a disgrace.

Amy Sussman

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Cathy Miller <[REDACTED]@m>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:35 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy debacle

I am not only the parent of a child with special needs (Neurofibromatosis), but I also teach Early Childhood Special Education in Minnesota. Our family, like many I serve as a teacher, would have been financially devastated by the cost of my child's health care if not for the ACA. I worried for years about what we would do about my son's pre-existing condition and the ACA has brought peace of mind to all of us. My son has been able to focus on college, his job, and his life without the burden of crippling medical costs. We do not have to choose between medical care and a mortgage or medical care and groceries. I do not want to go back to a time when any of us are penalized financially due to a medical condition that they have through no fault of their own.

Many of students, due to the severity of their disability, would hit their lifetime cap on insurance before they reach first grade if not for the ACA. No family should go bankrupt trying to provide medical care for their family member.

Graham-Cassidy is a hail Mary pass to try to keep a campaign promise during the final days they can pass a bill with 51 votes. There is no CBO score. There will be no debate. We can not know for certain the long or short term medical and financial implications of this horrible bill but we do know that pre-existing conditions may not be covered and if they are, insurance companies can charge people with them much higher rates.

Let us not go back to the dark ages. Protect our health care. Fix the problems with the ACA in a bipartisan manner and do your jobs ethically and responsibly.

Cathy Venette

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** H. Boumet <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:34 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy - do not pass

The Graham/Cassidy bill for changes to the ACA is NOT a good bill. I also ask Congress not to hold a vote on this bill that will affect 1/6 of the American economy without a CBO score.

I am very concerned about the language that allows states to loosen protections for pre-existing conditions. This will have a very negative affect on me and everyone in my family. I am also distressed that monies to Medicaid will be reduced drastically. I am a senior. I vote. I notice these things.

This bill does not bring healthcare to more Americans. Instead, upwards of 30 million could lose their existing coverage. People will die.

The bill is heartless, mean, and when one considers that this is being done in to pay for tax cuts, inhuman and unconscionable. Do not pass the Graham/Cassidy bill.

Please have a conscience,  
A. Hameon  
New York, NY 10002

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Kim [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:34 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Trumpcare

Please do not take health care away from millions of people just because you want to repeal the ACA. Every Medicaid Director in every state is against the Graham Cassidy bill. This bill has not been scored by the CBO. How can you vote on a bill without knowing the costs and the effects of such a bill.

This bill was created behind closed doors and not with regular order. The GOP had eight years to work on a health care plan and didn't do it. Now they are rushing this through without caring how it will affect people with pre-existing conditions.

Would you choose this health care plan? I truly doubt it. Fix the ACA through bipartisanship. That is what most Americans want.

Are you afraid of Trump? I think so. Have a spine and do what is right, not what is cruel.

Kim Onstott

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Deborah Knox [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:33 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Against Graham-Cassidy Bill

To Whom It May Concern:

I understand you are taking public comment on this bill from the public via this email address. As with the other attempts to repeal the ACA, I am very much against this bill, which will effectively take insurance away from tens of millions of people who sorely need it and will take lives as well. As a self-employed person with pre-existing conditions, it is highly likely I would lose insurance, as would many of the members of my family. It's also outrageous this is being pushed forward without a CBO score. I am seeing that the Republicans are hell bent on repealing Obamacare for the sake of vs. helping improve Obamacare or coming up with anything that actually improves health outcomes. Please stop with this repeal business and get to work improving Obamacare or even moving toward single payer. There is no reason we cannot have healthcare as a right for everyone as a number of other countries do.

Deborah Knox

--

Deborah Knox  
Cultivating Conscious Leaders  
[REDACTED]@gmail.com  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] 587-5598



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:33 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I am against the repeal of Obamacare

Repealing Obamacare will not fix what is wrong with healthcare and the health care system. Making healthcare a NON PARTISAN issue will, as **human beings** can come together and **make rational decisions** about how to provide health care to all, especially the most vulnerable among us. No one should die due to lack of health care coverage.

Matthew 25:44-45

Galatians 6:2

The Shields Family

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Kilkelly, Marge (King)  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:33 PM  
**To:** Lisa Wesel  
**Cc:** gchcomments; Smith, Edie (King); Kezer, Gail (King); Simson, Kate (Collins)  
**Subject:** Re: Statement for the Record for the Graham-Cassidy hearing Sept. 25, 2017

Thank you Lisa! Well said..MLK

Marge Kilkelly  
Senior Policy Advisor

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

> On Sep 21, 2017, at 11:12 PM, Lisa Wesel <lwesel@signallightbooks.com> wrote:

>

> To the Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

>

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

>

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

>

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

>

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

>

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

>

> Why would you do that?

>

> Sincerely,

>

> Lisa Wesel

[REDACTED] ne

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of Lynette Jandl [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:31 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I am against the Graham Cassidy bill

I am against the *Graham Cassidy* bill

--  
Lynette

Lynette Jandl  
[REDACTED]

Home [REDACTED]

Mobile [608-335-9493](tel:608-335-9493)

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## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Donna Rueth <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:32 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy healthcare bill

This is an appalling bill that will strip health care coverage from thousands of Americans and is only been proposed because of the determination to destroy the ACA, also known as Obamacare. This fact was readily admitted by at least one GOP Senator and has been hinted at by many others. This relentless attack on healthcare is simply disgusting, revenge seeking, and should not be allowed to proceed. Very few citizens approve of this bill, and yet the GOP wants to force it through without any input from Democrats, who represent a sizable portion of the US citizens whom this will affect.

Regards,

Donna Rueth

Concerned parent and person who wishes to live without fear of bankruptcy due to the poor fortune of falling ill.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Cindy Juhas <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:32 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GOP healthcare bill

I work in the healthcare industry and keep abreast of what the industry thinks. It is a fairly conservative industry but almost every association involved in healthcare has come out against this new iteration of Trumpcare. Please go back to what the Senate is known for; debate, public hearings, getting input from the industry involved, bipartisan discussions. This has been a despicable process from day 1. GOP leaders are selling out.

Thanks,



Sent from my iPad

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** David Lertzman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:31 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** A Concerned American

Senate Finance Committee on the GCHC Bill,

Two hundred and forty one years ago, a small but powerful burgeoning country declared its independence from the most powerful empire of the time with these words, "We the people..." It was to be a government by the people, for the people. When the order laid out by the constitution of this nation is followed, it is a government as intended, by the people and for the people. But in the intervening years, large amounts of money from ever larger corporations has entered the political arena until seven years ago, corporations were given the same rights with limited regulation that the US citizen enjoys. And we now have a millionaire president who has surrounded himself with billionaire advisors. Whatever nefarious activities may have won this man the presidency, addressing this is not the object of this email. This email is my humble action to alert my government that this upcoming decision facing the legislature to implement a law to destroy this federal government's ability to assist the elderly, the sick, the disabled, and the poor to receive basic health care is unconstitutional. From the beginning of this legislature's attempt to repeal the ACA, regular order has not been followed: 1) regular order includes time for representatives and constituents to read legislation; 2) regular order includes hearings where specialists have time to comment and advise the legislative body on the impact of their proposed legislation; 3) regular order in the Senate includes a vote margin of ten points, which ensures the Senate is indeed actively deciding that this legislation is the best for this country.

All we have heard from the Senate regarding this bill is from politicians who seem to have more concern for their large donors than their constituents.

Please do not pass this bill which reorganizes one sixth of the US economy and takes the management of Medicaid funds away from the federal government, which is allowed to run deficits, and puts it in the hands of the states, which are not. Before the ACA, eighty percent of bankruptcy cases were due to medical expenses. Please do not condemn Americans or our government to this fate again.

You, our government, holds this country's fate in your hands. I implore you: please do not pass this bill.

In gratitude,  
Sarah Lertzman

Apologies for typos,  
Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Karin Noland [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:31 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

Sirs,

It is frightening to think that the Senate will consider voting on the Graham Cassidy bill with no CBO score and with essentially no debate. This violates not just regular order but all standards of decent behavior.

Five different studies, including Kaiser, have shown that this bill will throw insurance markets into turmoil, and will raise the cost of insurance so dramatically that over 30 million Americans will lose coverage. Every major medical group, Medicare officials from all fifty states and insurance company executives oppose this bill. The bill will have dire impacts on our economy and on human lives - to even consider passing it without a full consideration of these impacts is outrageous.

Let's be real, the reason this bill scares me is that I'm 62 years old and fighting Stage IV cancer. I've looked at the numbers and there's no way I will be able to afford medical insurance if this bill passes. A vote for this bill is a death sentence for millions of Americans like me. Talk about a death panel!

The greatest irony is that in order to buy Senator Murkowski's vote, the leadership is offering to let Alaska keep the benefits of the Affordable Care Act - the very act that you're claiming is so terrible that it must be repealed no matter what the human cost.

If compassion and human feelings do not compel you to reject this bill, please consider that no matter the gerrymandering or the number of votes suppressed, passing this bill will be political suicide for the Republican party.

Karin Noland



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Richard Franciscone <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:30 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

Please do not pass this disastrous bill and please get to work on a bipartisan fix for the ACA

Respectfully yours  
Richard Franciscone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Trudy Gonzales [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:30 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No on Graham-Cassidy

Trudy Gonzales  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Here are my comments.

In response to Republican talking points regarding repeal and replace of ACA I have the following points and counterpoints to make.

As a justification as to why Graham-Cassidy is a viable option to replace ACA. The Republicans speak of lower premiums, increased choices, states having control of Medicaid funds vs federal control, and improved care as to why Graham-Cassidy is a better plan.

These justifications have several flaws.

Regarding premiums. To buffer insurers from high losses in the initial years, keep premiums affordable, encourage insurers to participate in the exchanges, and minimize year-to-year premium fluctuations, the ACA authorized three premium stabilization programs: risk adjustment, reinsurance, and risk corridors. Our idea is to fix these to meet our needs to be effective now. The employer mandate is so the cost of healthcare for large employers does not fall on the taxpayers. The individual mandate helps stabilize the market. The subsidies currently in the ACA provide help to pay for healthcare. The Republicans have refused to make any improvements on the ACA since it became law. Any uncertainty in the insurance markets can be laid at the Republicans feet. The ACA is the law of the land, Republicans are now responsible for it.

Regarding increased choice. Freedom of choice comes at a price. If you are on a fixed income choice is limited. If you work 3 jobs and can't afford insurance that is not freedom, its poverty. Until wages are addressed, whereas people earn a living wage, do not even think gutting Medicaid helps anyone. The proposed cuts take Medicaid back to pre ACA days. Medicaid is used primarily for kids, elderly, veterans, and the disabled. Women are given substandard, more expensive, or No choice under Graham-Cassidy at all.

Regarding improved care. Statistics are out, care has improved under ACA. Essential benefits ensure a standard of care Americans deserve. The pre existing clause in ACA is good. No need to fix it. Bankruptcies are down 50% since ACA removed lifetime CAPS and put in yearly out of pocket spending limits. Not one major health organization has supported Graham-Cassidy. Rural hospitals, in our district like John C. Fremont Healthcare, will be devastated and may have to close. Your bill does not address rural health adequately.

Regarding states controlling Medicaid funds. The fact that 19 states have not expanded Medicaid is reason enough for worry that without a federal standard, it is highly likely states will not rise sufficiently to this new challenge of managing Medicaid in the Graham-Cassidy bill. Taking money from 32 Medicaid expansion states, who made it better for their citizens to obtain affordable care and give that money to the 19 states that didn't is arbitrary and punitive.

All this to give huge tax cuts to the rich, allow insurance companies even more profit, and to say we repealed Obamacare is not justified

Thank you

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** gotteramy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:29 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Re: Hearing to consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal Sept 25 2017

To whom it may concern,

My son Spencer has Autism, Asthma, severe allergies, Eosinophilic Esophagitis, Anxiety, Depression, and chronic stomach migraines.

Currently (for 14 year old Spencer) his Children's Long Term Support Medicaid waiver funds services for him that we could not otherwise afford. Equine therapy offers a way for him to practice daily living skills (being on time, dressing appropriately for the 'job', following instructions from an adult, working as a team, learning the chores that go along with caring for horses). Later this fall Spencer will also start respite care at a center-based Autism treatment center in our town. This will allow us (his parents) to have a break from being his caregivers while he goes on fun and educational day trips. These trips are chaperoned by trained adults and also allow Spencer to practice his social skills with peers and in the community. Also, we have primary health insurance but this waiver covers the co-pays for his medications and doctor visits.

In the past this waiver provided services that changed Spencer's life for the better. Starting at age 6 through age 11 we had autism line therapists in our home 20 hours per week. They worked on varying skills with Spencer such as toilet training, how to appropriately interact with his siblings, how to follow simple two-step instructions, dressing himself, bathing himself, desensitizing his sensory issues, safety awareness, redirecting inappropriate or unwanted behaviors (some of which were self-injurious), schoolwork, and how to be part of a family.

In 2026 my son Spencer will be 23. He will be an adult who very likely will depend on home & community based services to live a fulfilling life.

What would you want for your child, family member, or friend? This is my family's future but it is also YOUR future. If this health care bill is passed home & community based services could go away. We (his parents) can't be Spencer's caregivers forever. So then our choices for him will be what? Nursing homes or institutions?

I ask you to please consider this:

We are all just one life event away from needing medicaid. The birth of a child with a disability, a car accident that leaves you or a family member disabled, or maybe a sudden unexpected illness.

Many people have said things to me like 'It's not my kid/family member. Why is it my problem?' To that I say-- Remember, we are all just one life event away from needing assistance. ONE.

Thank you for your time,

Amy Gotter  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:28 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect affordable health care for all Americans!

I am 56 year old disabled senior. I only have insurance for any bill over \$1239 each month (catastrophic coverage through Medicaid). I will have no care at all if Medicaid is cut! My son just turned 21. He has had health issues since before he was born, but he fought his way here. (Would you have preferred that I had an abortion?) His entire life has been a series of doctor visits, but we were lucky: he was covered by Medicaid's Childrens Medical Services. He just got Medicaid and, because of his disabilities, Medicaid backup. His Social Security is only \$719 per month and he is not given Food Stamps. If he loses that Medicaid, we will have to pay his deductible and 20% of each doctor visit. He already cannot afford to live on his own, even if he was able to care for himself. Due to his autism, scoliosis, and serious allergic reactions, he could become hospitalised if he was forced to choose between eating and paying to see doctors to remain functional. Besides that terrible choice, what happens to my son when I get sick and eventually am gone? With Medicaid funding, he could get home health aids. Without it, he will probably be one of many homeless due to healthcare bills. The myth of the "welfare queen" must be exposed! The truth is disabled individuals can live fulfilling lives and contribute to their community, given the proper funding. Florida needs MORE funding for healthcare, NOT less! #KILLTHEBILL #saynototrumpcare #IMMORALBILL #WHATWOULDJESUSDO?

Laura Mendez, American citizen, [REDACTED]

*Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE device*

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Maya Diakoff <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:27 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** this Graham Cassidy bill is horrendous

Do not put the lives of all Americans at risk because of your need to get campaign contributions from the Koch brothers. We see right though you. This bill will KILL many, many people. And make many, many peoples lives much worse and less stable. Think about others for once.

--  
Maya

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Louis Vilaro <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:27 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill

This bill is a disaster for the American people. Trying to rush it through before 9/30 and without CBO scoring just to get a "win" for the President and the GOP is a craven and abusive act.

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** T Duryea [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:01 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

The Graham cassidy bill is a cruel and heartless bill that will kill Americans.



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Nina Shiffrin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:00 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please oppose Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

This bill will limit the number of people who have care, increase the costs of such care, and reduce the benefits of our insurance. By removing essential health benefits, health care providers will be able to sell limited plans that do not cover important services such as mental healthcare, maternity coverage, or prescriptions. It is not freedom to be able to buy a plan that doesn't cover basic healthcare needs. By allowing insurers to sell a la carte plans, people will pay nearly the full the cost of their care for those with expensive conditions (e.g. only someone who knows they need dialysis will choose a plan that covers an expensive treatment like that, only people who need inpatient mental health care would pay for such a plan). Insurance-- health, home, automobile, etc-- is designed specifically to pool risk.

By removing the subsidies and individual mandate, the risk pool for people like me who purchase our healthcare on the individual market will shrink, leaving only the sickest behind and driving up costs. I currently work for a small business that does not have an employer sponsored plan. I have a preexisting condition that doesn't even have costly medical care but would lead actuaries to price me out of most healthcare plans. Without guaranteed issue, I would likely not be able to keep my amazing job and frankly am not sure what other sort of job I would be eligible for that does provide employer based healthcare.

My niece and nephew were born at 24 weeks and spent many months in the NICU. If the Graham-Cassidy Bill passes and lifetime limits are therefore renewed, these sweet and now fully healthy 4 year old children would be ineligible for any future healthcare services. My 3 year old niece has epilepsy and also would be likely denied healthcare, or only be allowed at prices that would not be affordable for any reasonable family. Health status is not a choice. Please do not punish these sweet children.

As a clinical psychologist I'm horrified by the idea of returning to a time that mental healthcare is not required benefit. There is a huge need for increased mental healthcare in this country and suicide is one of the leading causes of death in the United States.

For years there have been complaints about the partisan process that led to the ACA. This process is much quicker, without necessary data, analysis, and hearings, and has explicitly blocked any bipartisan efforts for input.

Contrary to the hysteria about death spirals, my premium increased a total of \$2 per month between 2016 and 2017. My Gold PPO plan has allowed me to affordably see the same excellent doctors as family and friends that get their insurance through their employers. I don't receive any subsidies myself, but the subsidies for those with lower incomes ensure that enough other people are enrolled in the same risk pool to keep rates affordable.

Senator McConnell has rightly noted that for many people, the ACAs plans are not affordable enough and still many people lack insurance. I strongly encourage you to resume the bipartisan hearings to develop ways to stabilize the ACA market for such individuals and make plans more affordable and more accessible.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:00 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Don't repeal the ACA

Hi,

From the looks of the response from governors and groups representing doctors and seniors, etc. this ACA repeal seems really despicable. I'm pretty sure my sister, a single mom who teaches math at a Catholic high school, with a teenage son who has diabetes, will go bankrupt if this passes. It's wrong.

I don't understand why all the norms about debating this stuff have to go out the window now that we've entered the embarrassingly corrupt Trump era.

America should have socialized medicine. The congress should stop bending over backwards to satisfy the Koch brothers and the insurance industry.

It's gross.

John Adamian.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Mary Rait [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:00 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Republican Senators,

If you were truly proud of your latest Trumpcare bill, Graham-Cassidy, and thought this bill would be better for the vast majority of Americans than the ACA, you wouldn't be rushing it through without a complete CBO score and many hearings. Something that affects one sixth of our economy deserves a thoughtful process by regular order as Senator McCain has stated.

All major physicians groups including the AMA oppose it because there are no real protections for people with pre-existing conditions if states are allowed to do their own thing and price people out of coverage. This will take money out of our healthcare system at a time when the opioid crisis is still exploding and we have thousands of Americans unable to work because of fires, floods, and other disasters. Rural hospitals will be hit hard. States that did the right thing and expanded Medicaid will be punished to give money to states with hyper-partisan governors that previously spurned free federal money attached to the ACA.

We see through the sham. It's just greasing the skids under pressure from the reconciliation rules to try to get tax cuts for the very wealthy and corporations done. Stop wasting taxpayer money on repeated attempts to undo what President Obama succeeded in improving. Senators Alexander and Murray were working on stabilizing the ACA. That is what we the people want and deserve.  
People's lives are at stake!

Respectfully,  
Mary Rait  
Concerned US citizen, taxpayer, mother, sister, wife, friend, employee

--  
-- Mary

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of A. Simon [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:59 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Why are Republican members of Congress working so relentlessly to take health care away from their constituents? Do not pass this abomination.

-A. Simon

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Barbara Merritt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:59 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Keep the ACA

I have worked hard all my life and paid my taxes and voted many times for republicans . If this trump kill bill that graham has brought forward goes through I will never vote for a republican again. This bill is morally and ethically wrong to the poor, old, sick& women. It is disgraceful and I will not be able to have coverage . I am 63 years old with pre-existing conditions and will not be able to afford it. This bill needs a score before it can be voted on. I am ashamed of our republican elected officials . Do not repeal ACA and replace with this piece of crap . Just modify ACA . God have mercy on your souls if you don't do the right thing for us

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Carl Schenten [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:58 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

No No No way. Don't allow this.  
43 billion in foreign aid in 2014 and you want to take away health care funding for the taxpayers?

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** JEFFREY ALVEY [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:58 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA Repeal

Do the right thing!! Remember the majority of voters did not vote for this agenda or Mr Trump. Mr Trump will lose his job hopefully sooner than later. He is unstable. Everyone of you knows this to be true.

Fix what is wrong and keep what is right.

Be well,

Jeffrey

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Alicia S [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:57 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Trumpcare/GrahamCassidy bill

I am a registered Republican in a large agricultural area of California. If Trumpcare passes, I will leave the Republican Party and register as an Independent. No conservative can ever call themselves pro-life, or claim to be a member of the party of family values, or claim to support our veterans, when healthcare for so many people would become unaffordable for so many in this country. I was a healthy person paying for coverage for sick people since I was old enough to get a job at age 16 until my mid 50s, when I became ill (at 40% tax rate since 1981!)

Under the GOP sabotage of the ACA, I now pay \$860 a month in premium, with a \$6,000 deductible and 20% copay, thanks to the GOP's undermining of both the ACA and single payer reforms, which would save us all money by eliminating the useless middlemen (insurance companies) and out of control Big Pharma who have bought our elected officials votes via industry lobbies. Corruption in America is at an all time high and it is unconscionable what this administration is doing. Tell the Koch brothers you will be voting on behalf of the American people this time, and vote no on Trumpcare. There is good reasoning behind every major group's opposition to this abomination.

90% of your constituents are opposed to Trumpcare, so ask yourself who are you voting yes on repeal for? Your big donors? You know it, they know it, and the American people will know it. We are watching closely and taking notes on who supports this horrible bill. You will all be held accountable for your vote on this at election time.

Sincerely,  
Alicia Stavropoulos



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:57 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

I'm writing to provide my testimony in opposition of the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

My family and I have insurance through my husband's employer. The weekly amount we pay for a family of four in premiums is quite high. Not to mention the amount we pay in copays and deductibles. We simply can't afford more expensive premiums, like the ones we would be paying if this bill passes. The estimated increase is a 20% spike next year, but it could even be higher because CBO hasn't estimated the impact.

This bill would also end Federal protection on pre-existing conditions, lifetime caps and essential benefits. This would be devastating for my family, as all four of us have pre-existing conditions (as do most Americans!). I myself have multiple conditions (Migraine, Depression, Osteoarthritis, Fibromyalgia, Bulging disc, Asthma), so a lifetime cap on benefits could mean financial ruin.

Please consider what passing this bill would mean for my family, especially our health!

Sincerely,  
Wendy Nelson  
Panama City Beach, FL

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jessica Gimeno <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:02 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** McNiece, Jessica (Durbin)  
**Subject:** do not pass Graham Cassidy

Please do not pass Graham-Cassidy. These cuts to Medicaid would devastate me. I have a rare form of muscular dystrophy and take over a dozen medications. I used to be healthy--I did yoga five days a week and then one day at work when I was 24-years old, I could not feel anything below my waist and kept falling and falling. This disease attacks my entire body and requires me seeing a specialist. It affects my ability to walk, chew, breathe, talk, see, and other involuntary actions we take for granted. Before the ACA became law, I was denied Medicaid and denied SSI disability three times. After the ACA became law, Illinois expanded Medicaid and I was approved. Because of the ACA, my family is not bankrupt. I have all the medications I need and a wonderful neurologist. I also have a 1-yo nephew with cerebral palsy--the return of annual and lifetime limits could be fatal for him or at the very least lead to financial ruin for his parents who both work full-time jobs. I AM BEGGING YOU: REJECT THE GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL.

Sincerely,

Jessica Gimeno

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Deanna Sawyer <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:02 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GC bill

I was healthy until I was diagnosed with T1D at the age of 58. I have worked and supported myself since the age of 16.

My brother is T1D for 50 years. Without ACA, I'm not sure how he will survive.

My new 2 month old granddaughter would not be here except for ACA.

Please do not kill me or my family. Do not pass this. Keep ACA and reach a bipartisan agreement to stabilize the market.

Thank you,  
Dee Sawyer

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Elinor Nissley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:34 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy hearing

I would like to submit a statement for the hearing.

I am self-employed and have always had to purchase my own insurance. The older I get, the more preexisting conditions I develop, and it would be impossible to purchase affordable insurance on the open market without the protections the ACA provides. (I do not have an Obamacare plan, but I enjoy ACA protections.)

There are a long list of things wrong with Graham-Cassidy (amongst them, a return to gender discrimination in insurance costs & coverage), but one thing that has always puzzled me: the ACA encourages entrepreneurship because one does not have to rely on an employee group plan to purchase adequate insurance. Why dismantle the freedom that provides?

I am strongly against the hasty passage of this ill-considered bill.

thank you for your consideration,

Elinor Nissley

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Ryan Jent <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:09 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Hello,  
The bipartisan Medicaid Directors from all 50 states have come out against Graham-Cassidy. This should make things clear.

Please, work to fix what we have in a bipartisan manner.  
American lives are at stake.

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Melissa Bartholomew <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:08 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 we as Americans should protect the well-being of those in America that aren't as well off or lucky as the rest of us. Imagine that your granddaughter has a friend that isn't wealthy and has a reoccurrence of leukemia. They are best friends and one of them is going to die because their parents can't afford enough medical insurance. Imagine how she will feel when as she gets older, and she finds out the part that YOU played in it. How will you face her, both of you knowing the decision you made?

Please help turn the tide in Washington back to where we really cared about our fellow Americans.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Melissa Bartholomew

Melissa Bartholomew

[REDACTED]  
6 [REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Natalie Gray [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:08 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health Death bill

Hello,

I am a teacher. I have worked and paid into Social Security and Medicare since I was 15. I have insurance but I can't afford to use it because my co-pay is \$50 every time, and that gets expensive when you haven't had a raise in years.

I don't go to the hospital when I have chest pains because I can't afford an ambulance. I will probably die alone in my house one day. That's not really how I want to go, but that is the reality, because I have healthcare that costs my way too much.

This bill will make every American's life worse, including mine. I look at my students and wonder what will happen if they break an arm? Will their family be covered? Probably not.

The fact that you don't even know what is in this bill is disgusting. The fact that you use OUR tax dollars for your healthcare and yet want to deny it to us is hypocrisy of the worst sort.

The fact that we don't have Single Payer healthcare when every other country in the world does makes the GOP unpatriotic. You're basically saying we can't do what other countries can do for their people.

Finally, this is pure racism towards Barak Obama. It is childish and it is nauseating.

You are the reason that America is now a second world country. We have nothing to be proud of. We don't take care of our people, we don't educate our people well, and we have politicians who have sold their souls for Koch money.

Do you think your family is immune to pre-existing conditions? It's not.

I hope that you believe in God and the Devil, because you're going to hell for this cruel and greedy bill.

Natalie Gray  
Teacher  
Taxpayer since 1975

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** anne cronan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:06 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Cassidy Graham Bill

I oppose this bill partly due to the cuts to Medicaid - my father in law is in nursing home after his leg was amputated and he is unable to live home. He relies on title 19 funds from Medicaid for his payment. My mother in law is unable to care for him.

My son was born with a ventricular septic defect. He spent 3 weeks in hospital at age 15 when he contracted endocarditis, an infection of the heart. Without coverage, we may have put off going to Dr when he first ran fever or we would have lost our house. He nearly died. Still haunts me, the what ifs. He now has a pre existing condition that depending on what any individual state governor decides, he may be penalized by insurance companies.

I trust every single medical group that oppose this bill. They know the ins and outs of insurance and they analyzed this bill. 32,000,000 million people will lose insurance by their estimates. But we don't know from Government since this bill is being rushed before CBO score is complete. Please do not pass this bill in this form, we need regular order with bipartisan cooperation.

Sincerely,  
Mrs Cronan

Sent from my iPad



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jeff Philips <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:05 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote No on Graham-Cassidy

Dear members of the committee,

Please vote NO on Graham Cassidy. It is a horrible bill that would lead to millions of people losing their health insurance, significant cuts to Medicaid, and allow insurers to charge people with pre-existing conditions more (states will figure out how to get a waiver not to keep the important protections of the ACA).

If enacted, this would be a disaster for our healthcare system.

Instead, I'd request that you work to provide coverage for all Americans by expanding Medicare.

Sincerely,

Jeff Philips  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jenny's [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:04 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Why does the GOP want to take healthcare away from millions of people? Why is the so-called "pro-life" party so adamant about cutting access to medical care for people with pre-existing conditions? As a Californian, why will my state's funding be cut so dramatically, even though we pay more to the federal government than we receive? Why is the GOP playing politics with people's lives? Are they that desperate for a win? Work in a bipartisan fashion to improve the ACA. Quite trying to sabotage it and fix the issues! Work for the people!

Jenny Ross  
Rocklin, CA  
Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Sharon Reyes [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:14 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill public comments

This bill is a terrible idea that, once again, puts profits over people. My family of four already pays over one fifth of our net income for health-care coverage. If lifetime limits are permitted, my eldest son's treatments for ADHD and autism would be put at risk. As a mother of two, my previous pregnancies would count at pre-existing conditions, subjecting me to even higher premiums. If Republicans are so married to keeping their stupid promise to repeal and replace Obamacare, I would like to see good-faith efforts to reduce costs and improve care for our citizens, rather than increasing the already obscene profits of insurance companies. If Republicans really believe in smaller government, how about reducing defense spending and using the savings to cover health care for all? What ever happened to government by the people, for the people? What a bunch of morons. Do your damn jobs!

-Sharon Reyes, California

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Lisa Wesel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:12 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Smith, Edie (King); Kezer, Gail (King); Kilkelly, Marge (King); Simson, Kate (Collins)  
**Subject:** Statement for the Record for the Graham-Cassidy hearing Sept. 25, 2017

To the Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

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

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

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

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

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

Why would you do that?

Sincerely,

Lisa Wesel  
Bowdoinham, Maine  
207-837-0662

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** MJHagan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:12 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Killer Bill

The year was 1976...

My little brother had a brain hemorrhage when he was 12; within a year his medical bills skyrocketed, and his insurance company dropped him. So now, they supposedly can't drop him but can charge so much we couldn't afford to keep it? Can't afford the insurance and can't afford the hospital bills, so due to no fault of his own, he or our family would be broke. In fact, that is what happened and now he is dead as are my parents who spent every last penny trying to take care of him.

Mike Hagan

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Roseann Petropoulos <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:11 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham/Cassidy

The American Medical Society, AARP, American Cancer Society just to name a few oppose it and I find it a disgrace to cut funding for healthcare, cutting benefits to people in need and allowing the wealthiest to get tax breaks.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Miriam Schechner [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:10 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

To the Senate Finance Committee.

Two and a half years ago I was diagnosed with early stage endometrial cancer. I received excellent care through an Affordable Care Act plan. Not only did my ACA insurance allow me to get an early diagnosis and life-saving care, but it made it possible for me to afford my care afterwards. At the time, I was working as an independent contractor, so during the weeks I was recovering from surgery, I had no income. As a result of my illness, I lost the biggest contract I had that year. Fortunately, when my income went down, my ACA subsidy increased, making it possible for me to maintain my health insurance which I needed for follow up care.

I now am in a cancer survivor's follow up care program and as I get older have other health problems that require care. I am very worried about what will happen if Graham-Cassidy passes. No one should have the choice of reducing their work hours and income to the poverty level in order to receive health care through Medicaid or risking their life by going without health insurance. The money provided to New York State by the federal government will fall so short, that after a couple of years, I don't know if Medicaid would be an option either. It is estimated that 2.2 million people in New York would lose their health coverage by 2027 under Graham-Cassidy. Studies have shown that one out of about 420 people without health insurance die each year as a result. That means that in 2027 an estimated 5,000 people would die due to lack of health care. That is more people than Al Qu'aeda killed on September 11th. I was working in NYC, downtown on September 11th and remember the anxiety I experienced afterwards. I fear for my life more now because of the prospect of Graham-Cassidy passing. While I'm sure this wasn't the intent of Senators Graham and Cassidy, their bill would be more deadly for New York than Osama Bin Laden.

Bipartisan analysis so far has shown that this bill would be harmful to so many people including people who have used up their savings to pay for nursing home fees and children with disabilities. Estimates are that 32 millions people would lose their health care coverage. Insurance companies, doctors, hospitals and AAARP are opposed to the bill for good reason. Quality of care would go down and insurance premiums would sky rocket. There must be a complete Congressional Budget Office report showing how patients will be impacted before any bill is voted on. It is irresponsible and immoral to do otherwise.

I was hopeful when the bi-partisan health care hearings began. There are so many ways that health care can be improved and costs can be brought down including negotiating on Medication prices and moving away from a fee for service model. Health care outcomes in this country are on par with Cuba's - that is a disgrace. This bill addresses none of these issues. It is a tax bill in the guise of a health care bill. The health of millions of Americans is not something to be taken lightly. Thorough and due process is required -as well as a real bi-partisan discussion. Make no decisions until a complete CBO score is available and thorough public hearings have been conducted. That is the least that Americans deserve.

Sincerely,  
Miriam Schechner

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Mary Strehlow [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:10 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

Please do not support the Graham-Cassidy health care bill. This bill would be devastating to people with disabilities and their families, women and children, seniors, low-income Americans, and threaten access to community living, employment opportunities, & educational support. The ability to live and work in the community in the most independent way possible is made possible by the current Medicaid program. The program provides basic health care and long term supports which are vital to people with disabilities, families, and communities. Cuts and block grants to this program will hurt people with intellectual/developmental disabilities and the communities that they live in. It is time for Congress to improve services and supports for our most vulnerable citizens, not cut them.



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** michael bourdaghs [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:05 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy bill hearing

Dear senators:

I am writing in strong opposition to the bill proposed by Senators Graham and Cassidy. The bill would deprive millions of healthcare and actually institute the "death panels" that were once offered up as a reason for opposing ACA. I am outraged that a matter of such crucial importance is being rushed through without adequate hearings and without even allowing the Congressional Budget Office to analyze its impact. These are all signs that the sponsors realize that the bill cannot stand up to close scrutiny.

As a cancer survivor myself, I understand exactly what it would mean to remove the ban of "preexisting condition" clauses in health insurance. If passed, the bill would constitute a death sentence to millions of Americans like myself.

The bill is one of the most cynical and immoral pieces of legislation ever introduced for Senate consideration. If it is passed, the outpouring of outrage from the American voters will be felt in all fifty states.

I urge the members of the committee to reject this disastrous proposal. It is time for you to side with the American people, and if you fail to do so, we will long remember your actions.

Sincerely,

Michael Bourdaghs  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Dan Boehlke [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:09 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA

I want to go on record stating that I believe you must not repeal the ACA. I have worked in the retail garden industry all my career and was not offered health insurance. For some time I purchased insurance on my own, but then could no longer afford it. I purchased health insurance through the ACA and promptly had a stroke. If I had not had that insurance I would have lost my home. I have been a republican all my life and grew up in a republican family, now I am sorely disappointed in the Republican Party for apparently having no interest in my welfare. I am also disappointed that your party doesn't understand science and the environment. What sense is it to preserve jobs and destroy the earth and its environment? You have to find a way to help the working class, as we make the economy run!!

I remain respectfully yours,

Daniel Boehlke

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Gregory Armstrong [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:55 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Health Care Bill

Committee Members:

Please do not pass this bill out of committee. You have not had it scored by the CBO. You have not had sufficient hearings on the bill to know its true impact on the Health Care System.

The ACA needs repair not repeal. Every American should have affordable Healthcare. This bill does not repair anything.  
Greg Armstrong

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Daniel Freudenberger [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:55 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy

Please do not give in to the Koch brothers' bribery and stand by while millions of Americans lose their healthcare. Graham-Cassidy is a cruel, obscene piece of legislation. Vote it down!

Daniel Freudenberger

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

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Melinda Newman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:55 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

To: [gchcomments@finance.senate.gov](mailto:gchcomments@finance.senate.gov)  
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

I have read through the bill and done my homework. While the ACA definitely needs to be fixed, the G-C bill is not the way to do it. I cannot believe that the Senate wants 32mm people to lose their health insurance or for vets (1.5mm), the elderly, the sick, and the mentally ill to lose their benefits as well. I understand wanting to give power back to the states, but not this way. You are asking them to do more with less, which means that there will be huge cuts. The waivers are particularly problematic as they will allow insurance companies to charge more if you get sick or if you have a pre-existing condition; the surcharges would be horrendous and unaffordable. Waivers also permit companies to not cover essential benefits. When you see that they do not have to cover prescriptions, emergencies, hospitalizations, pediatrics, addiction services (including opioids), or behavioral health, etc., there is not a lot left to cover. It would also allow insurance companies to bring back lifetime caps. One illness can wipe out that cap in a month meaning that a person who had a catastrophic injury could no longer be insured even when not receiving care would mean death.

There is much talk about "access" to insurance, but access means nothing if it is not affordable. I have "access" to yachts, private planes, and penthouses, but I sure cannot afford them. As a woman over the age of 50 with pre-existing conditions, I just left a very lucrative self-owned business for a job at a company in part for the benefits since I know my individual insurance will likely become unaffordable, if not canceled, through passage of Graham-Cassidy. Why would the GOP, who claims to want to help small business and encourage entrepreneurship do something that would so blatantly hurt people starting their own businesses?

If this bill is so good, then why doesn't Congress try it out first and report back to us? Why on earth would you want to even consider uninsuring so many people? Would you want you or your children or parents to go through this? How is that good for the country?

Please work to fix the ACA, not kill it....and us.

Thank you.

Melinda Newman  
Los Angeles, Calif.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Rebecca Zukauskas [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:55 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 my 4-year-old daughter is autistic and many of her services are paid by Medicaid. This bill would cap Medicaid and make it harder for kids with disabilities to get the care they need.

Rebecca Zukauskas  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** John Lepley <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:54 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because I have hypothyroidism. This is a pre-existing condition that would make it difficult for me to purchase health insurance should I lose my employer-provided insurance -- which is very likely given the 40% tax on health care benefits your bill would levy on my benefits. Please do not vote for this legislation.

John Lepley  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Donald Steen [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:54 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care needs certainty

Hello and thank you to whomever is reading this and conveying my feelings.

My name is Don A. Steen, I live in southern Indiana, a state that begrudgingly embraced the ACA and gradually built its own system on that foundation. I work for a local paper, and I know how hard it is for a state to tackle a challenge so fundamental to human life as healthcare.

Press releases seldom make for interesting reading, especially when they often tell the same story for seemingly years on end. But that's the sign of government doing what it should be doing. HIP 2.0 didn't come overnight, and it wasn't built from scratch. It most certainly wasn't rushed out for political points.

We can't afford to simply go back to the drawing board every time an administration changes. We need to accept some level of continuity, not out of love of our opposite numbers, but in the interests of stability for citizens and entrepreneurs.

How are we to function when each state is forced to develop its own byzantine health network under financial and time pressures? What happens when the tide turns and other men and women sit where you are now, the hallowed traditions of your deliberative body even more threadbare? Will single-payer be rushed like this next? Some "last chance" to fulfill an ill-planned promise and reap revenge for what is being borne today?

Please, return to regular order. Restore bipartisan talks and return to this issue with clear heads, on your own terms. Make the Senate mean something to us again, or one day, nothing will ever mean anything to anyone again.

Thank you for your time, and may God be with you all.



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Adam Roseman <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:53 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote No on Graham-Cassidy

Chairman Hatch – I write today to express my position on the Republican’s most recent effort to “repeal and replace” the Affordable Care Act (“ACA”). Put simply, the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill (“Graham-Cassidy”) is a sham and a moral disgrace and I urge Senators from both parties to vote against it.

The country is watching, healthcare is as much about policy as it is about morality and this bill is devoid of both. My comment, which I would like read into the committee hearing record, will outline three issues: (1) the process by which the Senate is seeking to pass the bill; (2) the substance of the bill; and (3) the legacy of the co-sponsors of the bill and the Republican party that appears to be backing it.

Before outlining these issues, however, I remind Republican Senators on your committee and Republican Senators at large that the American people will not remember who gave them healthcare but they certainly will remember who took it away.

**Process:** In John McCain’s triumphant return to the Senate after undergoing treatment for brain cancer, he called for the Senate to return to regular order. Despite these pleas from one of the most senior and respected members of the Republican party, the Republican party has spit in the eye of Senator McCain’s plea. Republicans, the snowflakes they are, howled for years about the lack of process and transparency in President Obama’s effort to pass the ACA. Notwithstanding their cries, there were over 20 public hearings on the ACA, hours of debate, and President Obama even hosted a public question and answer session with lawmakers (where Senator McConnell complained that he was not given enough time to speak). The Graham-Cassidy bill will be the subject of one single committee hearing That is it. Pure hypocrisy from the Republican party – a party whose core beliefs are “access to care,” cutting taxes for the rich, and birthism.

As the cherry-on-top to this manacle effort by Republicans to ram this bill down the American people’s throats for the sake of giving their “Republican” president a “win”, the Republicans plan to bring this to a vote before the Congressional Budget Office even gives the bill a complete score. This is the equivalent of walking into a new house for sale and saying “I’ll take it!” without ever finding out how much it costs or if the walls are infected with cockroaches. If this bill even comes up for a vote, the Republicans have officially waived any argument related to the legislative process.

**Substance** – In laymen’s terms, Graham-Cassidy plainly does not pass the Jimmy Kimmel test. A deeper dive into this 141-page declaration of war on the American people’s health reveals how truly “mean” (President Trump’s word not mine regarding the House bill) this bill really is. Graham-Cassidy is especially egregious in four respects:

1. *Individual mandate*: It ends the individual mandate which will undoubtedly cause the individual markets to collapse.
2. *Medicaid block grant*: Through a complex formula, in 2020 it turns healthcare funding to states into block grants. Worse yet, it penalizes the states that chose to expand Medicaid under the ACA. Thus, states that sought to protect its citizens under the ACA will now receive less money under Graham-Cassidy. In an obvious power grab, traditional Republican states like Texas and Alabama will disproportionately benefit from these block grants.
3. *50 state health insurance experiments* – This bill requires health insurers to navigate potentially 50 different health insurance schemes. A tall order for an industry that is not known for adapting to new regulatory regimes.
4. *Pre-existing conditions*: Most incredibly, the Graham-Cassidy bill does not enshrine protections for people with pre-existing conditions. Senators Cassidy and Graham can claim otherwise but this is a cowardice attempt to pee on the American people’s legs and tell them it’s raining. The bill requires states to “*maintain access to adequate and affordable health insurance coverage for individuals with pre-existing conditions.*” This is not protection for people with pre-existing conditions. Indeed, vague language like “adequate” and “access” is not a substitute for “shall” (i.e. mandatory language in statutes). What is “adequate” and “access” will be entirely up to states and ultimately will be litigated in the courts, creating more chaos in the system. States also will suffer no penalty for failing to provide access to adequate and affordable health care coverage for people with pre-existing conditions.

As if the American people needed more evidence that this bill is substantively either half-baked or cruel, every hospital, patient group, physician group, and health insurance company has come out against Graham-Cassidy. This begs the question, what is it that Republicans think they know that every organization in health care doesn’t?

**Legacy** – For seven years, the Republican party’s war cry has been “repeal and replace” the ACA but we know their primary issue with Obamacare (yes, Republican voters Obamacare is the same as the ACA) is the “Obama” part. For years, Republicans lied through their collective teeth about the ACA to gain momentum for the political theatre of repealing the ACA over 50 times. In each instance, President Obama’s veto pen was the only thing protecting the American people from reckless Republicans. Most shockingly, the Republicans had the gall to claim with a straight face that the ACA included “death panels.” In reality, the ACA provided nominal reimbursement to physicians for having end-of-life care discussions with patients, talking to them about wills, powers-of-attorney and health care directives. A common sense idea that has proven to significantly reduce the cost of end of life care. This is hardly a “death panel” but yell “death panel” into the ears of people who believe that President Obama was a Muslim born in Kenya and a lie becomes an “alternative fact.”

Although Republicans barked their rallying cry for years, they, as Senator Toomey candidly stated during a town hall, were caught flat footed because they did not think Donald Trump would win the presidency. To that I say too bad, so sad. Republicans begged to be the governing party but the problem is, as this entire healthcare nightmare shows, that the Republican party has no idea how to govern. Indeed, there is no constituency for their core policy beliefs. Republicans were never serious about “repealing and replacing” the ACA, they were only serious about erasing President Obama’s legacy. They were willing to throw the baby out with the bath water to accomplish this goal. Americans will not stand for it and they will remember.

The Republican party stands for nothing and nobody. In late-July, 49 cowardice Republicans voted to harm their constituents in the name of a campaign promise. Republicans now seem dead set to take one last stab at harming the American people. This vote, like the vote for the 8-page “skinny repeal” bill is a vote reflecting not only Republican policy (whatever that policy is at this point) but morality.

Of course, should Republicans pass this bill not all will be lost. Maybe it is time that Republicans pay the political price for their actions. Republican Senators, vote for this bill and you will be out of a job in your next election cycle. You all have blood on your hands if you vote for this bill. The Republican party will forever wear the scar of stripping healthcare from millions of people.

As for the four white, middle-aged Republican Senators that placed their name on top of this bill, your legacy will forever be tied to it. Senator Graham, your tough words for the President mean absolutely nothing now that you signed your name to this bill. It is fairly ironic that you are seeking to exempt Alaska from the bill, which is to say that your bribe to gain Senator Murkowski’s vote is that Alaska keeps Obamacare. Well done. Senator Heller, you’re hardly worth a mention. You will be attacked from both sides and for good reason. You have consistently placed your finger in the air to determine which way you should vote on repealing the ACA. The people of Nevada know who owns you. Senator Johnson, just shame on you. And finally, Senator Bill Cassidy, a former physician. As the son of a physician it pains me that you represent the profession that my father has given his life to. This bill violates the core principle of your medical oath: *First, do no harm.*

I stated in the beginning, the American people will not remember who gave them healthcare but they will surely remember who took it away.

The American people are watching. Do the right thing, vote no.

Adam R Roseman, Esq

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kathy Greenholdt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:06 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill Will Doom Republicans and the Public

Dear Senators:

If not for Obamacare, my sister would have had no health insurance after Blue Cross/Blue Shield dropped her when she had breast cancer. About half of Americans have some sort of pre-existing health issue, and the Graham-Cassidy bill will leave us out of luck. And what does that mean for the Republican Party? Republican Senators will be out of luck, too, come reelection time.

As someone who has voted for Republicans and Democrats in my life, I strongly urge you against going down this short-sighted road.

Very Truly Yours,

Kathleen Greenholdt

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Smriti Khare <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:20 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill , VOTE NO!

Do not vote for a bill that puts preventive care for children at risk.  
It will cost our country more.. healthier children make healthier adults.

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jo Schrode [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:19 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Proposed Health Care Bill

I am appalled that the Senate continues to try to pass a health care bill under the current circumstances. There is no CBO score, no public hearings, no attempt to cross party lines and no viable plan. It has become absolutely crystal clear that Congress puts more stock in getting elected rather than serving the best interests of the country.

I vote not only NO, but hell NO

For shame.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Hope Davidson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:19 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Cassidy-Graham Bill

Dear Sirs and Madams,

I write tonight in the hopes that my fears about this bill do not fall on deaf ears but instead on open minds and hearts.

My daughter, currently 13, was diagnosed with generalized childhood Epilepsy at age 7. Unlike so many epileptics, she has a chance of hope: 70% of generalized childhood epileptics outgrow their condition. We hope that she falls into that category, but even if she does, this is considered to be a pre-existing condition, and if this bill passes, there will be financial consequences because of something out of her control. If she falls into the 30% that doesn't outgrow it, not only is it a pre-existing condition, but now she has to carry the financial weight of her medications, specialized doctors and tests. This financial burden will not allow her to participate in our economy as she should, and that hurts all of us.

Furthermore, my husband was diagnosed with cancer in 2013, and as we move into middle age and beyond, how is it fair to ask older citizens to pay more for their care when they live on a smaller income? And even more so with a pre-existing condition? It's not. We need to take care of our seniors, and this bill does not do that.

This is a country issue, not a state one. Across this great land of ours, people of all ages suffer from illnesses that are no fault of their own, and there needs to be uniformity to the care that is available and received. That uniformity MUST come from a federal level.

To pass this bill would be hurtful to our young and old, and to do so at the speed in which this has been put together is just foolish. Please, please, do not pass this bill.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Hope Davidson  
Temecula, CA

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jason Reed [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:19 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

This bill should never have been written.

My son was born with multiple birth defects, a condition called VACTERL association. He spent the first 7 months of his life in the hospital, undergoing surgery after surgery. He has a long road in front of him. Longer than most children.

Medicaid home based community services are vital for him to thrive.

Eliminating lifetime caps would crush our family - over \$3 million in medical costs so far. He is 1 year old.

No insurance company would cover him if given the opportunity to decline.

The authors of those bill know full well these things will happen in states like mine if it passes.

End this cruelty. History will judge the political and financial motivations behind this heartlessness, and it will not be kind.

Listen, there isn't a single person in America who believes this is a good idea that will improve the quality and cost of care for people. We all know the game being played, and see it in its naked ugliness.

End it.

Return to regular order. Fix the law that the majority of Americans passed by their elected representatives, and the majority support today.

Enough.

Jason Reed  
Louisville, KY



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

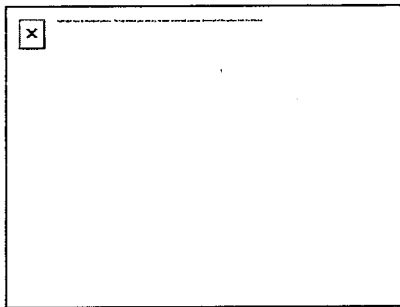
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**From:** Christi Griffin <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:17 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

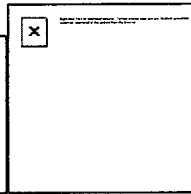
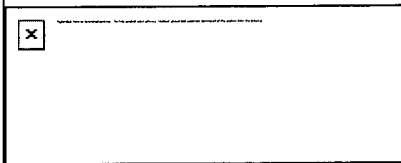
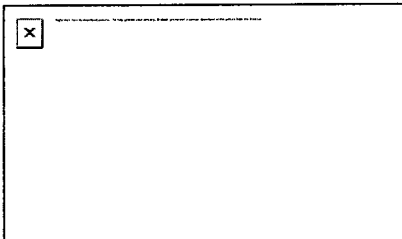
With the constant attempt to defeat anything Obama, particularly his health care legislation, the Republicans are spending millions of dollars and thousands of hours that could be otherwise spent to keep American happy. Graham Cassidy is not the healthcare America needs. Please vote no and lead Congress back to work improve the lives of Americans.

Thanks you.

--  
Dr. Christi Griffin  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] m



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## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Ranae Larsen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:18 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health Care Bill

Please do not pass the upcoming Graham health care bill. I have had seizures for more than 15 years and lymphoma for more than 3 years. My life has been saved many times by modern medicine. Much of the treatment would be lost without ACA. My life is dependent upon up-to-date, admittedly costly drugs.

Perhaps the unstated purpose of the law is to get rid of those of us who have been unfortunate to develop health difficulties. I hope not!

Ranae Larsen

Sent from my iPhone  
Ranae Larsen

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Mallory Haas [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:17 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** PLEASE Kill the Graham-Cassidy Bill

I urge you to kill the Graham-Cassidy bill.

When my husband was in high school, his church in Danville, IL was bombed. He is 36 now and is still experiencing chronic pain from his back being broken in the bombing. The bomb also ripped off his earlobe and destroyed his eardrum. He has a fake eardrum now and is very susceptible to ear infections. He has multiple pre-existing conditions because of the bombing.

We pay for all of his health care ourselves (the victim assistance fund was depleted after 9/11), and we will no longer be able to afford a health care plan if he can be dropped for pre-existing conditions or lifetime limits are re-instated. And we will not be able to afford a plan of insurers can be allowed to charge us higher rates because of his injuries.

In addition, my aunt had her first round of chemo today for treatment of her recently diagnosed breast cancer. She has a daughter who is 17 and a senior in high school. Watching your mom fight cancer is difficult enough, having to worry that you will soon have to choose between paying for her chemo or putting food on the table because some congressmen care more about undoing anything our previous president did more than they care about the American people is gut wrenching.

We live in one of the most developed countries in the world. There is no reason that anyone should have to worry about how they will pay for healthcare. This bill will throw thousands of people into situations where they can no longer afford the care they need.

Many of you claim to be Christians. I urge you to be like the Good Samaritan on the road to Jericho in Jesus' story and take care of the sick/wounded. Do not rip our healthcare away from us.

Would you want YOUR spouse or loved one with a pre-existing condition to be subject to this bill?

Do the right thing.

Mallory Haas  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Alan Mackinnon <[REDACTED]@m>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:17 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GHC comments

I wish to voice my disapproval of this legislation. Watching television last night I heard a Republican spokesperson stating that all they were doing is taking healthcare funds from the rich states and giving it to the poor ones! My understanding of the Medicaid expansion funds is that the money is used to help the poorest people in a state no matter if it's deemed rich or poor. A better way to understand the GC legislation is a slight variation of the Robin Hood tax system " take from the very poor and give to the very, very poor."

I live in one of those states that will be hit hardest California. I also have a son who is diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy. Though our family has medical coverage through my employer Gillies still receives services from Medicaid/Medical. My biggest fear is that when my wife and I are not here to support Gillies, the healthcare services he requires will be inadequate due to the savage cuts in federal healthcare funding.

Thanks

Alan J MacKinnon

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** coliemonte <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:16 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

It's shameful that this massive, vaguely-written piece of legislation is even being considered.

What happened to bipartisan input, hearings, CBO scoring, and having to pass Senate legislation with 60 votes?

If you have to change the rules of the game and hurry your legislation through the process in the hopes that no one will know too much about what is in it before you vote, then your legislation is certainly not worth the time it's taking me to write this email.

Throw this bill in the trash where it belongs along with the other "Obamacare repeal" bills and get to work stabilizing markets without penalizing millions of Americans. They deserve better than the preschool-level "problem-solving" this congress has served up so far this year.

Is this what you would want for your grandparents? For your recent college grad who spent six months in the NICU because of her very premature birth? For your son who beat cancer in his teens but is now going to be unable to afford insurance in his 30s? Of course not. How shameful it is that you are considering imposing huge burdens on people that you wouldn't want imposed on your own struggling family or friends. The GOP passes this, and they will never again be able to claim to be "pro-life" without being laughed out of the room.

With frustration and disgust,  
Nicole Montgomery

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:16 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy

I think this bill is about politics not policy. It's about big donors and money. It's not about healthcare. If it were you would slow down do this bipartisan hold regular hearings and order. Most People don't understand the bill and this is wrong. You work for the voters not some reelection bid or money. Sad lot of you. No ethics

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Elizabeth Bagby [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:16 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy is unconscionable.

Not just because the AMA says the bill violates "First, do no harm."  
Not just because less than a quarter of Americans support the bill.  
Not just because all 50 state Medicare administrators oppose the bill.  
Not just because over half of Americans have pre-existing conditions.  
Not just because the total charges for cancer are likely to be a death sentence for many patients.  
Not just because families will have to choose between treating illness and sending their kids to college, or between home ownership and having kids at all.  
Not just because American citizens now understand they are worth more to the Koch brothers sick and in debt than well and productive.  
Not just because, as a self-employed entrepreneur, I have lost hours of productivity because I must periodically beg the Senate not to kill me.  
Not just because no one is plausibly pro-life who guts prenatal and maternal care.

(Do I have to go on? I'll go on.)

Not just because access to care is not the same thing as care—any more than walking into a bank is the same thing as being able to withdraw all its funds—and one must have the shabbiest morals to claim otherwise.

Not just because Americans everywhere are tired of being treated as profit generators for Martin Shkreli and his peers. (Yes. It's that bad. You're on a level with Shkreli. ABORT THE MISSION.)

Not just because no women have been consulted in a bill that restricts women's healthcare. Not just because minorities and the poor will be hit hardest of all. Not just because of the GOP's blatant contempt for its fellow citizens. Not even, god help us, because of the orange-skinned buffoon in the White House, who clearly doesn't understand the first thing about the bill but is desperate to look like he's doing something.

Any of these reasons, alone, ought to be enough. But all of them together? You shouldn't be considering this bill. It shouldn't have been drafted in the first place, but since it was, you should have torn it to ribbons on sight.

If you want to retain any illusion that you care about your constituents—and mind you, I'm not saying that illusion will be *plausible*, just that it will possibly still be present—you will defeat this bill.

With exactly as much respect as you deserve,  
Elizabeth Bagby

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Aimee Akwai-Scott [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:16 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO on #grahamcassidy

This corrupt administration and their GOP cronies don't care how many they must kill to hand out tax cuts to their billionaire friends. The American people have been clear on what they want from a health plan and these cowardly, greedy hypocrites are still trying to steal from the people what they swore to protect when they took public office! It is inexcusable. The Graham-Cassidy health care bill would be a disaster for families and the economy in our community and across the nation.

Stand up! Be the moral resistance the people are fighting for! Real people are depending on the courage of you, the elected, to do what's RIGHT.

Regards,  
Elliot & Aimee Akwai-Scott



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Rob Arsenault [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:15 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

There is no good reason to vote this abismal bill into law. So many will suffer so the Koch Bros will pay the GOP

Let's go with regular order and vote a bill that works

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kenneth Anderson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:11 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** HealthCare

Dears Senators,

It is horrific you have created a bill "GrahamCassidy" that would hurt millions of Americans!

Your desire to hurt millions is un-American! Your purpose to give WealthCare to the rich is exactly what our forefathers warned us about!

Please rethink your positions on this bill! Vote NO!

Kenneth Anderson  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Cindy Schneider <starjet9@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:15 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

Please listen to us!!!! This bill will devastate people's lives. There are other solutions that can be found! Support your fellow Americans!  
Vote No on this bill!!!!

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Joel Shattles Jr [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:14 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Healthcare bill and its probable effects on care for children with disabilities

Children born with disabilities require so much care their entire lives. If insurance companies have no incentive or mandate to accept them then their lives will have no chance to progress or improve. With the illumination of billions of dollars from Medicaid and the loss of incentives for insurance coverage many of these children and their families are condemned to a life long struggles, many of which will terminate in early death for the child. Please don't permit this to happen on your watch.

--

Sent from JRShattles Gmail Mobile

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Robin Kleinman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:15 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care act

To whom it may concern,

I am sending this email in reference to the health care cuts. Our son is severely autistic and has medical problems and lives at home with us from his Medicaid services. This bill will drastically cut his services to the extent where he would be forced to be placed in a facility. This is not what we want to happen, so I am asking you to please vote no on this issue. This is a child who desperately needs these services to continue to live at home with us. Thank you for your time in this matter.

Sincerely,

Robin Kleiman


## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Drawing [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:59 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health bill

This latest abomination from the Republicans must not pass. We have a handicapped child born in 1964 and the cost is overwhelming. We were told early on that to care for a child like CR we would have to be very rich or very poor. Thank God for NIH, D.C. Children's and finally Medicaid we made it through all these years, and stayed poor as there was no time or way to get rich. Keep Medicaid, help parents like us. Kill this health bill.

Sandy Rivkin

Sent from Drawing Nature   
Biological and Scientific Illustration  
Illustration@drawing-nature.com

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Josie Vazquez [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:59 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote no graham Cassidy!

We demand you reject/ VOTE NO on this terrible bill!! We need pre existing medical condition protection & coverage for women's health care (pregnancy/maternal/reproductive) & our disabled children need Medicaid coverage & our senior citizens need affordable premiums. How many times do the American people need to tell you to keep ACA???!!!

Sent from my iPhone

## **Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Elyse Kingery [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:57 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Cassidy-Graham

When the Senate Finance Committee considers the Cassidy-Graham bill to repeal the ACA, I hope they will listen to the people who will be impacted by the repeal. People like me, with pre-existing conditions. I have Crohn's disease, and have had it for 45 years. I didn't do anything to get it -- I wasn't slovenly, I wasn't lazy, I wasn't foolish. I was unlucky. Very unlucky. So are 1.5 million others with Crohn's and Colitis. The number of people with other autoimmune disease is, of course, much higher. All of us need access to affordable insurance. So do all the people who have chronic diseases. And all of the people who have cancer. And children born prematurely or with birth defects. And let's not forget people with psychiatric conditions. It is best to have all of these healthcare problems addressed.

The ACA needs to be fixed, not repealed. So fix it. The Cassidy-Graham bill would be a disaster for 1/6th of the economy and millions -- MILLIONS of people.

This is my story from the time my hard-earned health insurance disappeared:

### **The End of My Rope**

Friday, the first of October, 1982, was a really bad day.

Actually, it was a mostly normal day even after I found a memo and a pamphlet in my office in-box. The law firm where I'd worked for more than three years had just changed health insurance companies. The information about our new policy, beginning November 1, 1982, three weeks before my scheduled surgery, would be with Liberty Mutual. I didn't give it a thought.

But Andrea, one of my bosses, suggested I give them a call. "You'd better make sure they know about your operation and don't need more information."

So I called the number on the brochure.

Forty-five minutes later, Andrea found me at my desk, staring blankly at the 'Sitting Duck' poster hanging on my wall. It showed a white cartoon duck wearing sunglasses. He'd been enjoying himself, sitting in the sun in a turquoise blue lawn chair on the side of his house, sipping a soda. But he was looking in wide-eyed surprise over his right shoulder at two bullet holes in the wall.



I'm not sure if he knocked me over or I sat down in defeat, crying. He bashed it into me a few more times, but then lost interest. Goliath dropped his weapon -- well out of my reach -- and sat down beside me. He put his paw on my lap, his head on my shoulder and nuzzled me. Chewed at my hair and my ear. Let me scratch his ears.

"You silly Goose." I said pulling his ears and tail affectionately. Hugging him. "You're gonna kill me one of these days."

I knew then that I couldn't kill myself, that night or any other. *Nobody in their right mind would take my stupid dog.*

\* \* \*

I learned when I went back to work on the following Monday that the person I spoke with at the insurance company was wrong. Mistaken. My company's coverage was considered continuing coverage and so my condition was insured. I had my surgery and became healthy for the first time in about a decade.

Since the election, and especially since seeing the appointees to healthcare-related positions in the upcoming Trump Administration, I have been haunted by the memory of the night I nearly ended my own life in a fit of desperation. And while I think we can all agree that it was the silliest suicide plan ever devised, that misses the entire point.

And that point is that folks who lose their insurance or who are without insurance are often desperate. And close to the end of their rope. I certainly was.

How many other Americans have been in that position? Hundreds? Thousands? Millions? How many think, consider, and/or attempt suicide? How many will in the future without Obamacare? Without Medicare? Without Medicaid?

The New England Journal of Medicine reported the following:

First, many suicidal acts — ***one third to four fifths of all suicide attempts, according to studies — are impulsive.*** Among people who made near-lethal suicide attempts, for example, 24% took less than 5 minutes between the decision to kill themselves and the actual attempt, and 70% took less than 1 hour. (Miller and Hemenway, 2008) (Emphasis added.)

I am not a traditional candidate for suicide, I don't have the risk factors. But I was, literally, at the end of my rope because of a combination of constantly dealing with a difficult disease, being broke because I was young and just starting out, and suddenly losing my insurance. I would have had a huge financial burden I would never have been able to pay off. All through the bad luck of bad health. *Simple bad luck.*

When I hear the anti-Affordable Care Act folks preaching about how we need to get rid of Obamacare, I want to share the story of my desperation. Because a flawed system is better than the old system, where pre-existing conditions -- *the very thing that makes insurance absolutely necessary* -- will be the very thing that made insurance coverage impossible. There are problems with Obamacare. But we need this program or we need a better program. Going back to the old system is already unthinkable. And the solutions I've seen from the GOP will not keep people like me with treatment options, out of medical bankruptcy, or away from desperate action.

Health insurance for many people makes the difference between life and death. Literally and figuratively.

Of course, the answer was “nothing.” I was on the manicured grounds of the Capitol. I couldn’t pile up debris and jump off of it because there was no debris. The neat grounds rarely had much in the way of move-able objects. I was starting to get annoyed.

*I want to die. Now. Tonight. On the tetherball thing-y. How the hell can I do this?*

There on the West Lawn of the United States Capitol Building -- with security patrols passing every 10 or so minutes -- I was hell-bent on committing suicide by tetherball. I was trying to stretch, to grow, to find a ladder, a chair, anything I could jump off of with a piece of US Government-issued sports equipment wrapped around my neck. Wanting to and trying to die.

And then it hit me.

Or rather, he hit me. Goliath, of course.

**SLAM!** Something hard hit the back of my legs.

“Owwwww!”

From somewhere on the grounds, Goliath had picked up a huge stick – an uprooted tree by the size of it. It was at least five feet long and four inches around. His mouth was stretched to the limit holding it. And he’d hit me with it in the back of my legs.

**WHACK!** He did it again. I turned and saw that he’d lowered his chest towards the ground into a bow. He kept his rear end high in the air, wagging the whole back half of his body ferociously.

He’d had enough of me feeling sorry for myself. It was time to play. So he rammed me with it again.

“Owwwww, Goliath STOP THAT!” I commanded.

He didn’t listen. He went around to my left and hit me with it again. His eyes caught the moonlight – they sparkled. He was laughing at me.

**SLAP!** “Owwwww, NO! That hurts. Cut it out!”

He bounced to my right side with the long thick branch firmly in his mouth. Pretending to loosen his grip on it. Teasing me. Trying to get me to play. Wanting me to reach for the stick, which he would never give me.

*(Come on, Mom, catch me!)* He was play growling at the stick and at me. He bowed again, swung his head to and fro, and the long stick swung left to right, wobbled up and down. It got stuck in the ground for a second, and then he forced it back out again with a flick of his massive head. Goliath came close to me and then bounded off with his treasure. Circling me. Approaching me, but backing off before I could get to him. He never got close enough for me to grab that damn stick.

*(Come on, Mom, try to grab it!)* We were going to play, whether I wanted to or not. And he hit me with the damn thing again.

“Give me that stick!” I ordered. He wouldn’t. He danced around me and the tetherball thing-y and bashed me and the pole repeatedly.

I saw no way out. I couldn't continue, didn't want to continue. And I'd gotten way past the amount of shit I could deal with.

I sat down on the grass on the hill just above the contraption and allowed myself one last cry. Naturally I didn't have any Kleenex. Snot running with my tears did not make me feel any better.

The first problem I discovered was that I couldn't quite figure out what to call the thing. It seemed important that I know what to call it if I was going to die on it.

I wondered: Is it a tetherball set? A tetherball apparatus? A tetherball thing-y? I didn't know the answer.

Goliath tried to distract me, to cheer me and when that didn't work, he sat down next to me and let me use his shoulder. He tried to lick my tears away, but they kept coming. He butted his head into me. But he got bored with my misery and wandered away.

I didn't watch where he went, I didn't care. It didn't matter where he went, what he did. Whom he harassed. I was done.

The decision was made.

I got up and walked up to the tetherball thing-y and realized what I hadn't noticed before: that the chain was actually quite short. Too short, possibly, for my plan. The ball itself fell to just the height of my shoulder.

I was shocked. *How am I going to do this?*

I reached up, stood on my tippy-toes like a kindergartner, grabbed the chain in my left hand, and tried to pull it down a little more. But it was a chain, so it was very strong and not at all stretchy. It was also pretty thick, about 2-1/2 inches wide and not terribly pliable.

I stood there, grunting, sobbing, trying to stretch my body. I held the ball and the bottom of the tether chain in my hand, trying to figure out a way to make this work. Wondering if I could quickly have a growth spurt.

*How can I get this short thick thing around my neck?*

Even on my tippy-toes and pulling it as hard as I could, it wasn't long enough. It just reached from my chin to my shoulder — not even half way around my neck!

*What sort of an idiot designed this damn thing with an impossibly short chain?* I wondered. You can't even smack the ball around the pole more than a couple of times.

Not to mention that it wasn't at all helpful for putting me out of my misery.

I pursed my lips and moved them from side to side like Charlie Chaplin's little tramp. I rubbed my chin and scratched my head. Tried to solve the shortcomings.

Naturally, other problems popped up too.

*What can I jump off of?*

From the time of my first hospitalization at 17, I had lived my life -- made every single decision -- with health insurance in mind. My dreams of acting, of singing, of writing? Of doing whatever the hell I pleased? They'd all been flushed down the thousands of toilets I'd had to rush to over the 10 years since my diagnosis.

After my first hospitalization, and with word from the doctor that my ulcerative colitis would likely flare up repeatedly throughout my life, my parents forced me to go to secretarial school – a career path that had never figured into my plans. My mother was an office worker and she'd always hated her job. It seemed boring and demeaning. Secretarial work had once been a good career path for bright women. But that, I thought in my young “know-it-all” way, was no longer the case. Mom was stuck with it, and she and Dad stuck me with it, too.

I complained bitterly; I was talented, funny, smart. It wasn't fair.

I was wrong about both the work and the women who worked as secretaries. I quickly became pretty ashamed of my attitude, and some of the secretaries I knew became great friends.

Still when the chance emerged to turn a secretarial job into a job as a legal assistant, I jumped at it. In the job I'd had now for three years, I wrote for a living, analyzed legislation and regulations for the firm's clients and learned about U.S. politics and policy. It was a terrific job. The firm had been good to me. And my parents were happy because I was still working in an office. *With health insurance.*

Another wave of anger came as I walked down the groomed hillside.

And then I saw it. Something I'd never seen there in the dozens of times I'd walked that route. Inexplicably, on the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol Building, there was a pole sticking out of the grass with a chain attached at the top, and a ball hanging down.

Tetherball.

I walked up to it and started smacking that ball. I'd only seen cheap sets with rope attaching the ball to the pole. This one had a strong chain that was covered in a canvas sheath. But instead of improving my mood, hitting the ball deepened my feelings of desperation.

**SMACK.** I hit the ball as hard as I could. **“MY BODY HATES ME!”** I shouted as I pushed the ball around the pole.

**WHACK.** **“MY LIFE SUCKS!”**

**SLAM.** **“Fucking, fucking *FUCKING INSURANCE!*”**

**SMACK, SMACK, SMACK.** **“Hopeless. Hopeless. Hopeless.”**

With each hit of the ball, I pushed myself towards the end of my own rope. There was no way to unravel all the problems I was facing, the problems that kept expanding. Just as I thought I'd licked one, it would multiply. No way to fix all the crap that kept piling up. Crap that I suddenly felt that I was facing alone.

That was the moment when I realized, with surprising clarity, that life just wasn't worth the trouble. At least mine wasn't.

I decided at that moment to hang myself. I would hang myself from the tetherball chain on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol. It suddenly became the perfect solution.

She sounded reassuring; I was unconvinced.

“Really, it’ll be OK,” she repeated. “But in the meantime, I need you to ...”

Her voice trails off in my memory. Andrea was a compulsive workaholic, an A-type personality. Work always came before anything else. Other people at the firm thought it was annoying, insensitive, or worse. But for me, it helped. It was exactly what I needed. It took my mind off me. I did what she asked, finished up and went home.

Of course I fell apart once I was home and told my roommate, Keily, the news. I ranted, raged, and cried -- I wallowed all evening.

“I don’t even want to have this operation,” I shouted as loudly as I could to Keily as I sat in the bathroom, the door open. My gut, naturally, was erupting. It almost always was by then, especially when I was upset. Cramps. Diarrhea. Blood. Urgency. My shitty symptoms mocked me, proving that I couldn’t avoid the surgery. That I couldn’t put it off until my insurance kicked in. That I was totally screwed.

Keily sat outside the bathroom at the top of the stairs, stroking Goliath; that was her perch as I got sicker and sicker. She sat there and talked to me. She kept Goliath out of the tiny bathroom (Keily’s only successful effort at getting the Goose, as we nicknamed him, to obey.) That night, she held Goliath, and soothed him and me at the same time. She let me vent, rage, rant.

“It’ll work out. There’s some mistake. They can’t just do this to you. You need to trust the folks at your office.” Keily said repeatedly.

“You mean the ones who agreed to the new policy?” I wasn’t in a mood to listen.

That night I’d skipped Goliath’s after-work walk. It was getting on towards 10 p.m. and he needed to go out. I needed to do something else, or at least cry somewhere else. Walking clears my head, lets me figure out how to fix a problem, helps me find an answer. I knew a walk would help.

“Do you want me to come?” asked Keily. She often did, and that night she was concerned. I was so shaky and upset.

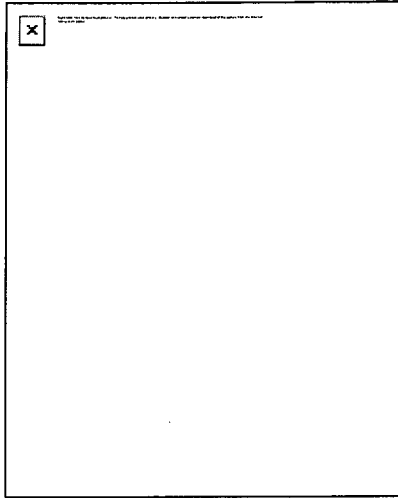
“No, thanks, I think I need to be by myself,” I responded. “I’ll be OK.” Actually, I was wishing I could leave myself behind. I was sick of me. Sick of sick me, anyhow.

So Goliath and I got into the VW and headed to the Capitol grounds, where we walked most nights. It’s such a beautiful, inspiring place. Plus for a woman walking her dog, it’s perfect. Of course it’s well lit -- you can see it for miles. But there are also security patrols that never bothered us but nevertheless made me feel safe. A 120 lb. German Shepherd helped make me feel secure, too.

It was a clear night, with a half-moon casting shadows from the beautiful cherry and oak trees, from the enormous rhododendron bushes and other carefully tended shrubs across the expansive West Lawn. Nobody else was in sight.

I let Goliath off his leash. Deep in my own thoughts, I didn’t pay much attention to him. Unusually, he stayed right with me that night. He was as worried as Keily.

*I cannot believe this is happening to me*, I thought, rage building again at the injustice. Because my whole entire adult life had been focused on making sure I had health insurance.



Poster by Michael Bedard  
<http://www.mbedard.com>

I knew that if I looked over my shoulder, I'd see some bullet holes as well. I was that sitting duck -- I always seemed to be dodging bullets. Life with chronic illness had become one fucking thing after another. Now, just when I'd accepted and agreed to the surgery that so terrified me, my insurance was gone. BANG! BANG!

"What's wrong?" Andrea asked.

"It's not covered," I said, numbly, without a hint of emotion. Then I began to hyperventilate. "Pre-... pre-... pre-existing condition,' they said."

"What?"

I explained what I'd been told, that the new policy didn't cover anybody for 30 days and that it didn't cover pre-existing conditions for a year. The firm had changed insurance to save money. Their decision would cost me everything. *Everything.*

I didn't want to have the surgery -- it terrified me. But I'd adjusted, accepted that I was, in spite of my attempted denial, quite sick, and that I had to have the operation. But I couldn't possibly pay for it. Where was I going to get the tens, maybe hundreds of thousands of dollars I'd need? I lived pay-check to pay-check, and rarely had a nickle to spare; I had no savings. My parents were retired, living close to the bones themselves. My siblings were likewise broke. And I had insurance!

Loss of the insurance meant one of two things. I could have the surgery that I really didn't want to have anyway and pay for it myself. Or I'd face another year of ever-worsening illness -- hemorrhages, bleeding, weakness, diarrhea. Dr. C had been clear — my colitis was not just going to go away, as much as I wanted it to.

Without insurance, even if I could convince my surgeon, the hospital and the zillions of other folks involved in a major operation to actually do the surgery on someone without insurance, I knew that I would spend the rest of my life trying to pay the bills. *Bills that would have been covered just the day before.*

My mind whipsawed between the injustice of the loss and terror at what would happen to me if I didn't have that damn operation.

Andrea came around to my side of my desk and put her hand on my arm. "We'll figure this out, Elyse. It's late now, everybody's gone. But we'll work this out on Monday."

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Marcelle FK <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:58 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Save the ACA -- military families depend on it

Hello!

I am a military spouse. My husband served in the Air Force for 24 years. During that time I consistently relied on Planned Parenthood as my primary health care provider because we often were assigned to bases in areas that didn't have great health care for military dependents. In Montgomery, Alabama, I was put on a wait list to get an OB/GYN that extended beyond my pregnancy. We moved from there to Las Vegas, Nevada, while I was still pregnant and again I went on a waiting list. I went without prenatal care during my second and third trimesters because the military bases where my husband was assigned did not at that time see pregnant patients and the waitlist for local doctors who took TriCare extended beyond my due date. (At Nellis AFB it was because there was a renovation happening at the hospital. For the time that was going on, military spouses did not have the option of being seen on base for prenatal care or deliveries. No local doctor would accept TriCare from a woman in her third trimester.)

In both places, Planned Parenthood alone did not turn me away. In Alabama, because there was not a Planned Parenthood near me, I had to cross state lines to get prenatal care. In Las Vegas I was more fortunate.

When my husband was assigned to Monterey, California, for the Defense Language Institute for 7 months, I faced a waitlist to see a doctor that extended beyond the time that my husband would be stationed there. So, once again, I went to Planned Parenthood. And once again I was well cared for.

Cassidy-Graham would defund Planned Parenthood and take away this resource from military families like mine.

Cassidy-Graham would also give states the option to reimpose pre-existing conditions, which is worrisome for parents like us who know that the illnesses and accidents of childhood could reduce or eliminate my child's access to health care coverage when he is no longer covered by our insurance. My son's childhood asthma should not make it impossible for him to get health care as an adult.

Please do not support Cassidy-Graham. It puts vulnerable populations in jeopardy. And military families, like everyone else, deserve better.

Thank you,  
Marcelle Furrow-Kiebler

--  
Marcelle Furrow-Kiebler  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Marc Stenchever [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:57 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** VOTE NO on ZOMBIE TRUMPCARE

Or get booted out of office no one wants this. No one.  
Sent from my iPhone



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Tim Sansevieri <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:57 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA repeal

I wish to enter into the record: my wife has an extremely rare form of cancer (1 in 3 million). Your bill would allow states to charge more if you (my wife) have a pre-existing condition; premiums will be higher; lifetime caps will take effect in many states, likely ours (Maine) being one. You are trying to ram this through without CBO analysis. Perhaps most damning: even without this analysis, it is likely 20-30 million people would lose hc insurance.

I thought after the last miserable failure you folks were going to try (hallelujah!) a BIPARTISAN approach. What in hell happened. WILL YOU STOP PUTTING YOUR PARTY BEFORE OUR COUNTRY AND ITS CITIZENS? PLEASE!

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Susie Schulman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:57 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GrahamCassidy Healthcare Act Bill

Dear Elected Senators,

I urge you to vote NO...the Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill does not provide for repeal and replace of the ACA without substantial increases in premiums for those of us who are not employed nor covered by large employer provided group health insurance. It also does not provide for funding of mental healthcare specifically addiction recovery treatment where most are faced with a year waiting list due to inadequate funding of inpatient services. Please vote no and do a better job creating a single payer system we can all work with that includes dental, hearing, and vision related services since my teeth, ears, and eyes are parts of my body. Oh, and so is my vagina and the baby created in it.

Very Truly Yours,  
Susie Schulman  
Constituent

Sent paper free

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Sitnik, Rich <Rich. [REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:57 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Don't bring this Bill up for a vote. It's bad, you are not representing the will of the people and the real reasons for putting this up for a vote is cynical! Stop the nonsense!

Richard Sitnik

Sent from my iPhone

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**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Ann Robins [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:56 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No on Graham Cassidy

To the Senate Finance Committee:

I was uninsurable before ACA because I was on two blockbuster drugs. The drugs are blockbusters because millions of people take them. They were prescribed to me when I had health insurance through an employer. Then I got laid off and couldn't qualify for insurance because of those two drugs that help millions. I came off them because I couldn't afford the prescribing doctor anymore.

Do we really want to go back to that? We'd just moved forward.

Today I am eligible for healthcare.

No to Graham Cassidy.

Kate Robins  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** SherryNowak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:56 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

Please admit my statement as part of the record.

I am appalled that the US Senate would punish citizens who participated in the ACA by threatening to take those funds to reward non-participants. This is purely political.

Do the real work. Fix the ACA through regular order.

Health care affects 1/6 of our economy. The Graham Cassidy proposed bill is opposed by all major insurers and health care organizations. Preparing this bill in secret is cowardly. Offering better fixes by pitting state against state is despicable. Not allowing in-depth hearings means there is something to hide. Rushing to implement a bad bill without knowing the CBO score is irresponsible.

My family has been afflicted with cancer and it alters your hope in many ways. Not knowing if you will have insurance to fight it is an unnecessary burden.

Today, I have health coverage. I am a lucky. Time can alter that. I do not need ill-informed US Senators deciding my future or that of my fellow Americans.

No one asks to get sick or lose a job. The GOP is suppose to be the party of fiscal responsibility and compassion. The Graham Cassidy bill is neither.

The US Congress must enroll in the same insurance they are proposing for their fellow Americans. Any plan that excludes congressmen from cuts of any kind is hypocritical. Any plan that provides better benefits wastes the taxpayers money. If you are unwilling to enroll in your proposed plan, kill the bill.

The world is watching.

Melanie Nowak  
Highland, IN

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**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Walter Simmons [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:56 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** TrumpCare Vote

Please vote NO on repeal of Obamacare. TrumpCare will hurt too many people.

I encourage you to continue work on the bi-partisan effort to improve ObamaCare.

Thank you.

Walter Simmons  
Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Mary Lewis [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:33 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Trump-care

Dear Sirs and Madams,

As a registered nurse and tax payer I implore you not to pass this horrible bill. The republican constituents don't even want this (except for that 1% of course). Republicans don't know this because they will not hold town halls. Please vote no.

Thank you.

Regards,  
Mary Ellen Lewis

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** David Nixon <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:32 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Save my friend's life - vote NO to Graham Cassidy

Persons dear to me barely hold on with help from Medicaid. For that, we thank you. Thank you, thank you. Please, vote no Cassidy Graham, God love them both, the latest effort to mess with the Affordable Care Act; but instead please do return to regular order and do fix ObamaCare with equal numbers of votes from Republicans and Democrats. Wouldn't that be something! Thank you!



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** James Lemanowicz [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:33 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Kelly, Steve (Toomey); Mulligan, Kasia (Toomey)  
**Subject:** Comment on GCH

Another bad bill that is being rushed through without proper analysis and review. They are not even waiting for a CBO scoring. Like the others, it does a great deal of harm and does no good.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Lois Caniglia <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:32 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Leave Obamacare ALONE

With Lindsey and Cassidy's latest white trash crap, I now go hard LEFT! I am calling for SINGLE PAYER, BABY! That's right, SCREW Your Plan, Lindsey. Up Yours Republican WHITE TRASH! SINGLE PAYER or BUST!  
Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** chi saito [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:32 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO on Graham-Cassidy!

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

PLEASE kill this particularly egregious attempt at repealing the Affordable Care Act that has helped millions of free-lance artists like me obtain health insurance, many of us for the first time. While I "won the genetic lottery" and am (so far) free from health issues, I do not mind "paying it forward" by subsidizing those less fortunate. I appeal to you to elaborate bipartisan solutions to the problems with the current iteration of the Affordable Care Act with a view toward improving what we already have. This lousy bill is a non-starter.

Respectfully,

Brenda K Spevak

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Paul Huneke [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:32 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

Please do not consider such an important bill without a forecast from the CBO.

Paul Huneke  
White Plains NY

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Morgan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:32 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

How could you even think this is a good idea? I'm 26 years old. I have beat cancer twice which by the way...wasn't my fault. I did not survive to figure out how the hell I am supposed to maintain a good quality of life. You will KILL millions of people! VOTE NO!!!!

Morgan S. Newman

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** laura wesney [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:32 PM  
**To:** gchcomments

I work with many patients who have brain injuries, spinal cord injuries and they deserve good health care as well as anyone else. Please consider their needs as well as children and others with many illnesses -they could some day be our light to help us or other people-but they need the chance to recover with good health care. Actually we all deserve good health care.

Please maintain the medicaid programs and don't vote them out!

Sincerely,

Laura McDonald-Wesney

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Martha Dietz <[REDACTED]@m>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:31 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

Vote No for this bill. Fix the ACA. Don't take from the needy, the sick and the children. Keep our nation great. Honor our citizens. We are one.

Martha Dietz  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Heather Eglad [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:30 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy

I oppose this atrocity, this cruel attempt to remove healthcare protections for those most at risk, to increase premiums for basic services that target women and the poor. Shame on the Senate and the GOP for continuing to attack the populace. VOTE NO.  
Heather Eglad

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**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Adam Geyer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:31 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Opposition to Graham-Cassidy bill

This bill will put millions of people's lives at risk as it allows for insurers to charge more or discriminate against those with preexisting conditions. It discriminates against women by making coverage for women's health optional. There also has not been proper process for hearing this bill.

We can do so much better- please do not allow intimidation to make you abandon reasoned consideration Do Not Pass This Bill!  
Pennell Locey  
Dedham, Massachusetts

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Paul and Judy Fardig [REDACTED] t>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:31 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Opposition to Graham Cassidy bill

Dear Republican Senators,

If you were truly proud of your latest Trumpcare bill, Graham-Cassidy, and thought this bill would be better for the vast majority of Americans than the ACA, you wouldn't be rushing it through without a complete CBO score and many hearings. Something that affects one sixth of our economy deserves a thoughtful process by regular order as Senator McCain has stated.

All major physicians groups including the AMA oppose it because there are no real protections for people with pre-existing conditions if states are allowed to do their own thing and price people out of coverage. This will take money out of our healthcare system at a time when the opioid crisis is still exploding and we have thousands of Americans unable to work because of fires, floods, and other disasters. Rural hospitals will be hit hard.

States that did the right thing and expanded Medicaid will be punished to give money to states with hyper-partisan governors that previously spurned free federal money attached to the ACA.

We see through the sham. It's just greasing the skids under pressure from the reconciliation rules to try to get tax cuts for the very wealthy and corporations done. Stop wasting taxpayer money on repeated attempts to undo what President Obama succeeded in improving. Senators Alexander and Murray were working on stabilizing the ACA. That is what we the people want and deserve.

People's lives are at stake!

Paul and Judith Fardig

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Tony [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:30 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy is the worst...

bill yet of the plans Republicans have attempted to foist on the American public. It's mean, hurtful, harmful, shameless, and frankly craven at a level heretofore unknown in the United States' congress. This is already a low bar considering the Supreme Court battle that Senator McConnell led.

I urge you to oppose this vile piece of dog doo that masquerades as a health care bill.

-- Tony

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Cecilia Jenkins [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:31 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it ends the Medicaid expansion. The Medicaid expansion is very important to people in Pennsylvania. The spell only provides block grants to states which is not enough funding we need to keep Medicaid at the federal level. This bill does not pay for several key preventative health care services and keeps a cap on lifetime spending which for people with disabilities and children with disabilities who have very severe and chronic conditions this will be catastrophic.

Cecilia Jenkins

[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** JoEllen Bitzer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:30 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it allows states to decide what to cover and allows them to get a waiver to opt out of essential benefits. It allows insurance companies to charge people more for pre-existing conditions. It puts lifetime caps on payments. This bill also will raise premiums especially for Americans over 50. The bill mentions that those with pre-existing conditions must have coverage that is adequate and affordable but the bill does not state what that means. This bill does nothing to make the American people healthier. Instead it makes healthcare less reliable just the opposite of what people need when they are dealing with illness. The bill shows no compassion. The American people demand this Republican Senate have public hearings, debates and offer amendments. We demand a CBO score. Stop the insanity and the desire to win or fulfill a campaign promise when the bill is no good and your party has even admitted it. We pay your salary and yet you just do what you want when the majority of people are not on board with it. We deserve better!!

JoEllen Bitzer  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Nancy Jones [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:00 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Fwd: Bill to repeal ACA

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Nancy Jones [REDACTED]  
**Date:** September 21, 2017 at 4:30:07 PM EDT  
**To:** [GCHcomments@finance.senate.gov](mailto:GCHcomments@finance.senate.gov)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** **Bill to repeal ACA**

With each iteration of the bill to repeal the ACA, we despair more over the grievous lack of compassion demonstrated by the bills' backers in Congress.

It is indicative of their loyalty to special interests only when they persist with the unconscionable inhumane bill, even with the vast majority of "WE the people" being against it. SHAME upon them.

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Rita McCarthy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:37 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

Dear Sirs:

I cannot believe that the Senate will vote on this bill without information from Congressional Budget Office. Also, the public has no idea how individuals will be impacted by the bill—especially people with pre-existing conditions.

This bill is not designed for the public's welfare. It is designed to be a "win" for the Republicans in office. All politics, no interest in serving the public.

Rita McCarthy  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Provost, Karin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:37 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy-Heller Bill comments

As a physician, I am ardently opposed to this bill, on so many levels. The greatest overarching issue is that health is the foundation of a productive society. In GOP-speak, if you don't have health, you can't work. If you don't work, you don't pay taxes and you then siphon off social services. The fastest way to boost the economy is provide health security and health. As a physician, scientist and educator, I take umbrage with:

1. The removal of the requirement for Essential Health Benefits, as these form the basics of preventive medicine, and are coined "essential" for a reason. It is also a significant cost-saving measure, as diabetes is much easier treated when identified as pre-diabetes, than when presenting as hyperglycemic, hypersomolar coma in the Intensive Care unit with diabetes driven renal failure, peripheral vascular disease, heart disease and blindness and a subsequent lifetime thereafter on disability, social security, medicaid (for dialysis).

2. Second, removal of the pre-existing conditions protections. Nearly everyone has a pre-existing condition, save a few lucky newborns. You can't control your genetics or the reckless teenager texting and crashing into your car, or the swine flu arriving in your state. Pregnancy is a life event, not a pre-existing condition. It is, unfortunately, not without complications, but it is something to be celebrated, not fined.

3. Block grants will fail because they do not account for rapid swings in societal events: swine flu, financial recessions, environmental disasters that leave people out of work, or injured beyond ability to work. They don't account for new life-saving treatments being discovered (Hep C treatment to cure) that come at significant costs.

4. Loss of coverage for mental health services. In the middle of the opioid epidemic? Driven by depression, hopelessness and brought on by the medical community?

What is your end goal with this legislation? Because all I see is the financial toll (32 million without healthcare, 32 million people with health insecurity and one viral illness away from ending up on medicaid and welfare, 20% increase in premiums that cover nothing of value, financially unstable hospitals that form the backbone of many towns and cities that are forced to close under mounting unpaid bills from the 32 million people, lost work days due to preventable illness and lost productivity), the emotional toll of being sick without a means to pay, and the toll on the American quality of life. Living in chronic pain, chronic uncontrolled heart failure, uncontrolled diabetes, so short of breath you can't walk to the bathroom. Why would you consciously choose to inflict suffering on the majority of your constituents and destabilize the economy into recession, again?

Healthcare that is easily obtained makes sound economic policy, and it is just the right thing to do. It makes me nauseous to realize that a physician was involved in crafting this bill. But it is clear that he no longer deserves the respect or title of Doctor, Physician, Healer. He has forgotten the most important part of the Hippocratic Oath, *primum non nocere*, to 'first do no harm'.

The views included are mine, and do not reflect institutional values. My contact information below lists the breadth of my experiences, from which my informed decisions arise.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Elizabeth Hampton [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:37 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy is a disaster

Attention Senate Finance Committee

What kind of a nation are we if we won't care for our most vulnerable citizens?

I have a son with a pre-existing condition, a type-1 diabetic, he currently has employer based insurance but we came through the horror of pre-ACA, when our insurance company refused to cover him when he graduated from college in 2007.

It was a nightmare and it turned my Republican husband into a Progressive Democrat. He now votes exclusively for the Democrats because of the cruelty of the Republicans and their misguided, short-sighted inability to see the cost-effectiveness of affordable healthcare for all.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth Hampton

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Audrey Krisbergh [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:37 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

I am outraged at the Republican effort to repeal the ACA. The Graham Cassidy bill is cruel and inhumane. Taking healthcare away from millions of Americans, eliminating or decreasing coverage for pre-existing conditions, increasing health insurance costs, slashing Medicaid, giving tax breaks to the ultra-wealthy, defunding Planned Parenthood which provides medical care to millions of women, allowing for insurers to charge much more for older Americans to get coverage, and then having Republican Senators lie about the reality of the impact of the bill is an abomination. It reflects the values the Republican party holds dear - which is not what is in the best interests of the American people.

I am appalled and outraged by the Republican effort to repeal the ACA. This is abhorrent and unconscionable. These Senators should be standing up to protect healthcare for our citizens, not taking it away from them and lying about it.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Nedra Whittemore <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:57 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it will result in millions of Americans losing their health insurance, it cuts federal Medicaid funding for senior citizens, people with disabilities, and families with children. It does not guarantee coverage or even affordable coverage for pre-existing conditions, allows insurers to deny coverage for pregnancy, Pediatric care, Rehab services and mental Health coverage among others. And finally the outrageous idea that putting in provisions for the State of Alaska allowing it to keep essentially Obama Care coverage just to ensure Murkowski's vote is not only repugnant but in all likelihood could not with stand an almost guarenteed challenge in court.

Nedra Whittemore

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Allen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:57 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote NO on Graham Cassidy

I will die 6 months following this bill if enacted. Vote NO! ACA saved my life.

## **Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:56 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GCHC

NO!

30 million Americans, the people who put you in office, will lose coverage! Will you and your families lose the coverage if as a taxpayer pay for? No, I didn't think so.

Do your job, legislate a fair, bipartisan change to improve the ACA. Waiting for the CBO score is the very least you can do. This isn't about politics it's about your own constituents and their families.

This bill is cruel, heartless and just plain mean. The American people deserve better. Our children deserve better and their children deserve the best! I've worked all my life

You will all be remembered in 2018 and it won't ever be forgotten that those who vote in favor of this trash will be forever known as the GOP Death Panel!

Kathleen Gianandrea  
Californian and damn proud of my state.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Rebecca Parent [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill

My name is Rebecca Parent. I live in Connecticut. At 8 years old I was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes which means I have had a pre existing condition. I guess my comment is how can you be so cruel to rip away health care from people less fortunate than you. You were elected to serve the people. To make our lives better. I am in no way saying what we currently have is perfect. But what is being proposed to replace it is cruel. We are talking about people's lives here. People whose lives have improved cause of affordable health care. And if this bill passes, how are most of them going to survive without the quality care they started to receive. My life changed at 8 years old. Without injections of insulin I would have died. Without being able to afford insulin, I will die. Or go into massive debt. And this scenario is what every Senator who votes for this bill will have on his or her conscience. If you even have one anymore.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Parent

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Emily Willhide [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:56 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare vote

Good morning,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the GrahamCassidy healthcare bill. I'm extraordinarily apprehensive about a bill we haven't even seen the CBO score for yet, not to mention the lack of public forums on this. Early estimates say 32 million will lose care. Subsidies will be phased out, and insurances companies can make your rates sky-rocket if you have pre-existing conditions. At the same time, we're voting on massive funding for our military. Our priorities appeared to be skewed.

This bill is not a "healthcare" bill. It is a mockery of healthcare and an abandonment of the most vulnerable among us.

Sincerely,  
Emily Willhide  
South Carolina



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Michel Wilcox [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because preexisting condition coverage will be left up to the states under this bill without precise language to require this coverage at a reasonable cost. My 50 year old type 1 diabetic daughter would be no longer to obtain coverage that she could afford and would eventually go bankrupt. The emergency rooms that provide her with limited emergency services - (hypoglycemia & low blood sugar emergencies) would go unpaid due to her inability to obtain coverage or pay for these services. Are tax cuts for the wealthy and hatred of the name "Obamacare" adequate reasons to bypass Senate traditions, public hearings, CBO scores, and concern for your fellow Americans? Please reconsider supporting this terrible bill.

In PA, our legislature has been unable to balance our budget for years, resulting in multiple credit downgrades. Providing this legislature with inadequate Medicaid block grants will only exacerbate this situation and certainly result in inferior insurance coverage.

Michel Wilcox  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kim Andrews [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because this undoes the universal requirement for health Care and adds penalties for preexisting conditions. Please do not vote for this terrible bill.

Kim Andrews

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Brittany Mekelburg [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy Bill Comments

Hello,

I am writing about the proposed Graham/Cassidy bill for changes to the ACA. I am deeply concerned that this bill will undermine our country's healthcare, which many citizens lives depend on.

First, I urge Congress not to vote on a bill without a CBO score considering that this bill will have such a large impact on the lives and economy. It is reckless to push a vote without having all pertinent information considered.

Second, I am troubled by the language in the bill that would allow states to dismantle pre-existing conditions, mental health care, and maternity/prenatal care protections. My family was significantly impacted by these provisions and the extra medical costs would've been a devastating financial burden.

Finally, the reduction in funding to Medicaid is upsetting in that it will cause skyrocketing costs to the elderly and disabled who are already financially vulnerable and have the greatest need for care.

It is irresponsible and a disservice to the American people to rush a bill that, as it stands, will force millions of citizens out of insurance. Please do not pass the Graham/Cassidy bill and instead work on strengthening America by improving existing law through bi-partisan committees.

Thank you for your time,

Brittany Mekelburg

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Carolyn E [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I am opposed to the Graham Cassidy bill

This bill is playing politics with our health care and with 1/6th of our budget!!! Yes, ACA has issues, so can't you work to fix them instead of approving a bill that nobody wants? It's opposed by nearly every medical association and insurers! INSURANCE COMPANIES?!?! Come on guys, please fix ACA, work together. If for nothing else than to show your constituents that you can do good work. I know it's hard to buck the party leaders, but frankly, they're doing a bad job and you can show leadership by doing the right thing. Please.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Ruth Zook [redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

Vote **NO** on Graham-Cassidy bill. Put the health of the people of our nation above politics.  
Ruth Zook

[redacted]



Virus-free. [www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Candy J Tiltges [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GOP Replace Repeal ACA

Please make sure this New Health Care Bill improves our health care. Makes sense and cost are logical.

Candice Tiltges  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:53 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy-Heller comments

To Whom It May Concern:

Please withdraw the subject bill. Restructuring health care by abdicating responsibility in favor of an abrupt handoff to fifty-odd other legislatures is not a responsible approach. Carrying this out with ninety seconds of debate is absurd. The sponsors are very obviously flailing to save face at others' expense. Please grow up. Posterity will not judge this kindly. (N. B.: Posterity will be in place and voting by November, 2018.)

Thank you.

Kind regards,

Don Frederick  
Simi Valley, California

\_\_\_\_\_ Information from ESET NOD32 Antivirus, version of detection engine 16117 (20170921)  
\_\_\_\_\_

The message was checked by ESET NOD32 Antivirus.

<http://www.eset.com>

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Abby Stokes [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:53 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote NO to Trumpcare

Trumpcare is morally reprehensible and fiscally irresponsible. Those who vote "yes" on Trumpcare will be remembered in the next election and history books as anti-American. The medical profession is against it as are the majority of the voting citizens in this country.

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**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Janet Rhinecker [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:53 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** medicaid

SENATE PLEASE DON'T TAKE AWAY MEDICAID FROM PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES. MEDICAID KEEPS THESE ADULTS LIVING IN THE COMMUNITY, NOT IN COSTLY INSTITUTIONS. DON'T CUT AFFORDABLE CARE ACT, PREEXISTING CONDITIONS WOULD BE OVER HALF OF UNITED STATES PEOPLE. THEY WOULD NOT REMAIN HEALTHY. IT WOULD AFFECT THE ECONOMY WITH MUCH SICKNESS FROM WORKING. MEDICAID CUTS WILL BE SUPER DIMINISHING TO AMERICA. AND FOR US THAT PAY FOR INSURANCE IT IS ALREADY EXPENSIVE. MY DAUGHTER NEEDS MEDICATION, AND SEE MANY DOCTORS. MEDICAID IS THE ONLY WAY WE CAN AFFORD IT. MY HUSBAND PASSED AWAY IN 2001, I'VE PAID OVER 78,000 DOLLAR NOW. PLEASE CONSIDER WHAT YOU WILL DO TO ALL AMERICANS. MORE AMERICANS WILL NOT BUY INSURANCE IF NOT MADE AFFORDABLE TO THEM. JANET RHINECKER

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Sue Ruff [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:53 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Testimony on the Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

My daughter and I are writing this comment together. We both have disabilities. We are opposed to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal because it would allow insurers to charge individuals with pre-existing conditions more money for health coverage. This proposal would also cap and block-grant Medicaid. This would decimate Medicaid long term care services and would result in the loss of community based services that enable my daughter to live in her own apartment with the support of care-givers.

This partisan bill undermines the bipartisan marketplace stabilization efforts that were taking place within the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee led by Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA).

We understand that few congressional hearings have been scheduled to discuss this bill. Voting on this bill without a full CBO analysis and congressional review is a disservice to the millions of Americans it will impact.

This latest health care repeal effort is reminiscent of the bad repeal bills we saw over the summer – **it is just as harmful to people with disabilities and their families.** Please share our comments with your committee and other members of the Senate.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Heather Ruff and Susan Ruff

Susan Ruff  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

(Voice/TTY) 607-724-2111  
(Fax) 607-772-3613  
[advocate@stic-cil.org](mailto:advocate@stic-cil.org)

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** heather campain-robish [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:53 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare

Please do not change our healthcare for the worse. My daughter has a pretty-existing condition and as a result has a mental health issue. This will be devastating for her as she is just becoming an adult.

It could be completely devastating to her.

Please put people before politics.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Christine Winter [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:53 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham- Cassidy Bill

To members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed Graham- Cassidy Health Care Bill.

This bill should not receive a vote until it goes through Congressional Budget Office analysis. It is irresponsible to skip this step.

From what I am reading this bill, if passed, would reducing access to health care and inflict devastating costs to the vast majority of Americans. This passage of this bill would effectively take our country several steps backwards in the pursuit of health and prosperity for most of our citizens. It raises the specter of discrimination due to diagnosis or demographic status when it comes to cost and horrifyingly threatens to remove the provision to care completely for many. People will experience extreme financial hardship and many will die due to lack of care if this callous bill becomes law.

Health care for our citizens should not be ripped away for the purpose of political gain and certainly should not be dictated by the whims of the Koch brothers and their ilk.

I urge you to think about really working to make America great for all our citizens not just the already extremely rich.

Please look into you heart and reject this poorly conceived bill.

Sincerely,

Christine Winter  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kelly Stangl-Meddaugh [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:53 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

This bill unjustly affects those who are the most vulnerable: children, low income families, the disabled & the elderly.

My youngest daughter has Down Syndrome. While she has been relatively healthy, she still has ongoing needs or & will specialized healthcare provided as she need continued as she ages. Part of her therapies in school, such as Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, & Speech Therapy are currently covered by Medicaid. Under the new bill these would not be covered. Having a pre-existing condition, would mean she would have high premiums or meet the financial caps very quickly. And if this varies from state to state, that would also limit her opportunities on what access she had to services .

I am additionally concerned since both of my parents need specialty care & have Medicare & Medicaid. They too would be affected having pre-existing conditions.

I also think it is very irresponsible not to have the accounting from the CBO before this bill is put to a vote to realize how many people this will negatively impact.

Please vote "NO" on this bill.

Kelly Stangl-Meddaugh

[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** MJ Kay [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:53 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Why Vote No on the Graham/Cassidy/Heller/Johnson bill

As an older American with preexisting conditions, current conditions and disabilities and as a parent of an adult child with disabilities, I care deeply about access to and affordability of health care. I, along with every American need and deserve affordable premiums, lower out of pocket costs, and coverage I can count on as I age. I am urging the Senate to reject the Graham/Cassidy/Heller/Johnson bill because it would do precisely the opposite.

I am deeply concerned these cuts will endanger the health, safety, and care of millions of individuals like myself who depend on the essential services provided through Medicaid and affordable health care we received through the Affordable Care Act.

The bill would undermine the consumer protections which I, my family, and millions of Americans have benefited from and rely on today.

I ask Congress not to hold a vote that affects 1/6<sup>th</sup> of the American economy without a CBO score or the regular process of legislative processes. The bill would increase health care costs for older Americans with an age tax, decrease coverage, and undermine preexisting condition protections.

I am gravely concerned about the language that allows states to not only loosen or remove protections for those with preexisting conditions that is currently protected under the Affordable Care Act. This would jeopardize my ability to retain medical coverage and potentially increase the prices of premiums for the sick and those like myself with preexisting and current conditions so we won't be able to afford care.

This bill would jeopardize the ability of older Americans and people with disabilities, of which I am both, to stay in our own homes as we age and threaten coverage for individuals in nursing homes.

The bill would force me, a disabled older American, and millions like me to have to choose between food, housing and medicines or health care. In fact, under this bill, I will not be able to afford the lifetime costs for my care.

This is not a good bill. In fact, the Graham/Cassidy/Heller/Johnson bill is a cruel bill, a dangerous bill, and a bill that will cause chaos and lead to the deaths of millions of elderly, disabled, sick Americans that need care.

It is estimate that the bill would strip 32 million Americans of health coverage. Why would Congress do this?

Insurance companies, doctors, patients, hospitals and other patient provider groups are opposed to this bill.

The American Medical Association said that the Graham-Cassidy bill violates the Hippocratic Oath taken by all doctors, "first do no harm."

State Medicaid Directors oppose this.

I implore Congress to vote no on the the Graham/Cassidy/Heller/Johnson bill.

I implore Congress to return to regular order and continue working on common sense solutions in a bipartisan manner to make the needed fixes to the Affordable Care Act that will ensure a robust insurance market with needed consumer protections, controls costs, improves quality; and provides affordable coverage to all Americans.

Thank you,

Mimi Kay

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:53 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Please don't pass the Graham-Cassidy bill. If Jimmy Kimmel is right, it will eliminate protection of pre-existing conditions and is otherwise cruel and ill-advised. Thanks.

Best,  
Laurence Klavan



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Gwynne Gilson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:03 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators,

Please do not pass this bill. The bill, and the process to try to pass it, is unconscionable.

To shape and pass a bill like this, in this manner, without listening to experts in the field of healthcare, is irrational. To pass a bill that restructures 1/6 of the American economy in such a manner is irresponsible. I thought Republicans were supposed to be the party of fiscal responsibility?

Every major hospital, doctor, nurse, and patient association has come out against it.

Offering people with pre-existing conditions the option to buy insurance that they can't afford is not a guarantee of coverage. You are supposedly determined to repeal the ACA because it has made insurance for people unaffordable. What do you think is going to happen if you pass Graham Cassidy?

Do you have any idea how stressful is to worry that you won't be able to afford the health care you need? Do you understand the relationship between stress and diseases such as heart disease, diabetes, cancer, etc? If not, you should look it up. When you create this stress on the American people, you are simply setting the stage for even higher health costs in the long run.

I work for a major county health system. Through the ACA and Medicaid expansion, we are achieving integration of services that is improving patient care and reducing the costs to provide it. We are able to innovate. How does it make any fiscal sense at all to dismantle this system mid-stream? It will result in a complete waste of taxpayer dollars. I thought Republicans were the party of fiscal responsibility?

Furthermore, the idea that a new health care delivery system in each state could be built within two years is ridiculous. First of all, we have to dismantle the one we ALREADY HAVE THAT IS WORKING. Then you have to play an execute something completely different. The Medicaid directors of ALL 50 STATES are trying to tell you this is unworkable.

The only reason that voters thought they wanted the ACA to be dismantled is because Republicans have been lying about it and sabotaging it since its inception. They have misled voters about the facts of the ACA. So voters wanted something dismantled that didn't exist. Now that they know what the ACA does and what they stand to lose, they don't want it repealed, they want it fixed. The latest poll shows only 24% support for repeal. There is high support for a bipartisan solution.

The American people don't want this. You are our elected officials. You are supposed to represent out best interests, not the interests of wealthy donors. Do your jobs and work on a bipartisan solution to improve health care, not destroy it.

Sincerely,

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Nancy Fullam [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:52 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham Cassidy!

I write as a 63 year old life long resident of Pennsylvania to implore you to oppose this heartless and ill-conceived legislation. Please instead continue the bipartisan efforts which were making real progress to improve the ACA.

History (and voters) are watching. We care!

Nancy Fullam

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Sheila Aussenbaugh [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:52 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

Our daughter is forty years old and mentally handicapped. We are pleading with our elected officials to protect her by not waiving protections for people with pre-existing conditions. This would be devastating to her quality of life. Please oppose any bill that cuts, caps, or blocks grants of Medicaid. Thank you for considering this.

Sheila Aussenbaugh  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jeffrey Crozier [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:52 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

I just heard a Senator from Louisiana say on CNN that it was reasonable and wise to gamble on the unknowns involved with this bill because to do nothing is untenable. That, to me, is the equivalent of jumping out of a ten story window because you smell what might be smoke. Sure the fall may possibly kill you but there may have been a fire. So???

Seriously, what is wrong with you people? You're supposed to be the best and brightest amongst us and the government you populate looks more like an eighth grade food fight than an august body of leaders. You are a shameful example of a self serving kleptocracy and the collapse of our civilization is going to be on your heads. The people who you claim to represent will only put up with so much suffering before they act and Graham Cassidy will exacerbate that suffering dramatically. Be very careful as you work through this and consider all of the consequences of your actions.

You must represent the least amongst us and put their health and wellbeing above your desire for profit. We're not as stupid as you'd like to believe and we're watching you.

Love, Jeff

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:51 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GrahamCassidy

To All Concerned:

Passing this financially irresponsible and medically destructive bill into law will reorder 1/6th of our nation's economy and lay waste to our most vulnerable citizens. The working poor, children, the elderly and people with disabilities, pregnant women: to take away their right to stay alive and function is morally reprehensible and robs us as a nation in ways we cannot even begin to imagine now.

The way this untested bill would alter and blindside our economy on so many levels it will dwarf the financial crises we faced 10 years ago- the effects of we we are still feeling. Without any true standard of fiscal predictability to measure this bill, we are effectively throwing a massive chunk of our country's economic future into the wind.

As someone whose future and ability to contribute will be destroyed by the passing of this bill, I am begging you to do all you can to stop this rash and irresponsible piece of legislation from being passed next week.

Cate Smith

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** alanmilner [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:52 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

I am writing to comment on the Graham Cassidy Bill.

If any Republican wants my vote, that Republican will vote against this bill, not because of what it does but rather because of what it doesn't do.

Regardless of the bill's intent, the manner in which the bill is being brought before the Senate is a travesty of the democratic process.

Your constituents deserve an open and unrestricted debate on this bill, as we do on every single bill that is voted upon in Congress.

I am not smart enough to know whether this bill is a good one or a bad one, but I am smart enough to know that it is being rammed down the people's throats without giving the people an opportunity to read, understand and comment upon the bill.

Restricting members of Congress to ninety seconds of debate per member on this bill demonstrates a cynical disregard for the basic principles of representative government.

Others will complain about the details of this bill. They will complain about how it bars American citizens from obtaining health insurance. They will be outraged by the continuing, offensive manner in which the Republicans in the Senate ignore the well-documented wishes of the electorate for access to health care for all.

My issue is much more basic than that. The actions of the Republicans who control the Senate indicate that they have established themselves as a dictatorship, an autocracy that intends to rule by fiat rather than by the rule of law.

Alan M. Milner  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Karl Woodruff [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:10 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** against Graham-Cassidy

As a husband of a type 1 diabetic, I am against the Graham-Cassidy bill as it will cost my family and my employer money and it will make my wife unable to switch jobs as employers are not interested in hiring an employer that will negatively effect their insurance plan.

Karl Woodruff  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** JJ Thompson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:10 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comments on Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senators,

I am writing to provide comments about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal.

I am deeply concerned that this bill will not solve the problems with the US health care system, but rather will exacerbate them.

Our goal as a nation should be to make health care more accessible and affordable for all Americans. Instead, this bill will cause millions of Americans to lose their health care coverage, and will likely leave millions more under-insured.

By encouraging states to seek waivers to the ACA's Essential Health Benefits, this bill will open the market to sub-par plans that don't actually cover patients for the health care they need: this will mean that women may not get the maternity care they need, people with depression, anxiety, or worse may not be able get the mental health care they need, people may not have coverage for hospitalization when they need it. As someone who has studied health care and health insurance for 15 years, I can tell you that this will lead to people postponing needed care, until it is more expensive and more life-threatening. In the end, this will cost States far more than it will save them.

Perhaps most egregiously, this bill will open the door to plans that charge patients more for plans that cover their pre-existing conditions -- a disastrous situation that the ACA remedied. This will leave women who have survived breast cancer, like my mother, in a situation where they may not be able to afford ongoing coverage to detect recurrence. This is unconscionable.

By converting the current ACA and Medicaid funding to state block grants, this bill will hurt the working poor who currently depend on Medicaid and ACA subsidies. As the Federal funding for Medicaid is capped, States will have to choose who will live and who will die. This is not an exaggeration.

Certainly, the ACA is not perfect. But this bill--which will reduce the number of insured, and drastically cuts federal funding for health care that Americans desperately need--does not solve the problems. This bill is no more than an attempt at political expediency. Instead, please work together with Senators across the political spectrum to come up with a solution that truly improves the access and affordability of health care for all.

Thank your for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Jo Thompson, PhD



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Leslie Brunetta [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:10 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

I am a two-time breast cancer patient. I have studied health insurance theory and practice for many years.

Graham-Cassidy will not lead to “better” health insurance. It will not lead to health insurance at all. It will lead to the ability of insurance companies to collect premiums and then to deny coverage to patients at will, either by not offering it or by upping premiums as soon as any person presents any risk.

Backers’ messaging on how this bill will actually work in practice is deceptive to say the least.

Given that only 17% of the US population approved of the last repeal and replace bill, and given that Americans are understanding more and more week by week about how insurance risk pools, etc., actually work, and given that this bill will have an even bigger negative impact than the last bill, how is this going to help any of you the next time you’re up for re-election? People won’t forget that you have given them worse insurance coverage, because they will be living with that fact every day for the rest of their lives.

Sincerely,  
Leslie Brunetta

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** MIRA SCHOR [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:10 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO on Graham Cassidy

I urge you to vote NO on Graham Cassidy. It is a cruel bill, will my decent healthcare unaffordable for everyone but top percentile of population, will dramatically affect rural Hospitals, poor \*and\* middle-class elderly currently in nursing homes. It is devastating and prejudicial to women. It is opposed by every reputable organization in the healthcare community. It is unnecessary and, in that it would lead to millions of early deaths, criminal. It is being pushed through without process which is an offense against all citizens and your own traditions and reputation. All to give GOP donors their tax cuts.? This is criminal and UnAmerican.

Sincerely,  
Mira Schor

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone  
Mira Schor

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Dana Mollins [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:10 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote NO on gch bill!

It is appalling that this sham of a 'health care Bill' has gotten this far. It does not pass the smell test, the 'Jimmy Kimmel test' or any test other first world countries of the world would consider 'good medicine'. Simply the 'pre existing condition' would cause millions of people possible loss of coverage, bankruptcy, suffering and/or death.

I have been the beneficiary of the ACA and, although not perfect, so grateful to have it, it has most definitely allowed me to make medical choices based on 'best' practices' not my bank acct. I am 64 and, altho' quite healthy, I have pre-existing based on being alive for 64 years

This is NOT how the 'most powerful and richest country on earth' cares for it's citizens.

I am American, I vote 'NO' and I will do my best to vote out every politician who supports this evil bill

Thank you

Dana S Mollins

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Lee Chemel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:10 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Lee Chemel  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

I am saddened and becoming outraged that Graham Cassidy has come to the fore. We have emailed, written, called and demonstrated to communicate to our lawmakers and representatives that these attempts at repealing ACA are leaving our citizens bereft of what every human deserves: access to healthcare Graham- Cassidy is unacceptable and selfish and ill-conceived and just plain horrible.

Lee Chemel

Sent from my iPad during lighting set-ups

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Gmail [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:09 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care

Please do not pass the Graham-Cassidy legislation. It is not a better replacement for the ACA.

Kevin O'Hare

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kathy McElaney [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:09 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA Repeal

This new bill is cruel, the problems with the ACA should be fixed.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Herb Metzler [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:09 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** RE: Cassidy/Graham

To the Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Do not vote for the Cassidy/Graham bill to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. It is nothing but a partisan move, and the height of arrogance and irresponsibility to pass legislation like this -- which will affect the lives of millions of our citizens -- without (once again) waiting for the CBO report on the full costs of the measure, and with the covert purpose of redistributing money to "loyalist" Republican states at the expense of others.

Please do not pass this bill and move on to other important legislation like tax reform and infrastructure.

Thank you for your attention to my message.

Sincerely,

Herbert Metzler

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jorge Collazo [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:09 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Jorge Collazo  
**Subject:** Repeal

Dear FC,

Besides the sheer human tragedy of the repeal bill is the monumental cost this Graham bill incur just to give a tax break to the already wealthy.

Morally corrupt  
Financially irresponsible  
(no CBO score?)

Jorge Collazo  
American citizen  
Tax payer  
Human

Sent from my iPhone



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Patricia Coyne-Johnson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:06 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Re: Graham Cassidy Health Care Bill

Sent from my iPhone

> On Sep 21, 2017, at 9:51 PM, Patricia Coyne-Johnson <phcj@me.com> wrote:

>

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

>

> Patricia Coyne-Johnson

> Tucson, AZ

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Elissa Bass [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:06 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please reject Graham-Cassidy bill

To whom it may concern,

My name is Elissa Bass and I live in Stonington, CT. I am 54 years old. I am a registered voter. I am writing to beg you to please reject the Graham-Cassidy Bill before the committee. This bill will hurt so many Americans. The majority of Americans don't want this bill, including Republicans. I cannot understand why those elected to lead our country would want to enact legislation that will literally kill the most vulnerable in our society - elderly, young, poor, working class. Why would you want to deny these people care when they are sick? Because that's what will happen.

How can you willy-nilly rework 1/6 of the national economy without any discussion? Everyone involved in the business of health care - the BUSINESS - is against this bill. I quote:

"All 50 state Medicaid directors have come out against Senate Republicans' latest bill to repeal and replace Obamacare, joining the chorus of opposition from health and insurance groups. In a statement Thursday, the bipartisan National Association of Medicaid Directors warned the so-called Graham-Cassidy bill would place a huge financial burden on states. "Taken together, the per-capita caps and the envisioned block grant would constitute the largest intergovernmental transfer of financial risk from the federal government to the states in our country's history," the group said. NAMD also said the bill vastly underestimates the ability of states to create their own health-care programs in just two years, as the bill requires. "The vast majority of states will not be able to do so within the two-year timeframe envisioned here, especially considering the apparent lack of federal funding in the bill to support these critical activities," they said. The Senate is expected to vote on the measure next week. Almost every major health-care organization, key Republican governors and a major insurance lobby have come out opposing the bill."

19 years ago my daughter was born at 28 weeks gestation because I had pre-eclampsia. She weighed 2 pounds and was 12 inches long. She was in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit for 8 weeks before we took her home weighing a whopping 5 pounds. We were blessed that other than being so early and so tiny she had no issues, and she grew up a normal, healthy child. She is currently a sophomore at The New School in New York, studying in a dual degree program for graphic design and global studies. Her dream is to work at the United Nations, helping people.

The total cost of her birth and hospitalization was \$250,000. My husband and I at the time **together** made \$75,000/year. If not for our insurance our daughter's birth would've bankrupted us. We would never have been able to save the money we did for her college education. We would've lost everything, sacrificed for the health of our child.

Oppose this bill. Do the right thing, not the political thing. Be human.

Sincerely,  
Elissa Bass

**Elissa Bass**

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Cynthia Hogeman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:05 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA

Greetings,

As a nurse practitioner I am acutely aware of the burden of affordable health care is to patients. I believe with full participation of citizens (healthy and ill) as well as full competition between multiple insurance companies PLUS affordable prescription medicines we can make the system work.

Throwing out ACA and replacing it with poor, absent, or expensive coverage is NOT the answer. Neither is throwing it back to the states. That is just passing the buck!

Thanks for your consideration

Cynthia Hogeman, CRNP

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** I shafrit [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:05 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please vote NO on Graham-Cassidy

Graham- Cassidy will be a disaster for those with no company-provided insurance. From what I've read, this proposed legislation will remove many people from health insurance coverage and make it more difficult for others to get covered. Specifically, under no circumstances should pre-existing conditions be uncoverable. This only benefits the insurance companies. Pre-existing conditions are random for the most part and people should not be penalized for something in their genes, etc. I personally have coverage through my employer, but I am concerned about the millions who don't. In addition, not providing coverage to those millions of people will increase the overall costs of the system as it will results in a resurgence of more expensive emergency coverage like ER visits for those who have no ongoing or preventive coverage. Please think of these people that will be uncovered as your own family members and that will help you make the right decision here. Please vote NO.

Lonna Shafritz  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Fluidgolfswing [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:05 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

Dear Senate Finance Committee: The bipartisan Medicaid Directors from all 50 states just issued a very negative statement about Graham-Cassidy.

As a physical therapist I can tell you that they are 100% correct!

A safety net will be a lot less costly than paying for surgeries later down the road!

Please reject Graham-Cassidy!!!

Bill Reif, MSPT

Bill Reif, MSPT

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jennifer Lemmerman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:03 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comments on Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill  
**Attachments:** Graham Cassidy Comments SFC 9.22.17.pdf

Good morning,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit the attached comments on behalf of Community Catalyst as the committee prepares for the September 25<sup>th</sup> hearing to consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal.

Thank you,  
Jennifer

Jennifer Lemmerman | [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



Because we all should have a say  
in decisions that affect our health

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Marcie White [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:04 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care

To all senators:

You were elected to represent the citizens of your state, all of them.

Your job is to enact legislation which is beneficial to us, not to your lobbyists or to your wallet or simply to the 1%. It's my belief that the ACA needs a lot of work to make it work properly for all Americans. But, it seems that repealing it is really all you care to do, not making it better for all.

You Republicans spent 7, now nearly 8 years campaigning against it yet you have, 3 times now, slung together hastily and poorly written replacement bills so that you can, hopefully, have a WIN.

Republicans, you were not elected to defeat the Democrats. And, Democrats, you were not elected to defeat the Republicans. You are where you are because we, the people, placed our trust in you and are placing our tax dollars in your pockets to compensate you for the work you are supposed to do.

I beg of you to place your petty partisanship aside and create a comprehensive health care bill which does not punish anyone nor award anyone unfairly.

The current offering does none of that.

For shame, senators, for shame!

Marcie White  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Fisotherapy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:04 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senate Finance Committee: The bipartisan Medicaid Directors from all 50 states just issued a very negative statement about Graham-Cassidy.

As a physical therapist I can tell you that they are 100% correct!

A safety net will be a lot less costly than paying for surgeries later down the road!

Please reject Graham-Cassidy!!!

Bill Reif, MSPT



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** David L <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:04 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comment

The Graham-Cassidy will harm millions of people, and it will not even have the benefit of a Congressional Budget Office analysis. Passing this bill would be cruel and irresponsible.

Sincerely,  
David Leisner

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Susan Jackson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:04 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill

Please vote NO to the graham Cassidy bill. It will negatively impact millions of people who need it to stay alive.

Thanks,

Susan Jackson  
Memphis, TN

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** jon firestine [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:00 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare

Dear lawmakers, It is time for you to stop trying to dismantle the ACA and instead, to work on improving it. I am so tired of decisions in Congress being made solely on the basis of partisan bias. I am tired of our elected officials doing the bidding of powerful lobbyists and not doing what we sent you to Congress to do- to represent OUR interests, the people who voted for you. The health of every American is the most important goal you should be working towards and some type of universal healthcare should be provided. Instead of stripping it away from the most vulnerable citizens of our country, you need to find a way to cover each and every one of US, the citizens of The United States of America. It is the will of the people and you go against it at your own peril. You find the money for each and every military action, no matter how frivolous, find the money to provide healthcare to ALL.

Jon E Firestine, Jackson, California

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Ruth Zook [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:03 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 201

**VOTE NO.**

**Have the heart to put the health of the people of our nation above political gain.**

**Ruth Zook**  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



Virus-free. [www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Lauren Kelly [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:22 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please don't pass this inhumane health care bill

People will die so welathier people can pay less. It's disgusting this is even on the table

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** TYRONE RAYFORD [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:22 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

You know this bill will cause millions of Americans to be with health insurance. So your vote should be "**NO**" on this bill.

Sincerely  
T. Rayford

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Erik M [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:23 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Do NOT pass the Graham Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators,

Please do not pass the Graham Cassidy Bill, the latest attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act. The proposed legislation will eliminate coverage for an estimated 32 million Americans, it will fail to provide essential healthcare benefits, and it will fail to cover pre-existing conditions. Every major medical association opposes this bill, and healthcare professionals are united in their opposition. Please do the right thing for the American people.

Sincerely,  
Erik McCurdy

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** John Hicks [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:23 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

As a retired Army officer, I am very concerned about the serious, negative impact of the Graham-Cassidy Bill on veterans and our population in general. Graham-Cassidy is an over-reaction to the GOP promise to eliminate the ACA.

I ask that you carefully examine the impact of this bill, not only on federal government finances, but also on the economy itself. In my view, the damage to our healthcare system will be expensive and will take years to repair. The only reasonable repair will be Medicare for all.

Sincerely,

John Hicks

Placitas, NM



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Susan Larsen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:23 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

I oppose this latest effort to repeal the ACA. Aside from the fact that it only covers “healthy care”, not “healthcare”, it enables insurance firms to exclude so many situations, in which everyman might find oneself at any given moment in their lifetime, it is the same policy of exclusion practiced by the industry that led to the need for Medicaid and the ACA in the first place. That exclusion was based on the highest profit for the least coverage, even for people, who enrolled young and healthy. When they became ill, insurance firms just cancelled them or made premiums exorbitantly high. If it were not for a tax break to employers that offered health insurance to employees, the policy of exclusion would be even more widespread.

The nation must have a unified healthcare policy rather than leaving it to the states to determine how to spend the “block grants” in GCH. We cannot assume that the risk spread is equal in each state or that each state will even use a block grant for healthcare. Furthermore, I have not seen the formula by which the proposed block grants were calculated. Did the authors consider the spirit of equality under the law in devising their formula or is it merely political bribery, as in the case of Alaska?

My experience with employer provided health insurance tells me that you always start with young, healthy people, then life happens. Firms that self-insured paid actual costs and hired insurance firms to administrate policies and help negotiate prices and care standards. They pay 50-60% of what providers charge outside these group plans as does Medicare. Does that mean that privately insured individuals and the uninsured are charged prices that actually subsidize corporate plan costs? Or should we be asking insurance firms why these risk pools work amid their claims that the costs of the ACA are too high.

I don't like the mandates on individuals or small owner-operated business without providing a way for them to form cooperatives to spread risk and cost over larger groups. That is the only revision of the ACA that is necessary at this time.

Thank you for reading my comments. I hope you will abandon the GCH bill and return to fashioning a bill that provides real coverage and does not hold profiteering interests above the life and death needs of citizens.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Eileen Stern [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:21 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

Need bipartisan fix to ACA not repeal  
Graham Cassidy cuts to Medicaid too deep Why is EVERY health organization against this if so good?  
Doctors against  
Nurses against  
Hospitals against  
AARP against  
Even Health Insurance companies!  
Just stop this and rework ACA  
Eileen Stern

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Shannon Henneberry [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:24 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Wealthcare Sham

Good morning, Death Squad.

The American People do not want cutting access for pre-existing conditions.

Gutting Federal funding for market place subsidies and Medicaid expansion.

32 million people uninsured.

Go back to the drawing board AND DO YOUR JOB for once!

Signed,

Everyone

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Niall Bryan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:25 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy (Trumpcare 3.0?) Abomination

Dear Sirs/Madams,

I won't list the atrocious details of this awful Graham-Cassidy Wealthcare bill, as i'm sure you're already aware of them. Please do not pass this bill. Instead, return to regular order so that A) the PPACA can be appropriately adjusted, or B) the G-C bill, or a better one (so easily achieved), can be fully debated before being voted upon. I urge this for the health and well-being of the country as a whole.

Thank you.

-- Niall Bryan, A Very Concerned Citizen of these United States of America.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Kathy Vecchioni [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:25 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please NO CUTS to Medicaid

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have many concerns about the proposed changes to healthcare but would like to address the one that **I have first hand experience with, based on 35 years of my service and Masters degree in Social Work, as an advocate for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in the State of Maryland.**

People with I/DD are typically born with their disability although it may not be recognized until later in childhood. Others sustaining traumatic brain injury before the age of 22 for example are also included in this group. To be eligible for services in Maryland, the disability must significantly impact at least 2 of 3 areas: Personal Management, Household Management, and Use of Community Resources. I/DD is a lifelong disability and while people can increase skills, the disability never gets better.

**Adults with I/DD rely on Medicaid and the federal government to fund about half the cost of the necessary residential and day time supports they require to be safe.** Each person has a different range of needs and is funded for just the support they need. **Without the necessary in home support, people would DIE. These are people with past histories of**

- scalding themselves because they are unable to regulate water temperature,
- ingesting multiple surgical gloves or other inedibles because they were hungry
- accidentally setting fires when attempting to cook a meal
- inability to communicate at all, or to communicate physical pain except through behavior,
- inability to get from bed to wheelchair or to operate wheelchair

to name just a few examples. Many are people whose families are long deceased.

Without day time services for those living at home, **already struggling parents would have to quit their jobs and lose the health insurance benefits their family relies on, especially family members with I/DD** who often have co-occurring medical diagnoses like seizures. People with I/DD would become isolated at home and lose the skills they worked so hard to gain in school (this has already been demonstrated.)

**The State is a serious watchdog to assure they fund only the service each person needs because they have a waiting list of thousands with new people entering crisis with urgent need for service every year** (their elderly parent/caregiver passes away or behavioral needs exceed the caregivers ability especially for older caregivers.) Among those on the waiting list now is a 94 year old father who's daughter with I/DD has been staying home since the 1970's. **Families are resilient and work tirelessly to support their loved ones. They do not expect a handout, but their death is inevitable.** Sadly, an elderly parent once told me she only hoped her son would pass away before she did. If you are a parent, please think about that a moment.

**Please do not cut Medicaid. If have you ever met someone with I/DD you will understand why we treasure and respect those we know. Please allow them to continue to live their lives with dignity as citizens of a great country.**

Thank you,

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Shelby Reader [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:25 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Stop Healthcare Reform Bill

We the American public strongly oppose this latest rushed partisan "reform" bill. You cannot deny us the benefits and protections that the ACA has provided. The reasonable thing to do is shore up ACA and continue to work on bipartisan bill. Republicans will suffer in 2018 if they push this through along with 32 million Americans who lose insurance and millions of CHILDREN WHO LOSE MEDICAID!

Please stop.

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:25 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** concerning the GrahamCassidy bill

Please do not destroy people's medical care insurance. Taking away, making available coverage unaffordable, other options that make insurance impossible to obtain will end in killing people, people that I know, family members, those who are on disability due infections and cancer. Destroying care coverage will make America a third-world medical disaster. We need full coverage to be a vibrant and successful country.

Charlotte Mann  
Dover NY [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Deanna Wickizer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:26 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** deannavw@verizon.net  
**Subject:** Opposition to Graham Cassidy non healthcare bill

There is absolutely no way to justify this proposed healthcare bill. I am one of the MILLIONS with a preexisting condition that will be harmed significantly by this horrible plan. Get over your grudge against Obama! Realize ACA has merits, though there is room for improvement. DO NOT support this bill. Your constituents, who pay your salary, OPPOSE this healthcare proposal and work to improve upon it in a Bipartisan effort. Single payer for all!

**THIS Bill IS A DEATH SPIRAL!**

Deanna Wickizer [REDACTED]



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** FullWings100 [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:26 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Do not pass the Graham/Cassidy Bill

Hello,

Please do not pass the Graham/Cassidy Bill. It is inconceivable for me to understand how or why anyone would attempt to pass a bill of this magnitude that will have such sweeping and disastrous changes for our citizens without a full Congressional Budget Office analysis being done prior to a vote.

This bill, if enacted will devastate American families. For Congress to radically restructure one-sixth of the economy without even knowing the financial impact is completely inconsistent with the supposed Republican commitment to fiscal responsibility.

Haven't you gotten the message? The vast majority of the country wants the ACA. Yes, it's not perfect, but fix it. Don't repeal and replace it; because, let's face it, you have nothing better in the works. The truth is, this is really just a way for the GOP to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy.

Please do not pass the Graham/Cassidy Bill. Instead, please return to regular order. Let's work on improving the existing law with bipartisan committees, and a vote that requires all of congress to work together for a solution for all Americans not just for the wealthy.

Thank you,

Ophelia Dulko  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kizmect Meade [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:26 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** info@pahealthaccess.org  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

Good morning! I am writing this comment because this bill will not only hurt millions of Americans, but my family will be affected as well. This bill needs to be off the table and IF you want to help families **STOP TRYING TO REPEAL OBAMACARE! REPAIR IT DON'T REPLACE IT!**

I am so tired of the same nonsense coming up over and over again in healthcare. Everyone should have **AFFORDABLE** healthcare. In fact, give **ME** and **MY FAMILY** the **SAME EXACT HEALTHCARE YOU RECEIVE!** That will make it fair to all!

Thank You,  
Kizmect Meade

--  
Kizmect Meade

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

\*\*\*\*\*Please note I have a new email address\*\*\*\*\*

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Mental Health Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania is now **Mental Health Partnerships**. [Learn more at MentalHealthPartnerships.org](#)

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

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

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

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

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Matthew Zencey [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:03 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

Please OPPOSE the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal, which slashes health care coverage for millions of Americans. If you would take the time to understand what it does, you'll find that it ELIMINATES federal protections for pre-existing conditions and essential health benefits, while financially rewarding states that refused to expand federally-funded health coverage of the working poor through Medicaid. In a country as great and wealthy as ours, health care is a right, not a privilege that depends on good fortune. Punting health care to the states will create a balkanized system with huge gaps for American citizens depending on where they happen to live (and how responsive their state's political system is to their input). Graham-Cassidy is WORSE than the skinny repeal that failed earlier this summer. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE stop it and resume the bipartisan process to improve the functioning of the individual coverage insurance markets in states where issues have arise n.

Matthew Zencey

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Mike Gerlach <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:03 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA Repeal

Do you folks really represent us. Your plan sticks to high heaven. That's why it has less than a 25% approval among our citizens. How do you sleep at night knowing this will take away health care for over 30 millions Americans. As usual, you are putting party ahead of politics. Sending this problem off to the states is inefficient, reduces funding, and creates states with good plans and states with hardly any coverage at all. Don't you understand the average American is being priced out of health care with cost that are highest in the world. Health care should not consume 18% of our GDP. This is a step backwards. Either fix the ACA or enact medicare for all. You people are tone death. Your free-market principles do not work with health care and you know all the reason why but refuse to fix it.

Respectfully  
Mike Gerlach

--  
Mike Gerlach  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Christine Taylor [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:02 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill

The is a disgusting attempt to make certain pockets fuller. The ACA saved my life when I had thyroid cancer. No one, NO ONE would treat me as a private payer!

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Judy Wixted [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:02 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Committee Members,

Graham-Cassidy will force people like me to pay substantially higher premiums due to pre-existing conditions. I deeply worry that I will not be able to afford health insurance at all.

Since January, when a Republican Congress began work repealing the ACA, my sleep has been troubled. I have never had a panic attack in my life until now. To be forced to call my representatives to beg them to fix the ACA instead of repeal it, every couple of months is disheartening at best.

My husband and I pay \$22K per year for a good policy. In fact, our policy is better under the ACA than our previous employer based insurance. But it is too expensive. We are in our late 50's in relative good health, yet, with this bill the cost of private insurance will go up even higher. We may be able to afford it, but how many millions will be forced to give up insurance altogether?

Block grants are not the answer. All fifty State Medicaid Directors oppose this bill. <http://theweek.com/speedreads/726187/state-medicaid-directors-join-groups-opposed-gops-grahamcassidy-bill>

I cannot imagine any of you got into public service to hurt people. Please drop the blinders of right-wing rhetoric and see a nation begging for you to do the right thing.

Thank you.

Judy Wixted  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Pat Connelly <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:00 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No on Graham-Cassidy

I strongly oppose the new latest effort to repeal and replace the ACA. The Graham-Cassidy legislation goes further in rolling back ACA protections and dismantling Medicaid as we know it.

It is Immoral and offensive to ram through such profound changes, which have been strongly opposed by the american public in two prior efforts, with no CBO score and without regular process. This is not how american democracy is supposed to work!

Please, its past time for a bipartisan effort to stabilize the ACA Exchanges and mandate outreach to prevent spikes in premiums and lapses in coverage.

Thank you for your attention  
Patrick Connelly  
[REDACTED]



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Brandee [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:02 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy bill

Good morning,

I am writing to you about the Graham/Cassidy bill for changes to ACA. I ask Congress not to hold a vote on this bill before they fully understand how it will impact Americans. I am worried about the language in the bill that allows states to loosen protections for pre-existing conditions. I am also concerned that monies to Medicaid will be drastically reduced making costs for seniors and the disabled skyrocket.

From what I've read, this bill will not bring healthcare to more Americans, it is predicted that 30 million might lose their existing coverage. Just like pre-ACA, people will have to choose to put food on the table or get healthcare.

This mean-spirited proposal seems to be a drastic attempt to pay for tax cuts instead of helping our fellow Americans. It will definitely hurt the most vulnerable members of our population. Please do not pass the Graham/Cassidy bill. Please return to regular order and work on improving existing law with bipartisan support. We need a vote that requires all of Congress to work together.

Thank you.

Brandee Crisp

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Flavia [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:02 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy bill

This is a devastating bill that must not pass. I'm too young for Medicare, but retired already due to a breast cancer diagnosis plus the necessity of becoming a full time caregiver for my dying mother. I need access to good, affordable health care, and this bill threatens my future. The only solution is single payer, like every other industrialized nation has.

Sincerely,  
Flavia Mastellone  
New Ashford, MA

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Andie Wyatt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:01 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Physicians rarely agree on anything as strongly as they do that the Graham-Cassidy health-care bill is harmful.

I would like to submit the following article to be considered for addition to the hearing record.

Thank you,  
A. Wyatt  
Washington, DC

## Doctors: No

Physicians rarely agree on anything as strongly as they do that the Graham-Cassidy health-care bill is harmful.

- JAMES HAMBLIN

- SEP 21, 2017

- HEALTH

It used to be that when a doctor gave a confident recommendation, patients trusted it. A skeptical person might seek a second opinion, or a third. When they all agreed, the best course seemed clear.

Today, America's major physician organizations are recommending something, strongly and in unison: The latest health-care bill, known as Graham-Cassidy, would do harm to the country and should be defeated.

Coalitions of health professionals that have spoken publicly against the measure so far include the American Medical Association ("Provisions violate longstanding AMA policy"), the American Psychiatric Association ("This bill harms our most vulnerable patients"), the American Public Health Association ("Graham-Cassidy would devastate the Medicaid program, increase out-of-pocket costs, and weaken or eliminate protections for people living with preexisting conditions"), the National Institute for Reproductive Health ("the Graham-Cassidy bill preys on underserved communities ... a clear and present danger"), and Federation of American Hospitals ("It could disrupt access to health care for millions of the more than 70 million Americans").

This is in addition to the American Academy of Pediatrics, Association of American Medical Colleges, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and many others.

The exact number of people who would lose care under the bill is unknown; Republicans have indicated that they will not wait for a score from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. But it is not difficult to see that the effects would be vast. In his letter to the Senate, the president of the American Medical Association, James Madara, wrote that the bill would destabilize insurance markets and decrease access to affordable coverage and care. He expressed particular concern over the loss of small-business tax credits, cost-sharing reductions, and the replacement of current Medicaid expansion with “inadequate” grants (which would phase out entirely by 2026).

This is a call for the entire profession to clarify its fundamental principles.

Over the course of 2017’s string of hasty Republican bills, the rhetoric of these organizations has escalated. Physician groups have actively implored their members to reach out to legislators directly. This week, the AMA wrote that doctors cannot support the bill as it “violates the precept of ‘first do no harm’”—a guiding tenet of the profession.

This is a call for the entire profession to clarify its fundamental principles, and to recognize where policies are doing harm, and to engage with the political system in a way consistent with the ethos of being a doctor.

These groups are not historically liberal—not progressive idealists who demand universal coverage. The AMA has been critical of the Affordable Care Act, and this week asks only that Congress “work in a bipartisan, bicameral manner to increase the number of Americans with access to quality, affordable health insurance.” Similarly, the mental-health professionals wrote, “the APA is ready to work with members of both parties to craft a bipartisan solution that stabilizes the health-insurance market and ensures Americans have access to quality, affordable health care.”

A bipartisan approach had seemed like the next step. Even Mitch McConnell had said it was time to involve Democrats in drafting a bill. Recall the Senate majority leader standing on the Senate floor in the early morning hours of July 27. “This is clearly a disappointing moment,” he said, pausing to find the next words after John McCain had marched in and pointed his thumb to the floor, ending the third attempt to unilaterally pass a health-care bill with no input from Democrats.

“From skyrocketing costs to plummeting choices and collapsing markets, our constituents have suffered through an awful lot under Obamacare,” McConnell said, echoing what has been the Republican narrative for the last eight years: The only solution is to repeal the law and start over. But he then let slip an unprecedented concession, that he was open to a bipartisan deal.

“I imagine many of our colleagues on the other side are ... pretty happy about all this,” he said. “So now I think it’s appropriate to ask: What are their ideas? It’ll be interesting to see what they suggest as the way forward.”

It seemed like a turning point, exactly what the physician groups had been advocating for, and so began work on a bipartisan bill to improve the current health-care system. But this week, Republicans decided to shut that whole thing down, as Paul Ryan and the White House came out against the bipartisan approach. McConnell and his Senate colleagues thus returned to the unilateral tack. They picked up the Graham-Cassidy bill with urgency. Republicans have indicated that they will be pushing for a vote within the next 10 days, before a September 30 deadline, after which the bill would require 60 votes in order to pass, as the Affordable Care Act did.

The Affordable Care Act is indeed many steps removed from socialism.

In the spirit of urgency on Tuesday, Senator Lindsey Graham said that voting for his proposed health-care bill is “the only process available to stop a march toward socialism.” This word that has come to characterize the most desperate and disingenuous hours in U.S. health-care discourse. “Here’s the choice for America: socialism or federalism?”

This is not the choice—though many wish it were. Socialists on Twitter thrilled at the suggestion, as many have little love for the Affordable Care Act, which was intended to create competitive marketplaces for private insurers, a middling solution that many progressives still find wanting. Even the single-payer bill proposed by Bernie Sanders, who identifies as a democratic socialist, is distinct from “socialized medicine”—in which the state would not simply be a payer but an operator of the health-care system. The Affordable Care Act is indeed many steps removed from socialism. The law was a compromise almost no one deemed ideal, including Obama—but many deemed better than the Bush-era system, which many in both parties agreed was broken.

Even though the bill’s sponsors are Republican senators, their colleagues in the party have yet had difficulty articulating a single way in which the bill would directly benefit Americans. Supporters have instead voiced two basic, sweeping arguments for this bill. The first is that it serves to “repeal Obamacare,” and so it is worthy of support. A majority of Republican senators have proven willing to repeal the law with no replacement at all, despite projections of widespread harm. As McConnell said in July, “We told our constituents we would vote that way ... We kept our commitments.” This argument from fidelity offers opportunity to claim moral high ground while voting for a bill that would, by objective measures, do much harm.

The other argument is at least feasibly somewhat related to policy: that the bill would empower states. This argument is bizarre in that an aim of the Affordable Care Act was to incentivize states to expand Medicaid, and yet many didn’t, leaving millions of their own citizens uninsured. Republicans then complained that these states were suffering under Obamacare. Graham-Cassidy would work to redistribute some funds to these states, which

has led some Republicans to argue that state funding will increase under Graham-Cassidy. It will, in some states, at least until funding ends in 2026.

In the midst of defending this phasing-out of Medicaid, it was revealed that last week Tom Price, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, took several flights in a private jet. Price rose to power in the Tea Party movement based on sweeping proclamations about the need to limit government spending, including a 2009 CNBC appearance in which Price excoriated public officials for use of private jets. “My goodness gracious,” he admonished at the time, “especially in this time of fiscal crisis that we have.”

Health is much more than an individual pursuit; it is a quality of an ecosystem.

Both private jets and calls for limited government are departures from the norm for the Secretary of Health and Human Services. The position was created in 1980 and charged to “enhance and protect the health and well-being of all Americans.” It was to serve as a counterweight to the influence of powerful corporate interests in the health of the citizenry. The United States was late in making this a priority. In 1946, the World Health Organization had been founded on the premise that health is “one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition.” What’s more, the group defined health as “a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”

By 1953, *health* got a seat in the U.S. president’s cabinet with the formation of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare—formerly the Department of Education and Welfare—under President Eisenhower. The 1978 Alma-Ata Declaration brought a new focus to primary care and mitigating environmental causes of disease. This required systematic, collaborative approaches. HHS became its own department in 1980. The United States had just led the global eradication of smallpox, marking a transition for the field of public-health from doing the work of containing outbreaks to preventing them from ever happening again. This proved more efficient.

The effect over the course of the century was a comprehensive understanding that health is much more than an individual pursuit; it is a quality of an ecosystem.

This is not a political opinion but a matter of biology and pathology. Graham-Cassidy is scientifically regressive, evading or denying the fact that human health is determined by the health of those around us. In justifying the slow dismantling of the country’s health systems—ostensibly transferring control to states before phasing out funding—the bill is predicated on the obsolete understanding of health as an individual endeavor. It shrinks the definition to something pre-1946. It even literally eliminates the Prevention and Public Health Fund, which was established in the Affordable Care Act as the first-ever mandatory funding stream focused on public health and prevention.

Graham is disingenuous in likening Obamacare to socialism, but he is right in noticing that the course of history and public-health science is bending toward a universal

understanding of health—in the interest of cost, efficiency, and justice. As doctors have come to understand that individuals' health depends on the health of others, the profession is forced to find a way to do no harm.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Henehan, Elizabeth Rose [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:04 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Harmful Effects of Graham-Cassidy Bill  
**Attachments:** LetGrahamCassidyBillRottoDeath.docx

Hello,

I am submitting the attached document to the hearing record. May the hearing record be filled with strong statements of opposition from organizations and individuals to reflect the reality of the terrible nature of this bill.

**Elizabeth Rose Henehan, MPH**  
Epidemiology Research Analyst  
Boston University School of Public Health

**THINK. TEACH. DO.**  
**FOR THE HEALTH OF ALL.**



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Diane Straub [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:07 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy

I am Diane Straub; a constituent in Michigan 11th District 48170.

Graham-Cassidy is a dangerous and reckless bill opposed by medical associations; doctors; nurses; technicians; EMT's; First responders; medical research foundations among others.

You can't gut healthcare and then play up that diminished dollars will go to certain states..that's worse than disingenuous-it's lying to the people you are supposed to represent.

People will die who have had coverage ripped from them; who have pre-existing conditions (including me & members of my family); the poor will lose Medicaid coverage; the elderly on Medicaid in long-term care; people who avoid care because essential services are no longer covered in their policies...

Enough. You have been elected to represent the interests of your constituents. It is high time you remember this and act accordingly. Nothing you do is more important than this.

We the people want the same coverage we provide to members of Congress and their families.

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Ann Gadwah [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:13 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Sirs and Madams,

I am writing today to express my concerns about the proposed Graham-Cassidy health care bill. As I understand it, the bill will take insurance away from too many people, gut the pre-existing condition clause of the Affordable Care Act, and phase out Medicaid. This is heartless, cruel, and unacceptable. This bill must not pass. The majority of Americans do not want this bill. The majority of Americans want to make sure their neighbors and countrymen have access to and can afford quality healthcare. I strongly opposed this bill.

Sincerely,

Ann Gadwah

New Hartford, CT

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Laura Adamson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:13 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because I am a human being who cares about other human beings.

Of immediate concern is the fact that I am considered uninsurable under the old rules. Rheumatoid arthritis for over 20 years, four pregnancies and a miscarriage -- I am basically this plan's worst nightmare. A woman (gasp!) who has been pregnant and who has a lifelong medical condition.

One of my children has a heart condition and ADHD. Yup, we have the double whammy. Two lifelong conditions for my boy, both involving regular therapy, monitoring and expensive tests.

And let's look outside my immediate family. I have friends with children with autism. Chron's disease. Seizure disorders. Developmental disorders. Cancer. But hey, these are just kids so let's destroy their health insurance. Have to be seen to be doing something, right?

Voting in favor of this disaster will destroy any credibility you have with your constituents. Just imagine next election as the airwaves are flooded with stories of children who died because YOU were so hungry to destroy the legacy of a single black man no matter how many people you hurt. Think on why you are doing this. Because it certainly isn't on behalf of your constituents.

Laura Adamson  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** SueAnn Morrow [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:13 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Don't gut Medicaid

Hello, please don't block grant Medicaid. It will be devastating for individuals with disabilities. Medicaid pays for community services which help individuals live and work in the community. If you block grant Medicaid, these services will be gone. People will be forced back into institutions.

SueAnn

SueAnn Morrow  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Join us for the IA-APSE Employment Summit September 20-21st!

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Judy Johnson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:13 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Grassley Health Bill

The vote on the latest GOP attempt to repeal Obamacare is to be voted on next week. In its present form it can only bring harm to citizens. Money being sent in block grants to the states is passing the buck and fewer of them. This proposal is detrimental to the health of Americans. And it does not even have a complete CBO score. Disgraceful!

Judy Johnson  
Lexington KY

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Lital Levy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:14 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it does not guarantee continuing coverage for people with preexisting conditions. Everyone in my family has one. I am also strongly opposed to cutting back Medicaid benefits. My son was born prematurely and had a six-week hospital stay. If not for the removal of lifetime limits on insurance we might have been bankrupted. Further, he received four years of therapies through the Early Intervention program, funded largely by Medicaid. If not for these therapies he would probably have not been able to begin Kindergarten on time in a regular public school. Keeping him out of Special Ed is saving taxpayer dollars. Early Intervention works and moving to a per capita limit or state block granting will mean that children like my son, who are developmentally delayed but not severely disabled, will probably not be eligible for EI in the future. Please stop this bill that would rip care away from many of our most vulnerable: children, the elderly, and the disabled. Thank you.

Lital Levy  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jodi Goldman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:14 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Plan Feedback

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.

Passage of this plan will mean economic, health and emotional bankruptcy for millions of Americans.

Thank you -

Jodi Goldman  
Bronx, NY

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Nancy Antle [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:14 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Don't Repeal ACA

Please don't destroy healthcare protection for millions. Do your job and look out for the best interests of Americans NOT your re-election bottom line. Sick Americans in one of the richest countries in the world deserve health care. I'm not sick nor will cutting Obama care hurt me but I still know the right thing to do when I see it. DON'T PASS GRAHAM CASSIDY!!!!

Sent from my iPhone



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Debbie Cherry [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:49 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GrahamCassidy Bill

Good Morning:

I am writing about the proposed Graham-Cassidy bill which I oppose. This is not a good bill.

The bipartisan Medicaid Directors of all 50 states are against Graham-Cassidy bill. Doctors, hospitals and insurers oppose this new disastrous bill.

There is no CBO score. Even WH officials "we really aren't sure what the impact will be." How can you vote on a bill that will affect 1/6 of the American Economy without fully understanding how it will impact the lives of Americans?

I am also very concerned about the language that allows states to loosen protections for pre-existing conditions. Most people will be directly affected by this provision. Numerous people will not be able to afford the extra costs being predicted, and will effectively be priced out of healthcare. 32 million people could lose coverage after 2026. 15-18 million people could become uninsured in the first full plan year. Some of these people will die. How is this "pro-life?"

The monies to Medicaid will be reduced drastically, making costs for seniors and disabled to skyrocket.

In addition, this bill is so BAD that Alaska being bribed with Obamacare in order to get rid of Obamacare.

As a currently healthy person, I am honored for my tax dollars to help pay for healthcare.

I find this bill heartless, un-American and mean. It is simply a way for the GOP to pay for tax cuts. Please do not pass this bill. Return to regular order. Let's work on improving the existing law with bipartisan committees, and a vote that requires all of Congress to work together on a solution.

Thank you!

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:51 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

This latest bill is a total disaster from start to finish. Please do not let this get passed. It will kill many and destroy many more.

Jean Riccardi

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Rosemary Northcutt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:51 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because I have no information on the real details of how this Bill will actually impact the citizens of Pennsylvania. This Bill has not moved through the regular order process. It needs to be carefully scrutinized by all relevant committees. There needs to be opportunity for public comment. There should be no SPECIAL carve-outs for specific states.

Thank you.

Rosemary Northcutt

Rosemary Northcutt

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Sarah <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:47 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Impacts of the Graham-Cassidy bill

I am an American woman and I feel compelled to reach out to you as your decision on the Graham-Cassidy bill will affect me.

This bill is no better than previous Bills attempting to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, in fact it is worse. As a female I feel particularly targeted due to the cuts to birth control, maternity care and defunding of Medicaid and Planned Parenthood. I face decisions in my future for planning a family and without access or driving prices up on access to this care will impact my decisions on if I'll ever be a mother. See I am a responsible person who wouldn't knowing bring a life into this world knowing that I could not financially support and nurture that person. And as I get older the riskier the thought of pregnancy becomes and I go down the road of if I had a child that would need extended care, well that would become a financial family destroyer.

This is getting long, and I know I am dealing in hypotheticals when there are Americans out there who will be dealing with realities if this bill passes. So not only will this Graham-Cassidy bill literally kill people it will also kill the American dream drive Americans into debt and bankruptcy and force them to make decisions like what is more important food, shelter or my families health.

This bill is not good for the health of Americans or America as a whole.

Thank you for your time,

Sarah Hannon  
West Hartford, CT

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Riva Lehrer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:51 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Defeat GCH or we will die

To the Members of Congress,  
Who are supposed to protect the vulnerable -

I was born with spina bifida. If not for health insurance, I would have died in the first few minutes of life. Instead, I am 59 years old, an artist, professor, writer, and a founder of Disability Culture in America. I've helped change how we are seen in contemporary society, and mentored a long list of students and fellow artists as they take on issues of impairment and vulnerability.

I am only one of millions of disabled people trying to live lives we choose. Some of us are public as the Golden Gate Bridge, others private as our quietest neighbor. Few of us would have any lives at all without health insurance. Nor would those around us, as they tried to keep us alive with no help.

Without health insurance, I would die within a few months. A huge percentage of my friends and relatives would be dead within months as well. America would be left as a country full of able-bodied people living out their fantasies of invulnerability. Until they aren't.

Fight for us,  
Riva Lehrer

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jodi Lacy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:51 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy comments

Dear Finance Committee,

I think it is despicable that the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill is even being considered before the CBO has release any information about it. From what I can tell the only purpose of this bill is to repeal the ACA because Republicans said they would. It does nothing to help regular Americans. People's lives are at stake; passing a bill like this is despicable.

Thank you,  
Jodi

--  
Jodi Lacy

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Henry Lear [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:50 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** A High Schooler's Perspective on Graham-Cassidy

Senators,

I need you to hear my voice and others'. This healthcare bill must be stopped.

When my mother was diagnosed with cancer, our provider could not impose lifetime caps and future providers couldn't hike up her and our family's rates because of her breast cancer. The Affordable Care Act saved her life. It let us save money for me to go to college, as I will in two years. It meant so much.

Graham-Cassidy threatens all of that.

As a South Carolinian, I am hurt that my Senator has chosen to move in this direction. As a student in high school, I feel it necessary to speak out for my peers that do not. This bill is bad for us and our nation. It is an attack on my family that I will not tolerate.

Its implications for states that chose to expand Medicaid are disastrous. From a policy perspective, it is nothing short of foolish. Including a sunset clause while expecting states to create their own system with block grants is not at all reasonable. Senator Graham is setting states up for disaster, not success like he claims.

I want to see this bill fail. My family's and others' livelihoods will be preserved. Thank you.

-Henry Lear

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

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Janet Jones [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:50 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care

I implore you to quit messing around with horrible health care bills and look to other countries' examples to help US citizens have decent health care for all. I pay \$565 a month for health insurance with such high deductibles and limited coverage that I still pay out of pocket for everything. Tell me that my taxes would be higher than what I am paying now. And I am so fortunate to be healthy. What about my family, friends and fellow citizens with chronic conditions, disabilities, cancer, catastrophic accidents and in nursing homes? I want them to have coverage.

Sent from my iPad



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** John B. Fenn III [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:20 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No on Graham-Cassidy

According to all I've seen from non- and bi-partisan sources of review, the Graham-Cassidy bill brings nothing to health care reform that benefits the American people. Please do not let this bill move forward.

--  
from John B. Fenn III's Gmail account  
oooooooooooooooo  
Usually checked, always there...

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Pat Sheehan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:21 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy 'bill'

I'm writing to ask that you please do everything in your power to ensure that the Graham-Cassidy bill, which will cause financial ruin, suffering, illness and death to tens of thousands of Americans, does NOT pass.

This bill is the opposite of healthcare. It is cruel. A vindictive act by a group of people determined to erase the legacy of President Obama and to cling to pleasing what is left of their party/base after cynically putting in power a narcissistic, greedy bigot who is currently putting our nation in real danger with threats to the leader of North Korea, while he simultaneously insults other world leaders and works actively to further destroy our environment, rather than work to save it.

This bill is abhorrent, and goes against the desires of the vast majority of Americans, who want the ACA kept in place and improved.

We remain the only wealthy nation that does not provide healthcare to our people. This is a travesty, and we need to move toward a universal system that will ensure no-one suffers do to health problems.

What the American people need is a government working FOR US, not to KILL US.

Patricia Sheehan  
Brattleboro, VT

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kelly Dowd [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:10 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  
....

Major healthcare players like the AMA,ASRP, -and all 50 states' Medicaid programs have taken a stance against the proposal because it does not serve the American people whom they represent. How can you continue to attempt to push this proposal through the Senate, when organizations who actually KNOW and SERVE those who the legislation impacts are vehemently opposed to it?

If the Senate expects to repeal and/or replace Obamacare anytime, ever, it needs to be more deliberate and informed in its approach. Repeated attempts to pass legislation crafted in a back room by white wealthy Republicans is doomed to fail. We the People are watching you, and we will raise our voices in opposition to ALL proposed healthcare legislation that serves fewer Americans than Obamacare. You work for US, not Trump, not yourselves, not special interests. You'd do much better if you keep that salient point in mind.

Kelly Dowd

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Joe Bellil [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:10 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Re: Comments on the Graham-Cassidy health care bill

To Whom It May Concern:

I do not support the Graham-Cassidy health care bill because it negatively affects the disability community.

Specially, it:

- Allow insurers to charge individuals with pre-existing conditions more money for health coverage
- Cap and block grant Medicaid (the equivalent of Medicaid cuts)
- Cut funding for Medicaid expansion
- Cut funding for financial assistance that helps low-wage workers and moderate-income families buy private insurance
- Repeal the ACA individual and employer mandates

As a person with a disability (polio) who has been working full time for over 30 years, I would like to see legislation that promotes employment opportunities for people with disabilities. We need more people with disabilities to go to work and get off of benefits, but to do this we need more supportive services to assist folk getting into the employment world.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
joe

Joe Bellil  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Linda Trout [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:10 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 there is not time to adequately evaluate and discuss this bill. Millions of Americans will suffer because keeping a campaign promise is a higher priority than crafting good policy. I have a daughter living with bipolar disorder. Several other extended family members live with pre-existing conditions. Please do not return us and so many others to the time when we lived under the continual shadow of uncertainty and fear about coverage being denied, being unaffordable or being inadequate. Thank you.

Linda Trout

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Milena Santoro [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:10 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it is not in the best interests of the people of this country to have their health care future jeopardized by legislation that has not been properly vetted by the CBO and discussed in hearings with experts and policy specialists.

I am in favor of a Medicare for all system, which would use the structures of an existing, cost-effective program to ensure all Americans have reasonable premiums for basic health care. I believe access to preventive health care is a basic human right, and nobody should be impoverished by health care bills because their insurance won't cover their pre-existing conditions. Your bill will not address these issues in a fair manner, and indeed, will ensure that some states won't cover all of their residents for pre-existing conditions.

I strongly urge you to withdraw your legislation and to return to the time-honored practice of properly vetting legislation and providing time for proper debate before it is voted upon. You are part of why our democratic processes are being threatened: twisting the rules to pass laws using any loophole available. Shame on you.

Dr. Miléna Santoro

Milena Santoro  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Scott Salinardi [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:11 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please Stop Graham-Cassidy Bill

This Message was Encrypted

Good morning,

I work for a voluntary agency in Staten Island, New York called Lifestyles for the Disabled. We serve over 500 unique individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. After reading about the Graham-Cassidy proposed health care bill I am afraid of the negative effects that it will have on many, if not all of our program participants. Many of the health care options and long term care services such as Day Habilitation and Respite programs that rely on Medicaid funding will likely be slashed due to cuts. This loss in service will have a deep impact on many and further strain families and the surrounding local community. Please consider one of our most vulnerable populations when deciding how to move forward for our country. Many of our local representative have fought hard to advocate for these services over the years and I have faith that they will continue to do so now.

Thank you,  
Scott

--  
Scott Salinardi

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

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Micaela Porta [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:11 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Healthcare

NO to this bill! I'm disappointed that when we need real healthcare reform, this is your proposal. This is a finance bill, not a healthcare bill. It does NOT improve quality, delivery, or access for patients or providers. I am not a lover of the ACA, but this alternative is not the answer.

We need to address our budget, but we also need to get this done right for once and for all. Please do not pass Graham Cassidy and instead go back to the drawing board, engaging both sides of the aisle, on meaningful reform.

Thank you,

Micaela Porta  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Michelle Fraser [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:11 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA repeal

Dead members,

This bill doesn't make sense. I have a son with autism who also has epilepsy. Under this new bill his medical coverage would be drastically compromised.

Wanting to pass a bill is fine. Wanting to repeal it is also fine. However this bill isn't even the most decent version you've had all year. Why would you have a vote on a bill that is so detrimental to so many Americans.

If you want to repeal ACA that's one thing. However if in the process Alaska gets to keep it as a promise for Murkowski's vote that just seems like you're playing politics with people's lives.

Sincerely,

Michelle Fraser

We need to mobilize especially in red states to stop this bill that will cause great harm to people with I/DD.

**Nicole LeBlanc**

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Rosalie Trowman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:11 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** RE: MEDICAID ACTION ALERT U.S SENATE NEEDS STORIES ON IMPACT OF CUTS TO MEDICAID

I work with the I.D. population and the impact of this bill will be a death sentence for many, without the needed medical supplies doctors and caregivers a yes vote is a DEATH SENTENCE for many of this population . Shame on any of you who vote yes .You will have to answer to St Peter at the Pearly gates , Remember Jesus said "suffer the children to come unto me , for of such is the Kingdom of heaven, these folks are those children " As a senior with many existing conditions the bill will more than likely be a death sentence also if my insurance changes . I remember when this was in effect before many years ago , it was a crime then and still is. How much money are the insurance companies lining your pockets with that you would even consider voting YES to this Cruel bill .

**From:** Sophia Roberts [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:54 PM  
**To:** Coordinators group group <sacoordinators@npogroups.org>  
**Subject:** Fwd: MEDICAID ACTION ALERT U.S SENATE NEEDS STORIES ON IMPACT OF CUTS TO MEDICAID

Hello Advocates

Can everyone please submit stories on the impact of medicaid cuts to the following link

From a lead advocate:

**WE NEED EVERYONE TO SUBMIT COMMENTS AND THEIR STORIES FOR THE HEARING ON THE GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL ON MONDAY!!!**

The Finance Committee will be holding a hearing on the Graham Cassidy bill on Monday at 2 pm. The hearing record needs to be filled with strong statements of opposition from organizations and individuals and stories of the devastating impact this would have on people, including people with disabilities and pre-existing conditions.

Starting around 11 am EST this morning (Thursday 9/21), the following email address will be active for the public to submit testimony for Monday's hearing on the Graham Cassidy bill:

[GCHcomments@finance.senate.gov](mailto:GCHcomments@finance.senate.gov)

Please copy your Senators on the email.

This is where groups and individuals can send letters, testimony, video links, photos, stories, etc. regarding the proposed legislation. Comments to be submitted by Monday 9/25 at 1 pm EST.

Please share this information far and wide.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Steven Fay [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:12 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** what else but Graham-Cassidy

GOP Senators,

You are characters in a terrible remake of the movie Groundhog Day wherein you learn absolutely nothing from repetition. Is repeal of the ACA now habit or is it simply a reflex action in your ongoing bid to undo every vestige of President Obama's accomplishments over 8 years? Does the opposition of millions of Americans who have benefited and continue to benefit from the ACA mean nothing? Does the opposition of virtually every medical organization mean nothing?

Your proposed bill, rather than improving on the ACA, which is what you ought to have been working on, destroys it and takes with it, according to estimates, 1/6th to 1/5th of the economy. "Block grants"? Don't make me laugh. "Lifetime caps"?

I have seen what happens under that latter. While working in a mental hospital, patients who reached that magic figure were suddenly "cured". You can now find them and many of their compatriots on the streets or in homeless shelters.

Is that what you want? Their lives have "no value", just as people who have experienced and are experiencing traumatic injury or the onset of deadly disease have "no value"? You GOP members proudly label yourselves "pro-life" yet that attitude seems only to apply from conception to birth - and then only so long as the pregnancy does not cost anybody anything save the pregnant woman.

Oh, I know. Your wealthy benefactors will cut off their campaign contributions if you do not act as they wish. Worse, they will fund opponents in primaries to run you out. But we the voters should have an answer to that. If the worst that these contributors can say about you is that you supported your constituents in their times of need, then I would say they they waste their money. Let them.

I could ramble on but I leave you with this thought. Some of you will be subject to reelection come 2018 and we voters will remember which of you cared about us and which thought we were and are of "no value".

Sincerely,  
Steven R. Fay

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Ghislaine Di Biasi-Hess [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:12 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden; Senator Toomey, Senator R. Casey, Jr., Representative Tim Murphy,

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because of the inequities involved. Please work on improving the Affordable Care Act at a federal level. Please do not repeal it or kick it down to each state to act independently.

Respectfully,  
Ghislaine Di Biasi-Hess

Ghislaine Di Biasi-Hess

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Saima Yunus [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:12 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote No

Good afternoon. My name is Saima. I am a college freshman studying at SJSU.

Thank God, my health is good right now, so I myself am not that affected by Graham-Cassidy at the moment. However, I am but a college student; my life will change immensely once I am out there on my own.

I'm writing this email for one reason only, to ask senators to vote NO to this bill.

Under ACA, I'm under my parents' health insurance for the next eight years (I'm 18). If Graham-Cassidy passes, effectively repealing ACA, I will no longer have that protection. I will have to pay insurance money out of my own pocket. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, the average monthly premiums in California are \$224.75. That equates to \$2,697 per year. I do not see why I should have to pay such a ludicrously large amount for health insurance all by myself, especially when I am already struggling through college and when the GC bill will *raise* premiums even higher.

Moreover, multiple experts oppose the bill. The American Medical Association, by no means a socialist organization, strongly opposes the bill, which should be reason enough to not pass it, aside from the millions of Americans whom the bill would hurt. You all must be able to put the American people above corporations, and above Trump. As McCain said, you are not his subordinates. You can vote against his wishes; you can vote him out. The government doesn't serve the president; it serves the people.

I believe in competition, but I do not believe that it has to cost human lives. I believe in friendly competition; I hope you all do too.

Please vote NO to Graham-Cassidy, and please say NO to Trump's utter disregard for America's well-being.

Sincerely,  
Saima Yunus

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Sharon Struth [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:08 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Proposed Graham Cassidy Changes to ACA

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing about the proposed Graham/Cassidy changes to the ACA.

These changes are not good for the American people. Surely, those of you given the honor of serving our country in Washington want to do what is best. I am not going to list all the things wrong with this bill. You know them. So does the public.

I agree with Senator John McCain's assessment: this should be handled through regular order. Passing something quickly and loosely thought-out will impact the lives of far too many Americans. Healthcare industry experts and organizations do not believe this bill is in the best interest of America's healthcare needs. In fact, that this is ONLY endorsed by politicians in the Republican Party and lacks a CBO score. Guess what? This stinks of "politics as usual" by those in power.

Americans are dying for their elected officials to begin to show non-partisan efforts to truly make America great—instead this proposal will leave Americans dying from lack of affordable health care if the bill passes.

You could fix the existing system instead of standing on the sidelines and clapping while it fails. That is shameful. Please do what is right for our country.

Sharon Struth  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Janet Bauver [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:08 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because, being a citizen of the United States should not be a pre-existing condition!

Janet Bauver  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Martha Franklin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:08 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

I have a pre-existing condition and am not yet eligible for Medicare (whose future safety also greatly concerns me). I am also self-employed and need to be Affordable Care Act for my health insurance.

This bill, an act of utter cruelty will take away good, affordable medical care from me and 32 MILLION other Americans. How can you do this? Where is your humanity?

This is just another Republican tax break for the wealthy -- it seems to be your only concern, which is despicable.

You express sympathy for John McCain and Mazie Hirono during their serious health concerns, but they have excellent health insurance for which we pay. Yet you telling the rest of us, essentially, to go to hell.

You are heartless if you support this bill. You fake Christianity disgusts me.

If you vote for this bill, we will vote you out of office.

Martha Franklin

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Gish Jen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:08 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO on Graham- Cassidy

This is a craven, misbegotten bill that will bring shame on every single person associated with it. I cannot urge you strongly enough to do everything you can to defeat it.

Sincerely,

Lillian (Gish) Jen

Author of *The Girl at the Baggage Claim: Explaining the East-West Culture Gap*  
[www.gishjen.com](http://www.gishjen.com)

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Ruth Openstone [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:09 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GrahamCassidy

To the Senate Finance Committee-

We, the majority of the American people beg you to stop using our healthcare and mental wellbeing as a pawn in your quest to shove through a tax overhaul that will predominantly benefit the wealthiest Americans. This bill has absolutely nothing to do with health or care, it's just a cruel political mechanism to do your big-moneyed donors' bidding. GC is immoral, corrupt, chaos-inducing and reprehensible. The best outcome for the GOP would be if this bill fails to pass. If passed, the GOP of 2017 will have ceded all moral authority and will go down as the most venal of American institutions. You are causing unnecessary anxiety and fear in millions of people's lives, most of all your very own constituents. Every reputable medical organization is urging, begging you not to do this. When will you listen? I strongly urge you to seek bipartisan solutions to making our healthcare system better, more fair and just. The world is watching.

Sincerely,  
Ruth Openstone

Sent from my iPad

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:06 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** pblukas@cfl.rr.com  
**Subject:** "This isn't healthcare, it's health insurance. You need healthcare."

To whom it may concern:

I am writing about the Cassidy-Graham Bill. This piece of legislation is bad for WE THE PEOPLE of the United States of America.

When the ACA went into affect personal bankruptcies fell 50%: Consumer Reports  
<https://www.consumerreports.org/personal-bankruptcy/how-the-aca-drove-down-personal-bankruptcy/>  
The Atlantic- <https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2017/07/health-care-financial-protection/534762/>

There is no organization that endorses the Cassidy-Graham bill. Doctors, hospitals, insurance companies, ACS, ... all say NO! It's a BIG LIE and we the people will remember this at the poles.

I am concerned for myself as well as all Americans. I was diagnosed in Feb 2014 with Stage 3 Bladder Cancer. I had two types of chemo therapy, and extensive surgery to remove my bladder. I have what is called an Indiana Pouch made with part of my intestines and colon. I have to use a catheter to drain the pouch through a permanent hole in my tummy called a "stoma". I didn't have any type of disability insurance so I had no income during my 4.5 month recovery. I saw my small savings dwindling. I am single so have no one to help with the bills. I am in remission at this time but there is always the worry with every new pain, is it back?

I have lost my job and now depend on SS as my only income. This wasn't my plan. Having cancer wasn't in the plan either.

Nothing is easy, but my oncologist put it into perspective for me at my last check up. I mentioned my healthcare plan and she said "This isn't healthcare, this is health insurance. You need healthcare." She is so right. It all made sense to me.

The United States is the wealthiest most powerful country in the world, but doesn't take care of it's own people. Costa Rica has universal healthcare. If they got it right why can't we??? And then I go to opensecrets.com and look at all the politicians and where their donations come from and I understand. There is no money in Universal Healthcare. Hiding behind PACs doesn't fool the people. It just shows that there is money that is dirty, that we can't know where it comes from and shouldn't have made it's way into a politician's bank account. Our law makers can't be trusted.

Tell me, do politicians go to Washington, DC to get rich or to do good? I'm trying to figure this out.

Regards,  
Pamela Lukas

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** cindy mace [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:07 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare Bill

Legislators,

I want a bipartisan approach to any bills you try to pass. Regular Order, as John McCain said, is the best way to legislate. This bill will have too many casualties from inadequate healthcare coverage. I have great healthcare now from my husband 's work and I would like to see others, less fortunate than we are, have affordable coverage! Please don't pass this rushed through healthcare bill!

Thank You Sirs for the work you do,  
Cynthia Mace

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Mary Jo [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:07 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Cassidy Graham bill

I expect a review of the Cassidy-Graham bill before it is up for a vote!  
Thank you!  
Mary Jo Orton

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Patricia Carbone [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:07 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 of how it will affect the poorest of Americans. The deep cuts to Medicaid will take benefits from those who need it most. I have friends and family whose falls on hard times have placed them on Medicaid, hopefully only temporarily... but for now these benefits are allowing they and their families the peace of knowing that at least their healthcare needs can be met while they work on improving and healing other parts of their lives.

Please don't pass this bill. We need to fix our healthcare problems...not worsen them. And those needing our country's help most should not be the ones sacrificed.

Thank you.

Patricia Carbone

Patricia Carbone  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:07 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** TRUMPCARE

DO NOT TAKE AWAY PREEXISTING CONDITIONS PROTECTIONS  
DO NOT CUT MEDICAID  
DO NOT TAKE AWAY MILLIONS OF PEOPLE'S INSURANCE

why would anyone want to do that?

pls do not pass GRAHAM-CASSIDY, aka TrumpCare

irene campbell, old lyme, CT



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Angela Giunta [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:08 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because healthcare should be a right for all, not only those that have the funds to pay for it. It is beyond appalling that we, as a first world nation, do not provide single payer healthcare for our citizens. Stop bowing to lobbyists and special interests and listen to your CONSTITUENTS, who want single payer healthcare. Health care is a right, not a privilege.

Angela Giunta

Angela Giunta

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Lillian Feden [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:32 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** My reason why the Graham/Cassidy bill is deadly

My name is Lillian Feden. I am 57 years old (58 on September 30) and am on Disability after working over 30 years, while chronically ill.

My history is filled with illness (Lupus-related) but I continued to work because I could and because I needed insurance and didn't feel I needed to get government assistance at the time. I worked even when my kidneys failed and I had to go on dialysis and when I finally received a kidney.

I finally could no longer work and had to go on Disability two years ago. I am currently on dialysis, again, because my transplanted kidney failed after 7 years. There is no way I can pay for the amount that Medicare doesn't pay. My dialysis center charges \$4017.00\* for each dialysis session alone. Patients require three sessions a week, minimum. That's \$12,051 a week, ~\$48,204 a month. Only the very rich could afford this if it weren't for Medicare covering 80% of the cost. Medicaid covers the other 20%, which is \$9,640.80. My monthly disability check is approximately \$1,792.70\*\* a month.

Bottom line: I can't afford the life-saving treatments I receive on my own. Nobody in my dialysis center, and I wager all dialysis centers around the country, can afford the treatment that literally keeps us alive. If I can't afford to get dialyzed every week, I will die within a week or more. This is a hard fact facing dialysis patients.

The Graham/Cassidy bill makes cuts to Medicaid that could mean literal death for dialysis patients like myself. It may not take effect right away, but those of us on transplant lists face years of waiting before we make our way to the top of the list and a suitable kidney is found. Cuts can still be made before that happens AND even if we're lucky enough to get a kidney, will supportive coverage (paying for anti-rejection medication) be there?

I hope this isn't too detailed or incoherent, but I happen to have the statement from Medicare, detailing costs, and am shocked by the cost.

As I said, I have worked for over 30 years. I paid into the system and Medicare was supposed to be my retirement coverage. I paid into the system believing that, heaven forbid, if I was too sick to work, Medicaid would be a safety net in case something happened. I paid for insurance, and boy did they take a lot from each check, and I'm afraid the assistance I need will be taken away.

I don't know if my e-mail helps or hurts the argument that the Graham/Cassidy bill is deadly to so many people, not just just dialysis patients. Our deaths would be almost immediate if aid was cut, but others, like cancer patients (I am also a cancer survivor) face slower, painful deaths.

Love or hate the Affordable Care Act, it has saved millions of lives. Fix what is broken, don't smash it and put a deadly plan in its place.

Please don't rush to put "something, anything other than 'Obamacare'" into law.

With respect,

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:32 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

Hello Senator Hatch,

I am writing to urge you and members of the Senate Finance Committee to PLEASE vote against the Graham-Cassidy health bill.

As a practicing Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, I am very afraid of the ramification of this bill on mental health service, not just for children but adults as well.

As communities all around the country attempt to tackle youth suicide, addiction and homelessness, we need to maintain access to Medicaid and community programs. This bill will only diminish funding and put more people at risk.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cheronne D. Anderson MD

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Carrie Gartner [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:33 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** comments opposing Graham-Cassidy

Good morning:

I'm writing with grave concerns about the proposed Graham-Cassidy bill.

I live in a small town in Missouri and I work for a non-profit. My partner has recently started his own business from the bottom up. I like to say that he's helping to strengthen the economy while I'm helping to strengthen the community. Neither of us would have access to health insurance were it not for the ACA.

I do have serious concerns about the G-C bill, much of which revolves around the failure to go through regular process and the sheer lack of effort to educate the public on the contents, to have normal committee hearings on the bill, to have a full and complete CBO score, and to fully involve the public and health experts in the discussion via testimony. I also oppose the provision that we all must raise elephants as pets. (That was a test, by the way. I added that because I suspect this email will not be read.)

I'm writing to ask that you commit to a process which is open and transparent, that holds public hearings, that encourages bi-partisan cooperation, which waits for the CBO score, accepts amendments, and which posts the final text of the revised bill online so the public can read and understand it. The ACA took 14 months of bi-partisan discussion, multiple CBO scores, public hearings and postings so this is not a lot to ask for.

I have serious issues with the content and the effect of this bill—stripping Medicaid, eliminating the requirement that those with pre-existing conditions be accepted, and doing nothing to address the issue of lifetime caps. And yes, I understand that all those decisions will be up to each state but the bill has no requirements that the states will protect essential health benefits.

A commitment to public input, transparency of process, and meeting financial commitments are not partisan—they are the basic building blocks of government. It pains me that we have reached a place where I must beg my elected officials to simply meet the lowest expectations we have of public servants. Believe me, I would rather be discussing real policy items with you instead of this.

Thank you for your time.

—  
Carrie Gartner  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Susan Dutko <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:33 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** susandutko@gmail.cim  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

As a senior, disabled female every part of your proposal is offensive and dangerous. This appears to be a desperate attempt to put a check in the win column more than a real attempt to address the very difficult subject of healthcare in America Slow down, reach across the isle, and listen to your constituents in this matter of life and death.

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:33 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

I am writing to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill for the following reasons:

The bill has been rushed to beat a deadline. There has been little discussion or analysis.

The bill will punish states that expanded Medicaid under Obamacare.

The bill will cause instability in the economy and on the health insurance marketplace

Millions will lose insurance; those who are insured will have to pay for their emergency visits through increased medical costs

Those with pre-existing conditions will be priced out of the market

As an older American, who is self employed, my costs will skyrocket, even though I am healthy and take care of myself. Those who are less fortunate will lose their insurance altogether.

Please work for a bi-partisan solution to fixing ACA's issues!

Thank you.  
Karen Beall

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jessica Rhoades [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:33 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal comment

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am writing to voice my extreme opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal. This proposal threatens the healthcare my husband's life depends on.

**One year ago, my 33 year old husband was diagnosed with Stage IV Pancreatic Cancer.** He doesn't smoke, rarely drank, and ran 16 miles per week. We had bought a home just 5 months before. His diagnosis was and still is an earth-shattering shock.

We've spend the second year of our marriage battling for his life. We know two things (1) he does not have a normal life expectancy and (2) he has responded extremely well to cutting edge, very expensive treatment.

Right now he is miraculously still able to work and his treatment is covered by his employer provided medical insurance. However, there will likely come a day when he has to stop working and we will lose that insurance. Although I am currently employed, I also may have to stop working to take care of him at the end of his life. What then?

We would not qualify for Medicaid because of our assets. Medicare would not kick in until he was considered disabled for 24 months. Not very helpful.

We could use our savings to purchase private insurance, but the Graham-Cassidy Bill would undermine essential protections for people with pre-existing conditions. It would likely be impossible to find him coverage.

Even if we could find him coverage, the Graham-Cassidy Bill would mean we probably couldn't afford it. 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 a result, we would have much higher premiums and no guarantee of financial assistance to shield us from the increasing out-of-pocket costs.

We are going through hell. May you never walk this road. Please, don't destroy our safety net.

Sincerely,

Jessica Rhoades

Chicago, IL

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** janet freedman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:33 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Fear

How will my 17 year old granddaughter who has quadriplegia cerebral palsy live a quality life? She is likely to outlive her parents who provide amazing daily care - bathing, diapering, feeding tube and LOVE.

I care about her and I care about all who require and deserve care.

Please do not respond in a heartless way. This is not what I expect from those who represent the country I love.

Janet Freedman  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Matthew Sklar [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:33 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please vote no

Hello I'm writing to say I am strongly against the Graham-Cassidy bill proposal. It is clearly not the solution to fix the problems of the ACA. We need a bipartisan resolution, not just a repeal for the sake of repeal. This bill has no CBO score and is being rushed to the Senate floor without anyone (even its own drafters) knowing exactly how much damage it will do to this nations health care system.

thank you,  
Matthew Sklar

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** William Goldsmith [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:33 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 of the millions and millions of people who stand to lose care. This bill appears to be even worse than the previous attempts to replace the ACA and politics and campaign promises should never take priority over caring for the most vulnerable of our citizens.

The parts of this bill that concern me the most are handing over decision making power of coverage for pre-existing conditions, as well as the rollback of lifetime caps.

This bill is unconscionable and now seems that it will be voted on without a CBO score, with only 2 people given the chance to testify - the authors of the bill. Further, news is that Senator McConnell will allow 90 seconds for debate. 90 seconds to debate a bill that will affect over 30 million people.

The entire medical sector is opposed to this bill as is the vast majority of the people living in this country. Do not allow this bill out of committee.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
William Goldsmith

William Goldsmith

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Suzette Mathes [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:33 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill  
**Attachments:** TG702 (1).JPG; TG704 (1).JPG

Dear Sen. Joe Donnelly,

Hi, I am Suzette Mathes,

I work at New Horizons at Batesville in the classroom. It is very important to me because I am teaching these clients to read, do math skills, money skills, cooking, safety, and many other life skills that we do every day without thinking about it. I also help them learn job skills to work in the community. If the Graham Cassidy Bill goes into effect it will change their quality of life. Enclosed are some pictures of our working in the classroom.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jenny Mudge [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:30 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO ON GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL

Dear exalted members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Please don't be dotards and vote for the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Thank you from the bottom of my bleeding liberal heart.

Best,  
Jennifer Mudge  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Myra Mossman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:30 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy

Hello Finance Committee;

Stay the hearing until there is a full CBO score on the Graham/Cassidy Bill. It is terrible to vote before the results are released.

Myra Mossman

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** david strawn [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:30 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill no good for families with brain injuries

Hello,

My name is David Strawn, and I live in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. I am 26 years old, and my mother sustained a major brain injury earlier this year. It has been very difficult for my little sister and I to handle alone as the rest of her family has abandoned her in her time of need. My mother has consistently had a full-time job for over 30 years, but has very limited financial resources, even before her injury, and is not capable of working again in the foreseeable future to purchase health insurance. Brain injured people, like my mother, highly depend on long term services and support through Medicaid waivers. More Americans may need to quit their jobs to provide care to their family members with great need, further weakening the economy. While it may make short-term financial sense to pass the bill, there will likely be many long term repercussions (financial, emotional, familial, etc.) . Please consider voting against the passage of the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

Thank you,  
David Strawn

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Mary Kelly [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:30 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

Please consider the fact that this bill will result in reducing and/or eliminating services for millions of disabled Americans, forcing many of them to withdraw from society and perhaps resulting in their death. The loss of Medicaid funds to nursing home residents will be catastrophic. My state did not create an exchange. I doubt that two years will give them time to do so. I will lose my subsidy. Reports estimate that my annual health care bill will increase by \$16,000. Maybe I can find a shaman. Of course, my chronic insomnia will be a preexisting condition. States will be given the "flexibility" to allow insurance companies to deny coverage or to increase rates for me because of this condition. This is a horrible piece of legislation for Republicans, Democrats, and none of the above. Please do your best to scrap it and move our legislators toward bipartisan solutions to improving health care for all Americans.

Respectfully,  
Mary Kelly and Al Marcault

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jill R. Sommer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:30 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** The Graham-Cassidy bill

To whom it may concern:

I am writing regarding the Senate Finance Committee hearing on Monday, September 25th at 2:00pm EDT. I am self-employed and rely on the ACA for affordable health care. This constant uncertainty is not helping keep premiums affordable. It needs to stop. I urge the Senate Finance Committee to stop this nonsense. Your constituents need affordable health care and to be able to sleep at night without worrying that their premiums are going to be jacked up or that a medical crisis will wipe them out financially.

--  
Sincerely,  
Jill

--  
No trees were destroyed in the sending of this message, however, a significant number of electrons were terribly inconvenienced.



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Kathy Wertheim, CFRE [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:30 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy - vote NO

If Graham Cassidy is a worthy bill, then you should certainly have hearings on it and an independent CBO report. Otherwise, you're doing the same thing -- no hearings -- that you would deplore in a Democratic-led Senate.

And why is the Finance Committee even involved? So you can push Graham Cassidy through in a hurry? This should go to the Health Care Committee.

Please vote No on Graham Cassidy. Don't even let it go to the floor for a vote.

Kathy Wertheim, CFRE  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

I'm teaching "Dollars All Year" at the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce on October 17, 2017 from 11:30 - 1:30. You'll learn how to raise money throughout the year, not just during the holidays. An annual campaign is more than a holiday direct mail letter! Please join me. If you would like more info, let me know.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** ROBERTA PETERS [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:31 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Current Health Bill

being considered is bad for the health of most US citizens. We do not support it.

Roberta Peters and Hans Ostro  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Nancy Levine [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:31 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO to Graham Cassidy Bill - from Severely Disabled Woman in Florida

My sister is severely disabled, long-term, chronically mentally ill with schizo affective disorder. It's a debilitating brain disease. She is dependent on Medicare and Medicaid for her care.

Not only will this legislation be devastating to her care, her reduced ability to access treatment will present a public danger. I think we all know that severely mentally ill people who don't have access to proper treatment present a danger to the public. If this bill passes, the consequences will be crippling for mentally ill individuals, and present a public danger as well.

Thank you,  
Nancy Levine  
Woodacre, CA

--

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Diana Cohen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:30 AM  
**To:** gchcomments

The Graham-Cassidy will harm millions of people, and it will not even have the benefit of a Congressional Budget Office analysis. Passing this bill would be cruel and irresponsible.

--  
Diana Cohen  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** victoria chevalier [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:31 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO to Graham/Cassidy bill!!!!

Dear Finance Committee:

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

Reject this bill.

Best,

Your Conscience, and  
Victoria A. Chevalier, Ph.d.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Carole Petrillo [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:32 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health Care for All-please vote for the people, not party

**As a 64 year old, I will be unable to afford healthcare if the ACA is repealed, I beg you to consider these KEY POINTS when considering the GrahamCassidy Repeal and Replace Act-**

- This is a vote to reorder one-sixth of the US economy without a CBO score. The bare minimum required for beginning consideration on this bill should be a full Congressional Budget Office (CBO) score.
- **All 50 Medicaid Directors have come out against this bill.** "Taken together, the per-capita caps and the envisioned block grant would constitute the largest intergovernmental transfer of financial risk from the federal government to the states in our country's history," NAMD's board of directors wrote in a statement Thursday.
- The bill contains provisions that would allow states to waive key consumer protections and undermine safeguards for those with pre-existing condition.
- The bill reduces funding for many states significantly and would increase uncertainty in the marketplace, making coverage more expensive and jeopardizing Americans' choice of health plans.
- The bill does not ensure adequate funding for Medicaid to protect the most vulnerable Americans.
- With only a few legislative days left for there clearly is not sufficient time for policymakers, Governors, Medicaid Directors, or other critical stakeholders to engage in the thoughtful deliberation necessary to ensure successful long-term reforms.

**Please use a bipartisan approach to improve and mend the ACA for the sake of all in need and many hardworking average Americans like myself who will be gravely harmed.**

Thank you for considering the views of The People who do not want you to destroy their opportunity to have healthcare.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** patricia lorange [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:31 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

**Dear Senators:**

**Please reject/defeat the Graham-Cassidy bill, and any and all efforts to repeal the ACA; instead, work together to create a bipartisan bill that would fix and strengthen ACA provisions in order to provide the best health insurance—the type of insurance that you have--to all Americans:**

- Graham-Cassidy would cause millions of people to lose coverage,
- Graham-Cassidy would radically restructure and deeply cut Medicaid.
- Graham-Cassidy would increase out-of-pocket costs for individual market consumers..
- Graham-Cassidy would eliminate or weaken protections for people with pre-existing conditions.

I am a retired English/Language Arts teacher in Connecticut, blessed to have health coverage through union benefits. All Americans deserve the best healthcare. Please work together to provide to the US what so many citizens of the world already have.

Respectfully,  
Patricia Lorange

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Leslie Bond [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:32 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because .... as we mourn the tragic deaths of dozens of people in recent hurricanes, this country should not be considering a proposal that is an avoidable death sentence to hundreds of thousands of our fellow Americans.

Leslie Bond

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Mona Stepczyk [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:32 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Fwd: Graham Cassidy Hearing - My Personal Comments

I included my address below. I forgot to include it!

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Mona Stepczyk [REDACTED]  
**Date:** September 22, 2017 at 8:26:22 AM PDT  
**To:** [GCHcomments@finance.senate.gov](mailto:GCHcomments@finance.senate.gov)  
**Subject:** **Graham Cassidy Hearing - My Personal Comments**

I am a senior citizen who has several pre-existing conditions. I am an asthmatic and a cancer survivor. If this bill passes I will not be able to afford all my medication and insurance due to cuts in programs. I believe that follow up checkups and continuing care would be limited by sharply rising costs. This bill is not in the best interest of anyone with pre-existing conditions. It would also be a death sentence for many Medicaid patients who lose coverage and can no longer afford their medication or care.

I live in California and my state, which implemented Medicaid, would be penalized by this bill. In order to give to states who chose not to implement Medicaid. I find this to be a dirty political ploy.

Healthcare bills should be based on bi-partisan efforts.

I believe that all congressional members should have to carry the same insurance that they implement with no exceptions.

Thanks for your attention.

A registered voter,  
Mona Stepczyk  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** terrie martin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:32 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** senate health care bill

i am writing from oregon, which stands to lose the most in federal funding if this tragedy of a bill is passed. we will be penalized \$13 billion by 2026. i am writing on behalf of the children, seniors, veterans and my neighbors in oregon who will be seriously impacted by this heartless and cruelly political piece of legislation.

please do the right thing and do not repeal and replace the ACA.

--

terrie martin  
ORD2 Indivisible - Medford, Oregon  
Steering Committee member & Liaison to Writing/Research Team

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Connie Syapin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:32 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Please do not support this poor excuse for healthcare reform. I stand with AARP and all healthcare providers against this final push to remove healthcare from millions of US citizens. Connie Syapin

Sent from my iPad

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Miranda Freeman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:33 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote AGAINST Graham-Cassidy Bill

Please vote against the Graham-Cassidy bill. We need to protect access to healthcare for EVERYONE, not just the healthy and the rich. Those who need it most will lose their protection under this bill - we need to improve healthcare in this country, but this isn't the way to do it! It just pushes the problem to the states, who will then struggle to handle it and everyone will be worse off. Please go back to the drawing board and find a better way that is more protective of our sick, disabled, poor, middle-class, self-employed, special needs, and otherwise vulnerable populations! We really need to get this right - and pushing it through at the last minute so it can be done without bi-partisan support guarantees that it won't be a well-considered, comprehensive bill that addresses the true problems with healthcare in this country. Please stand up to the party politics and do the right thing for the people of the United States!

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Reva Feldman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:32 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare bill

Please do not pass this latest health care bill nightmare.

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Pedro de Lencastre [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:05 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy Bill

A bill that will have devastating effects on 1/5 of the nation's economy and the health and well being of millions of Americans should NOT be rushed through in 10 days.

I urge the committee to get a CBO score, get a bill that can find 60 votes. In the words of Senator McCain, "return to regular order."

Pedro de Lencastre  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Michele Stiefel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:30 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because I am the mother of an adult son with severe intellectual disabilities, autism, tuberous sclerosis, Crohn's disease, and who is also non-verbal. He will need 24/7/365 care for the rest of his life. Community based services funding from Medicaid enables him to now live in a group home in the community where he grew up. He has trained staff to care for his needs. My husband and I are in our late sixties with health issues and could no longer safely care for him. His medical insurance coverage comes through Medicaid funding. What happens to Community based services when funding is cut? How can someone like my son who battles challenging medical issues and needs tests, specialists, many meds make it if there's a life-time cap? I also have to say that if this proposed bill is the answer for health care, I would think the medical profession (the experts), disability organizations (who understand the challenges first hand), and others would be for it rather than against it. Please slow down and do no harm to the most vulnerable among us. Work in a bipartisan fashion and do it right. People like my son need that.

Michele Stiefel  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Maureen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:41 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Save the ACA, no to GC

Please senators, do your job. If nothing else, at least follow procedures and read and thoroughly vet this bill. A "win" just to "win", consequences be damned, is a huge loss for the people. How a country as rich as ours can be run by such thoughtless, mean spirited, men is beyond me. If your bill is good, then I would expect endorsements from the health care community. I expect bipartisan work to improve the ACA and make the people of our great country your number 1 priority.

Sent from my iPhone



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Mary Ann Costanzo [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:40 AM  
**To:** gchcomments; butterpuff@aol.com  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill -- financially irresponsible !!!

I am outraged that the US Senate, for the 5th time in less than 4 months, is attempting to repeal the ACA/Obamacare law. I have been a US citizen for 68 years (since my birth here in the United States of America). How dare Mitch McConnell and his band of dreary men attempt to affect 1/6 of the US Economy in such a haphazard way. McConnell and his buddies are fiscally IRRESPONSIBLE. But we all know that they are attempting to repeal the Affordable Care Act for their corrupt lobbyists who have bribed the US Congress (House and Senate) into attempting to repeal the Affordable Care Act. I suggest to you that this "repeal" attempt be condemned due to the lack of "regular order" in the US senate. McConnell (and everyone who has voted for the repeal of the ACA) should be FIRED immediately.

Mary Ann Costanzo  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Maria Hrabinski [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:40 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please help people with pre-existing conditions

Please keep the Affordable Care Act provisions so people with preexisting conditions still can buy insurance.  
Please keep essential benefits package.  
Please do not let states waive out.

Thanks very much!  
Maria  
Put full trust in God and pray with confidence!  
The Lord has done great things for us. We are filled with joy.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** GtheQ [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:40 AM  
**To:** gchcomments; cynthia katz  
**Subject:** Health Care

A society is judged by the way it treats its least fortunate. Not only is it immoral but it is also economically foolish to fail to care for those who require medical attention. Failure to care for the impoverished will only lead to succeeding generations of folks less able to care for themselves. Failure to care for the elderly will put an undue burden on currently productive citizens. I hope that all can see that the proposed GOP health care bill is both foolish and immoral.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Porter [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:40 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** insurance bill

Please defeat the Graham-Cassidy plan. All the Republican plans want to dismantle coverage for Americans. Take a tiny fraction of the 57 billion gifted to the military. Provide for your citizens. Neo-liberal, anti-worker, anti-individual, anti-middle class policies are tearing our country down and leading to feudalism. The giant non-human corporations do not need welfare. Thank you

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:39 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill

The last ditch attempt to repeal and replace the ACA is just that - a last ditch attempt due to a time frame issue. In my opinion both sides need to work together to make the ACA - which is already the law of the land - work better. Why does everything have to be either owned by one party or another. What happened to working together. The dysfunction in congress is sickening. I applaud those republics who are voting against this. Rubber stamping something just because it is good for the party is just plain stupid.

Cheryl Klopccic RN BSN RHIT CMT

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

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:39 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** do not repeal aca!

my name is gail m feldman. my partner is richard l cohen. we live in minnesota, zip code 55426. i am 65 years old. it took me 13 years to get social security disability; he is 69 and it took him only three, because i helped him. i have diabetes, fibromyalgia, arthritis, gerd, clinical depression, ptsd and cataracts in both eyes. richard has myotonic dystrophy and alzheimer's. we are cared for only because of medicare and medicaid; this doesn't make our lives exactly a walk in the garden, but we are prevented from dropping dead immediately. however, his alzheimer's is getting worse, and he is already getting to be more than i can take care of myself. we are looking into assisted living, which will, as things already stand, devastate us financially (even more than we are now) and significantly diminish an already diminished quality of life. when he needs memory care we will likely be separated, on top of that. if medicaid and/or medicare and/or social security are changed in the ways the bill being considered in the senate promises to change them, our lives will be ended instead of diminished. we will die. i am not hyperbolizing. we will die. we will become homeless first, since medicare and medicaid will, as they stand now, pay for our assisted living, albeit by taking almost all of our income (which consists of social security and ebt). if tampered with, they no longer would do so. meanwhile we will be unable to stay in our home. if we become homeless, we will die even faster. PLEASE DO NOT KILL US.

9

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Shelley Stern [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:38 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Grahm Cassidy Bill

I am writing to voice my opposition to the GCH bill which will hurt American citizens by limiting access to healthcare .

This bill is an atrocity as it hurts the most vulnerable individuals of our society including those with pre-existing conditions and with limited funds. This bill is inhuman and not representative of the wishes of the American people.

--

Shelley Stern

(cell) [REDACTED]

(home) [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Brenda Carleton <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:38 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy a bad bill

I have followed closely the unofficial analyses of Graham-Cassidy (since an official assessment is not available and not forthcoming.)

My family will harmed. Friends and neighbors will be harmed.

The bill is an attempt to apoease donors and keep money flowing to Republican candidates/party.

Don't think the average voter is fooled: this is craven politics at its worst.



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Peter McLaughlin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:35 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy!

Do NOT vote this evil monstrosity into law and take health insurance away from millions!

Thank you,

Peter

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Tasha Glass [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:37 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

....

It will not cover preexisting conditions, will make it unaffordable to access care in the event of a major medical condition, it will strip others of essential insurance.

Tasha Glass

[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Sarah Kattau [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:37 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

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

Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017

Sarah Kattau, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

I left my comfortable corporate job to create my own company in 2015. Many of the people I went to college with had struck out on their own and failed, returning to jobs with big firms for the safety and benefits that they provided. I already had savings and a retirement account and the means to set out on my own, but the ACA provided me with assurance that I would also have health care in the event of an emergency.

The ACA has been a boon to small business, allowing the self-employed and small employers to make sure that they won't go bankrupt and lose everything because of a health scare. It is the only reason I am comfortable owning my own business, and if the ACA disappears, my business will, as well. I, like the majority of Americans, have pre-existing conditions, and Congress's constant threats have made me unable to get care right now, because I fear that if I am diagnosed with something, I will be unable to get or keep healthcare in the future.

Every bill that Congress has introduced has been successively worse, and this bill is no exception. You are threatening to strip healthcare from millions of entrepreneurs. The only option for some of us will be to return to a large corporate job. In my case, as my business has me traveling most weeks of the year (I am currently in Texas), that will cost the economy thousands of dollars when the travel stops.

Do you support small business, or only giant corporations? The ACA, federal subsidies, and requirements for preventative care are keeping small businesses afloat. Vote against the Graham-Cassidy Bill, as it will hurt small business owners, drive them out of business, and leave their employees without jobs.

Sarah Kattau  
Owner  
Lumitech Services, Inc.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Daryle Coleman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:37 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care bill

Illinoisians are opposed to this bill because too many people will lose the coverage they already have. Please work instead to correct the problems associated with the ACA & do an analysis of the drug companies who charge such high costs for needed meds, and standardize the prices for medical procedures across medical facilities.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Grace Celentano [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:37 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill - please do not pass this bill!

This bill will hurt millions of Americans. America First? That rings quite hollow when this kind of legislation is even under consideration and being pushed through. Shame on you.

Grace Celentano  
New York

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Shari Grenier [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:37 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

VOTE NO: You know in your hearts that this bill is ethically and morally wrong. It is a financial disaster for Americans. Stop trying to save face and donor money at the expense of the American people. Would you drop your health insurance to sign up for this? ↓

#Do unto others...

#Karma

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Fran Murphy <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:36 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy

Please do not enact this legislation as it will be of tremendous harm to the residents of The Boston Home, Inglis House in Philadelphia, Beachwood in Ohio - all nursing facilities taking care of adults with progressive disorders like MS and ALS.

Fran Murphy  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** ELIZABETH REID [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:36 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please do not pass the Graham -Cassidy bill to repeal and replace the ACA

Dear Senators;

Respectfully, I am an American who votes, in EVERY election, and I am horrified at attempts to repeal and replace the ACA with cruel and dangerous bills like Graham -Cassidy bill. Just one example I would offer of a provision which would destroy hopes of affordable healthcare for millions of Americans, is the following, which would strip the option of small businesses from providing options for healthcare programs for their employees;

Section 103: Modification and Repeal of Small Business Tax Credits

- Repeals the small business health insurance tax credit beginning as of January 1, 2020.

I was laid off in January this year, and took a job at a small, family owned/operated company in Chicago, which allowed me to stop being on unemployment. This is a small company with 3rd and 4th generation family members running it, who are desperately wanting to provide its employees with a way to get insurance in 2018...however, this cruel bill would disallow this in just 2 years, so I will be in my 50's, employed, but unable to afford insurance. This bill must not pass.

Thank you.

Elizabeth Reid  
[REDACTED]



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Dilruba (Ruba) Ahmed [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:36 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Stop the repeal of ACA

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Americans do not want a repeal of the ACA. Why? It means many of us will lose health care insurance. It means many of us will die of treatable conditions. It means many of us will lose out on lifesaving treatment.

Please don't strip health care from millions of Americans. Please don't leave Americans in poverty as they try to meet their health care needs. Please don't stand by while so many will suffer and die.

Thank you,  
Ruba Ahmed

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Josh [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:36 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Hearing comments

Dear Senators and esteemed members of the committee:

This email regards the Graham/Cassidy Healthcare bill that has been introduced.

I cannot in good conscience support a bill which does not have any floor debate which does not have any revised CBO scoring that is complete and removes health insurance from approximately one sixth of the American public.

I also cannot accept that certain essential services and pre-existing condition costs can be drastically removed or hiked in price to the point of non-affordability. That literally can kill off people because they can't afford continued coverage. What if John McCain had this rate hike? Should he die because he doesn't have enough funds one day?

Finally if this was such a good bill, why would you offer a senator from Alaska their existing Affordable Health Care Act for the state?

Anything that causes Millions to lose their health insurance or price them out of affordability is not good for the nation no matter how it is presented.

Respectfully, until I see bipartisan discussion on a new bill in the next fiscal year, this is never going to work no matter what you try. It's time to work together and everyone has to make compromises for this to be improved, not stripped away and replastered into some mockery of health insurance that no longer covers people who are in need and currently fighting serious illness.

Thank you for your time,

Joshua C Rigrod

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Cathy Marketti [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:35 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

How can you possibly put this bill to a vote without the CBO score? This bill will have a huge impact on the economy and the lives of all Americans. How can such a decision be made without adequate accounting of the cost to both government & consumers?

We need a proper debate and hearings. Not something ramrodded through congress without discussion.

I've read the response from NPR to Sen. Cassidy in which they break down the bill. It appears neither Sen. Cassidy or Sen. Graham even know their own bill. As if someone else wrote it & provided it to them.

You all need to be reminded that you represent all constituents and not just those in the 1% that donate millions to your campaigns & political party. You may think those funds will save your seats in the next campaign but you will be wrong.

Sincerely,  
Cathy Marketti  
Valencia, CA

Sent from my iPad

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Sharon Pope [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:35 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because .... this bill will strip coverage for millions of people including children, seniors and people with disabilities. I also have a pre-existing condition. If I should ever lose my job, I would not receive coverage under this bill. My question is, as elected officials, do you forget about the people in your district? The people who vote you into office? We have the ACA. Why gut it when you can fix it? Is this about the people in your district or about impressing the President?

Sharon Pope  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Missy Horrow [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:35 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it will take affordable health care away from almost everyone. Fix what we got, don't leave everyone without affordable health care!

Missy Horrow

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** JolieLabelle [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:34 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Cassidy Graham Bill Comment

NO, on Cassidy Graham!!

Cassidy Graham has been denounced by the AMA, Blue Cross Blue Shield, all 50 State Directors of Medicaid, AHCA and more for good reason.

This is a bad bill that will penalize people who have pre-existing conditions with massive premiums, deny health care for essentials, use block grants as blackmail to States, leave States with huge deficits. Take health care away from children in need and even more.

Why? All so the republican party can steal health care away from Americans in need to give huge tax cuts to the wealthiest.

This is EVIL and this is SHAMEFUL! Less than 17% of Americans want this bill. More people than ever want to keep their ACA.

Thank you,  
Ramona Thompson

[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Balanced Mind Alliance <[REDACTED]> on behalf of Balanced Mind Alliance <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:34 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Scrap Graham-Cassidy

As a person who has used mental health services, and has family members who have also benefitted from insurance coverage of pre-existing conditions and mental health services, scrap the ill-considered Graham-Cassidy Bill now.

By denying access to care to people who can't afford out-of-pocket fees for mental health services we will increase severity of illness, disability and loss of productivity—all of which will immediately cost individuals/families and eventually states and the Federal Government. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Graham-Cassidy is not only detrimental to people but to the bottomline!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lucinda Jewell

Lucinda Jewell  
Depression Bipolar Support Alliance

Imagine a world where neurodifferences are contribution. What do they make possible for humanity?

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Susan Agrawal [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:32 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senators,

I am the parent of a child, Karuna, who passed away in 2014 due to cerebral palsy and severe systemic autoimmune disease. Karuna was fortunate enough to be covered by both private insurance and Medicaid, and these programs allowed her to live at home throughout her lifetime.

Unfortunately, for children like Karuna today, the opportunity to live at home, and even to just remain alive, is severely threatened by the Graham-Cassidy Repeal and Replace Legislation.

I have grave concerns with Graham-Cassidy, particularly its conversion of the Medicaid program to per capita caps or a block grant system. While in theory these changes are intended to introduce flexibility for states, in reality they are simply a cut to Medicaid over the next decade. In my state, the projections suggest that in 2020, we are looking at an 11% cut to Medicaid reimbursements, and by 2030, a 34% cut.

Let me share exactly what these cuts mean to cash-strapped states, because I have already lived through the ramifications of cuts to Medicaid when my state was forced to significantly reduce its budget.

In 2011, my daughter Karuna caught what would normally be a simple infection. In her case, it turned into bacterial pneumonia, sepsis, and acute respiratory distress syndrome. As she lay in her ICU bed hooked up to a ventilator, with 10 chest tubes and on more than 50 IV medications--as she literally lay dying--I received news that our state was short on money and needed to cut her Medicaid waiver program. Because Medicaid is already a financially efficient program, there was little to cut besides optional programs like the Medicaid waiver my daughter participated in.

My state attempted to do exactly what all states will be forced to do when they receive less money for Medicaid as in Graham-Cassidy: cut or ration the optional Medicaid programs for children and adults with disabilities. These programs allow children and adults like Karuna to live at home, go to school, work, and thrive in their communities by providing extra services such as in-home care. They allow kids to be kids, and adults to be independent. Medicaid was the only reason Karuna was allowed to live at home instead of spending her entire life in a hospital ICU. Our private insurance did not cover this type of care.

Let's return to Karuna in her final two years of her life while on hospice. Instead of spending what little time I had left with my dying child, I spent an average of two hours per day, every single day, for the remainder of her life either fighting to save her Medicaid or fighting to save her private insurance.

It is beyond cruel to force parents of medically complex children to spend all of their time negotiating with politicians and insurance corporations simply so their children can stay alive and live in the community like other children. We are literally left to begging politicians to let our children live. To let our kids be kids. To let our families not be bankrupted.

Our current system is by no means perfect and surely needs improvement. But Graham-Cassidy provides absolutely no improvement. Instead it will:



- Cut total Medicaid dollars. These cuts force states to ration or eliminate care, especially for children like Karuna and adults with disabilities in optional programs.
- Eliminate annual and lifetime benefit caps. Like many families of children who are medically complex, Karuna went through her first million-dollar plan in less than a year. As she approached the cap on her second plan, our financial well-being was saved by the ACA's provision eliminating lifetime caps. Without this provision, our family would be bankrupt.
- Eliminate pre-existing condition protections by making essential health benefits optional. Children like my daughter, who happened to be born with a catastrophic medical condition through no fault of her own, would be forever denied insurance due to their conditions.

It's hard to even imagine what life would be like for children like my daughter Karuna under the type of healthcare system proposed by Graham-Cassidy. If she were alive today, most likely she would lose her Medicaid waiver, forcing her to live permanently in a hospital ICU at a much greater cost to taxpayers. More importantly, we would lose the gift of the all too short number of years we had with her.

To those of us with children who are medically complex, healthcare reform is not just political maneuvering or a means to balance the budget. Your decisions as Senators will be the difference between a child living at home or living in a hospital, a family working or being bankrupted, and a child living or dying. Please consider the actual children who will be most affected by Graham-Cassidy and how your decisions will profoundly impact their lives in a destructive manner.

Now that Karuna has passed away, I will never get back all the hours I spent fighting to keep her Medicaid and private insurance. All I can hope is that you will reject Graham-Cassidy and instead help build a robust bipartisan healthcare plan to help children like Karuna today.

Sincerely,

Susan Agrawal

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Kira Del Mar [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:32 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO to Graham-Cassidy

I am deeply opposed to Graham-Cassidy, and to ANY plan that in any way weakens the ACA & takes American healthcare backwards. The government should be working on behalf of the American people, not on behalf of the profit margins of Insurance companies.

Each step we take should bring us closer to the goal of taking care of and providing quality healthcare for EVERY American. Any bill that singles out identity-based groups to receive second-class coverage should be an absolute non-starter, and Graham-Cassidy does this by dropping the requirement that plans provide maternity care, by restricting abortion coverage on plans receiving tax credits, and in myriad other ways.

As an American citizen currently living abroad in Norway, I have seen first-hand what a well-functioning socialized healthcare system can look like. As a resident, I receive high quality medical care with a very low co-pay (and, in some cases, including pregnancy-related care, no co-pay at all). I am usually able to make a same-day doctor's appointment, and have never had to wait more than a week to see a doctor. My two hospital stays have been 100% covered. When I had a similar health issue to my mother, who currently lives in the US, I paid approximately \$150 for the same services that cost her over \$2,000 \*with\* insurance. I want a healthcare system like Norway's for all of my friends, family, and fellow citizens back home in America.

My hope is that our Republican representatives will someday remember that they were elected to serve ALL their constituents, not only those with a financial stake in the for-profit healthcare industry. Healthcare should be a fundamental right, integral to both life and the pursuit of happiness; it should NEVER be contingent on whether or not one can pay up.

I pray that the senate will do the right thing by rejecting Graham-Cassidy and every other bill that seeks to take America backwards.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Kira Del Mar (CA voter, [REDACTED])

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** mary jo Pane [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:31 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I demand a full and proper review

As a tax paying citizen of the United States I am demanding a full review of Graham Cassidy before it is voted on.

--

Mary Jo Pane  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

*"There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle."* Albert Einstein

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Trish Smith [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:48 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No Graham-Cassidy; protect ACA

My husband is a successful business owner who is alive today because ACA protections allowed him to receive the medical care that he he needed.

In 2006 he was diagnosed with stage IV cancer and given 3-6 months to live. Our boys were 8 and 11 at the time. He found life-saving treatment at Johns Hopkins, but it came at a hefty price. We drained our savings, went deep into debt, and came very close to his lifetime insurance cap. We had no idea how we would pay for more treatment if he had a recurrence.

My husband did have cancer again. In fact, he's had cancer a total of 4 times. Thanks to protections provided by ACA, he is alive and cancer-free today. We were able to keep our home and send our sons to college. Our oldest graduated in May and is now working for Google.

We are a successful, professional, working family. Graham-Cassidy will punish and devastate us. Why?

The ACA is not perfect. But stripping away vital protections is a giant step in the wrong direction. Keep protections for pre-existing conditions. Prevent lifetime and annual caps. Preserve essential health benefits.

Keep working families strong, healthy, and working. Allow us our life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Don't pass Graham-Cassidy.

Thank you,  
Trish Smith

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:47 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare

Please do NOT take our ACA away! My son has Autism , thyroid 2 cats in the brain and 1 in the thyroid. I have asthma, thyroid and damaged tissue in my foot. My husband since not having insurance for 12 years , now has high blood pressure. He is on 4 pills to control his high blood pressure. I learned in the 1990's what insurance caps were when my mom was in the hospital for 2 YEARS. When I had no insurance for 12 years I fell and damaged the tissue in my foot. I was DENIED being treated by a doctor due to having no insurance. ALL LIVES MATTER! you will never know what it feels like to be denied treatment from a doctor until you have no insurance. It is a horrible feeling. We are the only country where people have to worry about going to the doctor. Please I urge you to help the people who need the ACA! Thanks  
Constance Davies [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** gaylanicholsjensen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:47 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GrahamCassidy

Please do not let this pass the Senate. This bill will keep us from retiring. Tree farmers here. We live in an area where acre is 20,000.00! Our greenspace only green in area. Please allow us to KEEP our ACA. If you pass Graham Cassidy Helathcare we will be forced to WORK till we die!  
Please VOTE

NO on GRAHAM CASSIDY BILL!

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Tablet

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Sara Jann [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:47 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

The bill would hurt those who need healthcare coverage the most: women, children, families, the elderly and people with disabilities.

Remember President Carter's words: The measure of a society is found in how they treat their weakest and most helpless citizens.

Thank you,  
Sara Jann

Sara Jann  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Susan Shadle [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:46 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I oppose Graham-Cassidy

Affordable Health care should be guaranteed for everyone. This doesn't do it.

Susan Shadle



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Marybeth Smith [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:47 AM  
**To:** gchcomments

Vote no to the Cassidy -Graham Bill

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Debbie Lubbert [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:46 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** mklubbert@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** testimony for Monday's hearing on the Graham Cassidy bill

Senators,

I would like my statement entered into the record for/at the SFC hearing on Monday.

My husband Michael, is ill. He has stage 4 chronic kidney disease. That means his kidneys are functioning at under 30%. You have to have at least one functioning kidney in order to live. He takes medications and sees a nephrologist (kidney doctor) every 3 months. If his kidneys should fail, he will go on dialysis. Stage 5 is dialysis. Dialysis is NOT an option! It is MANDATORY for those who want to LIVE! The dialysis treatments take the place of a functioning kidney. People can live for many years on dialysis. There are some complications associated with dialysis, so that would mean more money spent on healthcare. My job is to help my husband stay where he is health wise, so that dialysis can be further down the road.

Some people get a kidney transplant. Transplant recipients MUST take anti-rejection medications for the rest of their lives. People can live for many years with a transplanted kidney. Medications, doctors, dialysis, hospitals, and transplants cost lots of money. We need good and affordable health insurance for the years to come. Being older and having a pre-existing condition should not mean that people have to pay more in premiums, out of pocket costs, etc. We are members of AARP, so we are not young. We are not well off financially either.

If it's more important to you to help the rich, if it's more important to you to get those millions or billions of dollars for yourselves from the Koch brothers, then I guess my husband and I could begin making our end of life plans. We could go together. That way, both of us would be in a safe place, where Republicans won't be able to hurt us. No more worries. No more health problems. We won't need money or insurance then. No one will have to bother with us ever again.

We plan to write some letters, so that those who are guilty, will know what we think of them. If you pass this damn bill of yours, then I hope you live the rest of your lives in misery and burn in the fires of Hell for all eternity. For that is what you deserve.

Sincerely,

Deborah Lubbert

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Vicki Price [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:46 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** RE: Graham Cassidy Bill

**Importance:** High

To Senate Finance Committee,

There are so many reasons to stop this bill. Here are some of them. In my lifetime I've never seen anything like this. I am appalled.

- Bribing fellow Republicans to vote for this deplorable bill
- Not being scored by CBO
- Being threatened by the President if you don't vote yes
- Not having debate and testimony
- GOP pushing a bill through because donors are demanding that Republicans do it anyway, per party sources. They want their tax cuts, or no 2018 money.
- Lying about what the bill does
- Eliminating millions of Americans health care and jobs to pass a bill to satisfy donors

There are thousands of reasons this bill is injurious to Americans. most medical organizations agree.

Do not allow this bill to pass.

Vicki Pellar Price  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Carolyn Daffron [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:46 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comments: NO on Graham-Cassidy

Dear Committee members,

This latest attempt is the most ill-considered and probably the worst attempt to repeal and replace Obamacare. If passed, it would cause chaos in the market as well as misery and terrible health outcomes for many Americans.

To try to sneak it through at the last minute is foolish and unconscionable. The American people will not stand for it.

Under the Graham-Cassidy bill, Medicaid expansion states would suffer greatly as that program is phased out. States will lose 30% of their funding, at the very least. The insurance market will be as unstable as it has ever been. People will lose coverage. People will be anxious and their health will suffer. People will die.

I find it hard to believe that anyone would be cynical enough to just push this through in order to appease some imaginary majority of voters, or to line their pockets and those of other very rich people. The contents of this bill hardly seem to matter to those proposing it. Even its sponsors do not seem to understand what is in it.

It is complete nonsense to say that this bill will not adversely affect people with pre-existing conditions. It only takes about 90 seconds of research to realize that this is not the case.

And everyone knows what the idea of block grants really means in terms of the needs of our poor citizens, especially our working poor.

Please stop this madness. Please behave like reasonable statesmen and women and not desperate politicians. The well-being, health and even lives of your constituents depend on it.

Thank you.

Carolyn Daffron

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kathryn Lyons [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:45 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

To:  
Rob Portman, OH  
Shelley Moore Capito, WV  
Jerry Moran, KS  
Cory Gardner, CO  
Lisa Murkowski, AK  
John McCain, AZ

Please do not let this bill pass. I have worked with individuals with developmental disabilities for 4 years. I have seen what medicaid dollars do for them and how they improve their lives. I am an American and I am strongly opposed to the Graham/Cassidy bill. This bill is being paid for in part by cuts to Medicaid funding for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Our programs are proven to be successful and spend Medicaid dollars efficiently, but there is no room for further cuts – if you support this bill, our businesses will fail and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities will suffer. Please tell the Senator to oppose Graham/Cassidy.

Thank you,  
KL

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Amy Staats [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:08 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** regarding Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Government (or dedicated intern),

Please vote no on the Graham-Cassidy bill. I know a lot of you campaigned on repeal and replace, but if you get rid of some gerrymandering, I'm sure you will allow the thousands of centrists that live in your state to vote for you again. I think we all know the action that serves this country best is to use all of your intelligence, courage, and humanity to improve the ACA. You don't have to call it Obamacare. You can call it Hooraywediditcare.

My name is Amy Staats and I live in Brooklyn. Yes, I am a Democrat but I have family all over the south who are reasonable Republicans who will still vote for you if you do what's right.

Thank you for your time,  
Respectfully,  
A

PS: I understand you want to do what you said, every body wants to be right, especially with the pressure of social media and all the Russian fake news. But if you were a scout leader and you promised/crossed your heart that you would take your troupe on a hike to a lake and then you discovered there was a huge swarm of snakes in the water, wouldn't it be reasonable to say, "Hey, I know I promised you a swim, but now I've discovered that would be dangerous to your health?" I'm sure the scouts would say, "Boy, I'm disappointed cause I told all my friends I was going swimming and invested in new swim trunks, but I get what you are saying."

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of Richard Maloley II  
[REDACTED] m>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:08 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Upcoming "Health Care" Bill

The Graham-Cassidy bill is a disgrace. I call on you to tear this bill in half and start over in a bipartisan manner. In fact the best thing for our country would be for you to begin debate over the Medicare for All bill introduced by Mr. Sanders.

This Graham-Cassidy bill is unacceptable. You are in your position of power to serve the people, not your donors. Do the right and moral thing.

Thank you,  
Richard Maloley II  
Grand Rapids, MI

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Julia LaVigne - [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:07 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No to the Graham Cassidy Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

As a self-employed business owner in my early 60s and relying on the ACA to get health insurance for myself and my husband on the individual market, I implore you not to repeal it and pass the Graham Cassidy bill. Individual premiums would rise to a level that would be out of reach for me and even if I could afford it, I would likely be deemed ineligible for coverage due to pre-existing conditions. In this event, I would have to consider closing my business and looking for a job that offers access to group insurance – very challenging at my age. We do not qualify for subsidies, but premiums in the tens of thousands per year are not affordable to middle income households.

I don't doubt there are millions of others in a similar situation, so many small businesses could be forced to close and eliminate jobs.

Not to mention the pure inhumanity of stripping health care away from tens of millions of people and every major medical group and insurer coming out against it.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

*Julia*

Julia LaVigne  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Emily Dussault <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:08 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** reject this bill!

Hello,

I'm writing as a citizen of the United States of America to ask you to PLEASE REJECT THIS BILL.

32 million Americans could lose coverage, it would mean radical changes to Medicaid and diminish funding for every state. 90 seconds of debate is a joke! Please keep your pledge not to touch Medicaid.

Thank you for listening.

Emily

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:08 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy Healthcare bill

I am writing to you to express my grave concerns about the Graham/Cassidy healthcare bill now under consideration by your committee.

A bill that cuts over 200 billion dollars from health care cannot lead to better insurance coverage for anyone. The proposed plan will lead to huge cuts in Medicaid funding which will have significant impacts on the elderly and our low income families. My mother-in-law is 100 years old. Providing care for her is extremely expensive. Luckily, at this point, we have the means to have her cared for in her own home. Many people cannot do that and the nursing home costs are prohibitive without medicaid support. When we were talking to elder care managers about nursing home care, we were given estimates anywhere from \$6,000 to \$10,000 per month!!! What will the options be for our most treasured seniors if medicaid funding is cut? In addition, allowing states to decide on how to handle pre-existing conditions will seriously affect a large percentage of our population. My son-in-law is a serious Type 1 diabetic. When he was first diagnosed, his blood sugar level was over 1100!! Almost unheard of. He spent a month in the hospital, with a considerable amount of that time spent in Intensive Care. He is now doing well, but requires frequent monitoring as well as an insulin pump to manage his insulin. His medical bills would be astronomical without health insurance, and his quality of life, and that of my daughter and their children, would diminish quickly. Because of the severity of his illness, he only works part-time, and my daughter is the major bread winner. It is important to consider the actual people whose lives will be devastated by this bill instead of just focusing on ending Obama Care. Obama Care may not be perfect, but it is a good place to start. Get a bipartisan group together to figure out how to support it and make it better instead of starting from scratch. Go back to regular order. Seek input from both sides. Have open meetings and hearings. Listen to the people. Even trying to pass this new bill which could kick 30 million people off of insurance, and which does not even have a CBO score yet, is unconscionable and works against the people you were elected to serve. Please do the right thing and vote down this bill.

Thank you  
Claudia Mills

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Kelly Gouteix [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:07 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please, DO NOT vote for Graham-Cassidy!

My daughter, Julia, was born at 28 weeks of gestation. While she is a happy, healthy little girl, she relies on a complex system of insurance and Medicaid support just to stay alive.

After her traumatic birth, she was immediately rushed to the NICU. She was placed on a ventilator and required a tube to breathe. After 10 days of improving consistently, she was transported to a surgical hospital, as she had developed a condition called Necrotizing Enterocolitis, which required emergency surgery to remove the diseased portions of her bowel, and later surgery to reconnect the surviving portions. During this time, she also developed a brain bleed, likely related to her illness, which led to permanent brain damage.

Julia requires a feeding tube for all of her nutrition. She is wheelchair dependent, she does not talk, and she does not see well. She has complex seizures, which often require transportation to the emergency room. She takes nearly 10 medications on a daily basis just to maintain a baseline of health. She also depends on frequent respiratory therapies to avoid complications from a minor cold or allergies.

Julia would have met her lifetime cap under Graham-Cassidy before she ever left the hospital. We cannot claim as a country to support the sanctity of life if we do not provide a safety net for the most fragile of our citizens. I find it distressing that this bill is even being considered.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and please, do the right thing.

Warm regards,  
Kelly Gouteix

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Sophie Goldstein [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:07 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because as a full-time freelance artist I depend on medicaid for for health needs.

Please consider the needs of self-employed workers and small-business owners who without access to medicaid or health insurance through the ACA would be without access to care at all.

Regards,  
Sophie Goldstein  
310.806.0743

Sophie Goldstein

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Debbie West <debbiewest1992@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:07 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA

There isn't one way that Graham/Cassidy will help the average American. NO TO ACA REPEAL!

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Laval Miller-Wilson <laval@pa.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:07 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

Eliminate the financial assistance that helps low- and moderate-income families purchase health care coverage;

End expanded Medicaid coverage that helps millions of low-income adults;

Gut Medicaid through deep, permanent cuts that would grow over time and threaten care for millions of low-income seniors, children, and people living with disabilities and shift massive costs and risks to states;

Jeopardize access to life-saving and effective treatments for addiction and weaken states' efforts to address the current crisis of drug overdose deaths

Undermine essential protections for people with pre-existing conditions;

Resurrect - and worsen - the devastating cuts in coverage and benefits that the American public and the majority of Congress have already rejected.

In short, the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal threatens the health and financial security of millions of Americans including older adults, low-and moderate-income families, people living with disabilities, veterans and people with preexisting conditions. It does nothing to improve affordability or availability of coverage for consumers and will likely result in at least 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.

Laval Miller-Wilson  


## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Nancy Kleinberg [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:07 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it doesn't not replace the ACA with something better. It replaces it with something worse. Every single group with knowledge of healthcare is OPPOSED to this bill with good reason. It hurts citizens.

No one who truly has read this bill and understands it could, in good conscience, possibly say it is a good bill. Your constituents in the Republican party did not want the ACA replaced with something WORSE.

The word on the street is that THE ONLY REASON you are trying to ram this through is to appease donors like Sheldon Adelson, Steve Wynn and the Koch Brothers so they contribute to your campaigns- disgraceful.

Stand up FOR something decent. Uphold the regular order in the Senate. Stand up for your constituents and the CITIZENS Of this country.

Nancy Kleinberg

Nancy Kleinberg  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Debbie West [REDACTED] n>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:07 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA

There isn't one way that Graham/Cassidy will help the average American. NO TO ACA REPEAL!

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Gail Raney <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:20 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

September 25, 2017

To: Senate Committee on Finance  
Rm. SD-219  
Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, [REDACTED]

Submitted by: Gail Raney, Prairie Center Health Systems  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] IL 61801

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

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I submit this testimony to the Senate Finance committee, in regards to the Graham/Cassidy/Heller/Johnson Amendment to the Budget Reconciliation Act of 2017.

It is known to every policymaker and every public health official that the opioid epidemic has had a devastating impact on all Americans, and Illinois is no exception. The Affordable Care Act, and the Medicaid expansion that accompanied it, has been a boon to substance abuse treatment to the people of Illinois. Not only would this bill put Medicaid expansion in Illinois at risk, but the reforms proposed to the Medicaid system would be outright disastrous to the substance abuse and mental health treatment communities. A vote in favor of this bill is a vote to stem SUD services, as vast multitudes of your constituents will lose vital coverage, leaving them susceptible to addiction and overdoses. It is also a vote to terminate life-long mental health care for citizens of less means, denying them an opportunity to be productive members of society that can contribute to our collective growth and well-being.

Health care economists Richard G. Frank and Sherry A. Glied estimate that 1.3 million people with serious mental illness and 2.8 million people with SUDs — including 220,000 people with opioid disorders — could lose health coverage under ACA repeal. Both chambers of Congress have spent the past several years expressing its concern for these populations, and support of this bill would be nothing short of a slap in the face to these vulnerable populations, at both a fiscal and emotional level.

As a result of zeroing out block grants for Marketplace tax credits and Medicaid expansion and additional cuts to Medicaid, the Graham-Cassidy bill is essentially repealing the Affordable Care Act without replacing it, and at least **965,000 Illinoisans would lose coverage by 2027**. The Graham-Cassidy bill would turn traditional Medicaid into a per capita cap, meaning the 2,201,841 Illinoisans who are enrolled on Medicaid would have their care jeopardized. Medicaid disproportionately helps children, seniors in nursing home care and people with disabilities. A study by Avalere found that Graham-Cassidy would cut funding for people with disabilities by 15-percent and 31-percent for children by 2036. Finally, allowing states to opt out of the Essential Health Benefits coverage means that insurance companies could once again put lifetime and annual limits on the amount of care one receives, even impacting people with coverage from their employer. Up to 1,195,000 Illinoisans with employer-sponsored coverage would lose these protections- and as you may be aware, addiction is a chronic disease, requiring a lifetime of care.

We hope your colleagues in Congress are aware that a vote in favor of this bill is a vote to decimate the progress we have made in fighting substance use disorders, as well as mental illness, over the past several years. However, we must not let

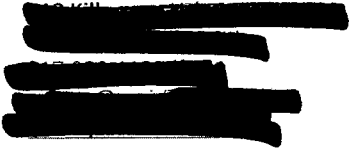
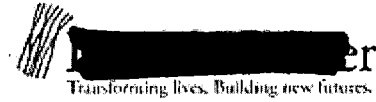
our progress be stunted, especially as we stand upon the precipice of true advances for our most vulnerable populations. Medicaid plays a vital role in providing behavioral health services across Illinois. Although the CARA act, as well as the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act and its mental health provisions, were a great boost to our mission, they pale in comparison to the contributions made by Medicaid. Illinois simply cannot afford for this bill to be passed, at a fiscal or a moral level.

The opioid epidemic, unfortunately, is just a scratch on the surface. When we take into account the costs of all substance abuse, including alcoholism, we see how dire the need for quality care really is. We are well aware of the political stakes involved in this vote, but the stakes in real life are even higher. Lives hang in the balance. Substance abuse treatment saves lives, and a vote in favor of this bill is a vote to curtail these services. We urge you to vote against this bill, so that you may consider yourself a true champion of our cause.

Sincerely,  
Gail Raney, CEO

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**Gail Raney, MPA**  
CEO



*Transforming lives. Building new futures.*



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**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Penny Peyser [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:19 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please reject this latest healthcare bill

Please think long and hard about this. A subject this complicated shouldn't be decided by a couple of senators. Not enough research, heart and thought.

- Penny Peyser  
Woodland Hills, CA

--

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

See the "Stillpoint" trailer at [Stillpoint.vhx.tv](http://Stillpoint.vhx.tv)

[www.TryingToGetGood.com](http://www.TryingToGetGood.com)

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Tracy McGinty [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:20 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

I cannot believe we're here again.

If I believe proponents of the bill, the reason to pass it - regardless of numerous reservation - is because it was a campaign promise. Every parent knows that fulfilling a promise which has proven detrimental is negligent parenting. The same should hold true for our legislators.

So why the push? A cynic might say Senators wish to pass a bill which will be tremendously harmful to many constituents because the Koch brothers and other major donors have threatened to cut off the money. That rationale makes more sense to me than the platitudes and patronizing explanations presented by Senators. Sorry, folks. You're just not credible anymore.

Personally, we're looking at a shaky future. My husband is being treated for brain cancer. If he is denied affordable insurance, it's a death sentence. If he can get expensive insurance, we'll go bankrupt. We have retirement savings - we had 2 incomes and saved beyond what conventional wisdom suggested, but his illness could take much of it. How are people who were not as financially secure manage in such a situation?

Please look at all the personal stories you're hearing, the lack of support from both the medical and insurance industries, and the provisions of the bill. Graham-Cassidy will hurt millions.

Fix the ACA; do not repeal it.

Tracy McGinty

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Linda Virgil [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:20 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GOP Healthcare Legislation

This legislation would be devastating to people living with mental illness. If you block grant money to the states, over time there will be a reduction in the amount of funds to support the needed services. There is already a major shortage of funding to this population. They are ending up on the streets, prisons, and in jail where they do not receive the needed services. With appropriate levels of treatment, almost all people living with mental illness can live successfully in the community.

Please do not pass this bill.

Linda Virgil

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Bruce Bentley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:20 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

The overwhelming negative public response to this bill makes it imperative that it be stopped. We can't as a modern nation give the military 80 billion dollars and allow citizens to die due to lack of healthcare. Financial accountability is essential.

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Tim Stopper [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:19 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No CBO....AGAIN?!

Why would the finance committee even consider another ACA repeal attempt before having the CBO report? I am a fifth grade teacher and one of the main practices I encourage in my students is gathering ALL of the evidence before drawing a conclusion or answering a question. The decisions you make as senators affects an incredible number of lives. What good could possibly come from making a decision before you have all the data besides having your side "win?" And if you "win" this, Republicans who said they would repeal the ACA would be the ONLY one's winning. Everyone else in the U.S. health care system, not to mention economy, would lose.

[REDACTED]

A frustrated and concerned U.S. Citizen,  
Tim Stopper

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I breathe the air and leave plenty after me.

- Walt Whitman

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Eugenia Care [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:18 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassity Hearing

Hello -

RE: GRAHAM/CASSIDY bill for changes to the ACA.

Surely, by every measure, this is not a good bill. It is a travesty against the American people in every way.

First of all, I ask Congress NOT to hold a vote on this bill that will affect 1/6 of the American economy without a CBO score. How can you vote in good conscience without fully understanding how it will impact the lives of Americans?

Secondly, I am very concerned about language in the bill that allows states to loosen protections for pr-existing conditions. I am 74. I and my family will be directly affected by this provision, as I am a diabetic, my brother and my sister and son-in-law are also diabetics, my daughter and I have high blood pressure and other health issues. We would not be able to afford the extra costs being predicted for our care, and will be effectively priced out of healthcare. We could do doubt be bankrupt because of this.



Thirdly, I am distressed that monies to Medicaid will be reduced so drastically, making costs for seniors - as I am - and the disabled to skyrocket.

From what I read, this bill does not bring healthcare for most Americans - in fact, it is predicted that upwards of 30 million will lose their existing coverage. And, like before the ACA, people will have to choose between eating and getting healthcare. PEOPLE WILL DIE! This is a travesty!

In conclusion, I find this bill to be heartless and mean. It is really just a way for the GOP to pay for tax cuts. Rather than helping our fellow man - and your constituents - it is a bill that will hurt the most vulnerable of our population - which is NOT what American stands for.

PLEASE DO NOT PASS THIS GRAHAM/CASSIDY TRAVESTY! Instead, please return to regular order. Let's work on improving the existing law with bipartisan committees, and a vote that requires ALL of Congress to work together for a solution.

Thank you,

Eugenia Care  


**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Marci Green [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:19 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO vote on latest 'health care' bill

VOTE NO!!!

NO citizens want this bill!!! Please do not do this to us.

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Cheryl Weinstein [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:19 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy bill

I am a general internal medicine physician in Cleveland, Ohio. Currently, with the Graham-Cassidy bill pending a vote I wish to express my extreme concern for the patients I care for and urge the committee to vote NO.

There are too many people with preexisting conditions, including those with substance abuse, who are in need of comprehensive medical care which would be lost or made unaffordable by the currently proposed legislation. I hate to imagine the hardships facing our population in deciding which state to move to in order to be able to get health insurance that offers benefits appropriate for them as each state is formulating and changing their own health insurance and payment programs. Individual states have even fewer resources to evaluate and select appropriate and effective medical care procedures, treatments and delivery systems. This is difficult enough when resources are shared and efficiently and effectively utilized.

The citizenry would be so much better off if our legislators could use their effort and influence to make beneficial revisions of the ACA to contain healthcare costs and improve healthcare access and outcomes.

Please encourage the Senators to vote NO on Graham-Cassidy

*Cheryl*

Cheryl E. Weinstein

, MD

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Erica Carter [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:19 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy, or how I learned to stop worrying and learned to die like a good prole.

Hello,

To whomever reads this, I would like to take a moment of your time to tell you a story.

This story begins with a young man who didn't have much going for him. He was adopted and raised by his Grandparents, who were dirt poor for the most part. His mother was an alcoholic, and his father had been shot when he was only 6. Despite all that his grandparents took care of him, clothed him, sent him to public school, and got him medical treatment until he was 18 years old. As an adult he got the first job he could find, a retail job that paid well enough for someone with no college education. The young man no longer had health insurance, but he was steadfast and didn't get sick often. Then he met a girl, and she was a lovely girl, but she soon took ill. The young man worked and saved, along with the girl, and they moved out into a one bedroom apartment and got married.

By this time the young boy and girl had health insurance through their work, and she was able to start a long, and very expensive road to recovery. All the same though, she was still very sick, because she was afflicted with Epilepsy. That's a chronic condition that affects the electrical impulses in someone's brain. Not only is it hard to diagnose, treat, and recover from, but your driving privileges and independence are wrenched away from you to protect the public. The young man and woman accepted this. They still struggled their hardest and scrimped and saved. They used multiple avenues to avoid medical debt, and saved enough money to buy a house with no mortgage.

During this time a wonderful man came to power in Washington, his name was Barry. He was a charismatic, well spoken, and educated man who worked his way up from very little as well. Barry wanted to give people in America a chance at state issued health care, that so many couldn't get access to at their jobs. The young man and woman knew how hard the struggle was, especially with both of them having sicknesses that fell under the term 'Pre-Existing Condition'. That's a fancy word Insurance companies aren't making enough money off of other people's hard work and want you to pay more, or just not cover anything you need. Barry didn't like that insurance companies could just say no, or raise a persons rates because they had something wrong with them, so he put protections in place for that sort of thing. No insurance company could deny or raise your coverage simply because you had a problem before you were covered. Barry sounded like a great guy, but there were some other people in Washington who didn't like this idea. They were on the other side of the fence from Barry, and thought that people should have to take care of themselves.

This would have been understandable to a point, but many people just can't earn that kind of living in today's economic climate. And, to ask them to simply do without would be mean spirited and wrong. Most of the men making this argument had some sort of state run healthcare too, so the whole idea contradiction seemed a little far fetched. Also, these men claimed to follow the teachings of Christ. He was this really nice guy, who healed people a long time ago, and said how nice it would be if everyone just treated everyone else decent for a change. It is widely regarded that Jesus Christ never asked for a copay... He talked a lot about how rich men didn't do enough for the community, and how people should 'turn and offer the other cheek' to their enemies who would strike them. They nailed him to a tree for being so nice. But, yet these men still protested Barry's ideas for a comprehensive state run health system. Barry had the people on his side though, and managed to get his healthcare plan to go through. They nick named it after him, Obamacare.

O-care was great, the young man (remember this is his story) had to have it for a while. It cost 500 dollars a year, but that was cheap compared to what the insurance at work had cost him and his wife. His wife had to have major

surgery, and without O-care he would have gone broke, and probably lost his house to pay for it. For some reason the men across the fence don't care about that. Barry had to stop being in charge in Washington, and those guys from across the fence got one of their guys elected. He's a whole other ball of wax, but he really wanted to get Obamacare repealed. Probably so he could put his name on it. The problem was that they wanted to take away all the good stuff from Obamacare. Expansion money to states, coverage for the poorest of the poor, and most importantly the protections for Pre-Existing Conditions.

The young man called and begged and pleaded, but the men from the other side just kept talking about 'Freedom of Choice' and business interest. The young man figured 'Freedom of choice' must be the freedom to choose to die slow or fast. Because, without these healthcare plans a lot of people would surely die from silly and frivolous things. All so some business man could look good for other business men... It just doesn't seem fair.

The young man continues to struggle. By most accounts he would be considered successful, but without Obamacare coming along when it did things could be quite different. His wife and he are thinking of moving to a more thoughtful nation, soon. Almost every nation in the world has some form of free healthcare, and they take care of their citizens, they don't make them beg for it. Maybe out there they'll find like minded people who appreciate what they can do for them. There are less and less here in America.

Please do not pass Graham/Cassidy.

John Barger  
Indianapolis, IN

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jennifer Gierat [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:19 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO to Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill

Imagine a million "nos" typed here. The idea that Republicans are willing to pass garbage just to say they passed something is hideous. Fix Obamacare--make it better (the way it should have been in the first place before it got weakened by Republican meddling). The vast majority of your constituents do not want Trumpcare.

Jennifer Gierat

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Debbie West [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:18 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA

No Graham/Cassidy!

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Lisa Coughlin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:10 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

Please do not pass this bill. You can do so much better for the American people. Use your brains, your hearts and your compassion. You are better than this. Shame on anyone who votes for this bill.

Lisa Coughlin

--  
Lisa Coughlin | [REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Elena Martinez-Vidal <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:21 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassiday Bill

To whom it may concern,

I am appalled at this bill. It just continues the downward trend. I am also ashamed that Sen. Graham co-authored this bill and I live in SC.

His either-or scenario is false. I support a bi-partisan effort to actually construct something that would suit more people.

So do NOT pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Elena Martinez-Vidal

Ps. I am white European, not Hispanic or Latino

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Vachelle [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:50 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill

Please do not let this bill pass. I beg of you to work together to fix the parts of the Affordable Care Act that need fixing. Don't put the control back in the hands of insurance companies. It is well known that businesses work for the benefit of their own bank accounts and not for the benefit of their clients. Don't let a bill as cruel as this be your legacy. Illnesses and accidents happen indiscriminately. This bill would only allow those with disposable incomes get the medical help they need. It's disgusting that we are contemplating a health care system that only allows the rich to survive. How inhumane.

Vachelle Poetohena

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** phoebe Turner [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:22 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Affordable Care Act VS \_\_\_\_\_

This may not seem like a health insurance story. However, I think it shows how much all Americans are concerned with the costs and frightened that they may not be able to pay for any current or future problems. Early this year I had clients who were planning on buying their first home and others who were planning on selling their first home and moving up to their second home. As the US Republican majority Congress started their long arduous attempt to repeal or replace the Affordable Care Act (ObamaCare) 3 first time buyers put their plans on hold and 2 second time buyers simply cancelled all plans. Other buyers are still planning on buying but want to wait until they feel confident that the ACA will still be in place. SO, PLEASE LEAVE THE Affordable Care Act in place. DO NOT pass the AHCA. It will not make Americans feel good about the economy and will only make a few people richer. Nobody I know!

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Lisa Topol [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:22 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

Hello,

I am writing to urge you to vote "No" on the Graham-Cassidy bill at this time. This bill puts the lives of millions at risk. Contrary to what has been misleadingly espoused on TV, this bill does NOT protect millions with pre-existing conditions and will leave millions ore with no healthcare at all.

OF course, it's hard to argue any this on a bill that does not even have a proper CBO score yet, and has not been argued via an proper channels or committees. How can you possibly pass ANY bill without this? What happened to a call for "regular order"?

This is not what congress is supposed to do. Congress is supposed to take informed and thoughtful action. Not make hasty terrifying ones that are supported by neither the people (only 12% of Americans support this bill!!) or any reputable healthcare organization.

How could you even consider passing a bill that the healthcare industry itself warns is a disaster?

The passing of this bill would show disdain for the welfare of the American people. Please prove to us that this is not the case and vote "NO."

Thank you,

Lisa Topol

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Meg Barhite <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:22 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Pearson, Beth (Warren); Hurt, Nikki (Markey)  
**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 Roslindale, 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.

At Ethos I am employed to support vulnerable elders and disabled persons throughout Boston neighborhoods (including Roslindale) who choose to live at home and within their communities. The repeal of the ACA could mean an end to vital programs that support this independence and ability to remain at home and our of institutional care (as well as the resulting significant cost-savings to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts).

I am also expressly concerned about eliminations of coverage for those with preexisting conditions and the ability this bill offers to states to waive coverage for mental health services. All members of our communities and this nation deserve the right to comprehensive healthcare coverage, including mental health services. **Please do the right thing in not supporting the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA).**

Sincerely,

Meg Barhite, [REDACTED] Roslindale MA 02131, 201-711-2129

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** R. Philip Grizzard [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:21 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Dick Durbin  
**Subject:** Citizen commentary on the Graham-Cassidy bill

Just because Republicans campaigned on something immoral does not give them reason to enact the corresponding immoral legislation. For those who are Christians (or claim to be), heed the words of Jesus Christ when considering this bill:

Matthew 25: 41-46

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was sick and you did not look after me.’”

“They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you sick and did not help you?’”

“He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’ “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

I think it's safe to say that repealing healthcare from people who already have it qualifies as "not looking after" them (and is, in fact, even worse). Don't pretend your bill covers the sick and poor; you know better. Your secrecy shows you know better. Jesus has said his piece. Pass this bill and blood is on your hands.

**Do the right thing. Vote this bill down.**

Sincerely,

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

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Linda Good [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:21 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy Bill

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill and would not have health care without the medicare expansion in my state. I have ongoing health conditions and in the past 3 months have needed to see a neurologist, orthopedic doctor, spine specialist, and cardiologist.

I am a private school teacher and I would not have been able to pay for these doctors without ACA coverage. The ACA saved my life.

Please vote NO.

Thank you.  
Linda Good

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Ed Giza IV <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:21 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Proposed Graham/Cassidy bill

To Whom It May Concern,

I write with regards to the proposed Graham-Cassidy ACA repeal bill. I ask in the strongest possible terms that the Senate not bring this bill to a vote until, at the bare minimum, we receive CBO scoring of the bill.

My mother lives with several preexisting conditions. Due to layoffs, my parents have cycled through three separate employer-sponsored plans over the past year. This means dealing with three completely separate deductibles from insurance companies doing their damndest to cover as few procedures as possible. What they consider a non-essential procedure, my mother considers the alternate to blindness. In short, my parents are paying thousands of dollars out of pocket each month **with** the existing rules in place regarding preexisting conditions. Pulling that rug out from under them could force them to bankruptcy or literally kill my mother.

I am young, reasonably healthy, and live in a state that will pick up the slack for the federal governments attempted cruelties. My parents are not so lucky.

Forcing this vote to please political donors is inexcusable.

Best,  
Ed Giza IV



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Aileen Easter [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:21 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health Care .... This is Important!

Dear Representatives with political sway and POWER,

be careful.... your decisions could harm many people!!

please reconsider and **do not vote** for Graham Cassidy

The Graham-Cassidy will harm millions of people, and it will not even have the benefit of a Congressional Budget Office analysis.

Passing this bill would be cruel and irresponsible.

Please consider the impact of actions on American lives... good and responsible people will suffer.... the impact will be reverberate and where do you think that will bring us as a country

Vote NO!

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Robert A [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:21 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill

Dear sirs,

You cannot in good conscience pass this disaster of a bill. Please vote against it.

Thank you.

Bob Barnett

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** John Nicely [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:21 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 destroy the Medicaid funding of services and care for persons with mental health and substance abuse disorders, intellectual disabilities, and pre-existing medical conditions. I work for an agency that provides essential services to some of the most vulnerable citizens among us, and this bill will undermine one of the most central functions of government, which is to protect and support that segment of our society.

Please take into account the serious negative impact that passage of this bill would have on your constituents, and take responsibility to oppose it.

John Nicely

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Debbie West [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:21 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA

Graham/Cassidy-NO!

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Brian Hazard [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:31 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** RE: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

September 25, 2017

To: Senate Committee on Finance

Rm. SD-219

Dirksen Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 205110

Submitted by:

Brian Hazard – Clinical Director / Stepping Stones Treatment Center

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

On behalf of Stepping Stones, I submit this testimony to the Senate Finance committee, in regards to the Graham/Cassidy/Heller/Johnson Amendment to the Budget Reconciliation Act of 2017.

It is known to every policymaker and every public health official that the opioid epidemic has had a devastating impact on all Americans, and Illinois is no exception. The Affordable Care Act, and the Medicaid expansion that accompanied it, has been a boon to substance abuse treatment to the people of Illinois. Not only would this bill put Medicaid expansion in Illinois at risk, but the reforms proposed to the Medicaid system would be outright disastrous to the substance abuse and mental

health treatment communities. A vote in favor of this bill is a vote to stem SUD services, as vast multitudes of your constituents will lose vital coverage, leaving them susceptible to addiction and overdoses. It is also a vote to terminate life-long mental health care for citizens of less means, denying them an opportunity to be productive members of society that can contribute to our collective growth and well-being.

Health care economists Richard G. Frank and Sherry A. Glied estimate that 1.3 million people with serious mental illness and 2.8 million people with SUDs – including 220,000 people with opioid disorders – could lose health coverage under ACA repeal. Both chambers of Congress have spent the past several years expressing its concern for these populations, and support of this bill would be nothing short of a slap in the face to these vulnerable populations, at both a fiscal and emotional level.

As a result of zeroing out block grants for Marketplace tax credits and Medicaid expansion and additional cuts to Medicaid, the Graham-Cassidy bill is essentially repealing the Affordable Care Act without replacing it, and at least **965,000 Illinoisans would lose coverage by 2027**. The Graham-Cassidy bill would turn traditional Medicaid into a per capita cap, meaning the 2,201,841 Illinoisans who are enrolled on Medicaid would have their care jeopardized. Medicaid disproportionately helps children, seniors in nursing home care and people with disabilities. A study by Avalere found that Graham-Cassidy would cut funding for people with disabilities by 15% and 31% for children by 2036. Finally, allowing states to opt out of the Essential Health Benefits coverage means that insurance companies could once again put lifetime and annual limits on the amount of care one receives, even impacting people with coverage from their employer. Up to 1,195,000 Illinoisans with employer-sponsored coverage would lose these protections- and as you may be aware, addiction is a chronic disease, requiring a lifetime of care.

We hope your colleagues in Congress are aware that a vote in favor of this bill is a vote to decimate the progress we have made in fighting substance use disorders, as well as mental illness, over the past several years. However, we must not let our progress be stunted, especially as we stand upon the precipice of true advances for our most vulnerable populations. Medicaid plays a vital role in providing behavioral health services across Illinois. Although the CARA act, as well as the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act and its mental health provisions, were a great boost to our mission, they pale in comparison to the contributions made by Medicaid. Illinois simply cannot afford for this bill to be passed, at a fiscal or a moral level.

The opioid epidemic, unfortunately, is just a scratch on the surface. When we take into account the costs of all substance abuse, including alcoholism, we see how dire the need for quality care really is. We are well aware of the political stakes involved in this vote, but the stakes in real life are even higher. Lives hang in the balance. Substance abuse treatment saves lives, and a vote in favor of this bill is a vote to curtail these services. We urge you to vote against this bill, so that you may consider yourself a true champion of our cause.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Joan Bertocci <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:32 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care story

My husband and I are STEM PhD's in Indiana. We are both employed as academics with an annual income of \$100,000.

The implementation of the ACA caused our employer insurance deductible to increase to \$6500 per year with no reduction in cost. We accepted this as a means to contribute to the greater good. My husband is in academic medical medicine and we understand how the uninsured add costs for everyone. Our health insurance has increased at least 10% a year while our wages have increased less than 1% each year.

In 2015 (at age 60), my husband developed a sudden allergy to bee stings. He was rushed to the local ER in anaphalactic shock but the closest hospital was out of our network. This resulted in a total bill (outpatient) of \$10,500 with a deductible and co-pay of \$6500.00. In 2016, my husband cut a finger while traveling, requiring a skin graft (outpatient). The ER was out of network and our deductible and co-pay was \$6500.

We are now in debt to the hospital for a total of \$13,000. Our monthly payment is \$361.00. The hospital sold our debt for a 10% discount to the Western Alliance Bank in Las Vegas which finances casinos. If we default, the bank is now able to take our very modest house. I doubt they would bother taking our car which is 12 years old.

Our employer has just announced a 25% increase in health insurance for 2018. On top of this, the Graham Cassidy bill will very likely allow Indiana employers to install lifetime caps, opt out of core preventative services and add an age tax to people over 50. We anticipate that this will prompt our employer to implement forced retirement for all professors and staff over the age of 50. This makes good economic sense as our employer looks for cost savings, but does nothing for us. It does create a burden for our children who are all crippled with student debt.

The proposed tax bill does not cover medical expenses which now account for 20% of our net disposable income.

Implementing the Graham-Cassidy bill will be a death sentence for us. We are not alone.

Sincerely,

Joan Gould-Bertocci

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Lucy Webb [redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 2:58 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please bit NO on repeal of Obamacare

I want to go on Record that I disapprove of this new vote on repealing Obamacare.

I do not see an improvement on this new bill.

VOTE NO.

It seems clear this vote is NOT about doing what is best for the people in America. But rather getting funds circulating again in coffers for the next election.

VOTE NO. I am against repealing Obamacare.  
It saved my life.

Lucy Webb

Sent from my iPhone



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Susan D [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 2:58 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No GC Bill

It would be devastating. The wording is way too vague and lies open huge space for loopholes. My toddler has a pre-existing condition and I hate to think what it might change for her and for millions of others.

With respect,

Susan Dorfman, Brooklyn NY

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Lara Weinberg [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 2:53 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Just say "no" to the Graham-Cassidy bill!

Please do not put millions of people at risk! Pre-existing conditions should be treated, not penalized. Americans should be protected, not threatened.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Susan <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 2:58 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Obama care

Please do NOT repeal and replace. Obama care!  
Susan and Joel Kaplan

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Lorrie George-Baskin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 2:45 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Testimony

September 22, 2017

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

Submitted by: Bruce Johnson, Chief Executive Officer, Nicasa Behavioral Health Services  
Organization Name  
Street Address  
City, State Zip

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

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

On behalf of Nicasa Behavioral Health Services, I submit this testimony to the Senate Finance committee, in regards to the Graham/Cassidy/Heller/Johnson Amendment to the Budget Reconciliation Act of 2017.

It is known to every policymaker and every public health official that the opioid epidemic has had a devastating impact on all Americans, and Illinois is no exception. The Affordable Care Act, and the Medicaid expansion that accompanied it, has been a boon to substance abuse treatment to the people of Illinois. Not only would this bill put Medicaid expansion in Illinois at risk, but the reforms proposed to the Medicaid system would be outright disastrous to the substance abuse and mental health treatment communities. A vote in favor of this bill is a vote to stem SUD services, as vast multitudes of your constituents will lose vital coverage, leaving them susceptible to addiction and overdoses. It is also a vote to terminate life-long mental health care for citizens of less means, denying them an opportunity to be productive members of society that can contribute to our collective growth and well-being.

Health care economists Richard G. Frank and Sherry A. Glied estimate that 1.3 million people with serious mental illness and 2.8 million people with SUDs — including 220,000 people with opioid disorders — could lose health coverage under ACA repeal. Both chambers of Congress have spent the past several years expressing its concern for these populations, and support of this bill would be nothing short of a slap in the face to these vulnerable populations, at both a fiscal and emotional level.

As a result of zeroing out block grants for Marketplace tax credits and Medicaid expansion and additional cuts to Medicaid, the Graham-Cassidy bill is essentially repealing the Affordable Care Act without replacing it, and at least **965,000 Illinoisans would lose coverage by 2027**. The Graham-Cassidy bill would turn traditional Medicaid into a per capita cap, meaning the 2,201,841 Illinoisans who are enrolled on Medicaid would have their care jeopardized. Medicaid disproportionately helps children, seniors in nursing home care and people with disabilities. A study by Avalere found that Graham-Cassidy would cut funding for people with disabilities by 15-percent and 31-percent for children by 2036. Finally, allowing states to opt out of the Essential Health Benefits coverage means that insurance companies could once again put lifetime and annual limits on the amount of care one receives, even impacting people with coverage from their employer. Up to 1,195,000 Illinoisans with employer-sponsored coverage would lose these protections- and as you may be aware, addiction is a chronic disease, requiring a lifetime of care.

We hope your colleagues in Congress are aware that a vote in favor of this bill is a vote to decimate the progress we have made in fighting substance use disorders, as well as mental illness, over the past several years. We must not, however, let our progress be stunted, especially as we stand upon the precipice of true advances for our most vulnerable populations. Medicaid plays a vital role in providing behavioral health services across Illinois. Although the CARA act, as well as the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act and its mental health provisions, were a great boost to our mission, they pale in comparison to the contributions made by Medicaid. Illinois simply cannot afford for this bill to be passed, at a fiscal or a moral level.

The opioid epidemic, unfortunately, is just a scratch on the surface. When we take into account the costs of all substance abuse, including alcoholism, we see how dire the need for quality care really is. We are well aware of the political stakes involved in this vote, but the stakes in real life are even higher. Lives hang in the balance. Substance abuse treatment saves lives, and a vote in favor of this bill is a vote to curtail these services. We urge you to vote against this bill, so that you may consider yourself a true champion of our cause.

Sincerely,


Bruce Johnson  
Chief Operating Officer

Lorrie George-Baskin  
Director of Development  
Nicasa Behavioral Health Services

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

Check out our video on YouTube

[REDACTED]

 Like Nicasa on Facebook!

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED] m  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 2:57 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Amendment

To: The Senate Finance Committee;

Please do not pass the Graham Cassidy Amendment . This will seriously harm the quality of my life, my mother's life and many others I know. I am a 69 year old, born in America Christian woman. I am currently still working but am not sure for how long. I do not know anyone....ANYONE that does not have a preexisting condition. You are crippling millions of Americans. The quality of our lives will be severely damaged.

Respectfully,

Judith J. Wagner  
Office Manager

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 2:57 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Please do what it takes to make everyone is covered! My adult daughter will die without the protections. My daughter has aged out of her father's Tricare retiree plan. She has Autism and Type 1 Diabetes. As you know, Type 1 Diabetes is an auto immune disorder and there is no cure. The cost of insulin has gone up 800% since she was diagnosed in 2007 as a ten year old. Test strips are as much a \$3 a piece. She needs as many as 10'a day. More if she is ill. We simply don't have the 6,000 plus a month that it will take to keep her alive. She will never hold meaningful employment due to her cognitive abilities. Please don't sentence her to death. I am begging you. Thank you

Tammy Bidwell

Sent from my iPad

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Bonny King-Taylor [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 2:57 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comment on Graham-Cassidy

Please,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Graham/Cassidy bill's proposed changes to the ACA. No matter how I look at it – as someone with many self-employed friends who depend on the ACA for affordable coverage that allows them the freedom to work for themselves, as a friend to many people with preexisting conditions for whom the ACA's guaranteed protections are a literal lifeline, or as someone who has worked as an administrator for one of the nation's top teaching hospitals, serving the most financially and medically fragile among us, for my entire adult life – this is a terrible bill.

Everything about it puts American health and American lives at risk, from the loosening of protections for preexisting conditions, to the predicted loss of coverage for 30 million Americans, to the Medicaid cuts and their effect on the health and lives of seniors and the disabled, to the sheer shortsightedness of pushing through a bill that will affect around 18% of the entire US economy without waiting for the CBO score.

This mean-spirited, fiscally irresponsible, poorly-conceived, hastily-written bill is a disaster – worse, it is a disaster for those Americans who are living just one mishap away from total catastrophe.

Do NOT pass Graham-Cassidy.

Thank you for protecting Americans,  
Bonny King-Taylor



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** lphilippone@gmail.com on behalf of Lisa Philippone [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 2:56 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

To Whom it May Concern,  
My son is almost 24 years old and has had a Traumatic Brain Injury since he was 12. He receives Medicaid thru SSI. My son due to his head injury and disease Encephalomalacia will have ongoing injury the rest of his life.  
[REDACTED]

As a result, he has to see numerous Doctors, Neurologists, Psychiatrists/Mental Health, Counselors which Medicaid has really helped him be able to see and the disease will progressively get worse according to his Neurologists.

Please reconsider keeping Medicaid in place for those with Traumatic Brain Injury. It is so necessary for those with brain injury who will be dealing with the injury for the remainder of their life.

Lisa Philippone

*Hebrews 3:4 For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.*

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Tyler Hayes [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 2:56 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

I am writing to express my concern that the Graham-Cassidy ACA repeal bill appears to be getting rushed to a vote without a chance for debate or a CBO score. This feels like a dangerous precedent to establish in Congress, and a really poor way to legislate the health care of millions of American citizens.

--

Tyler Hayes  
Writer, Copyeditor, Sometime Blogger

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Brenda Buchanan <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 2:55 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Do not pass this bill!!

This bill would hurt my son, who has a pre-existing condition, my mother who will need a nursing care facility in the future, all women in need of gender-specific healthcare and millions of others who will be entirely without insurance.

Thank you,

Brenda Buchanan  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], OH 44028

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Toni Macri-Reiner [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 2:55 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GCH Bill

Please vote NO on the GCH bill!

This bill is of no benefit to the millions of people who will suffer if it is passed.  
We need a single-payer plan like every other civilized nation.

Toni Macri Reiner

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Susan Avery <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:32 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote NO Graham Cassidy

Vote NO Graham Cassidy?  
Sent from my iPad

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Elisabeth Bromberg [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:32 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I strongly condemn this bill

Please leave this cruel, spiteful bill where it belongs - in the garbage. It is unimaginable and heartless. It brings shame upon this country. This congress is an embarrassment to our country and will long be remembered by history for its absurd callousness and supreme idiocy. If you have any respect for your fellow Americans, if you are interested in continuing your career in public service, you cannot in any imaginable conscience support this bill.

Please take Bernie Sanders's Medicare-For-All bill seriously. This is the sort of health care policy that is actually supported by a majority of Americans. Do what's best for your constituents, not your campaign donors. When the Koch brothers are long dead and gone, there will still be millions of Americans left to suffer and die of this bill passes.

I stand with the American Medical Association, American Cancer Society, American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, AARP, National Association of Medicaid Directors, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Kaiser Permanente, and literally every other major group of doctors, health care providers, insurance companies, hospitals, medical advocacy groups, and humans that oppose this terrible piece of legislation.

With absolutely no respect,  
Elisabeth Bromberg

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** MaryGillie [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:31 PM  
**To:** gchcomments

You want to take away health care away from those of us who live on a starving wage.  
Karma (what goes around - comes around) will visit you and your families.  
None of us gets out of life ALIVE and no where has it been found that we can take it with us.

The GOP has become the repugnant party.

I pray every good blessing on you that can  
be prayed and I wish for you what you wish for me.

"On page 95 of the bill is a special exemption carve out protecting Montana & Alaska from the loss of Medicaid funds until 2026  
If republicans repeal the ACA they get \$400 million from the Koch brothers. The 1% get a \$800 billion in tax cuts.  
The American people get screwed! "

MaryGillie  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Rachel Hockett [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:30 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

To whom it may concern:

I write with urgency to protest against the punitive healthcare bill now before the Senate.

The Graham-Cassidy plan will deprive more than 30 million Americans of affordable healthcare insurance, which will inevitably lead to untreated sickness, disability, and death. This cannot go forward.

Healthcare is not a product to be sold only to the highest bidders (the wealthy). Every American should have access to high-quality and affordable care.

The ACA is not a perfect system but it is working, and what's more, it is popular with Americans. Why repeal something that's working, except to refute the previous administration and punish hardworking, loyal Americans? It's hateful!

There is no way to justify repealing the ACA, without first organizing a concerted *bipartisan* effort to fix the current system, to make it work better and more smoothly for everyone.

Healthcare is not a privilege, it is a right.

I urge the Senate to do the right thing by all Americans, and not only the wealthiest few.

Sincerely,

Rachel Hockett  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Amos, Edna [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:31 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Medicaid

Please maintain funding and do not cu Medicaid for your citizen. It will benefit the recipients and the average hardworking ta paying citizens.

*Edna Amos  
School Readiness Specialist/Parent Educator*

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kathryn Kelly [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:30 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

I am writing today to express my opposition of the Graham- Cassidy Healthcare Bill. It is cruel, harmful, unfair and wrong. If this goes forward lives will be lost. I cannot believe that the GOP will purposely hurt people, kill people and bankrupt people all so the richest among us can make more money. It's unconscionable. What has happened to the Republican Party? Shame on all who support this bill. My family and friends who will be hurt by this bill will hold the GOP repsonsble for their suffering.

Thank you,

**Kathryn Kelly**  
Concerend American citizen

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Baby Djojonegoro <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:30 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** How Graham-Cassidy would harm me

Dear Senate Finance Committee members,

I would like to add my comment to the record of the Graham-Cassidy hearing. I am immensely grateful to be in excellent health and able to afford good insurance coverage for my family through my employment currently. However, I know that even with improvements under the ACA, too many Americans are still lacking any access to healthcare. Therefore, I implore you to vote no on Graham-Cassidy for the following reasons:

- it would end Federal protection on pre-existing conditions, lifetime caps, and essential health benefits so that my children could be uninsured based on their current diagnoses of epilepsy and eczema, and I would enter my fifties with anxieties lest I get diagnosed with any illness.
- it would end Medicaid expansion, subsidies to exchanges, cost sharing payments to low-income folks, essentially pulling out the rug from under the feet of vulnerable Americans.

The Graham-Cassidy bill would be an immoral punishment for the estimated 32 million of Americans who would lose their healthcare coverage. Please vote no on it.

Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jan Pedersen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:47 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy

Please oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill to replace the ACA. Graham-Cassidy would cause millions of Americans to lose their health care coverage and create chaos in the health care system. If the Senate approves Graham-Cassidy, millions of Americans like me, who need individual health insurance, will suffer simply so that the GOP can save face on a campaign promise. This is wrong.

Vote no on Graham-Cassidy. Thank you.

Jan Pedersen  
[REDACTED]

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Nancy Bentrup <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:48 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Pls vote NO

on the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Many, many people have pre-existing conditions which **MUST** be covered by whatever insurance they have. No one wants to have a pre-existing condition but they must have the reassurance that they will have the insurance they need when circumstances require it.

Thank you,  
Nancy Bentrup

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Lynda Hilliard [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:48 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Health Care Bill

I am a retired US Army nurse and have been in civilian health care administration for over 30 years. I do not understand why our Congress is wasting its time on a vanity bill for the President and the Republicans. They want to pass something, anything to give a win to our narcissistic leadership.

The bill is cruel - it penalizes the poor, frail, and elderly with horrendous premiums and subject to the whims of their state legislatures. This bill further subsidizes big insurance companies. The ACA isn't perfect, but not unlike the Medicare program, it needs to be tweaked and reworked as opposed to repealed.

The cost of establishing a new program is astronomical and we won't know all of the costs involved because congress isn't waiting for a CBO report

Think country first! Not party! Help those Americans who need health insurance and health care. ACCESS IS NOT ANSWER - GETTING CARE IS

Regards,

Lynda Hilliard [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Kristina Feliciano [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:48 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please say no to the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

I'm officially registering my concern about the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill. It has been presented to the public with partial truths that obscure the harm it will do. It was not conceived in good faith, and I beseech you to do what you can from passing it.

On a broader note, the issue of healthcare has become unduly politicized, to the point that it's now an issue of brinkmanship on the part of the president and the Republicans. Does the ACA need refining? Yes. But falsely demonizing it and offering little or worse as a replacement in order to score political points is not a viable option, nor is it the patriotic thing to do.

I encourage the Republicans pushing for Graham-Cassidy to locate their inner courage, their dignity, and certainly their sense of responsibility to the American people and to halt this damaging bill's progress.

Thank you for listening.

Kristina Feliciano

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Norman Juta [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:47 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care

As a citizen of U.S. I'm opposed to Graham Varsity Bill

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Lindsey Ferrentino [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:36 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare Bill

PLEASE preserve the health care initiative, I am begging you.

I am a self employed, hard working writer who desperately needs healthcare for a number of issues and I would be completely in deep trouble without it.

Please please please let me have health care. This is a deeply personal issue.

Lindsey Ferrentino  
NYC

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Yahoo <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:36 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Reject the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Hello,

My name is Cole Ansier. I am 33 years old and a cancer survivor. When I was 19 years old I was diagnosed with Stage 3 Hodgkin's Lymphoma. I was very fortunate at the time to be on my parents' insurance and after 6 months of chemotherapy and six months of radiation, I went into remission. I have remained so for 13 years.

However, every time I experience a health issue, I worry that it could be related to the treatment I received, or that I could relapse. While I have coverage through my employer currently, I dread the day I ever need to change jobs or decide to make a life change, due to the uncertainty we've experienced the last year over the fate of the ACA.

I think we all know the ACA is far from perfect, but the fact that it guarantees coverage for essential services and prevents anyone from being denied coverage due to a pre-existing condition is a godsend for millions of people in this country.

If I were to lose my job or went for a period of time not working, under the ACA I know that I could find a solid plan on the exchanges for a reasonable rate (roughly \$250 a month for a silver-level plan here in Illinois), compared to several hundred more per month under the old system where insurers could charge those of us with pre-existing conditions more, or deny us altogether if didn't maintain continuous coverage.

For the good of the American people, I implore you not to thrust the millions of people with uncertain job situations and those depend on the protections of the ACA to reject the bill currently being considered. Doling out funding on a per-capita basis and allowing states to opt out of the important provisions of the ACA would create a patchwork of systems across the country, disproportionately hurt large, highly populated states where most of the nation's economic output comes from, and cut crucial Medicaid funding everywhere by 2026.

This bill represents a danger to the health, welfare, and economic productivity of the American people, and it must not be allowed to become law.

Sincerely,  
Cole Ansier

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jean Simon [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:36 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health bill

I am NOT in favor of the Graham Cassidy Bill.

The ACA should be improved, not repealed.

Thank you.

Jean  
From my Samsung Galaxy S5

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Don Ramie <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:36 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Shauna Pickett-Gordon  
**Subject:** Reject the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

It's outrageous that the sponsors of this legislation are trying to sneak through an monumental change to our health care system without debate, without comment from the public, and without any good justification except disdain for the mass of Americans struggling to get by.

People—including infants, children and the elderly—will DIE if this bill becomes law.

STOP THE MADNESS!

Don Ramie  
Illustration and Design

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

***Illustration • Murals • Technical Illustration • Scientific Visualization • Infographics • Maps • Signs • Presentations • Graphic Design***

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Tana [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 2:53 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare--PLEASE READ!!

The American people should be **incensed** that there is such little regard for our health and well being that the harmful, embarrassingly thought out proposal crafted by Senators Graham and Cassidy has resulted in a last ditch effort to achieve a political coup rather than enrich the lives of all Americans by offering a well researched, debated, negotiated, and implemented piece of legislation.

Denying Americans the right to have healthcare, until put in place by Obama's administration, honestly, should be a total embarrassment for each and every politician previously or currently in office! And now to put forth a proposal that honestly has the potential to be injurious to Americans should be loudly opposed by any U.S. Senator and/or Representative who gives a whit about their constituency.

Please have the wisdom and strength to stand on higher ground as the proposal is brought before you. It is without merit and good conscience to even consider an initiative such as this without a CBO score which, apparently, is not going to be available prior to voting. For this and innumerable other factors, please **Vote NO** for the Graham-Cassidy proposal!

Show you care about the American people.

Tana West

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Krenrich, Stephanie [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 2:51 PM  
**To:** gchcomments; Jurinka, Elizabeth (Finance); Woronoff, Arielle (Finance); Wright, Kevin (Finance)  
**Cc:** Singleton, Sara  
**Subject:** Testimony for the Record - Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  
**Attachments:** Statement for the record\_Finance hearing on Graham Cassidy\_FINAL\_9.22.17.pdf

Please see attached the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's testimony for the record for the Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal on Monday, September 25.

We will also hand deliver this statement in hard copy to the Committee on Monday.

Best,

Stephanie Krenrich  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

DISCLAIMER: This e-mail may contain confidential information, which may be protected by applicable privileges, and may constitute non-public information. It is intended to be conveyed only to the designated recipient(s) of the message. If you are not an intended recipient of this message, please notify the sender. Unauthorized use, dissemination, distribution or reproduction of this message is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Karen Escovitz <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 2:54 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because I care about Medicaid and the behavioral health community. Medicaid is the largest insurer of people with behavioral health conditions, and its expansion has led to millions of people being able to receive health insurance. The Graham-Cassidy proposal would cause millions of Americans to lose their coverage, would drive up premiums, and punish states that have expanded Medicaid. I am deeply concerned about the consequences of this proposal on the behavioral health community, especially in the midst of an opioid epidemic.

Please do everything in your power to oppose this destructive and dangerous piece of legislation.

Karen Escovitz

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Leigh Blander [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 2:54 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy

Hello,

I'm writing to ask Senators to vote NO on the Graham/Cassidy bill. This legislation is dangerous and, if passed, will lead to thousands of unnecessary deaths in the US.

I am a journalist and my husband is a physician and we both OPPOSE this bill.

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Best regards,  
Leigh Blander



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jennifer Lau [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 2:54 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mrs. Jennifer Lau  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kathryn LeSage [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:36 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it does not guarantee coverage of pre-existing conditions or essential benefits and not prohibit all annual or lifetime coverage caps. This means that every single American is at risk of being unable to afford health insurance coverage should they face a health crisis. I am also angry at the prospect of Congress voting on the bill without a full CBO score. This is a transgression of regular order and another assault on our democratic norms.

Kathryn LeSage

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Stephanie Toews-Moeling [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:36 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Frederick, Julia (Warren)  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy healthcare proposal

To whom it may concern,

This health care bill is an abomination of legislation and an abdication of both logic and humanity on the part of its writers. Without reservation, I'd like to register my supreme dissatisfaction at the utter lack of leadership, vision, ethics, and morality of both the authors and the proponents. You must not allow this bill to come to the floor, or to pass to the House. It is bad policy for the citizens of the United States.

The ACA is what this country needs. Leave it alone.

Fondly, your BOSS,  
Stephanie Richardson  
Voter, Massachusetts

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Constance Scopelitis [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:35 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Stop the Nonsense

Where are your Mothers? Where are your Fathers? Straighten up and fly right. No sensible and thoughtful American is interested in "living" your bill. You will not be reflected if you pass this bill.

Constance  
Edwards  
Scopelitis

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] part/  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Ronnie Hayman <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:35 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Moral compass

Do you know 32 Million Americans could lose coverage, have radical changes to Medicaid and diminished funding for every state with only 90 seconds of debate by senators ? If you want to keep your campaign pledges start by keeping your pledge not to touch Medicaid benefits. Reject this bill. Listen to your fellow citizens and not the corporate \$\$\$ masters.

REJECT THIS BILL and set your moral compass correctly.

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Linda [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:35 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill

Hello,

Please do not pass this bill.

It is cruel and not throughly researched.

Thank you,

Linda Radon

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Janet Air [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:34 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Pease reject the Graham-Cassidy bill

Do the right thing.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** NA NA [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:35 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health Care

My son suffers from Crohn's disease. It is a pre-existing autoimmune condition. ACA and the medicaid expansion enabled him to receive regular doctor visits, keeping him out of emergency rooms and getting the care he needs. Your attempts to repeal ACA puts him at great risk. He may soon need surgery to remove a bowel blockage endangering his life. Without medicaid, without this surgery, his bowel may rupture. He could die and certainly is and will be in tremendous pain. Imagine your own body attacking you constantly. Imagine having diarrhea all day, every day, getting no nutrition no matter what or how much you eat. Imagine burning and cramping in you intestine all day, every day. For his sake, and millions of others who suffer and live with pre-existing conditions, look at the Graham-Cassidy bill. It DOES NOT PROTECT MY SON OR MILLIONS OF OTHERS. Have a heart and grow a pair. Find bi-partisan support and FIX ACA.

As for myself, I am a retired teacher paying almost \$600.00 per month for health insurance with a \$6000 deductible. Repealing ACA will cost me up to 5 times as much.



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Austin Arts & Graphics [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:35 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare

I am totally against this latest republican plan on healthcare!!!!

Rodger Austin  
Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Peg Whelley <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:35 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care bill

This bill is cruel. My sister is in assisted living because twice she was found on the floor b3cause she couldn't get up. She also has a lot of difficulty walking. Without Medicaide, she will be unable to stay there.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:35 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Re "healthcare" bill

Please stop and consider the millions of Americans who depend on you to make the right decision that will affect so many. It's not just the insurance part, but this bill which threatens to take away pre-existing conditions and places caps, benefits no one but insurance companies and others who BENEFIT from the terrible situation of millions of their countrymen/women.

It is beyond my comprehension that greed and privilege are stronger than the moral imperative to help each other.

As a mother and grandmother, I am begging you to do the right thing.

Lynn Colwell

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Ingrid Rasch [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:35 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health Care

Health care is life-saving. Healthy people make better employees. Healthy people make better citizens. For goodness sakes, PLEASE DO NOT APPROVE THIS NEW NONSENSE! 32 Million Americans could lose coverage, endure radical changes to Medicaid and diminished funding for every state. Don't you think this deserves more than 90 seconds of debate? If you want to keep your campaign pledges, please start by keeping your pledge not to touch Medicaid benefits. Reject this bill.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Katherine Terrell <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:35 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill

Hello,

I'm writing to register my strong opposition to the Graham Cassidy bill. Although the Congressional Budget Office hasn't yet weighed in on this version of healthcare reform (and won't get a chance to do so, before the vote is taken), all indications are that this bill would jeopardize the healthcare of millions.

As the mother of an autistic child, the wife of a husband with muscular dystrophy, and the daughter of a mother with diabetes, I can attest to the fact that coverage for pre-existing conditions is absolutely vital to my family's health. I have friends who were unable to purchase insurance before the AHA, and who would likely not be alive today without it. If I were to lose my employer-based healthcare for any reason, the Graham Cassidy bill provides no real assurance that my autistic daughter and husband with muscular dystrophy would be able to access affordable care.

I'm very worried about those who don't have access to employer-based healthcare, and those on Medicaid. The Graham-Cassidy bill's cuts to federal funding, caps on spending, and rollback of the Medicaid expansion will deny healthcare to millions, and WILL cost lives. The AHA isn't perfect by any means, but it HAS dramatically expanded access to healthcare, and it HAS saved lives, and it has certainly made my family feel more secure about our future. The Graham-Cassidy bill would be a drastic step backward for the country.

Sincerely,

Katherine H. Terrell

--  
Prof. Katherine H. Terrell

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Joe Hardin <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:35 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Dear Committee Members:

I write to urge you to vote no on the Graham-Cassidy "health care" bill. This bill is a clearly an un-American and mean-spirited partisan attempt to derail the improvements offered by the ACA simply because it came from former President Obama. While the ACA is an imperfect plan, Graham-Cassidy is 1,000 times worse. Every major health care provider (from physicians to hospital systems), all health insurance groups, all 50 state medicaid directors, and 70% of the American public unequivocally assert that Graham-Cassidy will result in catastrophic health consequences for tens of millions of citizens. As such, your vote should be "no."

It seems as if this congress has abandoned the basic principles of our social contract in favor of an cynical attempt to wipe out what improvements we have made to a health care system that is lagging behind the rest of the world and decreasing the life-spans and productive years of our citizenry. by either malfeasance or lies (or perhaps both). There are better approaches, including the ideas forwarded by Hickenlooper and Kasich. Do the right thing. Please vote no.

Joe Hardin  
<[REDACTED]>

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Deirdre Gardner [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:34 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy bill

Gentlemen/Ladies -

Please-

**Think** before you vote on this bill.

**Think** of the American citizens who will be hurt irreparably by this bill.

It is common knowledge that this travesty of a proposal has not been thoroughly vetted, that there have been no official impact or financial studies done as of yet.

No one takes any sort of legal action without having said action vetted.

To have our Congress attempt to ram through an "un investigated" bill is an unconscionable act on so many levels .

The only numbers that have been bruited about seem to clearly indicate that this bill will not work for a section of this country. If it is passed you will be placing a significant portion of the citizens of this country at risk- you will be asking some citizens to choose between those fundamentals of life which are necessary for existence and health care. There is the possibility that some will die for lack of medical care. To have that happen in America is inexcusable-

You know this.

My god -

To vote into existence anything which has not been thoroughly vetted and approved, which can hurt so many people , is so fundamentally wrong that it boggles the mind.

Do not vote for this bill.

Thank You

Deirdre Gardner

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Mariann Stephens <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:33 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Fwd: Graham Cassidy has no place in our democracy

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

**From:** Mariann Stephens <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Fri, Sep 22, 2017 at 12:27 PM  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy has no place in our democracy  
**To:** [REDACTED]

I was so proud of Obamacare. I felt that it represented everything that is right about our country.

And I understood, to a degree, that Republicans felt obliged to seek its repeal when they took over Congress; promises made and all that.

But what were they promising?

**To give states the discretion to cover pre-existing conditions or not? To set a life-time maximum for coverage?** Let's be honest. You're **legislating a death sentence for innocents!**

When the House voted to repeal the ACA, did they really appreciate how that would affect the **elderly in need of nursing home care**? (Perhaps you have no personal experience with dementia! I wouldn't wish it on anyone but that obviously doesn't bother the Graham Cassidy crew either!!)

Did our legislators really want to deny preventive and pediatric care to the millions of **children with no access outside SCHIP and Medicaid**?

Were they truly willing to **put the lives of millions of women at risk by denying them access to reproductive health care as if it were optional**?

Medicaid was one of the best steps toward a true democracy we've taken in the last century. If Graham-Cassidy basses, we know who will suffer -- only the poor! And to what end? So the wealthy can have more?

STOP IT!

**And all with one short committee hearing and no CBO score?**

GRRR!

It is true that poor people have more terrible health problems -- why wouldn't they? Before the ACA, many had almost no access to basic health services! And this bill would reverse coverage disproportionately for citizens in those states that accepted ACA funds! Those who needed it most!

Don't tell me that those too selfish and mean-spirited to accept federal funds for their citizens under the ACA will use the block grants to provide properly for their health care now. Not likely!



I have always been so proud of my country, but lately I barely recognize it. It's heartless, unconscionable, and profoundly short-sighted to consider this bill.

Please stop it in its tracks!

Mariann Stephens

--

Mariann Stephens

[REDACTED]  
Home: [REDACTED] 409-0451

Bsns: [REDACTED]

Cell: [REDACTED] 93-60

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Avenue,  
LaGrange Park IL 60526

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Mariann Stephens

[REDACTED]  
Home: [REDACTED]

Bsns: [REDACTED]

Cell: [REDACTED] 712-0500

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Linda Howlett [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:30 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

I am a board member for a not for profit group that supports people with Autoimmune Hepatitis. Leaving so much to states will cause so many problems for so many people in my group as well as others who have rare diseases. To force us to pay exorbitant premiums will force many to go without insurance. This will, in turn, add to suffering, premature deaths, and an added burden to welfare. Please do not pass this proposal.

Linda M. Howlett

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** m. colleen riley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:34 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Latest Trumpcare Healthcare bill

To those of you who hold my future in your hands:

I am a former high school teacher and was also the Executive Director of Spoon River Hospice in Canton, [REDACTED]

I am now 67 and living on \$750/mo. Social Security. I have fibromyalgia, COPD, acid reflux and mental illness. My chronic problems require numerous medications, tests, and doctor visits. I have Medicare and what Medicare doesn't cover, Medicaid picks up. I am so fortunate!!!

It is my understanding that Medicaid expansion would be gone and that governors of each state would receive block grants for Medicaid which is much less than before the expansion. Please let me remind you that 5 of the last 6 governors in Illinois have been jailed for corruption of various types. Why give a large amount of money to 50 governors who may not put the care of the elderly, sick and poor above their own political interests? Why not give that money directly to the program that already has a system for eligibility and the administration of the program???

How can the United States of America assure "liberty and justice for all" if each state makes up it's own rules for healthcare???

As of today, the CBO has not given its report. But projections say millions of United States citizens will lose healthcare! How can anyone who calls himself a Christian justify taking from the poor and giving to the rich???. This is exactly opposite from what Jesus Christ told us to do!!!

Mary Colleen Riley, [REDACTED]  
Citizen of the **United** States of America

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Rebecca Spokony [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:34 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please reject the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Please reject the Graham-Cassidy Bill. 32 Million Americans could lose health care coverage. If you want to keep your campaign pledges, start by keeping your pledge not to touch Medicaid benefits. Reject this bill.

Thank you very much,  
Rebecca Spokony

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Debbie Lima <[REDACTED]@m>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:33 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare bill

This version is the meanest yet. The count of 34 million who stand to lose their healthcare does not include the impacts of reintroducing prior conditions and lifetime caps. Those will impact everyone.

Also, the impacts to some states can hurt them for decades. It will impact every service they provide including education and emergency services.

So I ask, what do we get for this? A very minor tax break for the rich. I know because I'm one of them. Oh, and Koch campaign financing. Yes we see through this.

I know I know, it aligns with Republican/Libertarian beliefs that the government just shouldn't provide this at all. That is an ideological argument that has no successful operating example that proves it. It's an attempt to experiment with 300 million lives. It's selfish and goes further towards creating casts in the USA. We do have examples of what happens then. That's why we have the oldest democracy. None have survived because they did not hang on to the middle class.

Selfish selfish selfish. That's what you are if you vote for this. A few stupid people still support it because they trust you, but the majority do not support it. This is 1/6 of the economy and even if you don't care about sick people, you should care about that. But when jobs are lost and people are sick, who will rise from the ashes? Not Republicans. Not Libertarians.

Vote no.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** emeryY <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:33 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** REJECT THE HEALTHCARE BILL!!!!!!!!!!

**From:** Martha Emery [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:50 AM  
**To:** gchcomments@finance.senate.gov  
**Cc:** Shauna Pickett-Gordon  
**Subject:** Vote against Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

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

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

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

**Please reject the Graham-Cassidy bill.**

**!Please reject the Graham-Cassidy bill.**

**Please reject the Graham-Cassidy bill.**

Sincerely, Martha Emery

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Glenn Kurtz [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:33 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

To the Senate Finance Committee:

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal on American health care has been cobbled together from various proposals, all of which have failed to pass the U.S. Senate for good reasons. The bills would harm millions of people, deprive millions more of health care, and undertake to restructure a large segment of the U.S. economy without the benefit of a Congressional Budget Office analysis.

The bill itself is cruel and poorly crafted, and passing it would be an abject abdication of your responsibilities as U.S. Senators.

Glenn Kurtz

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Joan & Alan Brundage [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:33 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

I am strongly opposed to the passage of this bill. Besides being cruel to impose suffering from untreated on health conditions on the 32 million people who will loose their insurance, the bill doesn't make sense economically. These people with no health insurance will now cost this country much much more when they end up in emergency rooms because they could not catch their health problems earlier on with a doctor's visit and preventative care. People without health insurance simply don't go to doctors, often until they are in crisis mode and it is too late. Many people who can't afford doctors without insurance will die. The Graham - Cassidy bill will be a death sentence for many many people. I hope that the Senate realizes this and will not pass this cruel economically stupid bill.

Joan Brundage, retired teacher



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Julie Torrissi [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:33 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Hello,

I am writing to express my concerns about the Graham-Cassidy Bill and the changes that will be made to the ACA. I am asking Congress not to hold a vote on this bill that will affect the economy without a CBO score. Without a CBO score, we will not fully understand how many Americans will be left without health insurance. I am saddened that Congress is attempting to take this vote without having all of the facts.

I am also concerned about language in the bill that allows states to decrease protections to those with pre-existing conditions. Many will be affected by this provision and it will continue to drive up the cost of healthcare overall. People will need to choose between saving a loved one and bankruptcy. This is not a choice the citizens of one of the wealthiest countries in the world should have to make.

This bill does not bring healthcare to more Americans and it is predicted that millions will lose their health insurance and therefore will not be able to get preventative care, early detection/intervention for disease, which in turn, affects not only cost but also the risk of death.

Overall, this bill is heartless and cruel and we have ultimately decided not to take care of our fellow citizens. We will be leaving behind those that are most vulnerable and needy.

Please do not pass the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill and continue to keep the ACA, which can be improved if Congress chooses to work together.

Sincerely,  
Julie Torrissi

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** David Mason <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:33 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** my experience before and after ACA

We have been buying individual health insurance in Essex Cty since June 2004.

Before Obamacare, two companies each offered one policy. One was cheap but had all sorts of caps and gottcha's when you tried to use it. The other was very expensive.

Here is the info for 2017 from the NY State Health Exchange for Essex County [REDACTED]

For an individual, 6 companies offer over 100 different plans with different levels of coverage. Each plan covers the same things, just at different levels of coverage and with different doctor networks. Prices range from \$338/month to \$1361/month before any subsidies. For couples and families, various plans go on for 54 pages of 10 options each. I did not go though every one.

For me, individually, my monthly cost in 2013, before the exchanges began, was \$1150/month and it dropped to \$646 in 2014. It has gone up since, and now in 2017 it is \$904 a month, still 20% below the pre-Obamacare payments. The coverage is better, including things like hearing aids. The 2017 increase letter Excellus sent out said rates would rise by 1.7%.....very little.

I do not qualify for any subsidy, so it is still a lot to pay, but it is far better and cheaper than what I had before and, with a pre-existing condition, I am happy to be able to get it.

David Mason  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jill Mence [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:33 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill - KILL it

A healthcare bill that would have catastrophic effects on average people (kids included) is sheer evil. Have republicans no soul or compassion? Especially the religious members - what hypocrisy. You work for your constituents, not the Koch brothers or the Mercers. The worst of it is that the bill is being rammed through without due process. What's the rush if it's such a great bill as graham, trump, and cassiday say? Very shady.

It's BS to say this was a campaign promise that has to be kept. Trump is not a legitimate president. We know Russia hacked this last election. He lost the popular vote by 3 million! His agenda is not what the majority wants.

Stop the madness! Let the ACA continue on but fix it where necessary.

The current congress is making a mockery out of how the legislative process is supposed to work.

jill mence  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Julian Cartwright [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:33 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare Story

I am a music teacher, and I have a pre-existing heart condition. Because I do not make very much money due to the nature of my profession and also due to the circumstances of my medical condition, I rely on medicaid services. Medicaid allows me to survive and continue my chosen way of life. Without healthcare, I would not be alive, and without music, my spirit would not be alive. Obamacare treated me as a person, not an opportunity to make money. I think that all people deserve this. I understand that there are problems with the Obamacare system, and I would love to see those problems solved. But the various efforts to repeal and replace Obamacare are not humane. I feel that the proponents of repeal and replace are not telling Americans the whole truth about their plan, but rather that repeal is being pushed through for political gain only. We have a responsibility to treat all Americans humanely, regardless of their political party.

Very sincerely,  
Julian Cartwright

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Gwynn Kayahli [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:33 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Repeal and Replace bill

Please join healthcare advocacy groups, insurance companies, and ordinary citizens in opposing this bill. It would be very bad for the American people.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Don Vaughan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:33 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Don't pass!!

Don't let this bill pass!!!!

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:33 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy will devastate Americans' health care

My husband and I are upper middle class, college educated professionals. He works in IT/computer security, while I am a published author and run a freelance editing business out of my home. Our combined income would, in a sane world with a working and sensible health care system, leave us able to handle our general medical expenses on our own. Unfortunately, until the passage of the ACA, the American system was neither sensible nor workable, and the Graham-Cassidy bill makes even the pre-ACA system look good by comparison.

My husband has Type 2 diabetes, well-controlled because he gets regular medical treatment, including prescription drugs, and is careful to maintain good diet and exercise habits. Our older son is on the autism spectrum and has asthma, both pre-existing conditions he was born with. Our younger son is also on the autism spectrum and currently suffers from major depressive disorder. His psychiatric treatment and social skills group are vital to his continued survival and hopes for recovery. Because I gave birth to our sons, I also have the "pre-existing condition" of having been pregnant and borne children. Under Graham-Cassidy, if our state of residence elects to waive the Essential Health Benefits of the ACA, none of us will qualify for or be able to purchase health insurance for the rest of our lives. Without insurance, we cannot afford the care my husband and sons need to live and thrive. Lacking that care, my husband faces declining health and premature death, and our younger son might not live to see his 15th birthday. As for our older son, he will never be able to buy insurance at any price. What will happen to us, will happen to tens of millions of hard-working, taxpaying Americans if this unconscionable bill becomes law.

So, to those GOP Senators considering a "yes" vote: If this is the future you envision as best for America, then you are cruel and self-serving beyond measure. If it is not, then please pay attention to what medical experts, patient advocates, the AARP, and even the insurers themselves are telling you--this bill will blow up the existing health care system in America, leaving only the super-rich unscathed. It will radically reshape 1/6 of the national economy, without any serious debate on its merits or discussion of its ramifications. To vote for it is political malpractice of the highest order.

You cannot in good conscience vote in favor of this bill. Please do the right thing, and put the well-being of your fellow citizens before the phantom of a temporary "political win" for your party.

Sincerely,

Diane Piron-Gelman  
Word Nerd, Inc.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Chris Hassman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:42 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** shassman11  
**Subject:** Health Care Story

To whom it may concern,

I am not the type person that asks for a lot of help in my life, but please don't take my wife's health coverage. My wife just had what was her 14th surgery in the last 5 years due to an accident she was involved in in 2012. She is now disabled and is missing her left leg. She goes to the doctor once a month. Each surgery for clean ups run about \$10,000 and the revisions to her amputation cost about \$45,000 based on what was just charged to Blue Shield last month. Each prosthetic costs about \$10,000 for the socket and about \$90,000 for the prosthetic parts to form the leg, foot, shin, & ankle. So this year alone if I was paying cash I would have been out about \$175,000. I make \$110,000 a year in salary and obviously my wife can't work. Although it is funny as I know you are going to say well your wife probably has Social Security and Medicaid. Here is the funny thing as she has been turned down 4 times for Social Security assistance and insurance. So big shock you're taking our only option away the ACA. I pay for my health care so don't sit there and pretend that the government is paying for everyone's health care. WE GET NOTHING FROM ANYONE FOR HELP FOR HEALTH CARE. WE ARE CURRENTLY PAYING \$1,891 PER MONTH IN PREMIUMS WITH ZERO ASSISTANCE. I will give you that is an absurd amount of money for health care, but my wife means more to me than a few hundred bucks a month.

We just finished our dream home in March and if you pass this law I will have to sell my dream home so I can move to California to make sure she gets coverage. How is that right or fair to me and my family. My family has served this country for 5 generations now. My father serving in the Corp for almost 30 years and now my middle son is in BCT at Fort Jackson. So for a family that does all the right things what gives you the right to stick a knife in my back so you can give the rich a tax break. I thought selling yourself for money was against the law in this country except in Vegas. Yes I am calling you a whore. Cause that is the definition for exchanging favors for money, a whore!!! If you are so worried about our debt I have solved that for you as well. I call it the "chicken little" tax. If you will note that almost ALL the millionaire and billionaires in this country didn't have the guts to serve in the armed forces or are just a plain old draft dodger like my boss and our new president. So I say we tax them the "chicken little" tax of 5% on all gross earnings. Both for their business and their personal income. Bam there you go I just helped the country out and did your job for you. Wow I am so nice as I did all that for no charge. You welcome for that. Now stay the hell out of my life and my wife's life and for once do something for the people that you actually work for and not for your little butt buddy's the Koch Brothers or is it C\*\*K Brothers!!!! As you know the old saying goes you are what you eat!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Chris Hassman – Estimator/Project Manager  
AA Stucco & Drywall



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Petrea Burchard [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

Please reject the Graham-Cassidy Bill. It offers only to terrorize the nation with higher health care and health insurance costs, costs that some of us can't afford. If it passes, I will no longer be able to insure my family. Then what? Emergency rooms?

America is supposed to be a leader, not a loser.

We need health care for women, children, and outreach for addicts. Instead of providing this country with protections, instead of investing in our present and future, the Graham-Cassidy Bill offers us chaos. The price is too high.

Thank you.

Petrea Burchard Sandel  
[REDACTED]

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nonfiction Humor	Adventure Fiction	Anthology with my story

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Stephen Craver [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:42 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy ATROCITY

Dear REPUBLICANS,

This JOKE of a "Healthcare" bill is an affront to the intelligence of the American people. Perhaps you could focus for just ONE LOUSY MINUTES on doing actual good instead of simply trying to repeal something because it has a different President's name on it.  
It will KILL MILLIONS.

If you TRULY BELIEVE that this disgusting excuse for a government document is so great, the DUMP YOUR OWN PERFECT healthcare and wait to see how great it is for you.

Go ahead. We, the American people who ELECT REPRESENTATIVES, will wait.

Signed,

a Disgusted American who cannot wait to get every republican out of office. Shame on every one of you who cotes for this abomination.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Marjorie Rickard <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:47 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care

I am very concerned about the graham/Cassidy bill. Firstly, why are you insisting on pushing through this bill before thoroughly evaluating the effect it will have on millions of Americans? Secondly, giving power to the states runs the risk of so many Americans with pre-existing conditions to be left with out health insurance. Thirdly, I am concerned that monies to Medicare will be reduced so drastically, that the elderly and disabled will be left uninsured. Lastly, why can you finally work together to fix the existing bill and bring back civility to the congress & make sure that every American has health insurance. Additionally, every American deserves the health insurance that congress has!!!!!! Dinner pass this bill please, thanks , Marjorie Rickard

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Elizabeth Dooley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:47 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 feels like just another attempt to undo the legislation of the previous administration, without care as to whether or not the options have been carefully considered and planned. If you want to change healthcare, go ahead! Improve it! Ask people what they need! Embark on bipartisan efforts to really find a solution that works for the most amount of people at the best cost. To repeal hastily, simply to "win" is a loss for most Americans. We are better than this, and our people deserve better than this, especially when it comes to their own wellbeing.

Elizabeth Dooley

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED] behalf of Nancy Garcia [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:31 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

During the recession from 2008 - 2011 I worked multiple jobs to try to stay afloat financially with two teens at home. I had to spend 12 months in a half-time job at about \$10 an hour to qualify for healthcare -- just for me, not my dependents.

Being over 60, in my current job with a small employer, my employer-provided coverage is more expensive than other employees due to my age. At my age, the specter of potentially needing to obtain coverage for myself and my family on the open market looks like a frightening and exorbitantly expensive threat under this proposed bill.

Under Graham-Cassidy, I believe American families would have fewer protections to cover their times of need -- especially in my state, California, which would suffer some of the biggest losses in federal revenue.

Secondly, the bill appears to offer inadequate health coverage for women.

Third, if this were truly a better approach, it would stand up to the scrutiny of regular order and hearings -- and we, the constituents, deserve that full process to weigh trade-offs and priorities rather than having to fear a poorly understood bill will be rammed through without thorough vetting.

Finally, I believe healthcare should be like fire protection -- available as a safety net to keep communities, and individuals facing unforeseen issues, from harm. As an employee of a medical society that deals with treatments for chronic health problems, I know that sufficient, uniform, access to timely, appropriate medical interventions keeps people who are affected more independent and less of a burden to society, on average -- so it is for everyone's benefit that these public policies be in place to ensure a basic level of protection, treatment, and care across the country.

Sincerely,

Nancy Garcia  
Pleasant Hill, [REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Terry and Andy Steiner [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:43 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Kill the Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Good Afternoon,

I am writing this email to voice my concern about the Graham Cassidy Health Care bill. I hope this inhumane legislation is never enacted. My concerns are as follows:

### **Destroys Medicaid:**

- It destroys Medicaid as we know it by fundamentally and permanently transforming the funding for the program into a capped system,
- The caps limit how much federal money states have to spend on Medicaid limits coverage, access, and states' options when more people need coverage, which could mean people go without coverage,
- Caps to Medicaid could mean the elderly are kicked out of nursing homes - elderly account for 2/3 the cost of Medicaid.
- The bill takes money from states that expanded Medicaid and gives it to states that did not, which simply makes no sense whatsoever outside as a carrot for senators from those states to vote for the bill.

### **Destroys Pre-Existing Condition Protections**

- The bill eliminates protections for people with pre-existing conditions - even if your state makes a law that pre-existing conditions will be covered, insurance companies will just pull out and focus on states with no such law.
- The new tax breaks for HSAs may cause employers to just put tax-free money into these HSAs and stop offering their staff health insurance all-together. This means that those with pre-existing conditions who rely on employer insurance could find themselves without insurance on the open market.
- The law eliminates protections against life-time max in the same way it does pre-existing conditions.

### **Discrimination Against Women**

- The bill has total prohibition on any covered insurance plans (those eligible for employer tax breaks) from offering abortion coverage - this could be life-threatening for many women.
- Bars women Medicaid from Planned Parenthood.
- Does not require insurance to cover maternity care or birth control.

### **No CBO Score**

- Independent groups estimate a huge price tag for this bill as well as millions being kicked off insurance.
- No bill, regardless of subject matter, should be up for a vote until the CBO has scored the legislation.
- The CBO will not have estimates relating to this legislation for weeks.

### **Timing is Horrible**

- Addressing this issue now is destroying the 2018 individual health insurance market.

Please have compassion and put an end to this bill. Health insurance is a very complex issue and should not be changed without a great amount of review, input and debate.

Thank You,

Alfred Steiner

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Mercer-Schleider, Kimberly <kimberly.mercer@illinois.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:42 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities: Graham/Cassidy Bill Statement  
**Attachments:** Copy of Copy of Share Your Medicaid \_ Compiled Stories 2017 Graham Cassidy comments.xlsx

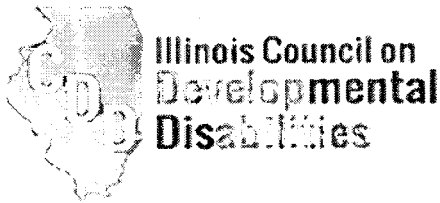
Attached you will find an Excel workbook that holds quotes from individuals with disabilities, family members, and allies from IL regarding what Medicaid means to them.

In addition, here is a story of an IL man with developmental disabilities:

*"My name is Vincent Smith and I am 36 years old. Medicaid pays for my home care, my wheelchair, my doctor visits, and my therapy. My mother died a little over a year ago. We lived together my whole life on the west side of Chicago. I still live in our home by myself because Medicaid pays for me to be independent. If I lose Medicaid, I will have to live in an institution and that is unacceptable."*

Please consider the necessity of Medicaid for IL citizens with disabilities as they try daily to stay out of costly nursing homes and institutions.

Kimberly Mercer-Schleider  
Director  
Chicago Office Phone: (██████████)  
Springfield Office Phone: (██████████)



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## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Teresa Perdieu [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:44 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

September 25, 2017

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

Submitted by: Central East Alcoholism and Drug (CEAD) Council

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Charleston, IL [REDACTED]

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

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

On behalf of CEAD Council, I submit this testimony to the Senate Finance committee, in regards to the Graham/Cassidy/Heller/Johnson Amendment to the Budget Reconciliation Act of 2017.

It is known to every policymaker and every public health official that the opioid epidemic has had a devastating impact on all Americans, and Illinois is no exception. The Affordable Care Act, and the Medicaid expansion that accompanied it, has been essential to substance use disorder treatment for the people of Illinois. Not only would this bill put Medicaid expansion in Illinois at risk, but the reforms proposed to the Medicaid system would be outright disastrous to the substance use disorder community. A vote in favor of this bill is a vote to stem substance use disorder treatment services, and consequently vast multitudes of your constituents will lose vital coverage, leaving them susceptible to all the consequences of addiction including overdose.

Health care economists Richard G. Frank and Sherry A. Glied estimate that 2.8 million people with SUDs — including 220,000 people with opioid disorders — could lose health coverage under ACA repeal. Both chambers of Congress have spent the past several years expressing its concern for these populations, and support of this bill would be completely devastating to these vulnerable populations, at both a fiscal and emotional level.

As a result of zeroing out block grants for Marketplace tax credits and Medicaid expansion and additional cuts to Medicaid, the Graham-Cassidy bill is essentially repealing the Affordable Care Act without replacing it, and at least **965,000 Illinoisans would lose coverage by 2027**. The Graham-Cassidy bill would turn traditional Medicaid into a per capita cap, meaning the 2,201,841 Illinoisans who are enrolled on Medicaid would have their care jeopardized. Medicaid disproportionately helps children, seniors in nursing home care and people with disabilities. A study by Avalere found that Graham-Cassidy would cut funding for people with disabilities by 15-percent and 31-percent for children by 2036. Finally, allowing states to opt out of the Essential Health Benefits coverage means that insurance companies could once again put lifetime and annual limits on the amount of care one receives, even impacting people with coverage from their employer. Up to 1,195,000 Illinoisans with



employer-sponsored coverage would lose these protections- and as you may be aware, substance use disorder is a chronic disease, requiring a lifetime of care.

We hope your colleagues in Congress are aware that a vote in favor of this bill is a vote to decimate the progress we have made in fighting substance use disorders, as well as mental illness, over the past several years. However, we must not let our progress be stunted, especially as we stand upon the precipice of true advances for our most vulnerable populations. Medicaid plays a vital role in providing behavioral health services across Illinois. Although the CARA act, as well as the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act and its mental health provisions, were a great boost to our mission, they pale in comparison to the contributions made by Medicaid. Illinois simply cannot afford for this bill to be passed, at a fiscal or a moral level.

The opioid epidemic, unfortunately, is just a scratch on the surface. When we take into account the costs of all substance misuse, including alcoholism, we see how dire the need for quality care really is. We are well aware of the political stakes involved in this vote, but the stakes in real life are even higher. Lives hang in the balance. Substance use disorder treatment saves lives, and a vote in favor of this bill is a vote to curtail these services. We urge you to vote against this bill, so that you may consider yourself a true champion of our cause.

Sincerely,

Teressa M. Perdieu, MA CADC  
CEAD Council, Executive Director

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:44 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health Care

Leave ObamaCare alone. Have you no concern for the welfare of our citizens? Is destroying Obama's legacy more important than the health of our citizens? Trump's ego is driving our country to become the laughingstock of the world. I am embarrassed and ashamed of our president and our government.

Rebecca Tucker

Sent from XFINITY Connect Mobile App

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Nicola Sharratt <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:44 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Reject the bill

The proposed bill is appalling and threatens to leave more than 30 million Americans without health insurance. Congress will be responsible for people dying unnecessarily if they pass this bill.

Do the moral thing and reject this.

Dr. Nicola Sharratt [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Barbara Merritt <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:44 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote no to Trump care

This bill should not pass. Every medical professional has stated it is a disaster . What is wrong with our republicans who are supposed to watch over the American people. I am ashamed and it is appalling what they are trying to do .VOTE NO

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Angela McClain [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:43 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it will not protect those with pre-existing conditions, it will take health care away from those who can't afford it all meaning this bill will result in the death of many Americans. I have no idea why anyone who cares about the well-being of citizens of our country would keep trying to do such a horrible, evil thing.

Angela McClain  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kathy Harmening <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:43 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO - Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill

Do NOT replace the Affordable Healthcare Act with the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill. People will die.

If you want to replace it with single-payer healthcare like the rest of the civilized world, then I'm all for it.

Katherine Harmening  
voter

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Arabella <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:43 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Re Graham-Cassidy Bill

Re Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

To Senators Considering this anti-healthcare bill

I whole heartedly encourage you to step back from whatever position you have taken in the past, and ask yourself, is this bill beneficial for the majority of the American people?

Now really ask that question. Drill down past the bipartisanship and the hype, and ask, are more Americans going to receive healthcare or are less going to receive healthcare?

Now, ask, do I want this kind of healthcare coverage for myself and my family?

Now, follow the money...who will benefit?

Say no to this bill, which represents a giant step backwards for most Americans.

Arabella Drouillard  
Beacon, NY

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Nancy Lazarczyk <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:43 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please, NO!

I truly can not understand why you would propose such a cruel health care bill. It certainly isn't health care as there is no 'care' in it. Who do you work for? The Koch brothers? Certainly not for Americans. You should be forced to get your insurance through your own bill. Do you really consider yourself Christians? This bill is unconscionable. Beware of karma. The voters and God are watching you, and there will be consequences.

Mad as hell,  
Nancy Lazarczyk



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Alexa Broida <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:43 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

Without transparency in the bill's content and impact, nobody who votes for it knows what they are signing onto. It's reprehensible and irresponsible to vote for something so clouded in secrecy.

Alexa Broida  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Richard Laws <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:43 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health Care Bill

I am a Social Worker at a Dialysis Clinic in New Mexico. This proposed bill will severely impact the patient on dialysis who depend on Medicaid and other subsidized insurance plans who depend on their health care insurance for life sustaining treatments and medications. Please vote no on this terrible bill that will cause many of our patients to lose their benefits and as a consequence lose their lives

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Linda Miller [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:43 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Stop. GrahamCassidy.

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.

Sincerely,  
Linda J Miller

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Pamela Harris [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:43 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** STOP the madness of repealing ACA!

Please stop threatening to take away my healthcare by replacing it with block grants. Protect the ACA - especially expanded medicare and protections for individuals with pre-existing conditions.

My family and my son depend on this legislation. We like the ACA. Please work to improve and strengthen the ACA.

Yours sincerely,  
~ Pamela Harris

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Fay Blythe [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:43 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Wright, Kevin (Finance); Dent, William (Isakson)  
**Subject:** healthcare bill

My name is Fay Blythe. My family lives in Statesboro, GA. My son, Brady, has a rare chromosome disorder causing intellectual and developmental delays. Medicaid allows him to receive the services necessary for him to reach his full potential and lead a meaningful, productive life. Without it, we would no longer be able to afford many of these services and our family would suffer. My current job allows me to work with other families of children with disabilities, and if the proposed cuts to Medicaid are passed, I will no longer be able to do so. Please vote "no" to Graham-Cassidy bill.

Thank you!

--

**Fay Blythe**  
Parent Mentor for Special Education  
Bulloch County Schools

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Michael Craven <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:43 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

I am writing to you today to express my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill to replace the ACA. Should the bill become law, fewer Americans will be able to afford necessary healthcare. While I agree that the ACA is not perfect, this bill will only make things worse. Further, punishing states that tried to work with the ACA as enacted by diverting funds from them is Draconian and unfair.

Thank you.

-Michael Craven

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Cherri Cary <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:44 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health Care and MediCaid

Regarding the proposed Graham-Cassidy health care legislation, please record our strong belief that this is a terrible bill which would harm millions of Americans including many of our family members and friends.

We are small business owners who employ and provide private health care for 25 employees and their families. The current healthcare law has been helpful for our business in allowing us to provide for them without lifetime caps, pre-existing conditions, etc. and because it hold the insurer accountable for paying claims and spending required dollars actually providing benefits. Premiums have continued to rise, but no ore than they did prior to the ACA. People seem to forget that insurance companies were raising annual rates dramatically for years- long before the current health care law was passed.

Our son is a severely disabled young adult who has benefited from services provided via Medicaid funding and whose future independence and ability to experience a meaningful life will depend on the availability of Medicaid funding. The proposed changes to Medicaid would require the state where we live to severely restrict access to supports for the disabled. While we are financially stable at this time, a medical crisis without appropriate coverage could easily send things spiraling down and eventually lead to the loss of jobs for those 25 employees.

Simply removing the pre-existing conditions restrictions from Federal health insurance guidelines will mean that insurers who sell group plans to businesses will no longer have to follow the guidelines established by the ACA and by adding fees for common conditions (such as diabetes, asthma, autism, epilepsy, hypertension, etc.) as a private employer we will be forced to scale back or discontinue providing care for family members of employees, nor would they be able to afford to purchase, even at group rates.

Punishing states which are successfully proving health care (and which in large part are the healthiest economies-thus paying more in Federal taxes) and effectively utilizing the Medicaid system is unfair and short sighted. Allocating excess Medicaid resources to states based politics is just plain wrong.

American citizens and our healthcare should not be used as fodder in a game of partisan politics. No one will win, everyone loses.

Respectfully,

William and Cherri Cary  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

--  
Cherri A. Cary  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Margaret Bailey <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:44 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No to Graham Cassidy

The Graham Cassidy bill is dangerous and ill considered. It will cause harm to millions of people.

Please return to regular order and engage in a deliberative process for health care legislation. My hope is that the ACA will be improved—not repealed or replaced.

Sincerely,  
Margaret Bailey



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Doxwife2 [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:44 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

I am writing to request that this killing monstrosity be stopped.  
This is the United States - we have literally millions of living, breathing human beings who for one reason or another gets ill or suffers an accident. This includes BABIES, Senior Citizens and the guy next door.

This bill is a KILLER.  
It will literally KILL people.

It must be stopped NOW.  
The arrogance, the sociopathic pathology of the Republican Party is in full view of the American people.

We ask, we demand, that this hideous vile disgusting legislation be terminated.  
You work for US. Not the Koch brothers.

Vote NO on Cassidy/Graham.  
Send them packing.  
The American people demand this.  
Thank you.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:44 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy Bill

My name is Wayne Mullin. I live in zip code 10017. I urge you in the strongest terms to reject the Graham/Cassidy Bill. You need to put the needs of US citizens ahead of your partisan interests. Show some courage and stand up for what is right and moral.

Thank you,  
Wayne Mullin

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Michael and Annie Banks [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:44 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote no on the Graham/Cassidy Bill

Please do not pass the Graham/Cassidy Health Care Bill. Please return to Regular Order. Something of this magnitude, that will literally effect millions of Americans should not be rushed through just to meet some campaign promises. In your promises there was nothing about careless/undebated/no CBO scored repeal and replacement.

We need to get back to a bi-partisan committee. Let's improve the ACA.

Thank you,

Annie Banks  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** J. Loofbourrow Guth [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:26 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Healthcare:

Please vote NO on Graham-Cassidy.

Thank you,

Julia Guth  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Sandra Albertson-Shea [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:51 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

My family members, some of whom have pre-existing conditions, are dependent on good, affordable healthcare.

Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I seek a bi-partisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA where it needs improvement. Do not repeal it.

Sandra Albertson-Shea

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Dorene Eisentrager [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:54 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.

Dorene Eisentrager  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Kathy Magne [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:54 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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Americans need Medicare for All in all 50 states!

Kathy Magne  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jacqueline Gross [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:08 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** RE: The Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Members of the Finance Committee,

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

As someone who has a pre-existing condition, as does my spouse, I have always known that at some point we could be refused insurance. We have been extremely fortunate not to be in that situation but it has always hovered at the back of my mind. Not having to worry about that one thing has made things so much easier. The stress and the worry contributes to not feeling well. Having that factor removed allows us to concentrate on staying healthy and making good choices for our care.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Thank you very much for your time and attention to this matter.

Best Regards,

Jacqueline A. Gross  
Oakland, California



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Glen Popple [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:56 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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Glen Popple  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Annamaria Repko [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:56 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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Annamaria Repko  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Raymond Bissonnette [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:56 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.

Raymond Bissonnette  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Paige Lowe [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:06 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband first used it when he was transitioning from teaching to sub work because he couldn't find a fulltime position in our area (his school was overstaffed and he didn't find a new one over the summer). It's also been very important for my parents when they've been unemployed, and my brother who just turned 27 and has been having a lot of trouble finding work. I've also had friends (with employable degrees or who had to drop out because of financial or health problems) who haven't been able to find fulltime work in this market who will only have good health insurance through ACA markets and are afraid for their future.

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

Sincerely,

Paige  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Summer Radzanowski [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:06 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

I'm writing to ask you all to vote no on the Graham-Cassidy "health care" bill. Not only are repeal efforts wildly unpopular with the general public, they will be disastrous for our rural hospitals and especially for our vulnerable senior citizens.

On a personal note I have a 4 year old spitfire (her favorite phrase is "I'm going to do this my way, Momma, okay?!) of a daughter, Juliette, who was born prematurely. Due to that she has received a lot of physical and speech therapy. Under this bill she would no longer be guaranteed medical insurance because of her pre-existing condition of being a preemie.

Additionally my husband, Rob, has Chronic Myelonic Leukemia (CML), ten years ago this would have been a death sentence, but thanks to medial advancements there is medication he can take that keeps him healthy. This medication, however, is outrageously expensive. As we've discussed these continued attacks on our health care, we've had to discuss what we will do if repeal happens. Will he stop taking the medication because we can't afford it, knowing that he will eventually die from his CML? Will we go into debt and eventually lose our house and savings so the girls don't lose their daddy? Will we move to another country that offers healthcare? What about his job that he's been at for 25 years? These are questions that keep me up at night and cause countless worries throughout the day.

I hope you will stick up for all Americans, especially my spirited Juliette and devoted husband, Rob and vote NO on this cruel bill.

Thanks,

Summer Radzanowski

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** liz murphy <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:44 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

liz murphy  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jeanne Thayer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:44 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

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Jeanne Thayer  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Mark Latiker [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:47 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

My mother and aunt benefit from the Affordable Care Act and would undoubtedly suffer if the heartless Graham-Cassidy bill somehow passed.

Mark Latiker  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Inez Arroyo [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:02 PM  
**To:** gchcomments

Thanks for voting no

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Dorothy Grisco [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:02 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Dorothy Grisco  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** James McCauley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:08 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy health care bill

My family is dependent upon on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with affordable health care is that for the past four years we would not have been able to obtain health insurance at a reasonable cost without the benefit of the Affordable Care Act. Therefore I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

James C McCauley

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Charlotte Thompson M.D. [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:01 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Charlotte Thompson M.D.  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Shoshana Rosenfeld [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:01 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health Care Bill

Hello,

I have had life-altering illnesses, as have members of my immediate family. We know many people with pre-existing conditions whose lives and well-being would be at risk without affordable healthcare.

We urge you to vote no on the upcoming bill and request that there is a bipartisan effort to reform Obamacare, rather than repeal it.

Thank you,  
Shoshana Rosenfeld  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Campion, Edward; M.D. [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 3:38 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Don't Hurt Our Patients!!

Do not, repeat, allow the ACA repeal. It's simply wrong to take health insurance away from people. And it's really wrong to open a way to disallowance of those with preexisting conditions.

Kill this dangerous ACA repeal.

Edward W. Campion, MD  
Brookline MA

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## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Dana Morton [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:58 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Public testimony

To the Graham-Cassidy committee,

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My grandmother is disabled due to osteoporosis, and relies on Medicaid for basic medical care. I personally have experienced ups and downs with my own medical coverage over the years, so affordable health care is a must. I am mostly healthy, but have already had skin cancer (and am only 31 years old), so it is crucial that pre-existing conditions be covered by any future health care plan. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,  
Dana Morton

[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Sherry Reisner [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:59 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA

My extended family relies on affordable healthcare in **Pennsylvania**. My brother-in-law had to retire because of health problems, leaving my sister-in-law the sole breadwinner for their family of 4. She was just laid off, and yes, there are pre-existing conditions in their family. If their healthcare costs go up, they will be financially broken and their ability to help their children with future college expenses will be gone.

My other brother-in-law and sister-in-law have a few years to go before they qualify for Medicare. They, too, deal with pre-existing conditions. Higher healthcare costs will deplete their retirement savings.

Yes, the ACA needs to be fixed. But removing the **guarantee** that previous conditions **cannot** be a reason for charging higher premiums is **not** a fix. It is a recipe for disaster for many families in states that might choose to allow insurers to charge higher prices for pre-existing conditions.

Do the right thing for the people who elected you, not what is politically advantageous for you or your large campaign donors. Do what will work for the common good.

Sincerely,  
S. Reisner  
[REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Sandy Kelly [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:58 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

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

My husband and I will be retiring in 2018 before we are eligible for Medicare. We've priced healthcare options online and, for our family of four, we'll need to pay \$2200 per month! How can we afford to retire if we have to pay that kind of money for healthcare each month?

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Better yet, put single payer healthcare in place!

Sincerely,

Sandy Kelly  
Petaluma, CA

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Robin Penney <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:03 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Opposition to Graham-Cassidy Bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with the current ACA program is that I was finally able to move from a job I didn't enjoy to be an entrepreneur and work for myself, as my husband does as well. We are contributing greatly to the economy now and live in a high cost of living area. Now that I pay the full cost for healthcare, it is crucial that I have protection for my family. We are healthy, but I have two children who I must keep safe. Also, my family has a history of cancer and diabetes (what family doesn't?) and removing the ability to have insurance due to these pre-existing conditions in my family history would be devastating and cruel. I also think it's important for families like mine who are healthy to continue to pay into a program so that our country as a whole can care for those who need it most. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Robin Penney

Scotts Valley, California

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Hannah Kilson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:03 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill; Improve ACA

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Quality affordable health care should be the right of all American citizens not simply individuals like me who are upper middle class and have stable employment. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Hannah L. Kilson

Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Carol Shenon [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:03 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Strong Opposition to Graham-Cassidy Bill

To Whom it May Concern,

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

My son has had asthma since he was a young child and is dependent on his medications. In the past, he has been turned down from being insured because of his condition. I don't want him to ever have to face this again!!! I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Carol Shenon  
Moraga, California

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Whitney . [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:03 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy hearing.

I OPPOSE THE GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL. It does not reflect the direction American healthcare should be going in. Do not repeal the ACA.

Whit Cohen  
N. Hollywood, CA

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** JoAnn Macken [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:02 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Why I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

As a freelance writer, I rely on the Affordable Care Act to provide quality, affordable healthcare. I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill because I believe its approach is unfair and its result would be catastrophic for millions of people like me.

My son is a cancer survivor. His hospital bill alone totaled more than \$620,000--enough to bankrupt anyone without decent insurance. Please do not think that anyone is exempt from serious illness. We were fortunate at the time to have an employer-provided policy that covered most of our costs. Now we rely on the Affordable Care Act and its protection for people with preexisting conditions.

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

Sincerely,

JoAnn Early Macken

Shorewood, Wisconsin

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

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Karen Zimbelman <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:02 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy health care bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee -

It is imperative that the Graham-Cassidy bill not be approved at this juncture.

If we are going to have meaningful progress in terms of improving health care coverage for Americans in a way that improves quality of life as well as prevents people from financial ruin when they encounter a severe medical situation, we need:

- a thoughtful, well-considered plan
- based on clear, agreed-upon objectives
- based on a thorough analysis of the impact of the proposed legislation by the CBO
- based on an opportunity for comprehensive review and hearings by Senators and Representatives, as well as a chance for input by American citizens

Please stop trying to ram-rod through hasty legislation based on campaign "promises" and rhetoric. This is too important and all American citizens, regardless of political party, affiliation, and geographic location, deserve better.

Thanks - KZ

*"For our own success to be real, it must contribute to the success of others."*  
~ Eleanor Roosevelt

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Karen Zimbelman

[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Nicole [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:03 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please don't

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

I sadly know from personal experience what happens when people are prevented from seeking the care they need because they do not have access to affordable healthcare. It will be twenty years ago this fall that my uncle finally went to see a doctor that he learned he was in the late stages of leukemia. He couldn't afford preventative care and was living without health insurance. It was the cost (and maybe a touch of the confidence of youth) that stopped him from going to a doctor sooner. He died in April 1998 at the age of thirty. He was too young, too handsome, too warm, too everything for this to happen.

Cost and access entirely prevented my uncle from receiving the care he needed at the time he needed it. Without the support of his parents, his end of life care would have been more miserable than it was. He deserved to die with dignity and that shouldn't be a luxury. No parent should have to reconsider their retirement because their child is dying.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. My uncle would be fifty this upcoming spring.

Sincerely,

Nicole Claris

Newton, Massachusetts



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jo Schaffel <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:03 PM  
**To:** gchcomments; Schumer, Senator (Schumer); Senator (Gillibrand)  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am writing to give our personal story about how the ACA has been a life-saver for us.

My husband and I have both worked for NYS public schools, first in New York City, then here in the Hudson Valley. I taught for 14 years (took some time off to raise our son) and then was laid off in 2011. I was not able to find another job so I retired. My husband retired two years ago after 25 years, working first as a school social worker, then as a special education administrator. His COBRA insurance coverage would have cost our family \$1,800/month and would have only lasted 12-18 months. (It wasn't even such a great policy; we had \$50.00 copays for some doctors.) Fortunately, the ACA had taken effect, and we were able to get coverage on the NYS exchange for about 1/2 that cost, keeping our insurance company and doctors. And our co-pays actually went down. (Neither of us is old enough for Medicare.)

If it wasn't for ACA, we would not have had any insurance when our COBRA ran out. My husband has what the insurance companies would call a "pre-existing" condition that requires him to take expensive medication in order to function. In addition, he had a heart attack a few years ago and is taking the usual statins, etc. to prevent another one.

Before the ACA, we would have been refused insurance. What would we have done then? Stop his medication and consign him to a wheelchair? Choose between his medicine and paying our mortgage? Buying food? Without insurance, we would be one accident or major illness away from complete financial disaster. Or worse, stop his heart medicine and die?

Yes, there are flaws in the ACA. So fix them. Don't get rid of it. Yes, our premiums have increased. But we are still paying less than we would have under that COBRA coverage, our coverage is better, and our premiums increased every year when we had employer insurance anyway. Health savings plans only work for people who have enough money in the first place. Getting rid of subsidies hurts everyone except the wealthy. Getting rid of the mandate will bankrupt the system. Citizens are required to get auto insurance to register their cars and homeowner's insurance in order to obtain a mortgage. What is so wrong about requiring health insurance so uninsured people aren't flooding ERs (and, by the way, costing taxpayers even more?)

Please take the real life consequences of pulling insurance away from people before voting on dismantling the ACA.

Jo Schaffel

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Claire Fishman <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:03 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill!

**To whom it may concern:**

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. If this bill passes, my family and friends, as well as myself will be unable to afford quality healthcare because of preexisting conditions such as clinical depression. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Claire Fishman  
New York, NY

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Sandy Lane [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:02 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 husband is a lung cancer survivor, I am a breast cancer survivor and my mother will turn 100 next month and although relatively healthy, one fall could wipe out her assets. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Sandra Lane  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Diana Lomakin [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:02 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO Graham-Cassidy bill

My parents are in their 70s and rely on Medicaid. My father gave decades of work to this country as a civilian working for the Air Force, and the defense industry in general. Cutting their health insurance would be a hypocritical and cruel thing to do. He spent his life making sure citizens were safe; why would we not take care of him?

My good friend Patrick relies on quality, affordable healthcare. In 2010, he was hit by a distracted driver, and suffered a traumatic brain injury. It took him over 2 years to be able to function almost normally again. He will never recover fully; he now gets seizures. Without Medicaid he would not have been able to pay his hospital bills, he would not have been able to afford important physical therapy. Through no fault of his own, this happened to him. He was (and still is) a brilliant, caring individual who continues to contribute greatly to our society. That is who Medicaid helps.

Because of these points, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

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

Sincerely,

Diana Lomakin

Arlington, Massachusetts

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Barbara Vangsness [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:03 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** health care

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with health care and pre-existing conditions is this. My daughter, who works as teacher, currently has health care. However, before she found work, she could not afford health care. She also has a heart murmur, which is one reason why ALL these health care variations DO NOT WORK as well as the ACA. These plans say often that if there is a break in coverage, they will not cover pre-existing conditions or they will only do so with a much higher premium after a break in coverage. In the past, she went without health care because COBRA was impossibly expensive.

What if she has to stop her health care because she is "pink-slipped," can only substitute teach next year, and has to be without health insurance for a time. It is unconscionable that she would be denied care, or have to pay a much higher premium. You just KNOW that if she went in for ANY problem, it would be somehow traced back to her pre-existing heart condition. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Barbara Vangsness

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Marlyn Beebe [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:58 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy hearing

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare.

I was diagnosed with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus when I was 16.  
At age 31, I had a heart attack and required a quadruple bypass.

Currently, I'm on 8 prescription medicines per day. I see each of my three physicians (internist, cardiologist, rheumatologist) quarterly.  
I'd never be able to afford this without the ACA.

Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

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

Marlyn Beebe  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Saskia Lytle-Vieira <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:02 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** graham-cassidy hearing

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

Saskia Lytle-Vieira

St. Helena, CA

--  
Saskia Lytle-Vieira  
[REDACTED]



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Sally Caudill [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:02 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Affordable Health Care

To whom it may concern:

I am an American citizen living in Canada. Every year I file my Us taxes and I vote in local, state, and federal elections. My home state is Minnesota. I have family living there. They rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My niece Laura would have either lost her beautiful baby Sloan or ended up in crushing debt had it not been for Affordable Health Care. As someone living in Canada and benefitting from inclusive health care here (which I love), I see first-hand the benefits of having health care for all. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Sally Caudill

St. Paul, MN

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Meera Collier [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:02 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

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

I was diagnosed with a Lupus-related illness before Obamacare. No insurance company would provide coverage and I was forced to pay out of pocket for doctors' visits, tests, and ongoing medications. I am not alone! Americans deserve affordable well-managed healthcare coverage.

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

Sincerely,

Meera Collier

Soquel, CA

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** NATASHA MICHELLE COUGOULE [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:02 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Statement for the Record, re: Graham-Cassidy

To the Senate Finance Committee,

I'd rather our Congress not pass a bill that will strip people of their healthcare. It's a right, not a privilege.  
Thanks.

Best,  
Natasha Cougoule  
[REDACTED]

--  
Natasha Cougoule  
University of California, Berkeley  
B.A. Economics, May 2018  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Catherine [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:02 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Request Public Testimony Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing

Hi, I reply on quality, affordable healthcare, because of this, I oppose the **Graham-Cassidy** bill.

I have pre-existing conditions of diabetes and Hashimoto's disease. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve Affordable Care Act, not repeal it with a worse healthcare bill.

Sincerely,

Catharine Martin  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]e

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Carin Reynolds [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:02 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment Regarding Opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Bill

I have been self-employed for many years, and it was only after the Affordable Care Act passed that I was able to obtain coverage for me and my family, including my daughter who had/has a pre-existing condition. While my premiums have increased by a large amount every year, the solution is for Congress to make a bipartisan effort to improve the existing ACA, not to repeal it. Me and my family rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Sincerely,

Carin Reynolds  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Saoirse McClory [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:01 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Hearing - comment

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to say that I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. As a breast cancer survivor and a citizen who is concerned about the health and wellbeing of my fellow Americans, I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Please consider the impact on families and children that this will have and not let politics get in the way of doing what's best for all Americans (regardless of their political leanings).

Sincerely,  
Saoirse McClory  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Meg Sullivan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:01 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy hearing

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Being on Medicare and having supplemental insurance through my husband's work, I am one of the most fortunate people in the world. However, I my 76-year-old sister who has 5 adopted children, all of whom have neurological disabilities, some of whom are on Medicaid is constantly struggling to get the health care needs of her family met.

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

Sincerely,  
Meg Siddheshwari Sullivan  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Lizzy Argueta [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:01 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Peoples lives vs Kosh Brothers \$\$\$

Dear finance committee,

How can there even be a consideration of the Graham Casiddy bill? It's worse than the previous one, it leaves millions of people without healthcare insurance. Millions of people will be affected by this bill, how can a human being think of taking health care away to children & families???????

I have known people who are still alive thanks to the ACA, don't lives matter? Or what's more to this administration, the Kosh Brothers money?????

This bill is without thought unacceptable!!!!!!!!!!

Citizen of this World,

Elizabeth Argueta-IL constituent



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Evan Gore <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:01 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy is wrong for America

The role of government is to protect and serve lives where the private sector will not. Just like we need FEMA after a storm, we need at least basic health care insurance to prevent an epidemic of medical bankruptcy, which would surely trigger an economic collapse worse than The Great Depression, and ultimately lead to a weakening of our national security. Affordable health care is not a hand out, it is not welfare. We must follow the footsteps of every major developed country and use government to support affordable health care and health insurance for all. The Graham-Cassidy bill is a mistake, it is wrong for America, and the repeated attempts to Repeal and Replace the ACA must end at once.

Patriotically yours,  
Evan Gore  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Jane Fuqua [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:01 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please protect our sons by improving the ACA, not repealing it!

My family depends on affordable health insurance being available to all, regardless of preexisting conditions.

My husband and I have three sons, all college graduates, all self-supporting. Two are engineers and one is in medical school.

The medical student is lucky that he and his wife were able to buy insurance through the ACA. His medical school does not offer any health insurance plan for students, and he is over 26, his wife is self-employed as a free-lance medical writer because they had to move to a rural area in TN for medical school. He had a detached retina this spring and was able to get the surgery he needed, even though his deductible was fairly large, and stay in school and finish the year. He is pretty nearsighted and is at risk to have this happen again, so he needs to have health insurance available even though this is a pre-existing condition. You will make more tax money from him in the long run by ensuring that health insurance is available to him so he can finish medical school.

Our youngest son had to be pulled from college during his sophomore year because he had Hodgkin Lymphoma. He is now five years out of treatment, and he is married and works as a biomedical engineer in Cleveland. If he were ever to lose his job and his health insurance, his preexisting condition would make the ACA protections vital to him.

I think everyone should be required to carry health insurance. Otherwise the cost of the uninsured affects my hospital bill when they turn up critically ill and unable to pay at the hospital, and are treated anyway. It rewards people for bring irresponsible. Plus if everyone carried insurance, the cost would be more evenly shared.

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

Sincerely,

Jane Fuqua  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Sara Kupor [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:00 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** In Favor of a Bipartison Congressional effort to improve the ACA, NOT repeal it

Hello,

My family relies on quality affordable healthcare. I OPPOSE the Graham -Cassidy bill.

Many of us have pre-existing conditions and we want to be able to afford health care..

Sincerely,

Sara Kupor,  
[REDACTED]

--



Be the change you wish to see in the world... --Gandhi

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am a cancer survivor and don't want my insurance rates to skyrocket as I am a healthy, active person with a very small chance of a recurrence. I don't want pre-existing conditions to be a factor in the affordability of healthcare. I don't want anyone to be denied the healthcare they need because they can't afford it or because of their medical history.

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

Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Teresa M Cox <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:01 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health Care

**Importance:** High

My family and I rely on accessible, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. The current Affordable Care Act has made it possible for us to obtain quality care. There are so many children and people with

pre-existing conditions and other challenges in our country who now have health coverage. This in turn helps to provide true quality of life and economic stability to families and communities.

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

Sincerely,

Teresa Cox  
St. Paul, Minnesota

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:05 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have two sons in their early 20s. Both have a pre-existing conditions - due to no fault of their own. They are on my health insurance right now.

They are starting out to earn their own living - and learn about how expensive it is. Utilities, car insurance, taxes - all are somewhat predictable and can be managed. They also need to manage their health - which is unpredictable for many. However on top of the health itself, there now looms the possibility of unaffordable health care - if things turn out bad. This does not deserve the name health 'care'.

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

Sincerely,

Uta Ziegler  
Bowling Green, Kentucky

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Erin Orozco [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:05 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Testimony for Graham-Cassidy

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Erin Orozco and I'm a constituent from Chicago, IL. I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill because I understand how critical affordable healthcare is for our country and its people.

Had Medicaid not been an option available for my family, I would not have been able to pursue higher education when my grandmother entered a rehabilitative facility after experiencing a brain aneurysm. I was raised by a single mother, who in turn was supported by my grandmother. My mother died of breast cancer in 2006, three years before my grandmother fell ill, and four years before passage of the ACA. My mother was uninsured when diagnosed, and she refused treatments she feared would not only be painful but also too costly. I wonder if she would have been diagnosed earlier or been spared the life-and-death calculus that characterized her last months if affordable healthcare had been available to her.

Graham-Cassidy eliminates guaranteed coverage for cervical and breast cancer screenings by allowing states to apply for waivers to change what qualifies as an essential health benefit. It would also eliminate the expansion of federal funding for Medicaid, turning it into a capped program, as well as repeal Medicaid funding for Planned Parenthood for one year. But perhaps most tellingly is that, at its core, Graham-Cassidy phases out healthcare funding for those who are less fortunate, while holding the door open to tax cuts for corporations and the wealthy, including a repeal of the medical device tax.

My life course has been significantly affected by the availability of healthcare to members of my family, but I count myself among the lucky. At least my grandmother benefited from the existence of a safety net that not only saved and extended her life, but also enriched her final years. She relearned how to speak and walk, made new friends within her community, and reconnected with family members who could rest assured that she was provided with round-the-clock assistance that we couldn't rival in a home care setting. Meanwhile, I was able to graduate, join the workforce, and start my own family. I know none of that would have been possible had I been her primary caregiver.

I am not opposed to reforming aspects of the ACA, but Graham-Cassidy is callous and disastrous for the healthcare industry and all Americans. Congress, don't repeal; protect and strengthen the ACA.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jessica Royer Ocken [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:05 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

**Hello!**

**My husband and I are self-employed, so we rely on the individual insurance market to provide healthcare for ourselves and our two children. The individual market is our only option for health insurance, so we depend on being able to use it to access quality, affordable healthcare. Because of the dangers it poses to the individual market and those with pre-existing conditions, and because it weakens the guarantees for preventive care and other essential services, putting the most vulnerable in our society at risk, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.**

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

**Sincerely,**

**Jessica Royer Ocken**  
[REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Julie Downing <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:04 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Don't repeal the ACA

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have suffered from extreme asthma for over 50 years and this pre existing condition makes affordable insurance difficult. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Julie Downing

[REDACTED]

--  
Julie Downing

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Ashley Reilly [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:04 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

My brother and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Under Graham-Cassidy, the premiums of too many Americans would rise to unaffordable rates. That's not acceptable to me, from either a humanitarian or financial perspective. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

We can do better, and the United States has always worked towards just that goal.

Yours truly,  
Ashley L Reilly  
Barrington Hills, IL

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Wendy Bone [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:04 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

Dear Committee members,

I am a Family Physician and have been practicing for over 40 years. I strongly oppose the Graham Cassidy healthcare bill. It would adversely effect my healthcare as well as most of my patients' healthcare. The preexisting condition charge (or outright denial) and lifetime cap are heartless. It would eliminate coverage for abortion which would lead to higher health care costs, not lower. It would raise premiums so that the average American could not afford them. All in all, it is a cruel bill which would hurt the majority of Americans.

Wolokota , Wendy Bone, MD  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

"Keep a green tree in your heart and perhaps the singing bird will come" - Chinese proverb

"A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart, and can sing it back to you when you have forgotten the words"

- Donna Roberts

"I'd rather learn from one bird how to sing than teach ten thousand stars not to dance" - e e cummings

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Elizabeth Lorz [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:04 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

This bill will badly affect many people in this country. I am totally against this bill and hope that it will not even be brought up for a vote. Instead, I would like a bi-partisan group of legislators to come up with improvements to the ACA.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Lorz

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Rachel Ayers [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:03 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** A vote for the Graham-Cassidy bill is a vote against life

Dear  
R  
epre  
sentative:

This message is a plea to you to not pass the Graham-Cassidy bill.

I whole-heartedly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My mother, who has worked hard her entire life, has lived with Rheumatoid Arthritis for the past fifteen years and is now battling lung cancer that has spread to her liver. Without quality, affordable healthcare - something that will disappear should this bill pass - she will not have access to the life-saving treatments she currently receives.

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

Sincerely,

Rachel T. Ayers  
Irvine, CA

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Rachel Ayers  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Maya Gilmore [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:07 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare

My mother has cancer. Without healthcare, she would have died when I was twelve; with healthcare, she is still hanging on after her third remission. If you repeal the ACA, my mother will die. We cannot afford to buy the drugs currently keeping her alive if you vote in the Graham-Cassidy bill. We need bipartisan reform, not destruction of healthcare that keeps millions and millions of Americans from dying.

Sincerely, Maya Gilmore

Sheridan, Wyoming

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Laura Ticciati [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:49 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Testimony

To the Republican Senators,

I am writing to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. The Affordable Care Act, with all of its flaws, has a humane and generous perspective that is missing from each of the attempts to repeal it that you have brought forward during the past few months.

Health care is an essential and critical right of every citizen of our country. As a nation that is supposed to be a beacon of light for the rest of the world, we are failing miserably when it comes to health care. To repeal the ACA just because you said you would has no foundation in logic or intelligence. It may feel politically strategic, but it is unkind and cruel and completely unnecessary.

For me the inhumanity of this bill shows up in so many ways. For those of us with pre-existing conditions, or children with special needs, or aging parents--the cruelty is both unfathomable and shocking. Spin it any way you wish, manipulate the American public with disingenuous statements to the contrary, this bill is shameless and if you sign onto it you are signing away your conscience and any family values you may like to lay claim to.

I urge you to remember the reasons you chose to serve your nation, remember the dedication that led you to your exalted position, and get to work helping the citizens of this country not just the industries and wealthy people who make large donations to your campaigns.

Please say "no" to this terrible, terrible bill and work together with Democrats to find a way to create a health care system that is worthy of its name, a health care system that truly cares about the health of every American.

Thank you.

Laura Ticciati  
Redwood City, CA

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** steven paul [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:49 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I Oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

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

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

Sincerely,

Steven Paul

Fort Bragg, CA



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Ashley Barrett [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:49 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy bill

My name is Ashley Barrett and I live in Rhode Island. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Two years ago I was able to start my own small business in Rhode Island because I knew that if I left my full-time job my family would still have access to healthcare through the local exchange. We are an active family of four with two teenage boys. All of us exercise regularly, eat well, are not overweight and consider ourselves in good health. However, in the past year, our family has had two knee surgeries, a finger surgery, a collapsed lung, a neck injury and numerous other ailments requiring visits to primary care doctors, specialists and physical therapists. We are a typical, middle-class American family, but without affordable healthcare we would not have been able to afford these services when we needed it.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Our country's health depends on it.

Sincerely,

Ashley Barrett  
Saunderstown, Rhode Island

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** emily roth [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:07 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Medicaid

Hello

My 102 year old mother relies on Medicaid to help her live in a nursing home, an excellent well regarded nursing home, which provides her with a safe, stimulating environment. All elderly people should have this security forever more.

I want a bipartisan Congress to improve the ACA for everyone.

Emily Roth  
New York City  
10023

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** shaina bauman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:48 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Re: Please do not repeal the Affordable Healthcare Act

In case my previous email did not contain the necessary information to be considered, please see the following statement:

Public testimony submitted for the record for the Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing, to be held September 25, 2017.

Hello Senators Graham and Cassidy,

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My father and my aunt both have Type 1 diabetes (an autoimmune disease that is irreversible) and depend on affordable health insurance for the supplies they need to keep them alive. Both are often self-employed, because they are entrepreneurial and creative in spirit, and cannot always rely on an employer to provide them with health insurance. Other options, like those offered through the ACA, are crucial for them and for many others. Therefore, I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Shaina Bauman  
[REDACTED]

Prospect Heights, IL

On Fri, Sep 22, 2017 at 4:43 PM, shaina bauman <[shaina.k.bauman@gmail.com](mailto:shaina.k.bauman@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hello Senators Graham and Cassidy,

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My father and my aunt both have Type 1 diabetes (an autoimmune disease that is irreversible) and depend on affordable health insurance for the supplies they need to keep them alive. Both are often self-employed, because they are entrepreneurial and creative in spirit, and cannot always rely on an employer to provide them with health insurance. Other options, like those offered through the ACA, are crucial for them and for many others. Therefore, I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Shaina Bauman

Prospect Heights, IL

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Ashley Perez [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:39 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

This country needs so many things. Let's start with the basics:

We need bipartisanship.

We need a CBO score.

We need health care for women, children, and outreach for addicts. Instead of providing this country with protections, instead of investing in our present and future, the Graham-Cassidy Bill offers us chaos. The price is too high.

Please, please, please reject this.

Ashley Perez  
Los Angeles, CA

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:07 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** HEALTH CARE

**I rely** on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with health care is that I am now an artist working independently and pay for 'Covered California', as does my fiancé ... I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.  
Sincerely, Kieren Dutcher  
Berkeley, CA

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Barbara Long [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:45 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. No. No. No. Not again. This latest version is back to the future, again. This healthcare bill, like the last one; like the one before that is bad for the people of this state.

We people of Pennsylvania are AGAINST a repeal and replace. Health care industry is against it. Doctors are against it. Democrats and Independents are against it. We will lose coverage! If you want to replace the healthcare, give us yours. Congress and the Senate get excellent healthcare. If its so good for you, give it to us.

Barbara Long

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Michele Kornegay [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:44 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because, as a person who has had two major medical diagnoses before the age of 35, I know very well how devastating it could be to my husband and I financially if pre-existing conditions were no longer covered by our insurance plans.

Because I had Hodgkins Disease as a college senior and breast cancer in my early 30s, I must now undergo annual MRIs, mammograms, blood tests, X-rays, EKGs, and more in order to monitor my current health. These costly tests are considered to be because of a pre-existing condition. Now, at 50 years old, I fear that my family's financial future could be put in jeopardy because of this foolhardy plan.

Please vote to ensure the health and financial security of your constituents!

Michele Kornegay  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** carolyn clemons [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:44 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health Care Bill

PLEASE do not vote yes on the Cassidy et al Bill. You will do immeasurable harm to so many people unable to fight for themselves. Staying the party line on health care is no more than a pact with the devil.  
Begging you to not sell your souls and those of countless others down the proverbial river

Carolyn Cornyn Clemons  
[REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kay [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:51 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO ON GRAHAM CASSIDY

Dear members of the Senate Finance committee,

NO no no no on this terrible bill that would take away Healthcare from millions.

Peoples lives are at stake. Our life sings are stake. Our futures are at stake.

We cannot go backwards!

No no no no.

Kay Winter  
Minneapolis, MN

Sent from Samsung tablet.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Susan Koster [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:44 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

Senators,

I am writing to appeal to you to not pass this bill. It is not in the best interest of American citizens.

By handing the responsibility of health care to the states, you are jeopardizing health care for Americans. The bill will remove guarantees of coverage and take away subsidies that make health care affordable.

Senators, you are all fortunate to have a health care program that you will be able to take with you even after you leave office. Your constituents do not have that benefit. Please consider them.

Sincerely,

Susan Logue Koster

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Kathleen Snyder [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:43 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill

The Graham Cassidy bill is an affront to all Americans and must not be passed. My brother was just diagnosed with vascular dementia and is on Medicaid because he couldn't work anymore and is too young for Medicare. This bill will leave him unable to afford his medicines and treatment. Beyond my personal involvement, the CEOs of the most prominent medical organizations, from the AMA to the American Cancer Society, are coming out against this bill. It's economic effects and human impacts on our country have been identified and they are all negative. The ACA isn't perfect but it can be improved so that everyone has affordable access to adequate medical care. There is simply no justifiable reason to pass this bill.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Cara Coless [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:43 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it hurts Americans and it creates a patchwork of coverage across America. We are the richest and most powerful country in the world yet the only one without affordable healthcare for all.

The voters want a bipartisan solution and fix of the ACA.

Regarding the mandate, let people opt out of the mandate just make sure they opt out for life, no charity care if they choose to opt out so they don't later come back when they are sick and drain the system they choose not to pay into.

Cara  
19426

Cara Coless  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Linda Pursell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:43 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

....

This proposal is unacceptable. Instead of improving it, the best you can do is make it worse! The impact of this bill will negatively affect millions of hard working Americans. The ACA needs improvement, but this bill is not the answer by far.

Respectfully,

Linda Pursell

Linda Pursell  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Linda Valenzano [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:43 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Above

Do the right thing for the Country NOT the big donors! Thank you.

Sent from my iPad

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Sara Nash [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:43 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Further, people without insurance won't seek care until they are desperately ill, incurring higher medical costs for treatment and possibly dying. These costs will be passed on to the general public and insurers in the form of higher prices for medical care. Gutting health coverage shifts the medical paradigm in the country even further toward the disease model. If we want to save money and save people, we need to shift to a wellness model, and for that to work, every single citizen needs coverage.

Regards,

Sara Nash

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Laura McDougall [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:42 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** #GrahamCassidyTravesty

Please don't allow this to pass. My daughter who is a bright and kind kid, an honor roll student, who has unlimited potential to contribute to our society in wonderful ways, WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RECEIVE INSURANCE BECAUSE OF PREEXISTING CONDITIONS. I too will not be able to afford insurance because of preexisting conditions.

The PEOPLE of our great country deserve better! People over profits. The golden rule, humanity....

Please don't turn your back on what is right.

Sent from my iPhone



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Marie Carrubba [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:42 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GCH Comment

Please do not pass this bill. It is going to negatively impact people with disabilities.  
Marie Carrubba  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Georgiena Robinson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:42 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** New Health Bill

My husband of almost 40 years and I are considered pictures of health, as are our four grown children. We all exercise daily, have never smoked, drink alcohol in moderation and sugary sodas never, make healthy food choices, are not overweight, and do everything else we can to prevent health problems. But here is our list of known pre-existing conditions that would make it much more difficult and expensive to have "access" to good health care when we need it in the future.

Anxiety  
Arteriosclerosis  
Arthritis  
Asthma  
Bladder cancer  
Chronic fatigue syndrome  
Coronary heart disease  
Hypertension  
Lyme disease  
Migraines  
Plantar Fasciitis  
Precancerous skin growths  
Pregnancy  
Seasonal allergies

As I said, we are "Healthy People," yet our list is extensive. Surely we are typical of American families.

Each of these conditions has been successfully managed, and none has bankrupted our family because we have had true affordable access to high quality medical care through our affordable insurance. Without such access, my husband would probably have died from his coronary incident which required a stent, or his bladder cancer which required chemotherapy and surgery. Instead, he remains a hard-working small businessman who employs other hard-working, tax-paying people. Some of the other conditions on this list, if left untreated, could have debilitated disabled me or my children. Instead, we all remain hard-working, tax-paying persons who contribute to the American economy and society.

Under the new Republican plan, all of this would be jeopardized, depending on what state we live in. Republican bill sponsors celebrate that you are returning the responsibility to the states where it rightfully belongs. Should the quality of health care for people of the UNITED States depend on what state they have the fortune or misfortune to live in? No, with this bill, you shirk your responsibility to govern for all the people of the United States.

Sincerely,

Georgiena C Robinson.  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Dennis Holder <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:41 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health Care

I do not want the Senate to repeal and-or replace the ACA.

Work with the entire members of the Senate, hold hearings and allow the truth of the Graham Cassidy plan to be truthfully exposed.

Fix the problems with the ACA, delete health care from being a FOR-PROFIT Business.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Erin E [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:41 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Self employed workers need ACA!

I am a self-employed breast cancer survivor in my 40s. I depend on being able to buy insurance through ACA to stay healthy and keep my business going. I receive no subsidies and pay \$900/month, which covers my husband and me. I live in Atlanta and expect that Governor Deal would apply for a waiver. If that happens, I will be priced out of the individual market, if not outright denied insurance. Governor Deal chose not to expand Medicaid and has stood by and done nothing as rural hospitals in our state closed. Why would I trust someone so reckless with my healthcare? Graham-Cassidy will endanger both my health and my business.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jeni Moore [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:41 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Kill the Bill

In 2015, at age 44, self-employed with Obamacare coverage, I found myself with stage 3 breast cancer. It was late in the year, open enrollment was happening and Rush Medical Center had a person on staff to help me navigate the options on the open market to get the right plan to help me be treated at Rush for the following year. 6 rounds of Taxetere and Carboplaten chemo infusions, 12 rounds of Herceptin and Perjeta, 33 rounds of radiation, a double mastectomy, a failed reconstruction (due to radiation) with 4 more surgeries to resolve the loss of both implants, an oophorectomy and all the super fun sickness, sadness and loss of work that follows a diagnosis. At the end of 2015 my healthcare provider went bankrupt and I was back on the market. No plans were being accepted off the market at Rush. Thankfully, my husband put me on his employer-based insurance coverage, and I was able to keep my followup care at Rush.

No matter how the healthcare plans change in the future, I will forever be a pre-existing condition. I beat cancer without going bankrupt, but as a survivor, this new proposed plan will kill me financially. Please rethink it. Make preexisting conditions a non-issue. My life and the lives of all warriors and survivors depends on it.

#killthebill

Jeni Moore

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** linda hopkins [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:37 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Health Bill

Given the fact that an overwhelming number of health organizations, all 50 state Medicaid administrators, numerous governors (Republican and Democrat) and several large insurance companies have come out against this bill it stands to reason that it should not go forward. I encourage all members to come up with a bi-partisan fix of the ACA. Literally millions of lives depend on it.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Frank DelBoccio [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:41 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote No on GrahamCassidyHeller

We are Property owners in 07010 and 41472. We are demanding that you Stop the #GrahamCassidyHeller bill - any vote for this bill is a vote against American citizens. Your fat-cat donors will be just fine if you vote against this horrible alternative to ACA, but 78% of Americans will hate your guts. Most of them in your districts/states, too.

Not kidding,  
The Ward Family

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Erika Hurst [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:40 AM  
**To:** gchcomments; lcantrell@thearcofva.org  
**Subject:** NO Graham-Cassidy Bill  
**Attachments:** my photo 4.jpg

My name is Erika Jenkins I am writing to express my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

My Son Evan was born in 2013 with a rare chromosome disorder and multiple special needs that will require life long treatment. Thanks to the EDCD waiver and Medicaid my son is able to get the medical services and therapy he needs to thrive and grow. My son is now 4 and is the happiest little boy you'll every meet. Evan attends pre-school, walks with a gait trainer, communicates with an AT device, loves to listen to books, watch Mickey Mouse, and play on his iPad. He is able to do all of these things because of the services he receives through Medicaid!

If this awful bill is passed it would threaten the availability of these services to my son, other children within the disabilities community, elderly, our veterans and possibly you! You never know if there will come a day that you and or someone you love will be affected with or by a medical condition that requires special services.

My family deeply appreciates your time and consideration! Attached is a photo of my husband & I with our amazing son Evan!

PLEASE say NO to Graham-Cassidy!!

Thank You,

Erika Jenkins



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** sally london. [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:20 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health Bill

To Whom It May Concern,

The possible passing of the newest health bill has me concerned because of the negative ramifications that it would have on those people who have preexisting conditions. Both my children and myself would fit in that category (asthma, Celiac disease, etc.) and would suffer from higher premiums or outright rejection from health plans that would be in place. While these diseases don't sound lethal they can be. In addition, family members who have or have had cancer would be affected. Finally pregnant women would be denied the coverage they need for healthy and safe pregnancies. Please keep this in mind when you vote. The people who would be punished by this new bill, if it becomes law, may be one of your own family members.

Sincerely,  
Sally London

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Lynn Dillihay [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:19 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill

On an issue as important to ALL Americans as Healthcare, I would have expected the Senate to do its Due Diligence and have hearings with testimony from Insurance Companies, Industry Experts and Associations AS WELL AS a current CBO score.

I am BEYOND disappointed and disheartened at the ineptitude of a Senate that ignores all normal operations for the sake of just passing any legislation, for the spite of it.

The performance of this Senate body is a disgrace, period, and history will remember it as such.

Lynn Dillihay  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Fiona Jackson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:18 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO Graham-Cassidy!

Hello,

I am writing to urge the Senate Finance Committee to please vote against the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill. This will be devastating to poor people everywhere!! The poorest of us live in the poorest states. This bill will put tremendous financial burden on already financially strapped states. It will eventually cause the healthcare system in those states to fail, forcing millions to become uninsured....again.

Most of us agree that Obamacare needs help. It needs to be "tweaked". And I'm writing to you as a person who had to drop their ACA insurance because of skyrocketing premiums and ridiculous deductibles. I can still see that the ACA has helped many, but also hurt many. That is because certain governors decided not to take the Medicaid expansion. The ACA is doing well where the expansion was taken. We need to look at the areas where the ACA is succeeding AND failing, and make adjustments from there.

PLEASE at *least* wait on the CBO score before giving this bill serious consideration.

Thank you,  
Fiona Jackson

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jaime [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:18 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Bill Will Devastate Autism Community

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because ...1 in 88 individuals are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, including my 2 children. ASD is a preexisting condition that can be treated with intensive resources early to decrease the overwhelming costs into adulthood. Medicaid block grants will sharply cut funding and resources for early intervention (where I am an occupational therapist), for school based therapy services and for behavioral supports.

Being on an employer sponsored insurance plan does not appear to exempt us when looking at the possibility that broader mandates on coverage for preexisting conditions.

Autism is not a Republican or a Democratic condition.

Jaime Bassman

Jaime [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kathleen Wendorff [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:18 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy ACA repeal bill

I would like the following statement entered into the record for Monday's hearing on the the Graham-Cassidy bill:

The Graham-Cassidy bill puts at risk the most fundamental reform of the Affordable Care Act -- it removes the guarantee of affordable access to health care for those with pre-existing conditions. Lifetime caps on health care coverage could also be imposed, at states' discretion.

I can list many people I love whose health and lives would be put at risk should this happen. I'm sure each person on this committee can too -- should they ever lose the wealth and fine healthcare which protects them and their families.

People's economic futures are also fundamentally affected. My son has insulin-dependent diabetes, and this bill would forever rule out the possibility of him starting his own business or acting as an entrepreneur, no matter how good his ideas and talents -- he would have no choice but to work for companies big enough to provide group health insurance. Do the senators on this committee wish to restrict individual enterprise in this way?

At the very least, this bill -- which affects the health and lives of millions of American citizens and nearly a fifth of the US economy -- needs a thorough discussion and consideration, with expert testimony and input from the people, business interests, and institutions affected. It needs to be dealt with in regular order, not rushed through with literally seconds of debate allowed.

I oppose this bill both because it endangers fundamental health care protections for American citizens, and because its effects have not been adequately and competently explored.

Thank you.

Kathleen H. Wendorff  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:18 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** New Medicaid funding bill

Hello,

I am the mother of a 32 year old man with profound autism. These Medicaid cuts would severely impact the quality of life he would have in future years. The financial supports the disabled community has is already severely underfunded- further cuts would be devastating.

He relies on Medicaid funded supports for all aspects of his total supports. From his healthcare, to the supports he will have soon in a group home, these are totally necessary in order for him to live his life. Any cuts would really negatively impact the ability of the already struggling non-profit agencies that work so hard to support him. Needed health benefits would be cut.

Please consider the needs of this population that needs its Medicaid funding to simply survive.

Laura Settipani

inconsistencies and huge complications to administration of insurance and to where people who wish to buy insurance.

The bill has not followed the regular order rules of the Senate, which would allow time for bi-partisan debate and for the public to begin to understand what the bill would mean to them.

Approval of this bill under these circumstances amounts to dereliction of your duty to the people of America.

Sincerely

Jim Novak

[REDACTED]

Proudly represented by

Senators Richard Durbin and Tammy Duckworth

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jim Novak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:16 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Re: Healthcare bill

I am writing to say you must not pass the Graham Cassidy bill.

There is no CBO score so you cannot have a good idea of how it will affect the economy or the public.

All 50 state Medicare administrators are against it and every professional medical group and interested party is against it. Even the insurance companies have called it a terrible bill.

The bill does nothing to improve health insurance for the public and I understand it will make matters much worse by increasing costs, reducing availability of insurance and greatly shifting the policy decisions to the states which would introduce inconsistencies and huge complications to administration of insurance and to where people who wish to buy insurance.

The bill has not followed the regular order rules of the Senate, which would allow time for bi-partisan debate and for the public to begin to understand what the bill would mean to them.

Approval of this bill under these circumstances amounts to dereliction of your duty to the people of America.

Sincerely  
Jim Novak

[REDACTED]

Proudly represented by  
Senators Richard Durbin and Tammy Duckworth

On Sep 22, 2017 7:14 AM, "Jim Novak" <[REDACTED]> wrote:

I am writing to say you must not pass the Graham Cassidy bill.

There is no CBO score so you cannot have a good idea of how it will affect the economy or the public.

All 50 state Medicare administrators are against it and every professional medical group and interested party is against it. Even the insurance companies have called it a terrible bill.

The bill does nothing to improve health insurance for the public and I understand it will make matters much worse by increasing costs, reducing availability of insurance and greatly shifting the policy decisions to the states which would introduce



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jill Glickman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:16 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Against Graham/Cassidy Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing to express my opposition to the Graham/Cassidy Bill. I believe this bill is extremely harmful to children and families, my own and, really, all of us.

Among many awful provisions, Graham/Cassidy puts at risk the ability of individuals to be able to access coverage if they have pre-existing conditions. I know first hand the financial and emotional toll it takes on an individual -- and family - when coverage is denied or unaffordable due to a pre-existing condition. This happened to my family, pre-ACA. No doubt, my family and millions of others, will be put on the brink of affordability and faced with awful decisions regarding life and death, should we go back to the days when insurance companies could exclude coverage based on pre-existing conditions.

Though the ACA surely needs some fixes, there is no denying that it has expanded coverage for so many across our country. This new bill takes us backward, effectively kicking millions back to the days when coverage was unavailable or unattainable. I know -- first hand -- the ways in which Medicaid expansion - brought coverage and -- most important -- better health, including preventative services - to so many who had not seen a doctor in many, many years. We must improve the ACA and further expand coverage.

This bill is an effort to destroy the protections in the ACA that are, every single day, helping to save the physical and emotional lives of millions across the country. It puts my children's -- and all of our children and families's lives -- at stake.

VOTE NO and work together on behalf of the people to develop bipartisan solutions intended to shore up and improve the ACA, not roll back progress.

Jill Glickman  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Kathy White [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:13 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

To the Senate Finance Committee

I am very concerned about the vote on the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill. The bill will effectively price healthcare out of the range of millions Americans. The Senate is getting ready to shove through the bill that will affect 1/6 of Americans without proper procedure. No CBO score to evaluate the impact to of the healthcare law for American citizens.

The way the bill has been crafted allows states to loosen protections for people with pre-existing conditions, making those who have ever needed healthcare at risk of losing the very thing that keeps them alive without totally bankrupting them. It also allows the states the option of dropping essential services such as maternity, perscriptions, emergency services and more. In fact all ten of the essential services will be at risk under this bill putting out of range financially for many. The fact that they will allow the implementation of life time caps is devastating for countless people who will no longer be to afford the healthcare services they need to stay alive.

The fact that the cuts that will happen to medicad are alarming. This will harm children, disabled, and seniors seriously. Impacttiing millions of lives, Not only for the people but those taking care of them. There is no heart to this bill.

The bill will effectively price healthcare out of the range of milliions of Americans essentially denying them service in this manner. When premiums are more than income will handle healthcare will lose out to shelter and eating for most families. No one should have to go bankrupt taking care of themselves or a loved one.

I do not feel this bill has the peoples best interest at heart but is just a way to open up funding for the republican tax cuts they are proposing for the rich! This is certainly not responsible governing by the GOP.

There truly needs to be more discussion, more debates, more bipartisan input for the nations healthcare. Proper procedure, and a CBO score are needed.

The fact that they are trying to shove through the Graham-Cassidy bill becuae they know it will not stand without reconcillation says a lot about the true nature of the bill

Americas healthcare should be more than just a political agenda. This bill is shameful.

Thank you

Kathryn White

A concerned citizen from [REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Ismael Lopez [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:16 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Gillibrand, Kirsten (Gillibrand); schumer, scheduling (Schumer)  
**Subject:** Testimony on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

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

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

All,

I have a well paying job that unfortunately does not offer health insurance due to the fact that it is part time. Therefore, I rely on the ACA in order to get basic health insurance. I am young, healthy, and do not need to visit a doctor very often. However, we unfortunately live in a country that makes it so at any moment in time, any young, healthy or well-off person can find themselves in danger of being bankrupted by an unforeseen medical bill if they do not have health insurance. So taking this away from over 30 million people while spending billions extra every year on unnecessary government defense is an atrocity against humanity.

In addition, my mother is completely dependent on Medicare to pay for her medical services, being disabled by COPD. There is no sensible justification for taking care away from helpless, elderly, or disabled people like her just to further line the pockets of the top executives in the insurance industry, pharmaceutical industry, healthcare industry, your fellow politicians in Congress, and other top 1%ers in this country.

At this point, the US is basically the only country in the developed world that does not have universal healthcare for all citizens. Instead of considering this monstrosity of a proposal, one that will endanger and even end many lives, what you should be doing is working towards true healthcare for all the way Senator Sanders has done and Senator Gillibrand has supported.

- Ismael Lopez

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Lisa Sahani [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:15 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health Care Bill

Please don't pass this bill!

In a disabled Veteran on a fixed income, if this bill passes my mother, who lives on a small social security check and can barely afford to eat and pay for her medications, will NOT be able to afford her medicine. I cannot afford to help her each month.

This bill will hurt so many Americans more than it will help. Take more time, we don't care if it takes months and months or years, just take your time and come up with a health care bill that will if not at least help Americans it won't harm them.

Don't rush our lives.

Lisa Sahani

Coast Guard Veteran

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** RM Feldman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:15 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote no on the Graham/Cassidy bill

To the Senate Finance Committee:

Healthcare should not be something used to pit party against party. This attempt at a steamrolled vote without appropriate fiscal analysis will do more financial harm state by state than current plans.

Your vote is not about what's best for all Americans, but rather a vote against a past President's and legislature's concern for providing something all Americans should have access to...

Listen to your constituents, listen to people in the healthcare system...providers, insurers...they are begging you to STOP THIS VOTE!!!!

VOTE NO!!!!

Ruth Feldman

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Please excuse brevity as sending via iPhone.

Ruth M Feldman  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jim Novak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:14 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare bill

I am writing to say you must not pass the Graham Cassidy bill.

There is no CBO score so you cannot have a good idea of how it will affect the economy or the public.

All 50 state Medicare administrators are against it and every professional medical group and interested party is against it. Even the insurance companies have called it a terrible bill.

The bill does nothing to improve health insurance for the public and I understand it will make matters much worse by increasing costs, reducing availability of insurance and greatly shifting the policy decisions to the states which would introduce inconsistencies and huge complications to administration of insurance and to where people who wish to buy insurance.

The bill has not followed the regular order rules of the Senate, which would allow time for bi-partisan debate and for the public to begin to understand what the bill would mean to them.

Approval of this bill under these circumstances amounts to dereliction of your duty to the people of America.

Sincerely  
Jim Novak

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kathryn Orbanek [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:13 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GrahamCassidy bill-vote NO

Please vote NO for the GrahamCassidy bill to repeal the ACA for the following reasons:  
- this bill has not been handled through the regular order, with open debate on the floor and bipartisan input and negotiation -this bill does not have the full CBO score data to illustrate the impact of it -this bill would serve to make healthcare variable by state which would mean that the standard of care could be vastly different by geography. Not all Americans could afford to essentially move to where they can get the healthcare they need -this bill would cause harm to millions of people without any proven alternatives from the proposed decentralization ideas -healthcare is not a game to win or lose power in government over-set aside the winning and losing mentality and legislate in a manner that protects healthcare as a right for all

Thank you,  
Kathryn Orbanek

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Lauren Eighmy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:13 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** My comments

My name is Lauren, I am currently unemployed. I take medications to assist me in maintaining mental stability (as much as they are designed to). Obamacare is the reason why I can still be able to afford birth control (otherwise I would become an insomniac two weeks out of a month due to the onslaught of hormones to prepare for my menstrual cycle). It is without this birth control, that I was incapable of being able to sleep soundly, and achieve the REM (rapid eye movement) stage of sleeping, to help me cognitively function as a person. My medications for my mental illness and my learning/social impairments (ADD, major depressive disorder) are a different story. My boyfriend is an Army veteran - four years Infantry. So, as you can imagine, he likes having guns in the house, as well as their coinciding bullets. I do not have a job right now, because I have been considering going back to school; on top of the fact that I do not exactly have the ability to keep a job as you, the people whom have the luxury in not having to worry about these things, can. My anxiety becomes paralyzing when I am in new environments. When I am in a place that is unfamiliar to me, my brain has difficulty processing what someone else is saying to me because my brain is incapable of registering the language coming to my brain via my auditory abilities. It's not because I need an exam for my ears; it's quite literally because language from my own, and the person talking to me, becomes garbled and alien to me. Most humans can function and rely on really vague and basic instructions; I can't do that. I require specificity. It is because I have a habit in taking instructions literally (because my already cranked-up anxiety instills a terror in me to not mess up and execute the task at hand perfectly so I don't become a burden, and then if I mess up, I will have to then prepare myself for the all-too-often explanation as to why I do not catch on as fast as others; how I am literally incapable of doing so, when I am in a new place, with new people, in a new job situation). Speaking of communication, let's not forget about how I have expressive dyssemia. It is a social disorder triggered by anxiety - I end up blurting out things that while meant to be funny come out as insulting due to the lack of appropriate aural and facial cues needed to make that joke a success. Or, I make an off-hand comment that is meant to be considered civil, but instead I get pulled aside and am told what I just said was insulting and I have a verbal warning on my record at work. The worst part about expressive dyssemia - is that no one tells you what you did wrong until after the fact. You tell people you have it, you explain it to them, and they're fine with it. But when it actually happens to someone you really hope to maintain a friendship with? You feel like a monster. So, then Major Depressive Disorder kicks in when the time-release medication has finally worn off in the evening; you're sobbing on your Army veteran boyfriend's shoulder, pleading with him that you just want to die. It's not because you want attention; it's not because you want an easy way out. No. The fact of the matter is that you literally want to die; you feel you deserve death because you hurt someone you cared about; how that person can't look at you the same away again; how bridges are burned constantly throughout your life and no one told you what was wrong with you; jobs have been put in jeopardy and have been lost because of this. The expressive dyssemia literally does get worse because the amount of anxiety you have is equally proportional to the amount of sentences that will spill out of your mouth clumsily. It is one of the most isolating experiences in any typical or atypical social settings I am able to imagine right now. Without Obamacare, I wouldn't be able to have a psychotherapist to help me talk about all of these issues with. It is because of Obamacare, that I don't have nightmares (lasting about a decade if I remember correctly) anymore from three years of sexual assault, and I can finally go to sleep instead of being terrified of closing my eyes and seeing the same horrific trauma happen to me over, and over; even in my waking hours. It is without this therapy that I would not be able to have quite literally the first psychologically/emotionally healthy and stable relationship in my entire life. I would probably end up continue to smoke cigarettes, have about 75% more chance of committing suicide. Even my own mom knows, though I know she won't tell me to my face -

that she's terrified of leaving me alone when those anti-depressants, that I thank her tirelessly for helping me have access to, because not only does depression run in my family; I've made a suicide attempt before; I have the scar on my wrist to prove it.

It is, however, thanks to Obamacare, that I had access to a psychotherapist, so that I can finally go to sleep at night, 6 out of 7 nights of the week, and be able to maintain my Army veteran boyfriend of a year and a half now; who hid his 9mm, and its accompanying magazine, because no matter how much I was conscientiously prepared to die so that the world wouldn't have to deal with me anymore and I would stop finally feeling like this horrible person; he wanted me to stay. Because it is not just him that makes the relationship stable. It is because of that therapy, this medication and coping mechanisms I've been able to navigate with my therapist that have helped me maintain my stable relationship.

If you repeal Obamacare; if you take away this ability to provide safe, and affordable health care to all; many, many families, will be at an incredibly and horrifically high risk of losing their children to suicide as well. I hope none of those children are yours.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Sarah Brady [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:13 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it's strips 32 million underserved populations from healthcare services that they need. By passing this bill, you are not only disserving those who need it most, you are putting the jobs of therapists and other health care providers on the line.

Sarah Brady

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** L. Jean Roepcke [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:12 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare

Isn't it time to quit beating this dead horse and return to governance that is actually based on considered debate and testimony that seeks to raise people up rather than advance the agenda of the wealthy Koch Nation? Health care is a right, not a privilege. Abandon this new bill that only helps people who need it the least and destroys life for many.  
Retired Hospice nurse,  
L Roepcke

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Joseph Campbell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:12 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it eliminates Medicaid Expansion which helps mentally ill citizens who receive SSDI and Medicare, as most mental health services require medicaid and do not accept medicare. Also, SSDI income may be \$50 too high for Medicaid eligibility. Congress should make a provision that allows SSDI recipients to elect a reduced income to be eligible for Medicaid in order to have access to mental health services.

Joseph Campbell  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Baird Tipson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:12 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it is opposed by virtually all health organizations, it gives states much to much flexibility in allocating block grants, it torpedoed a promising bi-partisan approach, and it has not had time for an assessment by the Congressional Budget Office. To gain a "win" for President Trump, this bill is willing to pin a "loss" on millions of American citizens.

Baird Tipson

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Heather Turnage [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:12 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care bill

We must say no to this bill at LEAST until we get a CBO report. Doing otherwise is fiscally irresponsible. We must say no until those with pre-existing conditions are protected. We must say no to taking \$ from states who did the right thing by expanding Medicaid & giving it to stays the did NOT WANT IT.

Heather Turnage

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Charles Olbert [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:11 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

Depriving 32 million Americans of health insurance and dramatically increasing costs across the board will be catastrophic to the economy and to vulnerable swathes of the populace. This bill is cruel and unusual, and it's particularly breathtaking that Republicans in the Senate would try to pass it after Americans have made clear time and again that they do not want the government to gut the Affordable Care Act provisions. This bill is an embarrassment and should not be passed.

Thanks for your time.

-----  
Charles M. Olbert, M.A.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Becky Gutin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:11 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please don't change Medicaid

Please don't change Medicaid. My adult son is on the autism spectrum, currently living at home. His only income is SSI, and his only health insurance is Medicaid, and that's what's keeping him functional. His monthly visits to the psychiatrist and the prescribed medications are out of our financial reach; without Medicaid, Louis would have to be placed in-patient hospital because he goes into deep depression. It would cost the State of Maryland and the Federal Government much more to have to support him in-hospital. So please don't change Medicaid, it's his lifeline.

Thank you,  
Becky & Larry Gutin

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=^.^=

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Vickie Bacon [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:10 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

This bill and the way it is being shoved through is immoral. Listen to the health care experts, who have overwhelmingly come out against the bill. You are playing with people's lives and it needs to stop. Healthcare needs to be accessible AND affordable, for everyone. Until you have a bill that actually improves the state of our healthcare system, it shouldn't come to a vote.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Loreen Hare [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:09 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** FW: Health Care

This email message and any attachments transmitted with it may contain confidential information and are intended only for the individual(s) to whom the message is addressed. If you have received this email message in error, please notify the sender by reply email and delete it from your system; you should not distribute or copy this email message or its contents. Any views or opinions presented in this email message are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of Diakon or its affiliates.

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**From:** Loreen Hare  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:04 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** 'info@pahealthaccess.org'  
**Subject:** Health Care

To All Concerned:

Instead of being concerned with undoing everything that Barack Obama did, how about taking the time to make what is in place better. Please think of your own families and friends who may be effected by drastic cuts to benefits that are so important to them. Who in the country does not have pre-existing conditions? Everyone knows someone who needs extra help.

My husband and I are looking forward to retirement and may not be able to enjoy ourselves worrying about health care costs! Please take time to make the decision that your own children and parents can be proud of you for making!

*Loreen Hare*

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

## **Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Heather Smith [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:09 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Do not vote for this Health Care bill

Millions of Americans rely on the Affordable Care Act.

You have Health Care. It is not fair to take away what you take for granted. That's the ultimate in gross privilege.

Health Care is a basic human right. Make the law better, follow regular order and make a difference - be the best of your self not your shadow side.

Nothing is worth giving corporations more greed and wealth. What is the price of your soul.

Stand tall. Be on the right side of history and be able to look children with pre-existing conditions in the eye.

Do not vote yes for this horrific, cruel, greedy legislation.

Thank you.  
Mother, wife and American

Heather Smith

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jodi Kollias [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:16 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Real families need Medicaid!

Hello,

I am writing on behalf of my eight year old son, Max, who receives Maryland Medicaid. He had a traumatic brain injury at birth, and consequently is now nonverbal and on a feeding tube. However he is a bright, beautiful child, and conquering so many odds that were against him!

Our family needs medicaid to pay for his monthly health supplies. We cannot risk losing this benefit to our family in order for Max to remain healthy, live in the community, and stay out of a costly institution.

When I heard that there's an upcoming hearing regarding the Graham-Cassidy bill I had to take action. Families like ours cannot afford medicaid cuts.

Thank you for your time  
Jodi Kollias (mom of Max)

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Stephen Schooley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:27 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health Care

Pass the Bill  
Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Amy Cook [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:40 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham Cassidy bill!

Dear Sir or Madam,

My name is Amy Cook. I am a US citizen, resident and registered voter of Rochester, NH.

I am opposed to the Graham Cassidy bill being considered and urge you to also oppose this proposed legislation. It's bad for me, it's bad for families, it's bad for communities, it's bad for states, and it's bad for our great country.

I am a hard-working, middle class mother of 3. I have Type 1 diabetes that currently costs me \$565 out of pocket every three months for my insulin pump supplies alone--add in the cost of insulin, diabetic medications, blood testing supplies, specialist co-pays and the cost of my insurance premiums and the cost far surpasses \$5,000/year out of pocket.

My 14-year old son is a cancer survivor who requires annual exams and evaluations to ensure his continued health. The out of pocket deductible for that is \$3,000.

I am a college graduate who has devoted my professional life to social work and helping others. My salary is \$48,000/year. After the medical expenses for my son and I, my income is reduced to \$40,000/year to help support a family of five.

My 28-year old, dependent daughter has Down Syndrome. Her medical and long-term care supports are covered by Medicaid (HCBC waiver program). If she were to lose any portion of that coverage, it would cost us far more than we could ever afford.

The Graham Cassidy bill will remove all safeguards my son and I have right now to guarantee our access to health care regardless of our pre-existing conditions. We can barely afford health care now--the GC bill would destroy my family by, at best, raising the cost of premiums and, at worst, removing coverage all together.

Furthermore, the bill would put an overwhelming burden on community hospitals. By reducing the funds to states, state programs will inevitably suffer. The, communities & families will suffer.

Please oppose this dangerous, proposed legislation. It's bad for me, it's bad for families, it's bad for communities, it's bad for states, and it's bad for our great country.

Thank you.  
Amy Cook

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of Marjorie Kaplan <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:38 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill

It is extremely irresponsible to bring this bill up for a vote without a CBO score or a vigorous debate on the merits. This affects a huge portion of the country's economy, not to mention the impact on millions of people like me who have relied on the Medicaid expansion for essential, life saving services.



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Martin Joachim <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:40 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy debaucle

I live in Indiana. I live with and care for my father who is 79 this year. I am everything he has and I have pre-existing conditions. I have C-PTSD, OCD and Anxiety. I survived a narcissistic mother. So did my dad.

I dont understand why the GOP is hellbent on taking my dads coverage and mine, and leave us to twist in the wind after my dad paid into SS his whole life. Ive paid in since I was 17 as well.

My dad has an auto-immune disorder called A-HUS. Its rare (300 cases in the US) . He was 78 (SEVENTY-EIGHT) when he was diagnosed. Thats more rare. His infusions are twice monthly and hes responding well. They cost about half a million dollars A YEAR. Thats JUST for the infusions. No labs, no Dr visits.

It is a chemo therapy drug. Senator McCain, you are getting familiar with chemo drugs and youre also my dads age.

Do you all REALLY NEED all this time to think about whether you want to kill your constituents?

I am a HHA among other things and I stay home and help dad manage his medical care, and even his days when its required.

Cutting medicaid would screw us both. I am trying to finish my nursing degree but with no insurance COVERAGE I wouldnt get treatment for my PTSD. So now dads got health issues, Im doing everything I can to manage us

both and now for the 60th time, and the 4th time in 8 months you all STILL want to rip us from healthcare? If I could go to school and not have to keep stopping I could be done by 2020.

I am sickened by the efforts made to rip this healthcare from the American people and I have enough to do without having to stop EVERY 6 WEEKS to tell you all to PLEASE NOT TAKE MY HEALTHCARE. PLEASE DONT KILL US. You will effectively and literally kill MY FATHER IN WEEKS if you pass this bill. (Because he had the audacity to get sick when he was almost 80 years old.) Is this America? Am I getting punk'd? Vote no. Your own legacies are also on the line.

Sarah Joachim  
9th District, IN

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Eleanor Weisman <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:38 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 too many people will lose their health insurance. We need the ACA until Single Payer Medicare for all passes.

Eleanor Weisman

[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Sid Fernando <[REDACTED]@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:37 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Skiz Fernando; ah ah Fernando; Cynthia Colt  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

Dear Sirs:

This bill is an abomination and I don't appreciate Republicans once again trying to shove this through at the 11th hour without hearings and CBO scoring..

Kind regards,

S H Fernando

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Diane Alberts <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:37 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

There are many terrible things in this bill. If I'm wrong, then allow enough time to prove me wrong. Let experts evaluate it, including members from health care industry, and not just insurance and pharma lobbyists. From what I have gathered, almost nobody likes this bill but the Senate and President Trump who is hell-bent on getting rid of every trace of Obama's presidency, no matter how destructive to the country and the planet.

My personal story is two fold. The most wrenching is that of my beautiful daughter, mother of two, and beloved wife. She is one of the kindest, most considerate people I know, and I'm told that by many. However, she has a disease: polycystic kidney disease. The disease produces countless cysts in her abdomen, kidneys, and liver, and it is incurable. Last January one, just one cyst broke causing her excruciating pain. Laparoscopic surgery was done and doctors capped off 14 cysts altogether, but there are many more, including one huge one over her liver in a place that will require open surgery to remove. This will only happen when that one too breaks and she has excruciating pain again. In time the disease will cause kidney failure and the need for dialysis and hopefully a new kidney. All of this is expensive, but she has insurance through her job as an archaeologist. You can imagine that in time going out into the field to dig with an abdomen full of huge cysts will become impossible, and there goes her insurance as well as that of her self-employed husband and their children. And she'll have a pre-existing condition. My daughter could likely die well before her time from a lack of insurance. So it is no exaggeration to say that people will die from this bill.

Second, my mother is quite old and needs 12-hour a day assistance. At this point, after many years of family help paying for it, that well has dried up. In her late 90s, for the first time, we have applied for Medicaid on her behalf ( too complicated for her to do) to pay for some of that help. That too may well dry up, thanks to this bill. What do we do with the elderly too infirm to scramble for food and shelter? Thanks to Republican insistence on getting rid of Obamacare, Medicaid, and Medicare ( we are not at all fooled by assurances that the latter two are not targeted), I just hope I die while on my two feet, as lingering to die from disease, lack of care, and edible food looks to be my future otherwise.

Isn't it time to worry more about the American people - of all ages - than Republicans worry about protecting insurance companies, pharmaceutical companies, and providers of medical equipment? Again, if I'm wrong about what's in the bill, why the rush to pass it? Why the secrecy? Why do so many health care providers oppose it? Prove me wrong and she the light of day onto all the provisions of this bill before rushing it to pass.

Diane Alberts  
Rutland, VT

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Lisa stansbury [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:38 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Affect of ACA

I have three nephews with autism. Two are school age, and cannot concentrate without their medications. As any spectrum family will tell you growth spurts=med adjustments and trips to the specialist. Of course my sister, a single mom, has to constantly take her kids to the doctor and that kind of flexibility is difficult to find in an employer. Lowering Medicaid coverage would make already difficult lives even more difficult.

Lisa Stansbury

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Becca Persson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:39 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comment on Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

Finance Committee Members

This bill fails to protect vulnerable citizens and their families by allowing states to apply for waivers to the pre-existing condition coverage requirement. Families will face extreme financial challenges paying for either insurance and/or medical bills. Insurance is meant to spread risk. Setting those with pre-existing conditions apart is bad for all of us.

My family are lucky enough to be healthy and to have good employer-based insurance but I implore you, for our fellow citizens, to reject this dangerous bill.

Rebecca Persson  
Arlington, MA

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Laura Miller Hill [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:39 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Please do not pass the Graham-Cassidy bill and repeal much of ObamaCare and end funding for Medicaid's expansion and the healthcare law's subsidies that help people buy insurance and replace Obamacare with block grants that would be given to states.

Laura Miller Hill  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Ashley Dommes [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:37 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy Bill currently being pushed through the Senate because .... I am a local healthcare provider and I fear for the impact that this bill will have for both myself and my patients. It is disappointing to me to know that people I have been able to provide care to may not have access to healthcare services in the near future because of this bill. This bill will strip access to care for those who need it the most. As our senators, it is your job to hear the voices of your constituents and represent them. I can only hope that this bill will not gain the necessary support so that I can continue to provide high-quality care to my patients and those who may need it in the future.

Thank you for your time.

Ashley Dommes

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Laura Burns [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:37 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 ....

As with past repeal efforts, health insurance premiums for older and disabled Americans would go up, Medicaid expansion would be cut back, Medicare would not be changed, and cost-sharing subsidies, which reduce deductibles and co-payments, would be repealed in 2020.

The bill would cap Medicaid enrollment and funding, which could affect more than 60 million people. The plan would allow people over the age of 30 to sign up for catastrophic coverage plans — high-deductible, low-premium plans — in hopes that more healthy, young people will be covered.

This type of plan would be hurtful for disabled and older Americans.

Laura Burns

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] 3

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Evelyn Hirata [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:19 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** excessively cruel Graham-Cassidy Bill

object, in the strongest terms, to both the substance and the spirit of this piece of legislation and I don't believe that the Senator is doing this for anything other than personal, financial, and political gain. The Senator is supposed to be serving the American people, not the Republican Party or special interest groups.

If the Senator votes for this in good conscience, than it's a sure sign that the Senator HAS NO CONSCIENCE.

May the tears of hopelessness and the cries of physical agony suffered by those of who need BETTER HEALTHCARE not WORSE haunt the dreams of anyone who votes for this Bill.

Evelyn Hirata

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** John Madarasz Coppersmith. [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:19 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Senate Finance Committee/ Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal/ September 25, 2017

Hello,

I am writing to urge every US Senator to vote NO, and NOT consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal.

As a Father, Husband, Citizen, and contributing member of the great society and country of the United States of America I am urging all Senators to strike down this ill conceived and heartless legislation up for consideration.

My wife and I are both adults with pre existing heart conditions. If it weren't for the ACA our family would be bankrupt and destitute, and our 2 children would be doomed to a life of struggle and hardship to become contributing members of society as they grow into young adults.

The evidence is compelling: This is the wrong road to improve healthcare in this country. The Affordable Healthcare law has over 150 amendments written by Republicans. I urge the Senate and the House to continue to work in Bi-Partisan fashion to improve the existing law, and the public option, and help save the lives of millions of people in our great country.

Please do not do this to our country, my family, and millions of other people who will suffer. This is a worst case scenario... YOU CAN DO BETTER.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Madarasz

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Whitney Lingle [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:19 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 as associate director of a local nonprofit that provides multiple services to our most vulnerable populations, I see the toll instability of healthcare and these types of attacks move us further away from a thriving nation. These alterations to the healthcare system will cause some people to die. It's disheartening to work so hard with limited resources to protect those we serve and reduce their healthcare costs with services like Meals on Wheels, only to observe legislators ignore the obvious need for a stable, comprehensive system.

Please think of your family, neighbors, and all fellow humans. This should not be our legacy. If any of you would like to observe the need in person, I'm happy to have you come to Montco SAAC in Ambler, Glenside or Norristown. This debate is a turning point. We can choose to be a nation that protects people and encourages quality of life, or one that squanders resources in the name of making a change.

Whitney Lingle  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Cheryl Blockus [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:19 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** The latest version of die...we don't care

I am a cancer survivor. I was laid off earlier this year. I cannot afford to pay for your repulsive version of healthcare. It appears that you were lazy for the last 7 years and did not come up with an alternative to ACA. But, instead of waiting to come up with a good alternative, you will vote for anything that lets you say you repealed ACA. You believe that your constituents will be so happy. Well they will be, at first. But wait until they need to have their high blood pressure treated. Or wait until their daughter is raped and gets pregnant and their insurance doesn't cover maternity.

Republicans claim to be pro-life, but there is absolutely NOTHING pro-life about this bill.

It should be called the die...we don't care bill.  
you should be ashamed.

Cheryl Blockus

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Michelle Murphy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:18 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Reject Graham-Cassidy Bill

The Graham-Cassidy bill would devastate my family. My young son has autism and it profoundly impacts our life. Without access to affordable health insurance - without caps or lifetime limits, my husband and I would not be able to provide for his care. When my son was first diagnosed, his pediatric neurologist told me that he would need 30-40 hours a week of therapy, "just to be ok". He currently receives, under our insurance plan, ABA therapy for 15 hours a week, Occupational therapy for an hour a week, and Speech therapy for an hour a week. We also pay for additional Occupational therapy on our own through a karate and dance class. He also receives health benefits through his aid in his classroom and Speech and Occupational therapy at school. Graham-Cassidy would be a nightmare for my family as we would never be able to afford all of the therapy he requires and cuts to Medicaid could have a disastrous impact on his school system/district and their ability to pay for therapies so desperately needed by autistic children. Currently, there is a light at the end of the tunnel for my son, he is doing well and progressing, the therapy is working. He is on his way to becoming a full-fledged functioning member of society, but I am terrified that if Graham-Cassidy passes and his therapy is taken away, cut-off by insurance caps and limits, he will not be able to do so, he will not be able to take care of himself later on in life and could become an even bigger (and MORE expensive) burden to society. The Graham-Cassidy bill is an American Nightmare. It is my worst nightmare come to life. The inability to pay (upwards of ten thousand dollars a month) for the care my son is so dependent on for his health and well-being, would devastate my husband and I. There would be no recovery. There is no do-over. I implore the Senate to reject this bill, for my beautiful little boy, who has so much potential and for all the other special needs children out there who will be physically HARMED by this bill. It is not right. It is not ok, and you cannot do this to this Country's most vulnerable children.

**Michelle Murphy**  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Email: Michelle.Murphy@OC.org  
Phone: [REDACTED]  
Fax: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

*We fight for the education, health, housing and financial stability of every person in Orange County*  
To learn about FACE 2024, visit us at [REDACTED] or stay connected when you get social [REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Mary Kate Lau [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:18 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comments for Graham-Cassidy Hearing

I am a proud Arizonan and American and as such, I feel like it is my duty to make sure my voice is heard on this issue that is critical to so many -- including me. I work for a small non-profit and since we are too small for a group plan, I purchased an individual plan off the Exchange. My insurance plan is affordable because of the subsidies I receive and it helps me afford the doctor visits for my blood disorder. My condition is very manageable with medication, but that medicine costs a lot -- and there is no way I would be able to afford it without my insurance plan. With insurance and co-pay assistance, I pay \$0. Without insurance I would not qualify for co-pay assistance and my medication would cost \$12,000 per month.

I am very worried about what will happen to my plan if the Graham-Cassidy bill is passed and I'm doubly worried I will no longer be able to afford my plan with word that costs will increase exponentially for those with pre-existing conditions. I would be a lot less worried about it if the bill was fully vetted by the CBO and by Democratic Party leaders. I know it will be easier to pass this bill before Sept. 30 but I ask that you not take the easy way out and pass this bill through regular order. I know I am one person but my case is not unique. Please consider the millions of Americans who count on affordable healthcare coverage and give this bill the attention we all deserve.

Thank you,  
Mary Kate Lau  
[REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Tess Calvert <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:18 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill - Vote NO

HI There,

I am a voting united states citizen and can't believe we are doing this again. The american people want a bipartisan bill that doesn't take away medicaid and allows sick/disabled people of this country the chance to get well and be supported with a plan they can afford.

It's becoming clear that the GOP is bought off by big donators who don't want to pay taxes or for Obamacare. The american people are watching and we will vote every one of you you out in 2018. If we can't take care of those that need the most help we might as well be a third world country.

Please take this in consideration when reviewing this bill.

Tess Calvert

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Pam Fox [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:18 PM  
**To:** gchcomments

I cannot adequately describe how bad this bill will be for me. It sickens me that the GOP is pushing it so hard. I will be denied or priced out of insurance coverage. I have a spinal cord injury and diabetes. I have Medicare and Medigap coverage right now. Please defend my healthcare. I will die without it.

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** James Dutcher [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:17 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Senator Dianne Feinstein; senator@harris.senate.gov  
**Subject:** Latest Health Care Debacle

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Cassidy-Graham bill. This legislation will pauperize anyone unfortunate enough to get even moderately ill in America. Due to employment my family was forced to change health insurance

3 times during my wife's battle with breast cancer. The ACA at least offered peace of mind during those transitions that we could not be denied or lifetime capped as we switched. Have you been sick? Do you have any idea what things cost? How dare you add this extra anxiety to people who are already hurting? Please let this law die. And shame on you if you don't.

James Dutcher

[REDACTED]  
Los Angeles, CA

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Barb & Steve Miller [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:18 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it only hurts rather than helps the American people and our country. Why would anyone, especially an elected official, vote to help ruin people's lives? I'm puzzled as to what the underlying benefits are to those who are thinking of voting for this bill.

Please talk to one another about what is really going on here, and help those who are thinking about voting for this bill to understand the destruction of American lives that this bill will bring.

No one voted for their Senator or Representative hoping that the person they elected would vote to harm so many Americans, including many of the ones who voted them in. It's time to listen to and care about the people of this country rather than the few who hold the purse strings.

Most sincerely,  
Barbara Miller

Barb & Steve Miller

[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Megen Porter [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:17 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

This bill will destroy my family. Only my husband is covered by an employer. I buy private insurance and since the implementation of obamacare, I have been diagnosed with a pre-existing condition that needs yearly maintenance, or I have a high chance of developing a lethal cancer. My daughter is disabled and as such, receives Medicaid. If you enact this bill, you are giving my 9 year old daughter the choice between receiving treatment or having a mom. There is no moral justification for this, and should you vote for this bill I hope you develop insomnia from the shame. I cannot imagine how you can justify this to yourself.

Sincerely,  
Megen Porter  
38 year old stay at home mom to a disabled 9 year old.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Patty Meehan [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:17 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect affordable health care for all Americans!

I am OPPOSED to the Graham-Cassidy bill. Do not support this bill.

Patty Meehan

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Josh Berkus [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:27 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy is a death sentence for NICU infants

Senators:

The proposed revision to the ACA would include support for lifetime caps on medical expenses ... including for infants. This means that a premature baby in the NICU could exceed their cap before they are only one year old, and get unplugged due to lack of funds.

My wife was an NICU baby. Under Graham-Cassidy, she would have been dead. Please kill this bill.

--

Josh Berkus  
Containers & Databases Oh My!

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Nancy Crocker [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:26 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** my story

Dear Sirs and Madams:

I am a pretty healthy self-employed 61-year-old woman. That said, I'm a breast cancer survivor. I've had precancerous polyps removed from my colon. I was recently found to have 'atypical' cells in my *other* breast that may or may not become cancerous, but will require monitoring by MRI either alternating with or in conjunction to mammograms. Already, my health insurance is \$765/mo. with a \$6550 annual deductible—I must pay nearly \$16,000 in one year (approximately 25% of my gross income) before my insurance pays ANYTHING.

This health bill would be disastrous to people like me with pre-existing conditions. Even if I were to seek a job with benefits—who's going to hire a 61-year-old woman with pre-existing conditions when their own portion of her health insurance will go through the roof?

Passing this bill would be the same as telling me you don't care if I live or die. Tell that to this guy:



I'm his mother. He's 17. He needs me.

Please, I beg you. Do not do this horrible thing to our little family.

Nancy Crocker



## **Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kathleen Schneider [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:27 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Patrick Schneider Cell  
**Subject:** Our story: Please vote NO on Cassidy-Graham Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I write to you as the parent of three children, including a child with severe special needs.

Before ACA, I used to tell people I had three (3) full-time jobs: parent to 3 children, administrator at our local university, and full-time warrior with our insurance company.

I am lucky. We get insurance through our employers, but paid extra for dependent coverage.. But, in exchange for our premiums, I used to spend hours on the phone with claims representatives fighting every claim. Blue Shield, a nationally renowned and respected company, fought everything. We were terrified to move closer to our parents for help raising our children because we knew that companies could refuse to cover our autistic son. Examples of the outrageous behavior included:

1. Refused to pay for the 2nd physician at my C-section even though that is required by State law, hospital policy, and malpractice insurance nationwide.
2. Regularly threaten to cut us off unless we repaid them for claims that they "mistakenly" paid on my son's behalf.
3. Did not include mental health benefits.

These were the bad old days.....

It all changed with ACA. I have not had to fight with the insurers since. They cover mental health benefits, they don't threaten to cut off people with pre-existing conditions, they cover my college-aged children. It was a God-send.

ACA is not perfect. Our rates did rise and most of the family had to change doctors-a painful choice. But, ACA is light year's better than living under the constant threat that my autistic son will have no insurance coverage.

**I beg you to vote NO on the Cassidy-Graham bill.** Please do not pass this bill which will do unspeakable harm to the poor and disabled of our country. They are the children, siblings, and grandchildren of working class Americans across this country. Turning your back on the least of our brothers is not the Christian or American tradition. Politics are not important enough for you to turn your back on your Christian duty.

I encourage you to work with your colleagues to continue to improve ACA.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Schneider

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## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Tammy Lang Hartel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:27 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Reject Graham-Cassidy

To whom it may concern,

Please reject the proposed Graham-Cassidy bill. It will leave millions of Americans uninsured, and the bill's cruelty and inhumanity is beyond the scope of my comprehension. Americans deserve to be treated with respect by the government that serves them. I'm appalled that it's even being considered.

Please do not repeal the ACA. It has saved the lives of several people I know. It is imperative that this country stand behind its citizens.

Thank you so much, Tammy Lang Hartel

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jan Plutzer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:27 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare concern

To whom it may concern,

Like many of my fellow citizens, I rely on the essential services mandates in employer plans for my pre-existing condition coverage. I fear that removing these mandates, I will be left with inadequate coverage - essentially no coverage for my conditions.

I am the family breadwinner and I've paid into insurance for 40+ years. I also pay to insure a very healthy husband and 2 healthy teenage children. I've always paid more \$ than I've needed. This year is an exception. I hope to continue having great coverage and to soon be in a position again where I pay more into healthcare than I take.

I'm also exceptionally concerned about the reintroduction of lifetime caps. I'm happy to pay more for insurance if necessary so my fellow citizens do not have to choose between saving a life or bankruptcy.

I find it heartbreaking that those that need coverage the most could either lose coverage because a state receives a waiver or because of affordability.

If Tom Price and co are issuing the waivers, they are as good as granted. I do not trust that man.

I've read whatever I can get my hands on. I know affordability isn't a defined term in the plan. I've listened to Senator Flake say "no governor will ask for waivers that deny pre-existing conditions". Give me a break. They will. They will yield to the interests of big business & donors. Don't insult our intelligence.

Thank you for listening.  
Jan

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** casey r <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:27 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy

To Republicans:

Voting yes on Graham/Cassidy is affirming you are ok with killing Americans, handing many a death sentence (as well as those that voted for you, and your families). You are affirming that potential disastrous financial ruin of Americans is absolutely fine as long as you get to keep your government paid healthcare.

Let us keep the bribe you are giving Senator Murkowski. Bring back the effort to stabilize the Affordable Care Act.

If death is what you wish for 32 million Americans, perhaps you should resign. It is stunningly insane that we are literally fighting for our lives to keep you from voting yes. Or to get 3, only 3 Republicans to vote no.

You are willing to murder Americans just so you can keep \$400 million tainted Koch Brother's dollars. Bet you are proud of the 3rd world status you are creating for us.

DO NO HARM, PLEASE. #votenoGrahamCasdidy

Casey Richards  
Graton, Ca

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Starr Lycos McCaffery [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:27 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** #preexist

It is appalling this bill does not prevent insurance companies from charging more for preexisting conditions or from instituting a lifetime cap.

Please consider the opinions of experts like the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association ("This bill harms our most vulnerable patients"), the American Public Health Association ("Graham-Cassidy would devastate the Medicaid program, increase out-of-pocket costs, and weaken or eliminate protections for people living with preexisting conditions"), the National Institute for Reproductive Health ("the Graham-Cassidy bill preys on underserved communities ... a clear and present danger"), and Federation of American Hospitals ("It could disrupt access to health care for millions of the more than 70 million Americans") and do not allow this bill in its present form to pass the Senate.

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Starr Lycos McCaffery  
[REDACTED]  
Aurora, Illinois registered voter

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Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Linda Arndt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:27 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

My husband and I are against the Graham Cassidy bill. It will hurt our family members as well as millions of citizens across the nation.

Linda and Jack Arndt  
McFarland [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Terri Siegel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:33 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Save the ACA

Without the ACA I would not be able to have insurance. I have a pre-existing condition. My daughter is ready to have a child and she would not be able to afford the coverage. She is beginning her life and this would cripple her chances of owning a home and affording college.

When my son was born 27 years ago, I was denied coverage of that birth because there were complications during the birth. I had to file bankruptcy. All my savings were wiped out.

I still only rent because I was never able to get ahead.

Fix the ACA, it is within your power.

Thank you for your time.  
Terri Siegel

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Patty [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:32 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote NO!

The GOP and Trump have caused so much chaos and uncertainty that all Americans are paying the price. By constant attempts to repeal ACA and Trumps threats to withhold subsidies, the insurance industry has raised rates to an already damaging level. We're on COBRA now and can't file for Medicare for 5-7 years. We can't afford the latest rate increase on our state exchange in MN and your attempts to pass GrahamCassidy will make our situation exponentially worse. With Pre-existing conditions and life threatening health issues, passing this abomination of a bill will ensure that we will die several years sooner as we won't be able to pay for and receive full healthcare.

Don't pass this bill!!

Patricia Nelson  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Patty Nelson  
[REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Joanne Kuhns [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:31 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comments on Graham-Cassidy-Heller ACA Repeal

Dear Senators,  
I urge you to vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller ACA Repeal for oh, so many reasons.

First, it is NOT a bipartisan bill and does not adequately represent the needs of all Americans. That's like a bunch of old men sitting around making laws about what women of childrearing age can and cannot do with their bodies. Oh, wait...

Second, it purports to protect coverage for pre-existing conditions but in fact all it provides is a suggestion that states do so, with no means of enforcement, and with an automatic waiver ready and waiting for states. That's like leaving the car keys, a bottle of vodka and a "Get Out of Jail Free" card for an alcoholic and suggesting that they not drink and drive.

Third, it cuts coverage for our most vulnerable citizens: low income seniors, children, and people with disabilities - the people who most need medical care. That's like offering free haircuts, but only for bald people.

Fourth, it targets womens health and family planning coverage. Do you believe only wealthy people who can pay cash for womens health and maternity care should have families? Do you really want to legislate inbreeding among all those wealthy snobs, making **more** tonedead Donalds and Louises?

Fifth, and final for now, it is wholly un-American. It is wrong, cruel, and completely lacking in care or compassion. It puts us on par with third world countries. It is unbecfitting the principles and values of the America that I love.

Please vote NO on the GCH bill.  
Put Senators Murray and Alexander back to work developing improvements for the ACA, which is what you should have been working on all along instead of wasting MY TAX MONEY trying to repeal health coverage for 32 million people.

~~~~~  
Joanne Kuhns  
[REDACTED]  
~~~~~

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:31 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Regarding Graham-Cassidy

Dear Finance Committee:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my utter and complete disapproval of the Graham-Cassidy health care bill currently before the committee. This bill will have the effect of removing affordable health care from millions of Americans, and is a further expression of the idea that health care is for those wealthy or fortunate enough to afford it.

I have friends with life-threatening conditions who will be in danger of dying should this legislation become law. This is not hyperbole, nor am I alone. Every member of the committee has tens of thousands of constituents who are similarly threatened. This proposed legislation in no way meets their needs; indeed, it is a clear statement that those needs are not significant. Senators voting for the legislation are making that clear statement to the nation.

Many senators have spoken about the surge in premiums, cherry-picking anecdotal evidence and ignoring the fact that the burdens of this ill will fall on those least able to bear them. There is a reason that those who provide health care are wholeheartedly opposed to this bill. The insurance industry is opposed to this bill. The bill does nothing but make matters worse.

It is the responsibility of the government to establish minimum standards for health care for our citizens. This bill completely abdicates that responsibility. Sick people cannot negotiate their level of care--they are under personal physical duress. Your job as senators is to protect the interests of all your constituents. That is the task before you.

Vote no on Graham-Cassidy.

Robert Koon

## **Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Beth DeHoff <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:30 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Campbell, Katie (Donnelly); Light, Jaymi (Young)  
**Subject:** comments on impact of Graham-Cassidy bill on my child and family

Hello. My name is Beth DeHoff and I live in Plainfield, Indiana. I have three sons, and my youngest, Kyle, is 17. Kyle loves music and people and is an important part of his family and community. Kyle also has multiple special health care needs.

Kyle has Down syndrome, autism, is a leukemia survivor, has a primary immune deficiency, malabsorption, OCD and anxiety, and requires multiple medications, g-tube feedings, and nursing care when his parents are at work. The cost of this care is considerable. In the year before my son had a Medicaid waiver, we had \$13,000 in out-of-pocket expenses after insurance paid, and he was set to hit his lifetime coverage maximum before he finished high school.

Today, because of Kyle's Medicaid waiver, we can work while he receives the nursing care he needs, and because of this, our primary employer-based insurance pays for most of his care. What is not covered by this plan is covered by Medicaid. These costs not covered by our employer plan include the nutritional supplement feedings he needs to stay alive, the daily nursing care he needs to stay at home and for us to work, the braces that allow him to walk, and the wheelchair that allows him to enjoy parks, zoos and other public places that require lots of walking.

If Kyle were to lose a Medicaid waiver due to the capping and block granting of Medicaid, he would lose many of these services, and one of his parents would lose the ability to work, thus plunging us into financial crisis and stripping Kyle of needed care. Ironically, we could get much of this care for him if we institutionalized him, an option not tenable for him or us, and far costlier to our state. If annual and lifetime maximums returned, Kyle's medicines would cap out before the leaves fall every year, and he cannot survive without them. If the ability for insurers to carve out conditions or deny coverage for pre-existing conditions return, Kyle would be uninsurable. Without insurance coverage, my son will die.

The Graham-Cassidy bill takes a tremendous step back by capping and block granting Medicaid in ways that make it impossible for states to meet the needs of their citizens. In this scenario, federal funding gets smaller and smaller and states will be faced with an inability to pay for Medicaid for vulnerable citizens like my son. Waiving requirements to cover essential health benefits and pre-existing conditions will result in many citizens without coverage, skyrocketing premiums, and the parallel weakening of commercial insurance plans and the health system at large.

The Graham-Cassidy bill will dramatically hurt my child and family. I strongly urge members of Congress and the Senate finance committee to reject it and instead work toward a bipartisan effort to shore up the ACA, Medicaid and Medicare, in regular order and with public hearings.

Sincerely,

Beth A. DeHoff, MPH



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Wendy Anderson-Brachfeld [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:25 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

Dear Senators,

I am writing to ask you to do two things. First, be honest about the impact of your proposed bill. When Senator Cassidy claims pre-existing conditions are covered, it enrages me. We aren't stupid. We understand that the definitions of adequate (no essential health benefits required) and affordable (\$26,000 premium increases for a breast cancer survivor such as myself) are flexible enough for you to claim you are covering pre-existing conditions while actually causing this with PECs to be priced out of the market. So when a woman's premiums increase \$17,000 to cover maternity care, don't tell me this is adequate or affordable.

We also see that you are saying states will get all the money while cutting funds. This is why so many GOP governors are against this. They will be left holding the bag when people don't have healthcare. We also see how you are taking money from blue states to give to red states. Like I said, we aren't stupid.

Second, this bill is horrific, and any Senator voting for it should be ashamed. You have no CBO score, and are ready to screw around with 1/6 of our economy to keep campaign promises that only 12% of Americans want. Isn't this a representative democracy? Aren't you supposed to go represent the 88% who do not want this bill?

So, I ask you to put people over party and vote no on this bill. I know most of you will not do that. And you should be ashamed.

Sincerely,

Wendy Anderson  
Fairfield, CT

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** jen Gibbons [jen\_gibbons@redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:30 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** healthcare

Do not vote for the repeal of Obamacare. It will ruin lives and the health of millions.  
Jennifer

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** West, Kenneth [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:30 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham - Cassidy bill

TO THE UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE:

Please slow down this hearing and return to the regular order of business in the Senate.

One hearing prior to a vote does not allow for two weeks of comments on the bill. There is no CBO score on this drastic measure.

One sixth of the American economy will be affected -- not to mention the millions of American's healthcare.

We deserve a thoughtful and deliberative process as well as the best coverage available for the most people. Graham Cassidy does not achieve this goal.

Please pause and think. Are the American people being well-served by this rush to fulfill a campaign promise?

You know it is not.

Please rethink this, it's not good for the country.

Sincerely,  
Kenneth J West

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Marynan McNamara [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:29 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

....

All major physician health care providers major health insurance companies and Republican governors oppose this bill. Why have you abandoned the efforts of Senators Alexander and Murray?! Why are you pushing for a vote before the CBO? This effort is at best completely irresponsible.

Nan McNamara

Marynan McNamara



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Sally Rude <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:28 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Stop trying to jam this bill down our throats!

This bill will deprive sick people of healthcare by freeing states to remove insurance protections for people with pre-existing conditions. Without those protections, insurers could price such people out of the market.

Insurers have come out against the bill, joining doctors, hospitals, AARP, patient advocates, multiple governors and others.

Sally Rude  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Laura E. White [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:28 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA Comments

Dear US Senate,

I am a US Citizen and I love my country. I am grateful to have been born with the abundance of opportunities and the freedom to choose. I am also grateful for modern medicine as at 41, I am on my 3rd pacemaker. Without medical insurance, I would not be alive today. I would not have had a 16 year career in fundraising for local non-profits, currently working on behalf of junior enlisted military service members. I love my country. I am serving my country.

By voting for the Graham - Cassidy health bill you are destroying millions of lives and accelerating thousands, if not millions, of deaths. While you will remain covered, along with your family, your extended family and friends will suffer. Those without means to cover expensive medical bills will suffer.

Do not vote for this plan. It is not who we are. It does not represent us as a People. There are other ways to make changes and/or redesign healthcare that does not include all of the cuts this bill proposes. How is it possible other countries have figured this out?

I believe we are capable of doing this. It may be hard work and it may involve sacrifices from all sides, but healthcare should not be political and should not favor those with the means, or those who will profit. That is what the rest of the economy is for.

Please vote NO. Stand up for the majority of this country. Do not send people to emergency rooms where costs will skyrocket and hospitals will close unable to afford the emergency care. Don't let me, a taxpaying citizen dedicated to giving back to my fellow Americans, die because I could never afford another pacemaker.

Vote no. Find another way to make changes to the ACA.

Laura White  
[REDACTED]  
S [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Robert Beck [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:28 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Unhealth Care Bill

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to what's being called the Graham-Cassidy ACA Repeal & Replace Bill. Rarely does such a broad coalition of diverse interests agree on such an important issue. But such is the case with the opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill as groups such as the AMA, AARP, insurers, hospitals, and a bipartisan group of Governors. This bill will deny insurance to millions, increase health care costs to everyone in the U.S.A., and does nothing to ensure coverage to people with preexisting conditions.

In addition, this bill is being rushed through the Senate without proper committee hearings or a scoring from the CBO.

I urge all Senators to do what is best for the country and vote against this bill. I hope the Senate will choose to work in a non-partisan manner in working to provide affordable healthcare for all Americans.

Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** nancy bird [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:28 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** cc @ASlavitt

When I took civics in H.S., I learned that those we elect to office are PUBLIC SERVANTS. What happened, how much money do you need to sell out your fellow Americans? Are you so inured to the lies you tell yourself and others that you don't see you will be instituting your own death squads by repealing the ACA and the defunding of Planned Parenthood (which gets NO \$\$ for abortions from the Feds)??? This is truly unconscionable.

Sincerely,

nancy bird  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Sally Kuder [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:16 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because - it will force millions of Americans off affordable health coverage, not insure access to affordable care for preexisting conditions, totally disrupt the health insurance system, is opposed by every reputable medical organization, is opposed by some 70% of Americans, to vote next week will not allow CBO scoring of cost the effect of the new bill.

Sally Kuder

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** B L [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:15 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** PLEASE LEAVE ACA ALONE OR FIX IT DO NOT PASS THIS BILL

By mid 2014 I'd been unable to work steadily due to all manner of gastrointestinal issues. I had no insurance. An endoscopy done during an ER visit following failed to find anything and I had no answers, and no way to get a doctor to even see me. Then the ACA was enacted, I found a doctor who did a second endoscopy, and he found Stage III Duodenal Cancer.

Chemo, covered. Alive today because of the ACA. e-mail: [bobbylattas@gmail.com](mailto:bobbylattas@gmail.com) and I'm really sharing this because I want to say thanks to them for fighting.

## **Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Laura B [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:15 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO to Graham-Cassidy!!

Dear Senators,

Please do not be so filled with hatred and fury for the last president that you are determined to destroy the lives of the citizens of this great republic.

The Graham-Cassidy bill would deprive some 32 million Americans of health insurance coverage, and would ensure that those with pre-existing conditions are denied coverage, or offered coverage at such a high rate that they cannot afford it.

Instead of working to destroy Americans' lives, why not work to improve them, by fixing the funding for the ACA? Require that all states expand their Medicaid coverage for those who can't otherwise afford to buy insurance through the exchanges.

If you vote to pass Graham-Cassidy, your days as a senator are numbered. America will never forgive you.

Please do NOT vote for Graham-Cassidy, or we will all regret it.

Thank you for your consideration,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Von meinem iPhone gesendet

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** martha <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:14 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy ACA repeal

Please do not pass this bill. I have a friend Linda on Medicaid. She is 63, has bad joints, not quite disabled enough for Social Security and works part time. Without Medicaid she will have no treatment for her joint problems. She barely can afford rent and food. She has worked hard all her life, but has struggled. Don't blame her for doing the dirty work that hotel maids and others have to do.

I buy insurance through the ACA. I have a number of health problems. These are preexisting conditions. Insurance may become unaffordable for me. My husband is type 1 diabetic. Fortunately this year he went on Medicare. Diabetic care can cost close to \$30,000 a year if you are insulin dependent. Do you care?

My sister Jana buys insurance through the ACA. She works but her employer does not offer health insurance. She makes \$9.50 an hour. Hardly enough to live on. She is uninsurable. She has had a heart attack.

Please. Please don't go backwards. This isn't about a promise to repeal. This is people's lives.

Martha Markusen  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Ruth Ann Davidson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:14 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 will drastically cut funding to Medicaid through the states, ending Medicaid expansion. Those fighting the opioid crisis depend on Medicaid. People with mental health issues, like my son, have suffered without Medicaid before the expansion. Who is able to determine if a mentally ill person is able to hold a job sufficiently to pay for overly expensive health insurance? Without Medicaid millions of people, children, will suffer and die. My son would die. Aside from this is the pre-existing conditions clause, allowing the states to deny medications and supplies needed for certain conditions, and make the cost prohibitive. This bill is a death sentence for millions of Americans!!! Don't let this bill pass the Senate!!! Don't let my son die!!

Ruth Ann Davidson

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Beth McIntosh [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:12 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because I and a number of my family have pre-existing conditions. By pushing determination of pre-existing conditions back to the states, you could potentially limit where Americans can move/live based on coverage.

My nephew was born with a rare genetic spontaneous mutation. Why should he be denied health coverage based on a pre-existing condition.

I strongly urge you to vote against Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson.

Beth McIntosh

Beth McIntosh  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Dave Rosen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:12 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Erica M. Rosen  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am strongly opposed to the gram Cassidy bill. We need to take care of those most vulnerable in our society. Those include people with existing pre-existing health conditions for people with disabilities. As a taxpayer of this country I expect that my money will be used in appropriate ways to support the well-being of my fellow countrymen. This includes their health one of the most basic rights. I myself have both a son with and intellectual disability and her father-in-law with coronary issues. We pay a lot of money in taxes! We are in the highest tax bracket and we intend for our money to be spent supporting the health and well-being of the elderly and the disabled in our country. I am a PhD research scientist and my wife is a physician. Please don't give us another move reason to move to Canada; Do not support the Graham Cassidy Bill!

Dr. David Rosen  
Associate Principal Scientist,  
Merck Research Labs

-DBR's phone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Bonnie Kelley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:12 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote No on HR 1628

Bonnie Kelley  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] 1

September 21, 2017

Dear Senate Finance Committee - GCH Comments,

The Graham-Cassidy Amendment (H.R. 1628) is a disaster for disabled Americans. It imposes cuts to Medicaid in the form of block grants, which will force States to cut home and community based services which support the lives and liberty of disabled people, as well as the elimination of the Community First Choice program that provides in-home personal assistance services for individuals with disabilities.

Here in Montana we are already facing severely debilitating budget cuts at the state level and we cannot afford to undergo further budget reductions! The American people have already spoken loudly against the cuts that Graham-Cassidy imposes.

Right now in Medicaid, home and community based services are "optional" which means States are not required to provide them. Prescription drugs are "optional." Durable Medical Equipment such as wheelchairs are "optional." As Graham-Cassidy cuts Medicaid funding over time, States will pare down these "optional" services, which are very much necessary for disabled people to enjoy the liberty which the Constitution promises to all Americans and that allow states and the federal government to serve individuals with disabilities in lower-cost care settings in the community rather than in costly nursing homes or other institutional settings.

Republicans did not win office by promising to cut Medicaid and destroy the lives of disabled people. Indeed, President Trump promised the opposite, that Medicare and Medicaid would not be cut under his administration. the Graham-Cassidy bill goes out of its way to cut Medicaid services that disabled people and seniors rely on to live our lives.

Please vote against the Graham-Cassidy bill (H.R. 1628) and any legislation that cuts Medicaid home and community based services, which millions of people with disabilities have no choice but to rely on in order to survive let alone participate in their communities or even be employed, tax paying citizens.

Sincerely,  
Bonnie Kelley

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Adrienne M [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:12 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it is extremely likely that it will harm millions of Americans by raising insurance premiums exponentially and prohibiting adequate access to vital services.

Adrienne M  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Mark Halvorsen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:10 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

To whom it may concern,

I'm a TBI Traumatic Brain Injury Survivor that helps many of our most vulnerable citizens who rely on Medicaid to be a first line support for their rehabilitation and medicine to help them after TBI.

This part of the Medicaid program needs to be there for them.

Mark Halvorsen

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Alice Hall [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:09 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 is absolutely no sound, rational, fact-supported argument to support it.

Every organization of health care providers in the country is against it. It's so bad that even Blue Cross/Blue Shield is against it.

How can the Senate justify even considering legislation that will directly harm millions of US citizens?

Healthcare is not a political toy; human lives are at stake.

Please put country before party rhetoric, abandon the continuing efforts to destroy the ACA.

Respectfully,

Alice Hall

Alice Hall

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Carolyn Gorman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:09 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

I oppose this bill because it will remove insurance and health care from the most needy. I ask you to vote it down and work in a bi-partisan way to come up with a just plan.

Sent from my iPhone



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Kimbell Gabor [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:07 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Kimbell Gabor  
**Subject:** Opposition to Graham-Cassidy Bill and cuts to Medicaid and pre-existing condition penalties

Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Date of Hearing: September 25, 2017

My name: Cynthia Kimbell Gabor

My address: [REDACTED]

When my daughter was 6, we moved from Illinois to Maryland. In 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, she was selected for the state's Autism Waiver Program, a newly formed Medicaid waiver program. The supports that the program offered my daughter were tremendous. She was provided with in-home, after-school support by trained staff who were overseen by skilled professionals experienced with crafting meaningful home and community activities tailored to my daughter's needs, aptitudes and goals. And as a parent, I suddenly did not feel alone in the disability world. We always had good school programs for Laura, but we struggled to fill the rest of Laura's life with meaningful, non-therapy related experiences and companionship. And we struggled to give her twin brother a normal, neuro-typical life. My husband worked long hours. Laura has always needed too much care for me to hold down a job. We could not afford to pay for this sort of support, and it was always difficult to find and figure out how to train people to work with a very autistic, non-verbal, sensory and coordination challenged young girl.

Until Laura was 6, we lived in Illinois. Illinois did not have a 0-3 program. So we paid for therapists out-of-pocket when private insurance would not cover it, which was quite often! We set up a home program for her and found a few teenagers to work with Laura, still hoping she might talk, might be able to learn to write or sign, might take more of an interest in things that interested her peers. I had very little guidance or confidence that I was doing what Laura needed.

Laura's selection into Maryland's Autism Waiver Program added more meaning and helped her to grow in ways that I was struggling with on my own. It also saved me from burnout and gave me much more time with her twin brother than I would have otherwise had. Every time there was a new hurdle, whether it was extended school absences from medication reactions or the onset of intractable seizures, our service provider found just the staff we needed to support Laura and help ease her life. W

When Laura was 18, we moved back to Illinois, a state not known for its services, but well-known for its kind people. Laura qualified for the DORS Home Services Program. This has allowed for a qualified companion to take her out in the community several times a week, someone who is not her mom. Laura has health challenges in addition to her severe autism. After aging out of school she attended an adult I/DD program for a year until her health forced her to drop out. The Medicaid funds also helped pay for this program. She now spends her days predominantly at home. Without a Medicaid Waiver provided companion, I would not be able to leave the house to do even basic things like grocery shop, as this sort of thing is too hard for her.

Laura has received Medical Assistance with both waivers. While we are fortunate to have good primary insurance, Laura has had some pretty big hospital bills and other

medical needs. Medicaid has served as a backup and we are grateful that it has been there for her. As my husband approaches retirement (he is 67, I am 60), Laura's continued Medicaid coverage will be vital to her well-being. Laura will never work and will never be able to live independently. She requires 24-hour care. And if she outlives me, she will need to live in a Medicaid funded group home. I certainly cannot fund that on my own.

Block grants and the proposed cuts to Medicaid will doom her to a life of neglect due to scarce resources and scarce medical care. Already, there is a long wait list for adult services for those with I/DD. The proposed cuts will only make things worse for a population that is easily overlooked.

As you can tell, Laura also has pre-existing conditions. I do, too, and I'm in good health. This Graham-Cassidy Bill would not only reduce available Medicaid medical and Waiver funds for my daughter. It would make private insurance impossibly expensive for both of us.

So, for families that have disabled people in their family units, you who vote for the Graham-Cassidy Bill are requiring us to pay much more for we can afford, not only for health care, but for the day programs and group homes and the therapies and community living. The image of kicking a person when they are already down comes to mind. As a parent, I have gladly given up a lot over the years to care for Laura. But we do need the help we get. Do you know how callous this bill is?

Do you realize the message you are sending to us? I hear you quite clearly in Wheaton, Illinois. You are saying: "Mrs. Gabor, your daughter is never going to amount to anything that matters to *us*. She can't pay taxes. She's a burden to us and we don't like that. She's not our version of America. And while we don't exactly wish her dead, we don't really wish her life either."

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jamie Marie Wagner [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:06 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO to the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senate Committee on the Graham-Cassidy Bill:

My name is Jamie Wagner. I'm a 30-year-old woman from Ohio, living in Wisconsin. Because I am working part time (30 hours/week) while I finish my second master's degree, I rely on the ACA for affordable health insurance options that actually cover my pre-existing conditions. I want to work and to pay taxes, because I want to contribute to the economy and the community, but I physically cannot do that without an insurance plan that covers my expensive prescriptions. I did not have insurance for a year before the ACA was passed, and it was the least productive year of my life.

The Graham-Cassidy bill is cruel, incompetent, and selfish. The Graham-Cassidy bill will make it so only people who are already wealthy can afford the health care necessary to live, work, and improve their lives. Millions of people will lose coverage under the Graham-Cassidy bill, and the only beneficiaries are health insurance companies who will be free to deny coverage, to overcharge for basic services, and to discriminate against people who live with chronic illnesses.

I have asked my own senators in Wisconsin to vote "no" on the Graham Cassidy bill, and I am asking the Senate Committee to do the same. Stop playing politics with people's lives.

Jamie Wagner

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Liz SAXTON [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:04 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill -VOTE NO

Worse than before & no CBO  
Insurers would no longer have to provide “essential services.” These currently include:

- Emergency services
- Hospitalization (as for operations and overnight stays)
- Pregnancy, maternity and newborn care (both before and after birth)
- Mental health and substance use disorder services, including behavioral health treatment (this includes counseling and psychotherapy)
- Prescription drugs
- Rehabilitative and habilitative services and devices (services and devices to help people with injuries, disabilities or chronic conditions gain or recover mental and physical skills)
- Laboratory services
- Preventive and wellness services and chronic disease management
- Birth control coverage

Given the increase in the opioid epidemic, depression and PTSD, as well as the increases in domestic violence and school shootings, do we really think that cutting mental health coverage now is a smart move?

Medicaid would be cut, particularly hurting poor children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Medicaid expansion will end. This has helped provide care to more low-income adults than were previously eligible; the subsidized care for moderate-income families will disappear entirely under this proposal.

The Graham-Cassidy bill provides block grants to the states. While promoting this as allowing states flexibility, it denies residents of different states equal benefits. Also, rural hospitals, which receive more of their income from the ACA and Medicaid, will be disproportionately hurt.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Gail Holcomb <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:10 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I am against the Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am writing to you to say that I and my family are against the Graham-Cassidy bill to repeal and replace the ACA. It will kick off 32 million people from having medical insurance, and the mere idea that states will take care of their own is untrue. Anybody with pre-existing conditions, including everybody in my household, will either have no insurance or will go bankrupt trying to get medical insurance.

My husband has a blood disorder that causes clotting and has had 4 bypasses and relies on life-saving medication daily; I have COPD and emphysema and rely on medication and inhalers daily to breath; my daughter has neurofibromitosis with brain tumors and autism and needs MRI'S every 6 months, counseling from a psychiatrist and psychologist, and takes medication daily; my granddaughter who now lives with us also has neurofibromitosis (a genetic disease) and has to take chemo every 3 months to keep her brain tumors from growing so she can postpone becoming deaf. This new plan will destroy our family.

Our names are Michael and Gail Holcomb, W330 N6112 Hasslinger Drive, Nashotah, WI 53058. We already called Ron Johnson to leave a message with his office that we are against this bill but he has made public statements that he will be voting against the wishes of his constituents which is upsetting to numerous Wisconsin residents.

Thank you.

--  
~Gail Holcomb~  
262-788-1111  
262-788-1111  
262-788-1111

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Carrie Cammarato [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:36 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Cassidy-Graham bill

Hello,

I'm writing to express my opposition to the Cassidy-Graham bill to repeal the ACA. Congress needs to improve the Affordable Care Act, not repeal it and leave millions of people without options. My mother is currently alive and well thanks to the ACA. She was forced into early retirement at 60 and was left without healthcare and not yet eligible for Medicare. In 2014, she signed up for the ACA and was able to see her doctor again. She was diagnosed with colon cancer in 2015. It was detected early and she is now completely cancer free. Her cancer never would have been detected and treated without her access to affordable healthcare. She is alive today entirely because of the ACA.

We should not be going backwards where pre-existing conditions preclude insurance coverage nor should costs be so prohibitive. What a sad state we are in when the public has to continually beg our politicians not to take away our healthcare.

An extremely frustrated citizen,  
Carrie Cammarato

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Linda Bresnick [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:35 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill

Dear Senators,

The Graham Cassidy bill is just another attempt to deny health care to millions of Americans.

Why is the United States the only advanced country in the world that does not consider health care a basic right of their citizens?

Sincerely,  
Stuart & Linda Bresnick  
Davis, CA

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Lana Thomas [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:35 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Stop Trying To Kill Me And Everyone I know

If this latest attempt on my life (and the lives of millions of others) is successful, there are a few ways it could end for me. I could either asphyxiate on my own vomit following a seizure- this one's not pretty, nor pleasant. Just trust me on this. Or I could have a seizure and fall to my death. Alternatively, I could just start seizing and never stop until, well, I die. That's a thing that happens to epileptics sometimes, you see. Which is why I need medical care.

What we need is UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE FOR ALL. The healthcare we currently have is already sorely lacking. The last thing we need is a "Kill The Poor" approach, like these bills that keep trying to make things even worse for people. Make no mistake, this is eugenics. If you repeal Obamacare, you are nothing short of a mass murderer.



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** John Moriarty [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:35 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators:

Granted, American healthcare has been good for members of the US Congress both before and after ACA, but very few of us have jobs like yours. Why consider Graham-Cassidy, which is even worse than the ACA?

John Moriarty

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Courtney Marden [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:35 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Cassidy Graham health bill: bad for patients, bad for our healthcare system

I am a Utah nurse and am appalled at the Cassidy Graham health care bill. It is the worse of all the GOP healthcare proposals this year. It will eliminate the insurance mandate causing a death spiral of our insurance market, as healthy people opt out and sick people remain insured. It takes away subsidies for the poor and the middle class, ensuring that health care coverage is unaffordable and out of reach for millions. It makes Medicaid into a block grant program that is quickly whittled away it does not keep up with health care inflation over time. It punishes states that expanded Medicaid and rewards GOP-controlled states that denied Medicaid expansion to the needy just to spite Obama. This will hurt my patients. They will not have access to the coverage they need and will quickly be financially bankrupted. Our greatness as a nation can be calculated by how we treat the poor, the sick and the afflicted. The least of these. This bill does NOT reflect our greatness. Moreover, we will not even know the full-scope of how bad this bill is because the CBO score will not be available until after the Sept 30th voting deadline. Can we all least have all the facts before throwing 1/6th of our economy into chaos? This that too much to ask of the GOP? This bill must be killed for the simple reason that the CBO score is not available.

Courtney Marden, RN BSN  
American Fork UT [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Ann Rounseville [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:33 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please vote NO on the Graham Cassidy Bill  
**Attachments:** IMG\_1284.JPG; 2017.07.29\_RousevilleFamily-0009.jpg; IMG\_1501.JPG; IMG\_1649.JPG; fullsizeoutput\_5ee2.jpeg

To whom it may concern:

I am writing on behalf of my son, Luke. Luke is 10 years old and has one of the most infectious giggles on earth. Luke also has several diagnoses including Autism, intellectual disability, mildly dilated aorta, scoliosis, cortical vision impairment, growth restriction, GERD and more. Clearly, Luke would fall squarely into the category of a person with not one but MANY pre-existing conditions. Currently, because of his disabilities, Luke is insured by our family insurance plus medicaid as a secondary. Luke's medicaid has helped our family immeasurably with being able to afford caring for a child with multiple diagnoses. We rely on Luke's medicaid as a lifeline. We also look to the future when Luke will absolutely need medicaid funding in order to help insure that he is able to live as independently as is possible for him. As Luke will need 24/7 supervision for life medicaid would help pay for a group home or other setting with his peers instead of being forced to live at home or in a nursing home. I can not bear the thought of Luke not having some sort of a fulfilling life as an adult. Please, I beg of you, do not allow the Graham- Cassidy bill to pass. Because of its very deep cuts to medicaid and removal of protections for individuals with pre-existing conditions, it will be absolutely devastating to our family and families like ours, now and in the future. Do not hesitate to contact me with questions or for more information on this matter.

Sincerely,

Ann Rounseville  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** abrei cloud <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:35 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill

Dear committee members,

My name is Abrei Cloud. I am a resident of Montana, a mother of two young boys, and a licensed clinical social worker in private practice. I am writing in strong opposition to the Graham Cassidy health care bill. My opposition is both personal and professional.

Over the past five years my husband and I had two children, put my husband through graduate school in forestry, and I opened up a private practice as a psychotherapist. We would not be where we are today if it weren't for our access to Medicaid. The expanded Medicaid program in Montana allowed us the safety net to take the risk of my husband going to school and me opening up my practice. One of my sons was born with a birth defect that required surgery. He also broke his leg at age 2. Without the help of Medicaid we would most likely be in bankruptcy due to these health related expenses. I am proud to say that the hard work and governmental assistance that we received for those five years allowed us to now be in the position where we can give back. My husband has full time employment as a forester where we have health insurance, and I have a thriving private practice.

Professionally, my client load consists of 50% clients on Medicaid. Many of these clients have experienced severe trauma in their lives and require therapy as part of their support network. The Medicaid expansion in Montana has allowed people who would otherwise not be able to afford health insurance to receive the services they require. Without these services many of my clients would rely on emergency rooms and psychiatric institutions to meet their needs. Additionally, I rely on these clients to provide for my family and they rely on me to help cope with the challenges that life has given them. Without these basic services I cringe to imagine what may happen to these hard working, yet struggling members of our community.

I strongly urge you to oppose this disastrous bill. It unfairly targets the poor, women, and those with pre-existing conditions. I urge you to stand on the right side of history by not stripping millions of people of their basic human rights! Thank you for your time,  
Abrei Cloud, LCSW

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Gabriela Mafi [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:30 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Gabriela Mafi  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill endangers children like mine  
**Attachments:** 19884147\_1184354991693388\_2842547577426656809\_n.jpg

Dear Senate members/staffers,

My name is Gabriela Mafi and my son, Gabriel Mafi, will be 2 years old in November. I have attached a photo of his sweet, smiling face to represent so many like him who were born with significant medical issues and who would be negatively impacted by the proposed Graham-Cassidy bill.

No parent in his or her wildest dreams plans to have a medically fragile child. In our case, my husband and I had already raised and sent two children to college when, at age 48, we were hit with the shocking news that I was pregnant (not entering menopause as thought), and then shortly afterwards were informed that our son had a condition called Trisomy 18 in which 3, rather than 2, copies of the 18<sup>th</sup> chromosome were produced during meiosis at conception. Being lifelong Catholics and firmly believing in the value of our baby's life, we continued with the pregnancy despite terrifying odds of his death in utero or at birth and many cynics (including a small number of medical professionals) who would deem him "incompatible with life."

The almost 2 year old child you see in the attached photo is a happy, smiling little boy who greatly enjoys life at home after spending a harrowing 3 months in the NICU following birth (and a handful of hospital visits since). Gabriel just happens to have a trach, be ventilator dependent and feed via g-tube in addition to being profoundly hard-of-hearing and cognitively disabled. That doesn't lessen his charm or the positive effect he has had on a myriad of others who follow him on social media and in real life. He, and many other children like him, RELY on the protections that ACA provides. My husband is a high-school teacher who has had to take an extended leave of absence to care for our son. I am a school Superintendent and, while I am privileged to possess exemplary insurance and an income that allows for us to provide for Gabriel, most others are not as fortunate. I know many families who, pre-ACA, became bankrupt in their attempts to provide a quality of life for their disabled children.

Make no mistake. Any Senators choosing to side with this ill-advised and heartless bill will face overwhelming opposition across the nation at the next election. This opposition crosses party lines as well as SES, geographical and educational demographics; for, those of us with medically fragile children or with family members with pre-existing conditions and the millions of people who know us and care for our children and loved ones, will take note, will effectively organize and will not allow our nation to turn its back on defenseless citizens who deserve our protection. Those voting for the Graham-Cassidy bill are standing firmly against the value of life and against the deeply-held American values the majority of us hold dear: to care for the most vulnerable members of our society. Please, remember the faces of these precious children when casting your vote **NO** to choose side with American values and the future of our nation.

Sincerely,

*Gabriela*

Gabriela Mafi, Ed.D.

**Superintendent, Garden Grove Unified School District**

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Ann Eckert <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:17 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Cassidy-Graham healthcare bill

From everything I've read, all from medical associations and agencies, this bill is the worst one yet. Please quit thinking about getting rid of something just because Barack Obama passed it and think about what you are doing to the American people. Get together and fix the things that are wrong with the ACA instead of trying to be a "winner". The GOP will only lose in the long run.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** John Keating <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:17 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 cause many death, People who are on medicaid have no other way to get any healthcare or life saving medications.

John Keating

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Rj <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:16 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comments

The ACA saved my life and the lives of thousands of other "Pre-Existing Condition" patients.

I was sick and could not get coverage for 8 years. I made too much money to qualify for medicaid, yet never worked for a company large enough to provide company insurance.

We can't all be healthy. I did not cause my autoimmune illness, nor did my husband cause his multiple sclerosis.

I am now well, a small business owner, and I work 7 days a week to support my sick husband so he can have health insurance and receive care. I have not had a day off in over 2 years. I have medical bills to pay.

This bill introduced is immoral. It means uncertainty for millions, and certain death for hundreds of thousands of people.

This is wrong and un-American. Give a nation of people benefits and then take it away? Expect an angry backlash from the majority.

This.

Is.

Wrong.

Thank you for your time.

Rob Jaimes

Peoria AZ



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Patricia Meschel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:16 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 lacks protection for pre existing conditions and makes drastic cuts to Medicaid. It will result in millions going without health insurance and lead to greater public health crises.

Patricia Meschel

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Justin Dulak <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:16 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Kayla Dulak  
**Subject:** Regarding Graham-Cassidy-Heller

To whom It May Concern:

When Election Day 2016 passed into the annals of history, I was terrified that it took the future of the Affordable Care Act with it. In the six years since Congress and President Barack Obama approved that landmark piece of legislation to overhaul our healthcare system, nary a day has gone by without Republicans hatching some new scheme to repeal it. Now, nearly one year later and with the levers of government uniformly in their control, the Republicans are on the precipice of realizing their long-sought dream to create a healthcare nightmare for Americans from coast to coast. It is with grave concern that I ask you to swiftly and decisively REJECT the Graham-Cassidy-Heller Bill.

Although objective analyses of this bill have shown just how destructive it would be for Americans writ large, that is not what is motivating me to write today. My inspiration for opposing this bill is far more personal. Almost five years ago exactly, my wife, Kayla Dulak's, neurologist informed her that the laundry list of symptoms she was experiencing (seizures, a periodic speech impediment, and crippling muscle pain in her legs and low back are all the first to spring to mind), as well as the sclera now showing on CAT scans of her brain, could lead to only one diagnosis: relapse-remitting multiple sclerosis. At the age of 22, Kay learned that the rest of her life would be a Sisyphean battle to stay out of a wheelchair.

The other logical conclusion we were able to draw that day was that, in the years to come, we were going to become very good friends with a wide variety of healthcare providers. And indeed we have, whether it's the loving-but-direct care of neurologist Zophia Mrozcka, or the warm and friendly approach of the nurse Stacy in Harrington Hospital's Cancer Center. Neither of these relationships, which have been crucial to Kay's continued success over MS, would have been possible without the reforms of the ACA, and will be destroyed by passage of the Graham-Cassidy-Heller bill. If patients with diseases like MS are going to subject to a surcharge in the tens-of-thousands of dollars, which analyses of this legislation show to be the case, our future, and Kay's especially, looks very grim.

My wife is a fighter, and I love her for it. I know that, with the proper resources at her disposal, MS will learn it picked the wrong person to prey upon. I can have so much confidence in that statement because I've been lucky enough to be in her corner for the last half-decade, watching her refuse to submit to this potentially crippling disease. If Graham-Cassidy-Heller is allowed to become law, however, I fear for the worst. Suddenly, it'll be not just MS that she's up against, but the profit motive of newly deregulated and avaricious insurance providers. This legislation MUST BE STOPPED.

Sincerely,

Justin J. Dulak  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone  
Please excuse typos

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** chippy3166 [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:17 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

The Graham Cassidy legislation will be detrimental to the American People and the US economy. 32 million people losing health care and costing states Billions of dollars is incomprehensible and down right MEAN. Health Care is a Citizen right, Not a privilege only for people who have the money to pay for it and the Citizens of Bill Cassidy's own state agree with me.

As a 51 year old Disabled Man who has paid Taxes for 35 plus years, I'm Disgusted that my Elected Officials, those very same people who my Taxes pay their Salary, are attempting to Take my Healthcare Away, or make it completely unaffordable because I suffer from several Pre-existing conditions. The Graham Cassidy Bill is disastrous and shouldn't even be considered. It's well past time that the Richest Country in the world start taking care of the United States most Vulnerable.

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S@ 6, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Lara Putnam [REDACTED]@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:15 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators:

As a mother of four, I am horrified by the push from Republican leadership to move forward to a vote on the Graham-Cassidy bill without even a full CBO score to evaluate the coverage loss or premium hikes that it would cause. It seems like your colleagues are playing politics with people's lives. Each one of my older children -- ages 23, 21, and 19 -- despite being largely healthy, already has a diagnosis in their medical records that insurers could count as a pre-existing condition, if medical underwriting were again permitted. Will my children ever be able to afford health insurance, if this bill allows state waivers to rip away ACA guarantees?

Two weeks ago, my five year old daughter broke her arm falling off a slide. All I could think about as I raced her to the hospital was how terrifying it would have been to be uninsured, and to have had to weigh seeking the care I knew she needed against the risk of unpayable bills. What about all the moms in Pennsylvania and across the country who have been able to get health insurance for the first time due to Medicaid expansion? How can politicians far away in Washington play cynical games with those families' lives--or pretend that billions of dollars in cuts aren't cuts if they don't kick in until a few years down the road?

As a mother of a five year old, ten years from now doesn't seem like the distant future: it's just around the corner. The reckless and cavalier approach to policymaking by the senate majority terrifies me. Real families lives are at stake. Please return to regular order and bipartisan hearings and stabilize the ACA now.

Lara Putnam  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Pamela Hainsworth <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:15 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

Please do not pass this barbaric law that would take away my health insurance by making in too expensive to purchase.

I am 56, scared and just trying to make it until I can PAY for great Medicare.

Thank you,

Pamela

Pamela Hainsworth

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Michele Rudolf [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:14 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare reform

To Whom it May Concern:


I have 3 children, 23, 21, and 19, all with mental health conditions. Taking away coverage for pre-existing conditions would be devastating to our family. These girls are young and struggling to maintain stability. If they don't have assistance through insurance, it is likely that at least one of them will die by suicide. They've spent years trying to keep their head above water and luckily we have the means to provide them with everything they need to have a life worth living but we have insurance and it covers pre-existing conditions. It is hard enough to find mental health providers that even take insurance. If you take away what coverage there is, it will be a disaster.

I can't possibly tell you how important continuity of care is in our lives. We need continued assistance in some form to keep our kids moving forward and off public assistance. We are both hard working parents and are trying our best to provide for our children and hopefully make them productive, contributing members of society. The single most important factor for us is coverage of a pre-existing condition. They require doctor visits and medications.

Please vote no to the current healthcare reform bill.

Thanks  
Michele Rudolf

Michele Rudolf, MBA  
Owner, Personal Opinion, Inc.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] KY 40207  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
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**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jeffrey McFall [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:14 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 every single health organization in the country opposes this legislation. Even your own Senator Grassely has admitted that there are "at least" 10 reasons NOT to vote for this bill. Do the right thing. Senators, vote no on this legislation. We need to be talking about expanding health care coverage to every American - not taking it away.

Jeffrey McFall

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Corrbette Pasko <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:17 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

You cannot pass this.

This is not health care. This is wealth care.

There is no caring in this bill, and NPR schooled one of its sponsors on what it actually does.

You were elected to protect your constituents. You were ELECTED by the PEOPLE to care for their interests. Do not stand in front of us and lie, saying you're protecting our pockets. Our pockets mean nothing when we are dead of preventable causes.

We should, in fact, be paying to take care of one another (like we do with schools, roads, etc). Because that is the most basic of human decency.

NEVER call yourselves Of the People when you seek to kill them, NEVER call yourselves Christians when you oppose care for the most vulnerable.

We are people in need. And you are sentencing us to die.

For once...please. Be a decent human being and do not pass this ugly, deadly piece of garbage masquerading as health care.

Corrbette Pasko



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** MIKE <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:17 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

I strongly urge the Senate to vote against this bill. It contains too many loopholes that can be used to effectively limit or eliminate coverage for existing conditions, and potentially cap lifetime maximum payouts. It is, in the most basic terms, just a Republican attempt to keep a campaign promise with no regard for the consequences to the American people, which is completely antithetical to representative government.

Mike Klein  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Ewa Protasiuk [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:17 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators:

As a Catholic, as a sibling, as an American--I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy Bill currently being pushed through the Senate for many reasons. I am concerned that the Senate is holding a single public hearing, and so soon. I am concerned that this bill is just another way to allow cuts to marketplace subsidies, Medicaid, and weakening of consumer protections. I am concerned that this bill represents just another way for Congress to wash it hands, not unlike a certain Pontius Pilate, of the suffering and even death of innocents, as will surely be the result of less investment in healthcare. I am concerned by the moral quality--and health--of a country that does not prioritize its sick and ill citizens and residents. And furthermore, very personally, I am concerned that this bill will make my sister's healthcare unaffordable, as she has a pre-existing condition. I implore you to engage with the reality that passage of this bill will have immoral and unjust consequences--even if only through your failure to uphold care for all. Honor the dignity of all human lives, not just the ones that are "healthy"...do not let the Graham-Cassidy Bill pass.

Ewa Protasiuk  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:22 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** PPACA

My son was born in Illinois, in 1986, with Spina Bifida. In 1994, I could no longer get Medical Insurance for his Pre-Existing Condition. Minnesota had a State Plan which would insure him. Even though it cost me anywhere from \$700.00 to \$900.00 per month in premiums, I moved my family to Minnesota, in order to avoid bankruptcy.

Now this new Bill is giving control back to the States and providing the States with less money, I fear for my son's future. He is 30 years old, has had over 40 surgeries. Through no fault of his own he was born with this horrific disability.

I beg of you, for my son's sake and the millions like him, don't let this Bill pass.

Thanks.

Michael Duffy

cell [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** D S FERGUSSON [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:20 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

PLEASE do not vote to make the Graham-Cassidy bill law. The little that we know of its contents is horrifying enough, but the fact that it is being pushed through so quickly means that there are more horrors to come. Health care is SERIOUS. It's life or death for many people. We need SERIOUS legislators to take this issue SERIOUSLY. It's time to grow up and accept the fact that there are multiple opinions on any issue of merit. Rushing through this terrible bill just so you can meet an arbitrary partisan deadline is not why you were elected. It is certainly not in the best interests of the American people. If this bill becomes law, people--real, flesh and blood people--are going to die as a consequence. Because I have a pre-existing condition and limited resources, I am probably going to die sooner than I would because my insurance premiums are going to skyrocket. Please consider that Donald Trump's vanity is not worth sacrificing hard working American's health care.

Sincerely,

Dianne S. Fergusson, Ph.D.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Elizabeth Pride <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:20 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 this bill appears to be harmful to healthcare, and is being pushed through without plans for explanation and debate of this new Bill. The Senate MUST allow time for debate so that Senators really understand what they are voting for and the American public can be aware of what kind of Bill is being pushed upon them. A vote on a bill of this magnitude should include the testimony of experts and public debate.

Furthermore, what little information there is about the Graham-Cassidy Bill indicates that it would be harmful for many Americans. While we may all disagree about the role of government in paying for and providing healthcare, I think we can all agree that it is unusually cruel and harmful to the overall health of the nation when the replacement Bill to the Affordable Care Act starts taking away people's access to healthcare like full reproductive healthcare, protections for pre-existing conditions and Medicaid expansions. Politicians should not be in the business of depriving people of much-needed healthcare. The United States spends far more on healthcare than any other nation and performs poorly on health outcomes when compared to other first-world nations. I do believe there are better plans and ways to spend money than the Affordable Care Act, but, as a public health student and someone who works with vulnerable people who receive healthcare through the government, I believe that the Graham-Cassidy Bill would be extremely detrimental to the American public, so if it comes up for a vote, I ask you to vote NO.

Elizabeth Pride  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Barbara Rognoni [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:19 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 ....  
As a registered nurse, as an American, and as a member of the human race I find this bill cruel. And unless Congress is willing to give up their own insurance then they should not even consider this. We must take care of the health of this nation.

Barbara Rognoni

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** John Margerum <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:19 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 increase the cost of healthcare insurance while denying millions access.

John Margerum

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:19 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Heller bill

Dear Finance Committee Members,

I am contacting you to express my belief that the health care bill put forth by Senators Graham and Cassidy would be terrible for the American people and in particular a disaster for my daughter Abigail. After a childhood of excellent health, she was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes at the age of 26. The financial drain on our family was immediate and intense. The cost of Insulin and test strips needed for monitoring blood sugar several times a day was overwhelming and something we could not possibly cover for the long term. Without the Medicaid Expansion made possible by the Affordable Care Act, my daughter's life expectancy would be dramatically reduced and her family and my family would have been driven to financial ruin in a very short time. Thank God for the ACA and the Medicaid Expansion.

Allowing insurance companies to opt out of covering pre-existing conditions, set lifetime caps on insurance policies, and charge women higher rates, are just a few of the items included in this bill that will be a DISSERVICE to the people you have been elected to protect. Turning Medicaid spending into Block Grants, and cutting 243 billion dollars in federal health spending are giant steps backward and benefit no one except insurance companies.

Please vote against this new effort to repeal what is the single most beneficial law passed in my lifetime, The Affordable Care Act.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Atkinson



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Elliott Walker [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:19 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** (SENDER VALIDATION FAILED --- May not have originated from apparent sender )  
Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy Bill currently being pushed through the Senate because ....

The devastation caused by undermining protections for people with pre-existing conditions is both unfair and terrifying.

Lifetime caps are a job-killer and in many cases, a death sentence.

Failing to attend to the opioid crisis with adequate funding will cost us a generation of people's lives, with enormous collateral damage to their families and communities.

I live in a purple state and have not missed an opportunity to vote in 10 years, from local elections and primaries to ballot initiatives. I am politically active and donate to causes and candidates. So do most of the people around me. We are completely fed up with this attack on basic health and wellbeing and will vote against those who perpetrate it, while doing everything possible to support leaders who care about our health and fight to protect it.

Elliott Walker

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** lcrate41 . [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:18 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** health care

Because of state sponsored insurance I am now employed. I have been employed steadily encompassing two careers in the last 6 years. I couldn't have done this without Social Security and Medicare Mental Health options.

I love my job. I would have to quit if I didn't have Healthcare.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Omar Sharif [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:18 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** (SENDER VALIDATION FAILED --- May not have originated from apparent sender )  
Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy Bill currently being pushed through the Senate because 1. Don't know what the bill is about in detail. 2. He has not been direct with his answers. 3. This should be a vote for the people by the people without it being rushed .

Omar Sharif

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Laura Newman <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:18 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GCH: please don't pass

My name is Laura Newman and I have a 2 year old son who was born with a congenital heart defect and has had one heart surgery. Under this new bill my state could decide that he would not be covered or given a very high insurance rate due to a pre-existing condition. This would be devastating to our and his financial future. It would also keep us ( and many other well resourced and highly skilled workers) from moving to a state that would deny us good health care coverage.

Please have some integrity! Do not pass this bill!

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:10 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** upcoming bill/vote Health Care Repeal Act

As a voter, a tax-payer, a mother of a child with pre-existing conditions, and as someone over 50 years old, I beg of you, please please do not pass this bill.

The thirty million people who will lose benefits, the vets who will lose their insurance, the missing CBO score - the age tax, the list goes on and on.

Please look to the wisdom of much of the rest of the world - their old people don't have to worry about being dumped out of nursing homes; pregnant women don't have to worry about the health coverage of their unborn babies, the most vulnerable with disabilities are provided for.

Thank you. The lives of many of US citizens literally rest upon your vote.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Stephanie Erb <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:10 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Say No to Graham Cassidy

To Whom It may concern;

I am a citizen of the United States. I believe with all of my heart and mind that we can do BETTER for our citizens than the Graham Cassidy bill. The costs to anyone facing catastrophic illness or even CHILDBIRTH are unconscionable.

Can we not find a way to take care of our people rather than abandoning them to poverty and illness?

Please say NO the the Graham Cassidy bill.

Thank you,

Stephanie Erb  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jamie Feller <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:09 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

I am a woman that was born with a partially paralyzed heart valve that has had to be monitored my whole life. Thankfully I have reached my 30s without needing major surgery, yet. I am just about to celebrate my wedding in the next six months, and my future husband and I are hoping to buy a home and start a family right away.

Unfortunately, if Graham-Cassidy allows insurance companies to begin charging exorbitant fees to cover pre-existing conditions and maternity coverage once again, the way they used to, I worry that my medical expenses will stop us from being able to do either of those things.

I can't help the way I was born, and I'm truly heartbroken that the Senate would be willing to risk the future of my family just so they can claim to have fulfilled a campaign promise. Graham-Cassidy should be scrapped, and we should return to the Alexander-Murray hearings right away.

Thank you for listening.

Jamie Feller

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:09 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GCH

Dear Senators,

My name is Emily Tetzlaff. I live in Brooklyn, NY, and am an American citizen. My husband worked downtown after 911 and now has Multiple Myeloma, the rare and deadly blood disease many of our first responders now suffer from. His treatment is expensive and so far has been life saving. Without insurance, caps, and protections for pre-existing conditions, he would literally be forced to choose between bankruptcy and death. And after the bankruptcy, then what would he do? Every member of family, including myself, have some sort of pre-existing condition. We need our insurance. My children need to be able to go forward in their lives and afford their own insurance. So does every other American.

You well know the American people need affordable insurance. You know the bill being proposed does not at all guarantee affordability for anyone. You know this bill does not provide better health coverage than what we already have, and that millions will be thrown off their healthcare if it passes.

In the name of humanity, in the name of decency, and for the sake of the American people, I beg you to put your constituents before your politics, and vote against this bill. Improve the system we already have, and we will honor you forever. Take away the healthcare of millions of Americans and make it unaffordable for millions more, that will be your legacy, and the American people will never forget it.

Vote no on the GCH Bill!

Sincerely,

Emily Tetzlaff  
Brooklyn, NY



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Matthew Lesieur [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:06 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Statement for the Record from VillageCare on Graham-Cassidy  
**Attachments:** senate finance hearing graham cassidy.pdf

Attached please find VillageCare's statement for the record for the Senate Finance Committee's hearing on Graham-Cassidy.

Thank you.

Matthew Lesieur  
Director of Public Policy  
VillageCare

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

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**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Leslie McCulloch [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:08 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Caasidy Bill

This bill will result in TERRIBLE changes to our healthcare... as I'm sure you know, well, unless you're in Congress where your healthcare is guaranteed NOT to change.

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Bruce Christopher Carr [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:08 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** to the committee

Please do everything in your power to prevent this Graham-Cassidy bill from passing.

It is the creation of people who hate women, the poor and Barack Obama and therefore is not worth supporting, especially for the fact that it is estimated it will leave tens of millions of Americans without health insurance .

Please make sure it never sees the light of day.

Concerned in CT.

Bruce Christopher Carr

--  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Carole Ivy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 2:20 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy Bill

To Whom It May Concern:

I am vehemently opposed to the Graham/Cassidy Bill and cannot even bring myself to type "Healthcare" next to it! I would ask you members of the Senate Finance Committee what I asked my surgeon when facing a life-threatening operation: "Would you recommend this approach for your Mother if she was in my situation?"

I ask that to every one of the Republican Senators who support this Cruel and Heartless Bill. And if you are all for it, then why not give yourselves the same healthcare program you are proposing for citizens of this country? Good questions to ponder; and **TO LIVE WITH!!!**

**DO NOT PASS THIS BILL!** Or, live with the deaths caused by it's passage on your collective consciences **Forever!**

Carole Ivy  
Portland, OR

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Laurie Caplan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Defeat Graham-Cassidy

Senators,

This bill is costly, impractical, immoral, and cruel. Is winning so important that the GOP will sacrifice people, hospitals, and health care providers? Will the GOP senators loyally support a president who uses people for his own ends and then tosses them aside when he no longer needs them? Are they really that politically naive?

I can't comprehend the egos of a few people - including Gingrich, McConnell, Ryan, Sessions - eager to cause so much death and destruction. Why is the GOP willing to disregard the long-term economic and competitive health of our county? Why are the bill's backers knowingly lying about what this bill will do? For shame.

Senators deserve the same health care non-coverage the GOP wants to inflict on the US. For shame.

Please say NO to the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Sincerely,  
Laurie Caplan  
Astoria, OR

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Rob McMonigal [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:09 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Testimony on the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Good Evening,

I write the honored members of this committee today regarding the Graham-Cassidy Bill, designed to reconfigure the current ACA into block grants.

First, I must register my objection that this hearing is being held in the finance committee when the issue at hand claims to be healthcare.

It shows that in truth, this bill is designed as a tax cut, not as a health care policy. There should have been a full and fair hearing in all appropriate committees. However, in an effort to pass a bad bill, this hearing is the only one we have, so I'll move forward with my statement.

While no one is saying the ACA as it is written is perfect, there are several key provisions that Graham-Cassidy would remove. First is that approximately 32 million people will lose coverage under the bill. The second is that it removes the requirement that insurance companies cover all individuals equally and do not discriminate against those with pre-existing conditions. The third is that it allows insurers to charge more for those who are pregnant, making a mockery of supporters who claim to be "pro-life."

But the problems with the bill do not end there. Its plan to use block grants to the states provides no regulations for how to administer the funding, which will allow states to treat their citizens differently from others within this country, which violates every citizen's constitutional right to equal treatment under the law. Further, the grants are distributed in such a way that states who cover more individuals actually receive less funds per capita than those who choose not to cover as many residents. Not so coincidentally, the states hit hardest are those who oppose the Trump Administration the most, such as Oregon, California, and New York. Yet at the same time, these same states provide more tax dollars to the federal government than those who will receive the most dollars per capita. The Graham-Cassidy bill literally penalizes states who are trying to do the most for their citizens, while also siphoning our funds away from us and providing them to those who are doing the least for their constituents.

While I personally prefer healthcare options that move away from private insurance entirely, I am not asking the committee to do so.

All I ask is that they reject this bill that will harm millions of Americans, forcing them to use whatever funds they have to pay for the birth of their child, their cancer screenings, their prostate exams, and more. For anyone who has a serious medical issue, whether it's MS or breast cancer, Graham Cassidy is a death sentence, as it will bankrupt anyone who tries to pay for care that isn't the most routine available.

Illness knows no politics. Trump Supporters and Bernie Bros alike will get serious diseases. Graham-Cassidy will harm them beyond repair, both at its implementation and ongoing. Multiple governors, both Republican and Democrat, are against this bill. All 50 Medicaid Officials across the United States, again, both Republican and Democrat, are against this bill. The AARP is against this bill.

I urge you, be on the right side of this argument. Be against Graham-Cassidy, and let us work in the future for an improved system that enriches rather than impoverishes millions of Americans.

Thank you.

Robert McMonigal  
Portland, OR

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jean-Pierre Garau [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 12:33 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Don't take away my healthcare!

Re the Graham-Cassidy bill...

I'm not entirely sure who I may be addressing, but being that the Graham-Cassidy bill isn't a bi-partisan effort, then, considering how essential healthcare is to all Americans, it ought to be shut down. Instead, both parties must either evolve the ACA (which I benefit from) or craft a bill that is equitable and affordable for all. This current 'go it alone' effort is, IMHO, lopsided.

Jean-Pierre Garau

[REDACTED]

Gresham, OR 97030-0537

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Catharine Clarenbach [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 12:23 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** testimony regarding the upcoming health care bill

Dear friends –

Please, please do not allow the Graham-Cassidy Bill to move forward. Please, please.

As someone who has preexisting conditions myself, as does my spouse, that left untreated, could be fatal, I feel keenly how terrifying this process is. I think of my father, with type I diabetes for his entire life, and how this could have affected him. How many lives will be cut short before we see the error of our ways?!

Not only that, as a resident of Oregon, I fear for the loss of federal monies to our state, should this bill pass in Congress.

This is NOT a solution to our nation's healthcare problems. It is not. It will literally cause more deaths. Please do not allow it to move forward.

God bless you – Rev. Catharine Clarenbach

***Rev. Catharine Clarenbach*** **The Way of the River**

[REDACTED]  
Please note: Fridays are my sabbath time, and I will not be answering emails. Saturdays are my regular day off. I generally reply to emails between Sunday afternoon and Thursday. Thank you.

Affiliated Minister

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, GA

"Every mythology; Every religion is true in this sense: it is true as metaphorical of the human and cosmic mystery. But, when it gets stuck to the metaphor...then you're in trouble." -- Joseph Campbell

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Linda Magnuson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 7:43 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** aca repeal

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,

Linda Magnuson

Portland, OR

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Debra Kidney [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:00 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Save our health care system!

The passage of the ACA has made a huge difference to my family. Because of this I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. While I am fortunate to have employer paid health care, my daughter, who is in graduate school, does not have that luxury. Without the ACA she would not be able to pay for her medication which is critical to her health and success.

I also have a cousin who has been a quadriplegic for almost 30 years. He has survived way beyond the average life expectancy of a quad because of Medicaid coverage has allowed him to stay in his own home with good care. Cuts to Medicaid could severely impact his quality of life and possibly cost him his life.

I agree with Senator McCain. I want to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. No one will win if we have to start over with a state-by-state build your own health care solution that will take years to build and inevitably result in inequities based on where you live. With all the talent, brains and economics in the United States, we should be able to figure this out without people losing their health care and their lives.

Debra Kidney  
Portland, Oregon

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Carol Brydolf [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 7:57 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No on GCH!!!

My college-educated adult children, who have worked full time since graduating 8 and 10 years ago, relied on the ACA for coverage for years when their employers didn't offer health insurance.

The GC bill would destroy this coverage and cut young Americans like my kids off their health insurance--in addition to really hurting middle -class families, children, seniors, people with chronic illnesses and pre-existing conditions.

Doctors, nurses, hospital administrators, insurers, patients, consumer advocates, your constituents: all say this bill is a terrible idea.

Vote no!!!

Carol Brydolf  
Medford, OR  
97504

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Phoebe Thornock [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 7:53 PM  
**To:** gchcomments

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, Phoebe Thornock

Portland, Oregon

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Kathy Presnell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 7:52 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

My husband was diagnosed at age 42 with early-onset dementia. This has been a hardship in many ways for our family, but thankfully he is covered by my insurance. However, if I lose my job or even change jobs, it would be impossible for him to get insurance if pre-existing conditions are excluded. Even if they are included, an increased premium when we are a single income family would make an already difficult situation even more untenable. Please reconsider this bill, and redouble your efforts to improve the Affordable Care Act, not dismantle it.

Kathy Presnell  
Salem, Oregon

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Eric Danko [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 7:51 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Registering opposition to Graham-Cassidy

Title Of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing  
Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017  
Full Name: Eric Danko  
Address: [REDACTED]

I am writing because I vehemently oppose the Graham-Cassidy proposal for healthcare reform in the United States. I, along with millions of other Americans and, as far as I can tell, every major organization providing or facilitating healthcare, have serious concerns about the proposal's effect on Americans in low-income brackets, Americans with pre-existing conditions, and our senior citizens who would find it anywhere from much more difficult to basically impossible to afford healthcare. I feel the proposal is not bipartisan, has not been considered thoroughly even by its authors, and will not succeed in its alleged goal of making healthcare easier to obtain for all in the United States. I will lend my support wholeheartedly to a bipartisan effort to accomplish healthcare reform for American citizens. The Graham-Cassidy proposal is no such thing and I urge all members of the Senate to oppose its passage.

Best,  
Eric Danko

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** 'Karen Bledsoe' [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 7:49 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Submitting public testimony for the Graham-Cassidy Hearing

I'm one of the lucky few. I have employer-subsidized health insurance. Nevertheless, I worry. My husband recently retired and is reliant on my insurance and basic Medicare. He's had electrical problems of the heart and thyroid problems, all due to genetics, not any negligence on his part. Consequently he has a whole slew of pre-existing conditions and ongoing issues. My health is good so far, but I live with a family history of heart disease and my own pre-existing conditions. We pay extra to get the best health insurance my employer provides. And yet, as I read the plans for various insurance choices during open enrollment this year, I realize how easily we could be bankrupted by a single catastrophic health event.

And it will only get worse if the current ACA repeal goes through.

Premiums will rise. Caps on lifetime outcomes will fall -- and may pull the rug from under those of us who have ongoing issues. And pre-existing conditions will be back to haunt us.

Making everyone buy health coverage was the trade-off for dropping pre-existing conditions. Insurance companies can't have both.

We NEED bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. We NEED affordable access to health care for everyone in this nation. We need to stop talking about who "deserves" health care and why, and start talking as we used to in this country, before the Nixon era, before health care became a for-profit major industry. It's immoral to even think that there are people who "deserve" to die because they dared to get sick, because they dared to be born with a genetic condition.

Every other industrial nation on this planet manages to provide health care for all. It's long past time that America caught up with the rest of the world.

--

Dr. Karen E. Bledsoe  
Salem, Oregon



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Lane Dewan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:04 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy, Improve ACA

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare, including mental health care. We have a young son who will likely continue to require significant medical care, and we should not have to live in fear of reduced access or increased costs, in addition to coping with health challenges. Because of this, and so many other reasons, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Lane Weeks DeWan

Tigard, Oregon

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Michelle Holley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:22 PM  
**To:** gchcomments

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband is on Medicare and has supplemental insurance. I am a contractor and must purchase my own health insurance. I'm a 63-year-old woman. You don't get to 63 without getting one condition or another. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. It IS too expensive. So fix it. Don't repeal it.

Sincerely,  
Iva Michelle Holley

Hillsboro, Oregon

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Beth Chapman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:01 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** public testimony

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,

Beth Chapman

Portland, Oregon

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Patty Newland [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:00 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Do not repeal the Affordable Healthcare act

Please do not repeal the Affordable Healthcare act. I depend upon it as a 59 year old shealthy person who has worked since I was 16.

I have been self employed as a Clinical Social worker since 1985. Since I pay for my own health care, the Affordable healthcare act has been a blessing.

Additionally, my best friend has MS, and my sister-in-law has severe health issues. My loved ones would be terribly affected by denied health care due to pre-existing conditions clauses.

Please stand down.

Patty Newland  
Portland, Oregon

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Shannon Overman, [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:45 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** In Support of the Affordable Care Act

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband is a cancer survivor. This pre-existing condition under the Graham-Cassidy bill would make it impossible for him to get coverage. Every person on this Earth should receive equitable, dependable and quality healthcare. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Do what's right for millions of people.

Sincerely,  
Shannon Overman  
Eugene, Oregon

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Mitch and Barbara [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:45 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare bill

Dear Senators,

I have been a primary care provider for over 20 years. When The ACA went into effect in Oregon, thousands of Oregonians received healthcare, many for the first time in years. We have been able to **reduce the costs** of emergency room visits because patients got control of their diabetes, hypertension and asthma/copd. We **improved health** by providing immunizations, preventive care exams, and treating illness and infection.

Please work on a bipartisan **improvement** to the ACA, **not repeal**, which will hurt so many **millions of Americans**.

Sincerely,  
Barbara Bryson  
[REDACTED]  
Eugene, OR 97405

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Sue Kreft [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:05 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

Please do not pass this bill. It will absolutely devastate unbelievable numbers of citizens of this country. It is obscene that in particular Republicans would refuse to try bipartisanship to work together for the good of our nation. All I can see is that many Republican Senators and Congressmen so hate President Obama that they would rather hurt their constituents than simply work together to improve the ACA. Why do so many hate their fellow citizens? That's what it comes down to for me. You want to lower taxes for the uber-wealthy, take away healthcare, damage Social Security. It looks like you want me just to die if I get sick. I'm 65 and do have a few minor health issues at this time. I'm fortunate to have a decent pension, blessed to receive 83% of my working income, but it's still not a big pension. It's getting by. Now that I'm retired, my copays and meds have gone up in price. This bill will make it much worse. Please please, I beg you, show compassion, not hate, for your fellow citizens and throw out this horrible bill! Please work together across the aisle and put us first. Forget that you made campaign promises. It was a bad promise to begin with, and many of your constituents are only now learning how much it will hurt them if you repeal.

Sue Kreft  
[REDACTED]  
Salem, OR 97301

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** enid lessne [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:26 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GRAHAM/CASSIDY HEALTHCARE BILL

To Whom It May Concern:

If THE GRAHAM/CASSIDY HEALTHCARE BILL is passed,  
I will single-handedly make sure that every Legislative & Executive Branch employee-  
LOSES 'ALL' THEIR MEDICAL BENEFITS!

Let's see YOU decide 'Life & Death Matters' for your Constituents while you & your  
families are without Medical Insurance!

Not Sincerely, Nor Respectfully,  
Enid Robin Lessne, R.N., B.S.N (Retired)  
Oregon Resident



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Deborah Ruppert [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:44 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Re: Senate Finance Committee hearing on Graham-Cassidy-Heller healthcare bill

Deborah Ruppert  
[REDACTED]

Portland OR 97203

To the Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing to express my *strongest* opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller bill that is currently before the committee. Despite the statements made by its defenders, it is obvious upon reading it that this bill would be a disaster for healthcare in the United States. The Senate's hurry to rush the bill through has precluded a full CBO score, but the best-available analyses indicate that millions of people would lose their health insurance. Not only would this be devastating for these people personally, but their communities would suffer as well. Hospitals and nursing homes, often the largest employer in a region, would be forced to close due to lack of revenue, putting hundreds of thousands of people out of work and affecting the economies of every state.

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller bill would be a catastrophe for me because I am an older (65yo) woman disabled by polio. I live on Social Security disability and I cannot afford to live on my own as it is. I depend on a reasonably priced Medicare Advantage plan for my health care. Besides the neurological effects that polio has left me with, I also have a number of skeletal issues, including a severe (more than 90 degree) dorso-lumbar scoliosis, leading to a lung capacity of 44% of what it should be...solely because my right lung is all squashed up. I have severe osteoarthritis in both ankles, from having broken each of them; one developed an infection that removed all the cartilage in the ankle and started eating my tibia, the other was shattered in an automobile accident that was not my fault. I have Type 2 diabetes. These are all pre-existing conditions that will preclude me from affordable insurance. Medicare alone will not purchase many prescriptions I need to simply function at a bare minimum. I will die...soon, and painfully...without them. Have you ever had something that hurt all the time, every minute of every day, for years and years and years? I do. The drugs help.

It's not just me. My housemate is also living on SSDI; we share housing because neither of us can afford to live on our own. She also depends on life-saving prescriptions from her reasonably priced Medicare Advantage plan. My ex-husband is suicidal if he cannot fill his prescriptions for depression medications. He uses the health care marketplace to be able to afford to pay for them, on his Social Security.

Even more important, to me, is my grand-daughter, who is now 13. At the age of 10, her mother and her twin sister were killed in a horrific auto accident. She was Lifeflighted to a major children's trauma center, and was not expected to live the night...and then the next night....and then the next night. She battled enormous odds and was in the hospital for 360 days, undergoing uncounted surgeries and procedures. She was only, in the last few months, taken off intravenous nutrition and allowed to eat real food. She is insured by Oregon's Medicaid. She still needs at least one surgery that has to wait, if possible, until she is 18 and fully grown. She has to be carefully followed and sees doctors frequently. My son, her dad, does not have a job with insurance and could not afford to buy insurance on his own if he had to; he barely makes ends meet. Under this bill, my grand-daughter...the last of her generation of my family....will die.

Is this what you want? The outcome of this bill is not simply important to me--it is a matter of life and death. I hope you will do the right thing and vote NO. I would truly like to believe you have the best interests of our country at heart, and that you are not evil, unfeeling people on the committee. Please vote NO. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Deborah Ruppert

## **Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kris M Gates [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:20 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Don't Destroy Affordable Healthcare for Americans!

Graham-Cassidy is bad for America! Congress should be strengthening the ACA instead of dismantling it to be able to afford more tax cuts for the wealthy. The middle class is struggling and when healthcare insurance is unaffordable for average families, it destabilizes our economy. The GOP should be ashamed that they have abandoned bipartisan efforts and instead kowtowed to a few special interests who want Obamacare to die.

Any bill that squeaks through with 51 votes does not represent a positive step. The FINANCE committee is not the proper place to be writing healthcare legislation! Return to regular order and listen to medical experts, patient advocates, and the insurance industry to improve our existing system.

Keep the ACA in place, add a public option, allow price negotiations with drug companies, and put the interest of our citizens first in governance.

Kris Gates  
Portland, Oregon

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Joni Brewer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:35 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care bill

Hi,

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

Over the years I've had problems with back and hip pain, because of this I have a "pre-existing condition" and even though I don't need medication and treat myself with exercise, yoga, and meditation, I could still be refused healthcare or it would be unaffordable.

I agree that there are parts of the ACA that need improvement and I would like to see bi-partisan congressional support to do this, NOT repeal the ACA.

Thank you,

Joni Brewer  
Salem, OR

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Joan brown [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:56 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare

I am an RN case manager in Oregon. One of my roles is helping people get the care they need at home and if possible, get medical coverage if they have none.

Having been in this role for several years, I have been witness to the charges that the ACA has made. People who had no insurance (or care and had high risk health problems) clogged up the Emergency Room System while getting no continuity of care.

Over the years since the ACA has been implemented, we have put in place some great systems to ensure better follow up and care. We are just now starting to see positive outcomes. This is not the time to shred all the time, dollars and hours of thoughtful planning that thousands of healthcare workers and health experts have invested to improve our broken system.

The ACA was not perfect but with such opposition by a large part of our Congress and dirty media tricks, we have never been able to work together to improve it.

The insurers, the DME companies and Big Pharma all drive up costs and all are opposed to lowering their profits. What better way to cut costs than to throw the elderly out of nursing facilities (primarily financed by Medicaid Services not Medicaid insurance). However, if you cut Medicaid, you kill all of this.

My community used to have funds to send caregivers out to homes to check on and assist our vulnerable elders. This was a godsend for many of my patients. Congress already cut those funds about 2-3 yrs ago so now we have more hospital admissions for fractured hips and an entire array of other issues.

No matter how much the top GOP or even Dem donors want to just cut the funding so they can pay less taxes, this problem will not go away.

Every civilized world budgets to take care of its people. If we don't budget for this, it is easy to say that it is just too costly.

I spend another part of my job trying to figure out how to get people the medications that they need. Why is it that their physician can order a medication that came out 20-40 years ago and was once a \$4 co-pay but suddenly it is \$300 and the person's co-pay is \$150. People on a fixed income cannot afford this and many go without and end up with high cost admissions that cost us all in the end.

The places to look to cut costs are not by killing people (talk about your death panels). Why is this term not being used in this fight??

We need to fund these issues and not the multi billionaires' bank account and those of our slimy legislators.

If this bill passes, there will be a breakdown within society like we have never seen. If that is their goal, it will be accomplished.

I am so ashamed of my country. When I was younger, I felt that those in need had a chance in this country. Now we are living in a cold, greedy, corrupt country that the rest of the world is looking at in horror.

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Beth Richman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:12 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy hearing

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

Thank you for listening to my story and opinion.

Sincerely, Beth Richman  
Portland, OR

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:24 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GC Healthcare Bill

Dear Finance Committee,

I am writing in opposition of this disastrous GC healthcare bill. It will kick 32 million people off their health insurance and hurt people. People will die. Medicare slashes will be devastating. This bill is wrong.

Consider the financial aspect of this cruel bill: Health care workers will lose their jobs. People will go bankrupt trying to pay for health care or if not that, certainly won't be able to afford necessities like food and clothing. Sick people who cannot receive proper medication and doctors care and will miss more days of work, possibly losing their jobs. It will have a domino effect on the larger economy.

I have a chronic eye condition that needs constant medication and ophthalmologists visits in order not to go blind. How many people would go blind or lose limbs? These are conditions which will affect our American workforce if many people lose their jobs because they could not get proper health care.

Please, please do not let this bill pass! I know with more time and bipartisan effort, a better solution can be reached.

Thank you,  
Nancy Swann

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Portland Oregon 97211



## **Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Gabrielle Karras [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:11 PM  
**To:** gchcomments; Ron Wyden; Senator, noreply (Merkley)  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill SAY NO!

My name is Gabrielle Karras and I live in Portland, Oregon. Only two years ago, when my husband was unemployed and we had very little money to spend on healthcare we relied on ACA. We were able to use the ACA's advance tax premium credit to pay for our premiums. I believe everyone in the US needs quality, affordable healthcare. Healthcare is a right. It is not enough to promise access - we must make it possible for people to afford it. This new bill eliminates the provision that protects people who have preconditions like I do - a history of depression. Many organizations such as the Center of American Progress have projected with this new bill premiums would go up at least 20 percent. I could go on and on why it is a terrible bill. These well respected institutions or organizations are opposed it.

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

- **American College of Preventive Medicine**
- **American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists**
- **American Diabetes Association**
- **America's Essential Hospitals**
- **American Foundation for the Blind**
- **American Health Care Association**
- **America's Health Insurance Plans**
- **American Heart Association**
- **American Hospital Association**
- **American Liver Foundation**
- **American Lung Association**
- **American Medical Association**
- **American Nurses Association**
- **American Osteopathic Association**
- **American Occupational Therapy Association**
- **American Psychiatric Association**
- **American Psychological Association**
- **American Public Health Association**
- **American Society for Addiction Medicine**
- **American Speech-Language-Hearing Association**
- **Amputee Coalition**
- **The Arc**

- **Arthritis Foundation**
- **Association for Community Affiliated Plans**
- **Association of American Medical Colleges**
- **Association of University Centers on Disabilities**
- **Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America**
- **Autism Society**
- **Autism Speaks**
- **Autistic Self Advocacy Network**
- **Big Cities Health Coalition**
- **Blue Cross Blue Shield Association**
- **Catholic Health Association**
- **Children's Hospital Association**
- **Center for Medicare Advocacy**
- **Coalition to Stop Opioid Overdose**
- **Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities**
- **COPD Foundation**
- **Cystic Fibrosis Foundation**
- **Family Voices**
- **Federation of American Hospitals**
- **HIV Medicine Association**
- **Infectious Diseases Society of America**

- **JDRF**
- **Lutheran Services in America**
- **Kaiser Permanente**
- **March of Dimes**
- **Medicare Rights Center**
- **National Association of Medicaid Directors**
- **National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners**
- **National Association of School Nurses**
- **National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship**
- **National Down Syndrome Congress**
- **National Health Council**
- **National Institute for Reproductive Health**
- **National Kidney Foundation**
- **National Multiple Sclerosis Society**
- **National Organization for Rare Diseases**
- **Planned Parenthood**
- **Public Health Institute**
- **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**
- **Trust for America's Health**
- **WomenHeart**

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

Sincerely, Gabrielle Karrs  
Portland, Oregon.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Pamela Erwin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:43 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comments

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

Having worked in healthcare for 30 years, my family has seen the lack of healthcare for veterans where they died prematurely. We have seen the ravages of a public without the funds to stop a meningococcal contagion in a community costing several lives. We have seen the economic and emotional cost of children with chronic illness. We have seen many drug addicted costs on our people and communities. We have been in the trenches providing care to all who appear needing help and crying the tears because we have God in our hearts.

There are too many unintended consequences in this bill. Economic and public health chaos will ensue in the states if the Graham-Cassidy bill were to pass. Because of this, I oppose the Bill.

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

Sincerely,

Pamela Erwin and family

Phoenix, AZ

Portland, OR

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Emily Farrer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:28 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare Bill

Hello,

Please cancel the Cassidy Graham Healthcare bill. It is an unfair and unreasonable proposal and will hurt millions of Americans.

Thank you!

Emily Farrer  
For Oregon City School Board  
Facebook: [REDACTED]  
Website: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Johanna Spencer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:14 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My adult children have relied on ACA coverage for birth control and medications. My husband was unemployed for about 5 years prior to our marriage. When the affordable healthcare plan passed. He was able to finally get needed medications which allowed him to go back to work and be a productive citizen. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Johanna Spencer  
Oregon  
Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Carissa Kimmell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:28 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

I am a breast cancer survivor and Oncology Nurse, so I know both personally and professionally how important access to affordable care is for better health outcomes. Cancer treatment is enormously expensive, and I have patients who would undoubtedly cease treatment if they lost their coverage. They would have no other choice.

I know the Affordable Care Act has it's problems, but I'd rather see a bipartisan Congressional effort to fix the ACA, not repeal it and leave Americans without access to care.

Thank you,

Carissa Kimmell  
Portland, OR



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Candace [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:27 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO repeal without bipartisan replacement

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. My husband had cancer surgery last year and will "forever" be considered a person with a pre-existing condition. Even though he is cancer free at this moment we would likely be charged much more for his health care considering that he has had been treated for cancer. We know that others have these conditions and worse and the states should not be mandated to take less money from the federal government and then try to triage whose health care is most important. So many in so much need. Please do not limit support of health care for the Americans you are paid to work for and protect in order to provide tax cuts for the wealthy. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Candace Brey  
Bend, Oregon

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Maureen Wallace [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 7:38 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Fwd: Healthcare bill

**From:** Maureen Wallace [REDACTED]  
**Date:** September 22, 2017 at 4:16:12  
**Subject:** Healthcare bill

Dear Finance Committee,

Please do not support the healthcare bill being reviewed in your committee. "Access" to insurance for pre-existing conditions means it will be costly. I have in the past been denied insurance due to a pre-existing condition. It was a humiliating experience that made me feel defective. I do not want anyone else to suffer this kind of unfair fate.

We never know what kind of health problem might hit us. I am in favor of a bipartisan approach.

Thank you.

Maureen Wallace  
Jacksonville OR

Sent from my iPad

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Willow Joseph [REDACTED] m>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:09 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

Hello.

I am writing as a concerned citizen about the Graham/Cassidy bill. I want you to know that I STRONGLY SUPPORT HEALTHCARE ACCESS FOR ALL AMERICANS.

It is reckless and irresponsible to vote on this bill before a complete CBO analysis has been completed and shared with the American people. Decisions that affect millions of citizens and one-sixth of our economy should not be politically motivated. We are talking about people's lives and livelihoods.

Every major medical group has come out in opposition to this bill. We need public hearings, town halls, and information campaigns, not back channel deal making.

I know people personally that are living in fear that they won't be able to afford the care that literally keeps them alive.

Now is the time for people of conscience to do the right thing. Not the politically convenient thing.

Thank you,  
Willow Joseph  
Portland, OR

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** MRedmond [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:58 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Keep & improve the ACA

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. I am 63 years old and self-employed, so have to buy my health insurance on the individual market. I rely on the Affordable Care Act for access to quality, affordable healthcare; as my income is not high, the subsidies make a huge difference for me. Although I am in good health, as an older person I naturally have preexisting conditions, and the ACA has meant that I can't be denied insurance. The annual and lifetime caps that the ACA specifies give me the peace of mind of knowing I will not be bankrupted if I develop a serious illness or am injured in an accident. People will suffer if this terrible Graham-Cassidy bill is passed: lives will be lost, and families will be ruined. Please keep and improve the ACA.

Sincerely,  
Michele S. Redmond  
South Beach, Oregon

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Hannah Mahler [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:00 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Testimony to save/improve ACA

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Last year I had my second baby, and while I was pregnant they discovered I had a cyst on my ovary that would have to be removed. While I was pregnant I was on Medicaid which was wonderful because I had to have so many ultrasounds and would never have been able to afford all of them. After my daughter was born, I was able to easily sign up for healthcare on Healthcare.gov and find a plan that would cover the surgery I would have to have to remove the cyst. If I hadn't been able to get insurance, it would have cost me over \$8,000. Just because the ACA has problems does not mean it should be completely scrapped. These are real people's lives. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Hannah Mahler

Corvallis, OR

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kate Bryant [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:00 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA

To Whom It May Concern:

Thanks to the ACA, I received essential hip surgery that let me return to work and good health quickly a year and a half ago, after a work injury. I could never, ever have afforded that surgery and my work contributions and frankly, my life, would have been terribly diminished without the high quality, affordable healthcare I received. For this reason, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Please contribute to a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, and do NOT “repeal and replace”. It’s a terrific program that needs tweaking, not replacement.

Thank you!

Kate Bryant  
Portland, Oregon  
Kate Bryant [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Elaine Hultengren [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:45 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** G-CH hearing

I am writing to you because my family relies on qualifying health care. I also have various friends who have limited funds and are fighting cancer, mental health issues and drug addictions that they could not fight w/out Medicaid. They are trying hard to better their lives and secure some stability w/their health. This is why I am against the current efforts to repeal the current health care laws. I do not understand the heartlessness that is being engendered in this current legislation. I urge you to support human beings by not supporting this bill. Thank you for your serious consideration.

Elaine Hultengren  
Salem, Oregon

Sent from my iPhone. Have a great day! Elaine

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Yvonne Uribe-Lomnicky [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:45 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare Act

**Hello,**

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

Kind regards,

Yvonne Uribe-Lomnicky

Corvallis, Oregon



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jeanne Holmes [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:57 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

I depend on quality, affordable health care. Because of this I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am a senior recently diagnosed with Parkinson's. My quality of life depends on consistent, reliable, affordable health care now and in the future. This half-baked bill has not been adequately vetted, and seems like a last ditch effort by the Republicans to pass anything they can to repeal the ACA. Let's have a thoughtful, bi-partisan effort to improve the problems with ACA, and not repeal it.

Jeanne Holmes  
Corvallis, Oregon  
97333

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Elizabeth Winslow [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:56 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Keep Affordable Healthcare

I have family members who rely on this insurance. Surely, in good conscience, you must maintain all Americans' access to health care. Please work with Democrats and Independents to strengthen the bureaucracy already in place which is serving your fellow human beings and maybe even some of your own family members.

Thank you,  
Elizabeth M Winslow  
Portland, Oregon

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Amy Hoffmann [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:00 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Testimony Against the Graham-Cassidy

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have struggled with affordable healthcare my whole adult life, particularly as I began to build a family and continued to be self-employed. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Amy Hoffmann

Portland, OR

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Dawn Holt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:00 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Reject Graham/Cassidy

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband broke his hip last November and although he's doing well, having that disqualify us from buying affordable insurance because of a preexisting condition would be devastating. We are both over 50 (my husband is over 60) and the potential increase to our payments based on our age is decidedly unfair.

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

Sincerely, Dawn Holt

Beaverton, Oregon

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Lydia Lord [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:06 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Improve the ACA, don't trash it!

My family relies on reliable, affordable health care. My husband is retired on disability, has numerous preexisting conditions, and has had 28 surgeries over the course of his life. There is no way we would be able to pay for his health problems without assistance. Graham-Cassidy, regardless of Sen. Cassidy's protests to the contrary, will NOT take care of people with pre-existing conditions. It is a pathetic attempt to appease the Koch brothers & other big donors, & to demonstrate to the Republican base that you are still trying to make good on your efforts to repeal the ACA. Congress needs to work together — that means a bipartisan effort! — to improve the ACA, which does have some problems, but is a much better bill than you would like us to think.

Sincerely,

Lydia Lord  
Eugene, OR

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Pat [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:44 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy hearing

To whom it may concern,

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Therefore, I must oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Family members have histories of diabetes, heart problems and lymphoma. All are pre-existing conditions that require quality health care. Without affordable health care and treatment my family would be faced with potentially fatal decisions.

Instead of repealing the ACA, it should be reformed and improved by a bipartisan effort.

Sincerely,  
Patricia Bibee  
Ashland, Oregon

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Karen Eichler [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:45 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill!

It is imperative that all Americans have healthcare. My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare.

I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

This bill will take healthcare from millions of people. I am almost 60-years old and I need health insurance. I have several pre-existing conditions and if my health insurance premiums are raised because of the Graham-Cassidy bill, I wouldn't be able to afford it.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. And at some point, I'd like the U.S. to institute single-payer healthcare!

Sincerely,

Karen Eichler

Portland, OR

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jennifer Hofmann [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:58 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing

Greetings,

I'm a small business owner in Salem, Oregon writing to express my support for the ACA and opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Two months before the ACA became law, I found myself on a gurney in an ambulance, being rushed to the emergency room with excruciating chest pain. Despite having applied three times for health insurance, willing to pay out of pocket, I had been rejected for pre-existing conditions. When the doctor told me I needed emergency surgery for an obstructed bile duct--a condition that would be fatal without intervention--I was terrified. My fear wasn't for my life, but for the expense.

The total bills from that event came to over \$17,000--an amount almost equivalent to my annual income at the time. I can't describe the anxiety I felt about paying for this emergency surgery and not knowing how it would be possible. No American should have to choose between destitution or health.

I actually cried with relief when Obamacare came along. Thanks to a subsidy, it was the first time in my self-employed life that I could afford medical care. I made long-overdue checkup appointments, got the screenings I needed, and stopped worrying about every minor ache and pain being my next financial crisis. Later, as my business grew, I started paying for my own coverage without the subsidy.

Having lived through that experience, I am happy to know my taxes support other Americans who need coverage, just like I once did. I am dismayed that congressmen and women want to allow states to pick and choose forms of coverage that leave my fellow citizens vulnerable and afraid. I oppose Graham-Cassidy, and entreat congressional officials to start collaborating. It's time to repair what is broken in the ACA so that all people can focus on healing instead on possible financial ruin when the unexpected happens. The ACA helps keep people healthy, and with the will and some determination, Congress can make it work even better.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Hofmann  
Salem, Oregon  
[REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Elisabeth Fillmore [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:43 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. Thanks to Medicaid, I was able to see a therapist in April when I needed to, and as a result get on the right meds and find my feet again. Now I have a job and a community, and I wouldn't have been able to do that without the mental health support in the Oregon Health Plan. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Elisabeth

Lake Oswego, OR

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Elisabeth Fillmore  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Ed Bokhour [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:01 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Opposition to Graham Cassidy health care bill

I am deeply opposed to the Graham Cassidy health care bill which will shortly be voted on in the Senate.

My grandmother spent her life savings in the final few years of her life, well before ACA, and put a large dent in my mother's savings as well. My sister has struggled with chronic illness for many years, and actually lost insurance coverage for a period of years, due to pre-existing conditions, until the ACA came along and saved her and her financial security. My father is now in the hospital for the fourth time in 8 years. He has had two heart valve replacements and now has lung cancer. I do not know what we would have done if he did not have affordable insurance. His business, which employs a dozen people in the NYC area, would likely have closed.

I am fortunate to have only a small number of health issues, but without insurance even those could have been too expensive to handle for my family, and if my insurance rates go up because of them, I and my family would be left exposed to any significant health issues which came our way.

My family and I have paid into the insurance system our entire adult lives, and we do not mind. We have benefited from our policies, as I know have so many others. The GCH bill would put all that at risk, and bring us back to a time when only the wealthy could afford being very sick. That would be barbaric, and we must not go back to that time.

Thank you,  
Ed Bokhour

[REDACTED]  
Concord, Ma 01742

[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** MargoBuck <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:38 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Health Bill

The Graham Cassidy bill is the worst effort at health care reform I have seen. And, that is saying something, since I worked in health care for 44 years. There are many obvious problems in the bill - 32 million thrown off insurance, expected > 20% increases in policy costs, lack of protection for those with pre-existing conditions, and many others. BUT - it is ludicrous, and inefficient, to have each of the 50 states set up their own, private health systems. SO stupid. SO much overhead. And, it eliminates any real ability for insurance companies to sell policies across state lines.

The American people want a BIPARTISAN health solution.

I'd be glad to help and I live nearby :-)

**Margaret Buckingham**  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Martha Reddick [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:37 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please vote NO on this bill

Hello,

My name is Martha Reddick and I currently live in Chicago, IL. I cannot tell you how disappointed I am in the government that they are, once again, trying to take away healthcare from millions of Americans. Please vote no on this bill. If it were good for the American people, then you'd let the CBO score it. You'd have broken down exactly why it will be better, but you can not do any of that because it's a very thinly veiled attempt to deny millions of Americans health coverage. Please vote no on this. Please put the lives of millions of American people above your own pockets. I would rather you be liars for your campaign promises than outright killers, which is what voting yes on this bill means. You are signing on to the death of millions of Americans. I've linked some articles that explain the bill to anyone who doesn't want to actually read it.

Thank you for your time,  
Martha Reddick

<https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2017/9/20/16333374/graham-cassidy-republican-obamacare-repeal-cartoon>

<https://www.vox.com/health-care/2017/9/20/16333338/obamacare-repeal-graham-cassidy>

<http://www.politico.com/interactives/2017/graham-cassidy-health-care-bill-what-you-need-to-know/>

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jennifer Kushner <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:37 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Statement on Graham-Cassidy

I do not believe that Graham-Cassidy should even be allowed a vote at this time. There is no CBO report, senators don't have the facts, there have not been hearings, and even those who plan to vote yes say it is flawed, but they promised to repeal and replace.

Lives are at stake.

Let me say that again:

LIVES ARE AT STAKE!!!!

We can't just repeal for the sake of repealing if we don't have anything better in its place.

Thanks,

Jen Kushner  
Vestal, NY

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** WonderGirl Amy <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:36 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy "Healthcare"

We the people see what the GOP is trying to do. Putting political gain ahead of the health and welfare of the American people is truly deplorable. No CBO score, crafting this garbage in the dark of the night and trying to jam it through, will not go unnoticed. No mental healthcare?! No prenatal care?! Unlimited premiums for those with pre-existing conditions. You are not gentlemen of the people, you are true scoundrels. But don't worry, we are on to you. Have you been getting our calls? This is not healthcare. This will not benefit anyone, except those you are trying to give massive tax cuts. Well no, we don't want it. No!

Sincerely,

Amy Lyn Vodicka  
Constituent from Nebraska

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Lee Ann Holland [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:35 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** The impacts of Graham-Cassidy on my child

My daughter is 8-years-old. She is autistic and has a rare form of epilepsy, both caused by a rare genetic disorder, Kabuki syndrome. Basically, her DNA is a pre-existing condition. I think she is a "rare kid."

She will need medical treatment for her seizures (daily meds and expensive monitoring tests in the hospital) for the rest of her life. She spends 2-3 hours after school each day in various therapies (speech, occupational, behavior and academic tutoring) to help her overcome the challenges of autism, like lack of communication, social skills and sensory sensitivity. She will likely need the lifelong supports provided by Medicaid through Home and Community Based Services to live as independently as possible rather than in an institution.

Her dad has a good job, and we have employer-based insurance. But lifetime and annual caps would put the care that our daughter needs out of reach for us financially. Not to mention that we could be denied coverage or charged more if he ever loses that job.

And, Medicaid helps middle class families like mine care for our loved ones who are disabled through the waiver program. For us, Medicaid primarily covers the out-of-pocket costs for hospital stays and tests for my daughter. She's been in the hospital for tests twice this year; both times under anesthesia and once overnight.

We already live lean to afford the help my daughter needs to thrive. If you pull the safety net of Medicaid and the consumer protections of the ACA out from under us, I honestly don't know how we will manage. And my child will suffer, along with the millions like her who rely on the same programs.

As you are debating the facts and figures of this bill, please remember that you hold the lives and futures of millions in your hands. One of them is my precious child. Please don't do this. Do not pass Graham-Cassidy.

Thank you for listening,

Lee Ann Holland

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Sharon Drazner [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:35 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Bill  
**Attachments:** IMG\_0766.JPG; ATT00001.txt

To whom It May Concern,

This is my 40 year old intellectually disabled son, who has autism and epilepsy. He depends on Medicaid to fund his group home and health care.

My husband and I have worked all our lives and are now in our 70's. We constantly worry about Keith's future after we are gone. We are not capable of taking care of him if Medicaid doesn't provide these services he so desperately needs. The larger issue is that we need to help those who are most vulnerable. None of us knows what the future will bring but disability can happen with age and we are not all fortunate enough to have the money to provide for unforeseen circumstances. Many in the disability community are feeling that this bill conveys the idea that people with disabilities should be thrown away after a cap in money for services has been reached. Please consider the fact that my son has not made bad choices or broken the law and his family who loves him wants him to have a life of quality.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sharon Drazner  
Highland Park, Illinois



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Steve Helland <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:35 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Steve Helland; Betty Helland  
**Subject:** Senators Graham, Cassidy, Heller, and Ron Johnson Health Reform Bill

Dear Senators:

We are the parents of an adult child who is disabled with Down Syndrome. There is no question that the Affordable Care Act has many flaws and we welcome efforts to reform it. But, from what we know about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal, we are concerned about how this would affect the most vulnerable people in our nation.

Specifically, we are very concerned that this proposal would allow states to eliminate protections for people with pre-existing conditions as well as allowing the states to cut health coverage and raise premiums and out-of-pocket costs for a large number of disabled Americans.

Cuts in health care and Medicaid would definitely and directly diminish our son Andrew's quality of life. We know that Andrew is only one of millions similarly affected. Please remember, and be guided by, the fact that the disabled adults of our country often cannot participate in our governmental system like other Americans -- which is why they are often termed a "vulnerable" population. The disabled must rely upon your decency and integrity for the care and protections of their lives and the quality of those lives.

We are advocating here for our son Andrew because he can not do it for himself. We would respectfully request that you advocate for Andrew as well. Thank you for your consideration.

Steve and Betty Helland

[REDACTED]  
Madison, WI 53705  
[REDACTED]

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Life is what happens to you while  
you are busy making other plans.

-- John Lennon

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Sandra Alexander [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:35 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Coments on the Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am OPPOSED to the Graham-Cassidy bill.

I believe that health care coverage in the US requires federal oversight and protections so that Americans do not experience variable coverage as they cross state lines. The Graham-Cassidy bill would eliminate the following protections currently provided under the ACA. The Graham-Cassidy bill:

- Eliminates guaranteed protections for people with pre-existing conditions
- Eliminates the requirement for essential health benefits
- Lifts the prohibition of charging people more as they get older
- Lifts the prohibition that insurers cannot spend more than 15% for administrative expenses
- Guts Medicaid and the Medicaid expansion
- Eliminates the individual and employer mandate Defunds Planned Parenthood

In addition, the routine process for passing bills of this magnitude has been bypassed in the Republican's rush to repeal and replace ACA before the end of September. There have not been public hearings about the Graham-Cassidy bill, and the CBO has indicated there is not enough time for them to do a full analysis of the impact of this bill before it may come to a vote next week. Multiple health care organizations and even health insurance companies have expressed their opposition to this bill that would be destabilizing for individuals, the healthcare market and our economy.

This bill would have devastating consequences for millions of Americans and for the US economy.

Thank you.

Sandra Alexander  
[REDACTED]  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Holly Beyer <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:34 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health plan

With your new health care bill by classify and graham will force me to go without health insurance! Thank you so much for thinking about us tax payers who pay you to do the right thing!

I depend on the subsidy to be able to afford health insurance,your taking that away,I don't trust government politicians to do the right thing whether federal or state,you are all bought and paid for.

You are taking away my pre-existing conditions,I am at the age where you always have a pre existing condition,so now my premium will sky rocket! Thank you so much for that!

Once again you have slapped your constituents in the face by ripping away our health insurance before a CBO score,commitee hearings,and input from health professionals ,you are no longer real politicians,you are handed babies by donors money,shameful!

Grow up and do the right thing,your doing exactly what you complained about when ACA went thru!  
Do the right thing!!!

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Don Teply [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:34 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GCH- Ben Sasse/ Deb Fischer

We are parents of a child with Down Syndrome. We are asking that you oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill. Our son relies on Medicaid for services that make it possible for him to live and work out in the community. To allow states to waive protections for people with pre-existing conditions is to take away from all people with a disability. We would ask that you would oppose any bill that seeks to cut, cap, or block grants for our loved ones with a disability.

Sincerely, Don and Shirley Teply

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Micky Baer <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:32 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

I'm writing to implore you not to allow the Graham-Cassidy Bill to pass in it's current state. I understand that you want to do away with the ACA. It is not perfect and could be improved. But to replace it with this bill simply for the purpose of getting rid of Obamacare politicizes people's health, both physical and mental.

Under the Graham-Cassidy bill my 11 year old daughter could easily be denied the mental health services she so sorely needs. Allowing for lifetime caps would be devastating for her and so many others. Allowing states to decide for themselves if they are to deny coverage or charge more to people with pre-existing conditions is cruel and will result in loss of life for so many.

If my opinion doesn't mean much to you, please consider the opinions of experts like the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association ("This bill harms our most vulnerable patients"), the American Public Health Association ("Graham Cassidy would devastate the Medicaid program, increase out-of-pocket costs, and weaken or eliminate protections for people living with preexisting conditions"), the National Institute for Reproductive Health ("the Graham-Cassidy bill preys on underserved communities ... a clear and present danger"), and Federation of American Hospitals ("It could disrupt access to health care for millions of the more than 70 million Americans") and do not allow this bill in its present form to pass the Senate."

Sincerely,  
Micky Baer

--  
Micky Baer  
PPS - Parents and Professionals for Success  
[pps109.org](http://pps109.org)  
[REDACTED]

## **Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Maureen Hillary <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:33 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham -Cassidy amendment

Please hurry the potential effects of the Graham-Cassidy amendment to the whole congress. This is not going to fix the problems with Obamacare and will be so much more costly with fewer people insured. Let us know what is truly good about this new effort to help insure all Americans!

Sent from my iPhone.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Emily Campbell <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:32 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

To Whom It May Concern,

The subject proposed bill is a going to be a financial disaster for millions of Americans. There is no logic to support taking away insurance for 32M people. My son and I relied on medicaid when I was pregnant and couldn't afford insurance because back then pregnancy was a pre-existing condition. I would have gone bankrupt at 27 if it weren't for medicaid paying for my son to be in the NICU for three days. This bill takes away too much and gives nothing back to the people of this country. It is a moral disgrace that it was even proposed and it needs to be shut down.

Thank you

Emily Campbell

Illinois

## **Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Tim-Sherrie Vermande <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:14 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Ladies and gentlemen of the committee,

I am a person who was born with cerebral palsy. At birth, my doctor stated that I would live about 5 years, never be able to speak or walk, and should be put in an institution and forgotten.

Thankfully, my parents ignored that advice, obtained the medical care that they could, and raised me. I am now 62, have a master's degree and have been working most of my adult life.

That could all change if you approve this devastating and cruel mockery of a "reform" bill. The ability to receive coverage without pre-existing conditions clauses or caps means I can work. For many of my friends, it means they live. For others, it means that their families do not face bankruptcy as a daily threat because their children need medical care of the sort that I do.

We do need a long-term solution, but this is not it. Please leave partisanship behind and focus on helping all Americans reach their potential. Do not cut Medicaid, which assists our most vulnerable citizens. Do not change the restrictions on pre-existing conditions, so that everyone may have care without worry about coverage. Do not allow companies to make arbitrary and capricious denials without recourse.

Tim and Sherrie Vermande, 3645 Toronto Ct., Indianapolis IN 46268, 317-876-3718



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Anuradha Koli <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:12 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** How the ACA helped me

The Graham-Cassidy bill, this latest version of Trumpcare, is a disaster. Not only would it remove protections for pre-existing conditions, but it leaves poor people, seniors, children and adults with disabilities without coverage.

I also don't understand why states such as mine, Texas, which refused to do the humane thing and expand Medicaid coverage, should benefit one dime from states that did.

I've had painful periods for as long as I can remember. The most cost-effective treatment for me has been continuously taking oral contraceptives. Prior to the ACA, the co-pay for the pills ranged from \$50 - \$80 every quarter. That might not seem like much, but over the years, it adds up. Why was I expected to shell out for my pills? Because insurance companies could happily charge me more just for being a woman.

The ACA put a stop to that and my pills have been fully covered as a treatment for the last 6 to 7 years. As a result, I'm no longer gripped every month by debilitating cramps, which often required me to take time off of work.

Another point I'd like to raise, why am I mandated to purchase insurance for my house and car, but it's suddenly verboten when it comes to my health? How does that make any sense?

The American people have spoken time and again this year. We want to see the ACA strengthened, not repealed. If I have to pay for Senators Graham and Cassidy's healthcare, they better damn be contributing for mine.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** stan larsen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:12 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care

It is very-very important for People with Disabilities.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** eileenreed <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:12 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** graham-Cassidy bill

my comments follow :

The latest Senate Republican drive to dismantle the Affordable Care Act would sharply reduce federal spending on health insurance and cause 34 states to lose such funding, according to an analysis that details the checkerboard of winners and losers the plan would create.

The analysis by Avalere Health, a Washington-based health-policy consulting firm, forecasts that the amount of federal money devoted to Medicaid and private insurance subsidies would shrink by \$215 billion between 2020, when the plan would begin, and 2026, the last year money is provided in the Cassidy-Graham

More than half of the overall cuts in the legislation - named for its primary sponsors, Republican Sens. Bill Cassidy, La., and Lindsey Graham, S.C., - would come from Medicaid, the analysis shows.

States with relatively low medical costs, skimpy Medicaid benefits and no program expansion would win out. Texas would gain more than any state - \$35 billion from 2020 through 2026. On the other hand, states with higher-priced medicine and generous benefits for their low-income residents - such as California and New York - would lose billions of dollars.

### **itive Systems Can Bring Data to Life**

NOT ONLY THE LARGEST STATES THAT WOULD WIN OR LOSE. VIRGINIA, WHICH HAS LONG HAD STRINGENT MEDICAID BENEFITS AND ELIGIBILITY RULES, WOULD GAIN \$3 BILLION, WHILE MARYLAND, A MEDICAID EXPANSION STATE UNDER THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT, WOULD LOSE \$13 BILLION.

The bill "redistributes money from states that expanded Medicaid to states that didn't," said Caroline Pearson, a senior vice president at Avalere, which released the report Wednesday. "It is a very clear transfer."

The analysis is among a wave of predictions of the impact of the starkly conservative measure. The bill has given the GOP's years-long quest to abolish much of the ACA a surprising new chance, two months after the dramatic failure of other Senate Republican legislation.

The Cassidy-Graham measure would kill central features of the 2010 law, including its insurance subsidies, coverage requirements for individual Americans and large businesses, and benefits and other rules for health plans sold in ACA marketplaces. Instead, in a devolution of unprecedented scale, a smaller amount of health-care money would be reshuffled around the country as block grants for much of the coming decade, with states having great freedom on how to spend it.

The plan also would transform the federal role in Medicaid for traditional recipients, ending the program's half-century tradition as an open-ended entitlement in which the government gives each state a fixed share of whatever its costs are. Instead, federal aid would be converted to a per-person cap - a method that does not adjust as easily over time to expensive improvements in medical care or to possible economic downturns in which low-income people flock to the program.

The analyses of the impact of such massive changes have assumed outsize significance given the calendar. The Senate GOP is trying to speed toward a vote before the expiration on Sept. 30 of special budget rules that would allow lawmakers to pass the bill with a simple Republican majority and no Democratic votes.

Estimates by the Kaiser Family Foundation, due out Thursday morning, will show a pattern of impact on states roughly similar to that in the Avalere report. Earlier this week, a liberal think tank's forecast predicted even larger cuts. A major trade association is expected to issue its assessment by Friday.

The Senate's looming deadline means that much of the debate is occurring before the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has time to issue an official forecast of the legislation's effect. That assessment is anticipated next week.

The Avalere predictions help to explain the worries of a bipartisan group of 10 governors, who wrote to the Senate's leaders on Tuesday urging them "not to consider" the Cassidy-Graham bill. All four GOP governors who signed onto the letter - John Kasich, Ohio, Brian Sandoval, Nev., Charlie Baker, Mass., and Phil Scott, Vt., - plus the one independent, Bill Walker, Alaska, represent states that expanded their Medicaid programs under the ACA and now have the most at risk.

In a separate sign of some state officials' concerns, Louisiana Health Secretary Rebekah Gee sent a letter to Cassidy saying the bill "singles out Louisiana for disproportional cuts to our Federal funding." She said it creates "the specter" of a state waiver process that could eliminate protections for individuals with preexisting medical conditions or complex and costly illnesses. Avalere's analysis estimates that Louisiana would lose \$8 billion by 2026 under the bill.

Among governors critical of the Cassidy-Graham plan, a major issue is its steep cuts in federal Medicaid spending. Not only would states face a per-capita cap, but the ACA's expansion of Medicaid would be erased, with new restrictions on how states could spend the money on their expansion populations.

The latest Republican proposal has unnerved health insurers, with two of the industry's major trade groups denouncing the bill Wednesday. "We cannot support this proposal," Marilyn Tavenner, president of America's Health Insurance Plans, wrote to the Senate's majority and minority leaders. The plan "would have real consequences on consumers and patients by further destabilizing the individual market, cutting Medicaid, pulling back on protections for preexisting conditions."

Scott Serota, president of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, also addressed the impact on markets. "The legislation . . . would increase uncertainty in the marketplace, making coverage more expensive and jeopardizing Americans' choice of health plans," said Serota, whose members include the only health plans still being sold in ACA marketplaces in some states.

And, he added in a statement, the plan would undercut Medicaid funding intended "to protect the most vulnerable."

The divisions between winners and losers trace political fault lines. Of the 16 states that Avalere predicts would gain money under the plan, all but one have Republican governors. In the one - Virginia - Democratic Gov. Terry McCaulliffe tried to expand Medicaid but was blocked by a GOP-controlled legislature.

At its core, this latest health-care bill embraces a decades-old conservative goal: capping taxpayers' expenditures on Medicaid and giving states full control over the program. As he sells the legislation to conservative governors and activists, Graham describes it as a way to end what he calls a progressive dream of universal health care managed from Washington.

Yet the boldness of the plan - and the extent to which it would free states from the ACA's rules - has startled even some Republicans in recent days. "It's not about health policy anymore," said a former senior GOP congressional staffer. "This is about, in the Senate particularly, they need a vote. They were getting their rear ends hammered by the president and their base. It's about, 'Are we winners or losers?'"

The forecast Avalere issued Wednesday does not include any predictions on the legislation's effect on the number of Americans with health insurance. The firm's staffer are trying to produce rough coverage estimates. The forecast due next week from the Congressional Budget Office also may not include that information, even though the CBO typically calculates the impact on coverage along with budgetary consequences of health-care legislation.

But the coverage effect is tricky to assess because each state would gain the ability to establish its own rules to replace federal insurance regulations created under the ACA. The regulations most at risk are those limiting the premium differential that insurers can charge older customers compared with younger ones, requiring specific health benefits and blocking insurers from charging more for people with preexisting conditions.

The Avalere report also notes that the bill would lead to a "fiscal cliff" when funding ends in 2027, leaving it to a future Congress to decide whether to extend the legislation \_

this is a last ditch effort to make a political campaign promise come true

I has NOTHING todowith getting the right healthcare for people

this should be a bipartisan effort and was going that direction till die hard Republicans stepped in and STOPPED that effort

people will die because of this bill - no real human being wants to hurt the millions of affected people - it is not normal to cause harm - please stop this - our children , my grandchildren and the disabled and seniors all depend on our laws and believe in our democracy

stand up against this mean spirited attempt to dividde us eeven further - the huge majority of people are against this - the huge majority of professional organizations are against this -don't let the few Washington politicians do this - not in ANYONE'S BEST INTEREST

thank you

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Maryam Jorgensen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:14 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

Senators:

Hello, my name is Maryam & I want my full statement entered into the SFC hearing record on Monday September 25, 2017, regarding the Graham-Cassidy bill.

I called & left a message with my senator's local offices regarding my extremely strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill. This bill is nothing more than an attempt to undermine any legislation that has Obama's name on it!! This bill is cruel & dangerous!! Many of you say you're pro life, but if you vote 'yes' on this bill, you're telling our country & the world that you don't care if people die!! Multiple medical associations see this bill for what it is - a death sentence for MANY, including children!!

I'm disabled with rheumatoid arthritis & my treatments are very expensive & without treatment, my entire body, including vital organs, would suffer from severe inflammation & pain. But, since you feel standing by campaign promises (Grassley, et al!!) is more important than my health or the health of others even worse off than me, you probably don't care!

If you vote 'yes' on this bill, WE (The Resistance) will NOT let people forget your choice of political favor over the lives of your constituents!! We will make it our mission to flip your districts & get you voted out!!

Let me ask you, what do you want to be remembered for? What stories do you want your children, grandchildren, & future generations to hear when they utter your name?

If you got into Congress to speak for the people you represent & to protect them, then you MUST VOTE NO!! The majority doesn't want this bill, they aren't blinded by politics & pleasing people at the expense of others....so who will you stand by? The majority....or your peers so vengeful regarding any legislation with Obama's name on it, regardless of who it hurts? Political office is full of tough choices, but it should ALWAYS be a representation of the majority in your district, & Graham-Cassidy is NOT it!!

I hope you really listen to & respect what I have had to say, but the truth is, I don't trust you at all at this point. I'd love for you to prove me wrong & do the right thing by voting NO on Graham-Cassidy!!

So, I'll ask you again, what legacy do you want to leave behind? A hero who stood up for people's human right for healthcare, or a killer, who believes the only people deserving of healthcare are the rich &/or healthy? It's that simple. Savior or killer? If you believe in God, think VERY carefully about your vote & what God asks of you. I know my truth & what He asks of me, what's yours?

Sincerely,  
Maryam Jorgensen  
(PROUD member of the Resistance)



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Martha Voorhies <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:18 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Fwd: Pre existing conditions

I accidentally sent this message before I finished it so am now sending the entire message

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

### **Subject: Pre existing conditions**

As I sit with my sister while she is getting a stem cell transplant at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester MN I am saddened to read the latest comments on the Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill. It is impossible to know how many preexisting conditions would be priced out of coverage under Cassidy Graham Bill because we do not know what individual states will offer.

The Affordable Care Act provides protection for individuals that have preexisting conditions: availability of coverage, affordability of coverage and extent of coverage. This new health care bill cuts federal funding in many states leading to the question, how can states ensure "affordability".

I have had the chance to stay at The Gift of Life Transplant House in Rochester. Over 100 individuals from around the United States are there waiting some type of transplant. If each state is allowed to set up their own plan, how can we assure that those 100 individuals all have an equal chance for affordable health care for preexisting conditions. Everyone deserves the same and equal chance for the gift of life.

I am humble to hear their stories. Each individual has a unique and powerful story. It is hard to feel sorry for yourself when you hear the stories - a young mother, with a young son, awaiting a liver transplant, a parent with leukemia waiting for an allogeneic stem cell transplant- the stories go on and on but what is certain is that each person at the Gift of Life Transplant House has hope and an amazing chance of extended life because of what the Mayo Clinic offers.

Each citizen of in the United State deserve access to affordable health care coverage whether they have a preexisting condition or not. People in one state should not have a better chance for health care than those in another state. One person should not have a higher rate for preexisting conditions when those in another state do not.

As humans we do not have the luxury of knowing what tomorrow brings. I may be healthy today but tomorrow I may have something happen to me that now and forever after is a preexisting condition. It can be through no

fault of my own. Once again, my point I want to make to you is there needs to be health care coverage that is **available** and is **affordable** to individuals with preexisting conditions.

Sincerely,  
Martha Voorhies

[REDACTED]  
Siletz OR 97380

No one knows when our

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** September 21, 2017 at 11:59:01 AM CDT  
**To:** Martha Voorhies <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Pre existing conditions

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** John and Martha Voorhies <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** September 21, 2017 at 11:45:05 AM CDT  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Pre existing conditions

As I sit with my sister while she is getting a stem cell transplant at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester MN I am saddened to read the latest comments on the Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill. It is impossible to know how many preexisting conditions would be priced out of coverage under Cassidy Graham Bill because we do not know what individual states will offer.

The Affordable Care Act provides protection for individuals that have preexisting conditions: availability of coverage, affordability of coverage and extent of coverage. This new health care bill cuts federal funding in many states leading to the question, how can states ensure "affordability".

I have had the chance to stay at The Gift of Life Transplant House in Rochester. Over 100 individuals from around the United States are there waiting some type of transplant. If each state is allowed to set up their own plan, how can we assure that those 100 individuals all have an equal chance for affordable health care for preexisting conditions. Everyone deserves the same and equal chance for the gift of life.

I am humble to hear their stories. Each individual has a unique and powerful story. It is hard to feel sorry for yourself when you hear the stories - a young mother with a young son waiting a liver transplant, a parent with leukemia waiting for allogeneic stem cell transplant,

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Mariah MacNeil <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:17 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA

Dear Senators,

I am part of the population with cancer. I am currently in chemo. I am also a RN who because of my in-hospital coverage is covered by my employee health plan. I am greatly alarmed by the latest effort to repeal & replace the ACA.

While I have coverage now, I am fairly certain I will not be able to maintain my full time position given my health status with cancer. What will I do if I can no longer work full time? What will I do if I have to change jobs and pre-existing conditions aren't covered by a new plan? You are playing with our lives in a partisan fight against each other.

Get it together. Work together. Fight for the health of the American people who have elected you to govern. Find a way to lower premiums, get coverage for 40 million Americans, make it so insurance companies don't but profit over people.

Thank you,  
Mariah MacNeil  
Pasadena, CA  
Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Steven Tsujisaka <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:17 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson (GCHJ) proposal

Dear Senator:

I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson (GCHJ) proposal, and urge you to vote no because the proposal will hurt millions of hard-working Americans.

By passing this bill as is, you will be allowing insurance companies to decline people with pre-existing conditions; decreasing federal assistance for people on Medicaid, low-wage workers and moderate-income families; and destabilizing the healthcare market by repealing the ACA's individual and employer mandates. All of which will force millions of Americans to forgo health insurance.

With best personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Steven

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Lisa Harmon [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:17 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill! Please vote NO!

Thank you,  
L. Harmon

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Sarah Tacoma <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:16 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Don't pass the Graham Cassidy bill! Our son deserves better!!  
**Attachments:** gideon2017.jpg

Please don't pass Graham Cassidy bill! Our son is 10 years old and has Down syndrome. He was born with 2 holes in his heart. Not only are those considered pre-existing conditions but so is Down syndrome. Many kids with DS couldn't even get private insurance until Obamacare did away with pre-existing conditions. For the love of humanity and anything that is decent DO NOT pass that bill that guts Medicare and strips people of their health insurance. This is devastating to the disabled community at large!! Every organization in the United States that protects and fights for people who are disabled are against it.

Sincerely  
Sarah Tacoma  
mom to an amazing kids with Down syndrome

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of Melissa Lux [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:16 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** health care MUST be affordable for EVERYONE

Briefly: yes, insurance was available to me before the ACA: for \$800/month. In my income bracket, that was not feasible. so in effect, I had no insurance, despite a condition that is easily managed with generic medications, but would put me in cycles in and out of hospitals without treatment.

I would be bankrupt, a financial burden on this country rather than a proud taxpayer, not to mention SICK and suicidally miserable.

The Graham-Cassidy bill would leave me back in that high-risk, prohibitively expensive group.

It is not just inhumane to leave people without adequate, affordable health care.

This new repeal-and-replace is, just like the previous ones, BAD FISCAL policy for taxpayers. fine, if you only care about the wealthiest 5% of the population. That's morally unconscionable.

Melissa Lux

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Teresa Mungo Shaffer <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:16 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health Care

To whom it may concern,

My name is Teresa Shaffer, I am a married college educated woman with two beautiful little boys. Last July 2016 we found out my husband had kidney cancer and because of my great job and health benefits he is cancer free.

Anyone who has a loved one who has cancer knows it is a lifetime of checkups and the possibility of reoccurrence. I beg you to please not pass the Cassidy-Graham bill because pre existing conditions are not covered. My life is my family and I need my husband to stay healthy.

I pray that the bill is not passed and the healthcare remains the same.

This country is one of the greatest because we care for each other not the 1% who do not need any additional help.

Thank you, Teresa Shaffer

Sent from my iPhone



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jorjana Marx [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:44 PM  
**To:** SenatorLankford (Lankford); gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill

The Graham Cassidy bill is criminal.

It is appalling this bill does not prevent insurance companies from charging more for preexisting conditions or from instituting a lifetime cap.

Please consider the opinions of experts like the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association ("This bill harms our most vulnerable patients"), the American Public Health Association ("Graham-Cassidy would devastate the Medicaid program, increase out-of-pocket costs, and weaken or eliminate protections for people living with preexisting conditions"), the National Institute for Reproductive Health ("the Graham-Cassidy bill preys on underserved communities ... a clear and present danger"), and Federation of American Hospitals ("It could disrupt access to health care for millions of the more than 70 million Americans") and do not allow this bill in its present form to pass the Senate.

Do not vote for this bill!

I will literally die from lack of coverage for my existing conditions!!!

Thank you,

Jorjana Marx  
Tulsa, OK

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Ben Newburn [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:44 PM  
**To:** gchcomments; Campbell, Katie (Donnelly); Light, Jaymi (Young)  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

As the powers that be in Washington continue to argue over this issue I am becoming concerned at being able to buy and maintain insurance coverage having had some health issues in my past that could be considered pre-existing conditions. I'm also quite concerned for my friends and neighbors less fortunate than I am. I'm not seeing a lot of positive things being said about this bill or it's possible outcomes. I'm bothered by the repeated attempts to rush something through just to undo the previous administrations ideas just to be undoing "the other side's" things. This is the problem in Washington. It would be absolutely amazing for you guys and gals to do some stuff with the American people in mind as opposed to keeping campaign donors happy. It's getting old. So in summary, please come forward with a plan that benefits the people and not the insurance companies.

Thank You  
Ben Newburn

P.S. You need term limits. Like NOW.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Bertha <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:43 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** LEAVE ACA ALONE!

If you pass the bill by Graham/Cassidy you will take medical from millions of us. STOP

Bertha Nava

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Darcy Daniels <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:42 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

I would like the following entered into the record concerning the vote about the Graham Cassidy Bill. Thank you.

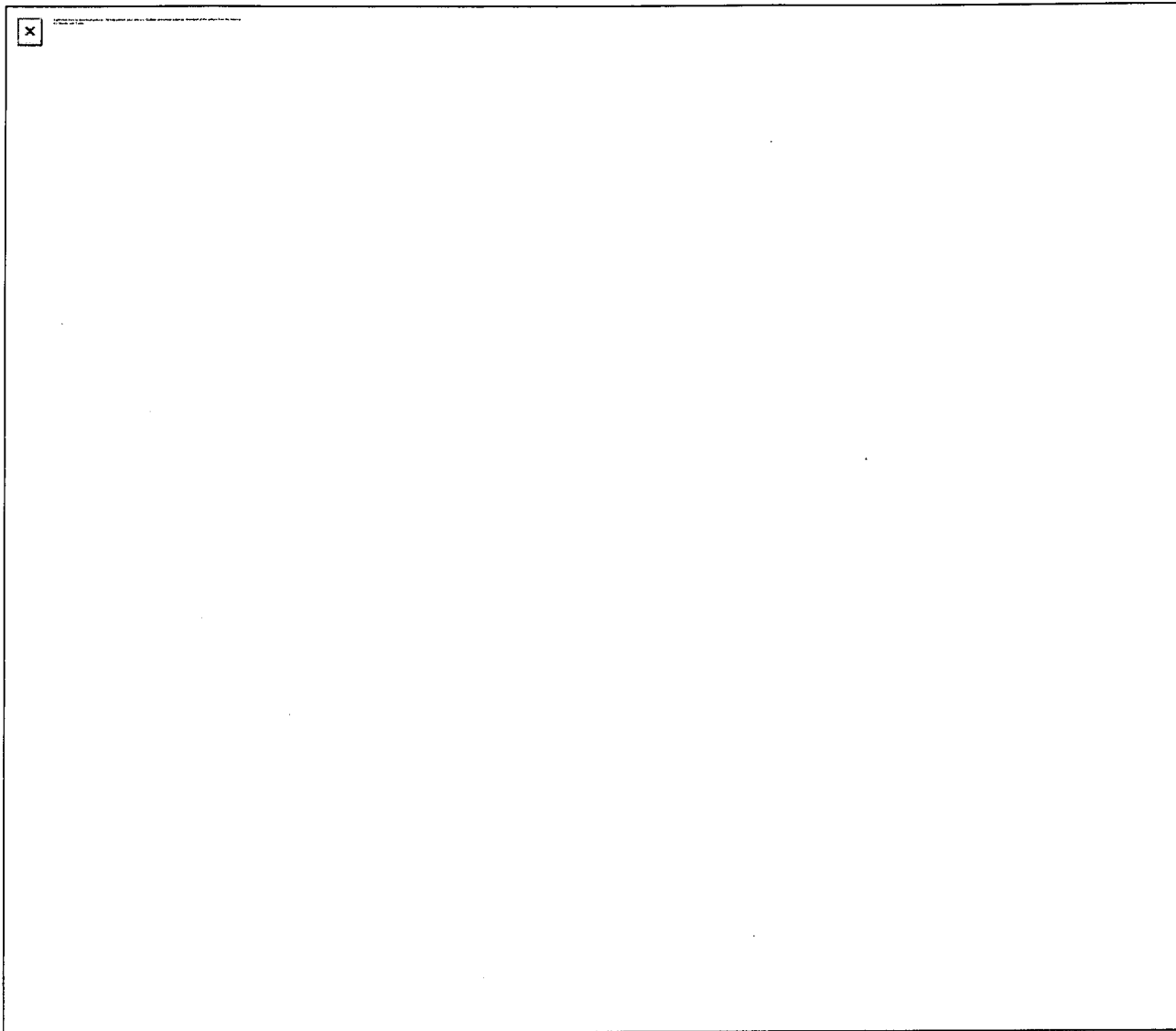
Dear Senators and Representatives of the 115th United States Congress,

The media tell me that you will once again be taking up legislation to repeal and replace Obamacare. If you do this, please make sure that whatever new law you come up with keeps three key features of the Affordable Care Act that I need to keep my daughter, Wendy, alive.

Wendy was born healthy and perfect. At the age of 3, she was infected by bacteria called Escherichia coli. Most of these bacteria are harmless, but some types can cause serious infections. In Wendy's case, the infection turned into something called hemolytic uremic syndrome that caused irreversible damage to her body. Her kidneys failed, requiring an emergency kidney transplant. Her damaged pancreas could no longer make insulin, leaving her with type 1 diabetes. She needed to have parts of her intestines removed, and still suffers from seizures.

advertisement

Wendy spent more than 200 days as an inpatient at Massachusetts General Hospital. She was there for so long that she wrote a story about living at Mass. General that was turned into an animated video. It is shown to sick and scared kids when they come into the hospital's emergency department.



An

animated video created by Wendy Wooden welcomes children to the Massachusetts General Hospital for Children. *Massachusetts General Hospital for Children*

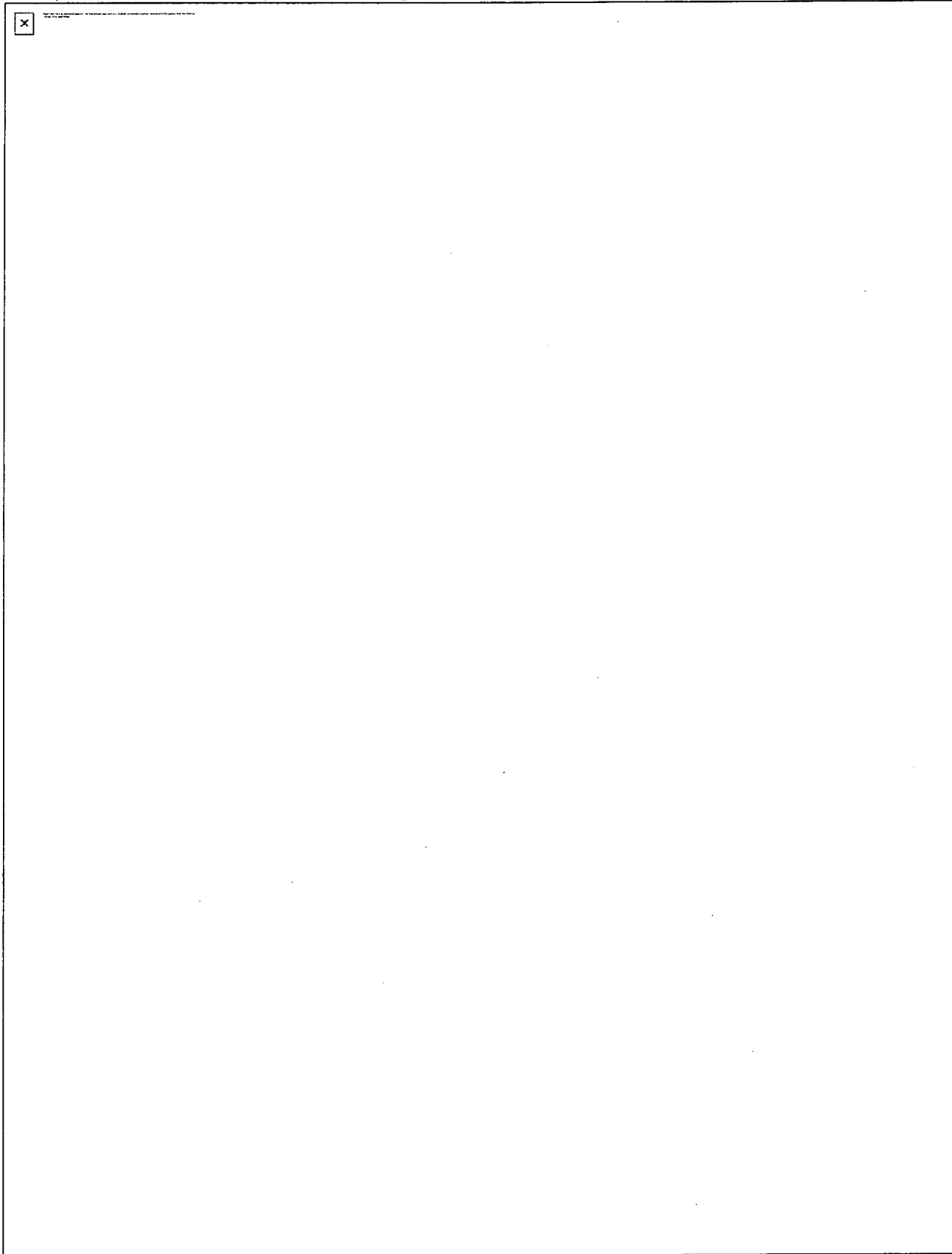
This summer, Wendy will be representing the United States at the World Transplant Games that are being held in Malaga, Spain. It's like the Olympics for people with solid organ transplants. She will be competing in both swim and track and field events for Team USA and, of course, hopes to win the gold.

I'm proud to be Wendy's mother. She's tough. She's a fighter. She gives back to her community. In short, she's everything we want an American to be.

That said, it requires a lot to keep her alive. She takes six medications, in different combinations, three times a day, to keep her body from rejecting her kidney and to manage her high blood pressure. She uses an insulin pump and a continuous glucose monitor to control her diabetes. The kind of infection that might put you or me under the weather for a day or two hits Wendy hard; she needs to go to the hospital as soon as she gets a fever because she's at greater risk for widespread infection.

Wendy is a real beneficiary of the Affordable Care Act. Many of you want to discard the entire Obamacare platform and replace it with something new. Before you do that, I wanted to turn your attention to three features of the act that are vitally important to families like mine, families that have worked long and hard, that have insurance, and that pay all our premiums and out-of-pocket expenses.

The first one is the provision that lets kids stay on their parents' insurance until they are 26. That provides a safety net that allows everyone's kids to go to



Wendy Wooden winning the medal for the under 18 age group in the 5-kilometer race at the American Transplant Games in Cleveland Ohio, June 2016.

college if they want to, find a career path, and remain covered while they are figuring out all of that. I could be wrong, but I think that most parents like this piece of the Affordable Care Act. We want our kids to be safe and healthy while they're working to become responsible citizens, because responsible citizens pay taxes, and that's what keeps the government working.

The second provision is an important one to families like mine with a kid who has a chronic illness. It says that children under 19 years of age can no longer be classified as having "preexisting conditions." That lets me keep my insurance, or change jobs and get new insurance, without having to worry whether or not anyone will cover me because my kid happens to need ongoing, and sometimes expensive, medical care. This is the one that most causes me to lose sleep. If it vanishes, it will be harder and harder for my family, and others like mine, to get health insurance, and that's something we can never go without.

The third piece is removing the lifetime insurance cap that companies are willing to pay for. Here's the thing: Through no fault of her own, Wendy started needing expensive medical treatments very early in her life. She will hit that lifetime cap long before any of her peers. Then where will she be? How could she pay for the constant medical care she will need throughout her life?

As a parent of a chronically ill child, I'm constantly worried — worried that she will be sick, worried that I won't be able to take care of all of her needs, worried that I will have to get creative with finances so I can pay for her medications and medical supplies that aren't covered by insurance. I don't want to worry about health insurance, too. I just want to know that I can keep it. I'm not asking for a handout. My husband and I work hard, and we both know that insurance isn't cheap; we're fine paying for it.

Please keep these provisions in whatever you're going to call the new or repackaged replacement for the Affordable Care Act. You're elected to protect the citizens of the United States, including the vulnerable ones, and there isn't much more vulnerable individual in this world than a chronically ill child.

When it comes time to vote, please be on the side of chronically ill children and their families.

Sincerely,

Darcy Daniels

[REDACTED]  
Sharon, MA 02067

[REDACTED]  
<https://bravefragilewarriors.wordpress.com/>

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** M.Dameion Thomas-Willis <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:42 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health Care Bill

How many times is Congress going to attempt to expose those most at risk to further harm by taking back health care. The working poor need coverage to not end up disabled by a lack of available healthcare.

This is nothing more than greed. Meanwhile the military is handed 700B. It is clear that death is the only thing being served by this Congress and that is ridiculous.

M. Dameion Thomas-Willis  
Live Your Life so You Love Your Life



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Theresa Donaghy <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson "Healthcare" Bill

This statement is in opposition to the healthcare bill currently before the Senate.

Our country is stronger with a healthy, financially secure population. No one should go without life-saving medical treatment. No one should need nursing home or early childhood care (both of which are provided by Medicaid) and not receive it. No one should die needlessly, prematurely, and painfully due to lack of the same treatment available to others.

I have never been on Obamacare, but I benefit from the provisions of the PPACA. Moreover, I am happy that my tax dollars go, in some small part, toward subsidizing necessary healthcare for others. Such use is far better than, say our Director of Health and Human Services taking five flights on private jets. Just as an example.

Most sincerely,  
Theresa Donaghy

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Chicago, IL 60610

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Drew Nelson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:42 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Comments

I don't even know if I stand to lose anything from the passing of Graham-Cassidy, but what I do know is that I don't need to see that it would be a great mistake to pass this bill. The country made it clear the last 2 times the GOP tried to pass this bill under different names (AHCA & BCRA) that we do NOT want any form of this bill passed without it being given the same scrutiny as the Affordable Care Act at the very least. If the GOP is truly proud of this bill and confident that it will do good, then they should have no problem with that, but from what I've gathered, the only reason Republicans want to pass this is because it's an Obamacare repeal, not because of how it improves health care, because it doesn't improve it at all. In fact, it only makes things worse. Even without a score from the Congressional Budget Office, it has been shown that this bill will make health care less affordable and less accessible to underprivileged Americans everywhere, especially in states where Trump won.

It seems like the GOP's only platform now is to undo all the progress Obama has made because they simply can't stand the fact that a black man made America greater than Donald Trump ever will. And to do this, the GOP is actively working against the interests of its constituents regarding health care and so many other issues. This blatant disrespect for due process and basic diligence that comes with this bill must not stand, and it especially must not be made into a precedent via the passing of this bill. If the only way a bill like this could pass is with underhanded tactics such as passing without a proper hearing and not requiring 60 Senate votes, then how can it possibly be any good for anyone outside of Congress? How do the GOP plan to defend this bill? Do they plan to defend it at all, or will they just stop caring after it passes since they technically got something done (if you consider this getting something done)?

Put simply, the Graham-Cassidy "health care" bill is a health care repeal, a death sentence on grounds of being poor, or pregnant, or a cancer patient, or autistic, or basically anything but a healthy rich man. End this farce and kill this bill now.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Julie Landwehr [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am writing to ask that you do everything in your power to ensure that the Graham-Cassidy Bill does not go into effect. For 37 years I have worked in the human services field, specifically with individuals who have intellectual disabilities. I know first-hand how important Medicaid funding is to individuals who rely on assistance for residential and vocational services, along with any needed therapy services. Many of these individuals cannot speak for themselves, so we must do everything we can to make sure that individual throughout this country who need special services receive them.

From a personal point of view, I am also extremely concerned about making sure that rules concerning pre-existing conditions are upheld. I have family members with pre-existing conditions, and before the Affordable Care Act, this was a huge issue for them. They could not find other insurance providers to cover them, and their current insurance provider continued to increase rates until it became extremely difficult to continue to pay the monthly premiums.

Please do not expedite this bill through the process. If changes need to be made to the ACA, please do so with much thought and caution, examining all of the ways any changes made will affect all citizens.

Thank you,

Julie Landwehr  
Director of Development  
Abilities Plus

[REDACTED]  
Kewanee, IL 61443

[REDACTED]  
[www.abilitiesplus.org](http://www.abilitiesplus.org)

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**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Brigitte Browe [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Hearing to consider the Graham-Cassidy-et al proposal Sept 25th

I strongly appose moving forward with the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill. This bill is predatory and removes health benefits that I expect my government to provide. I strongly appose this bill and will strongly campaign against any senators who vote for this bill when they come up for election.

Best,

Brigitte Browe

PhD Candidate in Neurobiology  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
Department of Biological Sciences

[REDACTED]  
Chicago, IL 60607  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jenni Spinner <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA saved my family

Dear Senators:

My mother, Sheila K. Spinner, was no fan of Obama at all--it's the reason why we never talked politics in the last few years. However, her criticism of No. 44 was silenced when the doctor diagnosed her with endometrial cancer. The ACA's provisions and coverage lengthened her life (she lived two years past the initial prognosis); provided excellent, affordable coverage; and, though medical expenses were considerable, coverage under the ACA enabled her and my father to remain in the home they'd built over four decades of marriage. I don't want other families to lose their houses, savings and mothers all at the same time because they don't receive the life-saving care they've deserved.

The people lobbying for this irredeemably flawed repeal-and-replace plan seem to forget what medical insurance is--a contract the American people have forged with providers. Through paying premiums over years and decades, we have held up our end of the bargain, and we cannot allow providers to flake out on their end by failing to provide for the care we've earned and deserve.

Thank you,

Jennifer K. Spinner  
Chicago

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Lena Walent [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Re: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill. Please do not vote for this unfair bill.

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Lena Walent

[REDACTED]  
Indian Head Park, IL 60525

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Lauren Weinstock <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:40 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare bill

Dear Senators,

When my husband and I had a son and a daughter we adopted a baby with Down syndrome who was born to a cousin and placed immediately in foster care.

We had love and empathy, I had experience working with children with disabilities.

My son is very healthy but I make sure his doctor observes the cataracts in his eyes yearly, his hearing aids break down [silly plastic things] and need repair, his physical exam for participation in Special Olympics is kept up to date, and recently a course of therapy to help him deal with depression and anger, and cheaper than 10 years of meds.

Can you really take his Medicaid away? Also he has had Medicaid Waiver services, does that mean you can take that away also? I am 65 and his father bowed out two dozen years ago. It would break my heart to see the government put him in an institution claiming that way he can get the medical care he needs.

Please re-think this. All Americans have a right to healthcare.

Most Sincerely,

Lauren Weinstock

Missoula, Montana

Proud mother of Nathan who name means "gift of God."

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Martin Weil <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:39 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Our daughter's story  
**Attachments:** Flan w Boston.jpg

Our daughter Flannery is 28 years old, quadriplegic and non-verbal. Thanks to the support afforded today by the State of California, funding from Medicaid, HUD and my Social Security Disability benefit, she is able to live in a Supported Living apartment in San Rafael CA. Graham Cassidy defunds Medicaid and is a direct threat to the well-being of Flannery, the 12 other disabled individuals who live in her complex and the more than 300,000 clients of California's Regional Centers. These dramatic budget cuts, masquerading as reform, are really nothing more than a windfall budget savings to finance the \$300B tax cut for the wealthiest Americans. The cynicism and indifference of this bill is truly breathtaking.

I will not pretend that the support required to keep Flannery alive and well is inexpensive. But thirty years ago, because she is unable to care for herself, she would have been sent away to an institutional facility, at far greater cost to the system than her present and far more humane setting. Thanks to the support of both the State and Federal government as well as the loving care provided by the agencies who provide her services, Flannery lives a life of dignity and self-respect.

Once broken, the social safety net of small service providers, thousands of them already stretched to the breaking point by frozen reimbursement rates, will not be readily remade. One only need look to the disaster that is mental health services to see what might befall the disabled community. Our jails and prisons now overflow with individuals who in a more rational world would be in mental health treatment. I ask you to envision adding to that mix of homeless and petty criminals overcrowding our jails and prisons, a population of tens of thousands of autistic persons and others, robbed of their own safety net and forced into homelessness. It is a grim, Dickensian world, if principled Congresspeople cannot stand up to the demands to pass this bill or else by a desperate House Leadership and Administration.

Thank you

--

**Martin Weil**  
**Sonoma CA**

[REDACTED]

*Go Join!*  
[www.aclu.org](http://www.aclu.org)  
[www.indivisibleguide.com](http://www.indivisibleguide.com)  
<https://swingleft.org>



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Marianne Lipson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:40 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA v. Graham-Cassidy

The American professional associations in all aspects of health and also insurance, also the AARP, have spoken against this proposed legislation.

Every available source notes that it will drive costs up and insurance options down for individuals.

The GOP leadership admits this bill matters more to them as a political opportunity than as any serious corrective to problems in the Affordable Care Act.

This is a Bad Faith Initiative, and it threatens the day-to-day lives of my friends and family with special needs children, those with chronic and acute conditions, and even those who just have a sudden accident or health crisis.

We can't afford this as a nation.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Scott Johnston [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:39 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

Cannot get insurance without state exchange. Unless Republicans want martyrs, best vote no on Graham-Cassidy Bill.  
Return to regular order and fix ACA!

Scott Johnston  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Ginger Matthews <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:39 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please read my statement

My name is Ginger Matthews. I have spent my life helping others through ministry, being an entrepreneur, and teaching college students as an adjunct about management, entrepreneurship, and leadership. I have paid taxes on time every year since I was 16. I am now 55. I have paid for private insurance most of my life, with some rare spans of time where I had employee sponsored benefits. The end of 2015 my husband and I got a policy through ACA. The end of 2016, I was diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer. We paid 6k in deductible, and I started treatments. In 2017 my treatments continued, and we paid 6500 in deductible. I had a double mastectomy in May of 2017. I will have another surgery in December for revision of the first surgery. It is scheduled for December, because I don't have 6500 to pay 2018's deductible.

ACA is not perfect--but it saved my life. If any of the plans that are being shopped around DC by the GOP are put into place to replace ACA, then my husband and I will not be able to afford health insurance at all! We will be unprotected in our most vulnerable years: 55-67. We will most certainly go through our little retirement funds and then go bankrupt, as we try to save one another's lives. And we don't believe in filing bankruptcy at the drop of a hat like our president does. We believe in paying our debts. But with any of the current GOP plans, we will not be able to pay our bills, but will die trying.

-Ginger Matthews

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Margaret Storey [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:38 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please Oppose Graham-Cassidy

September 21, 2017

To the Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I write to you as the parent of a 14-year old daughter with Aicardi Syndrome, a very rare genetic disorder that causes unrelenting seizures, significant intellectual and physical disabilities, and early mortality. She began having seizures at 3 months of age. She does not walk, nor talk, but she is deeply engaged with her world, her school, her family.

She is the light of my and my husband's life, and she is the reason that I am a committed parent advocate for the interests of all children in our country who have medical complexity or disability.

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

I write to ask you to **oppose** this bill, but not because I believe that the Affordable Care Act is perfect. Far from it—I believe that the ACA can, and should, be reformed and improved upon if people of good will and conscience come together to work sincerely to do so.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Such cuts would be simply devastating to the free-standing children's hospital where my medically-complex child gets all of her specialist and primary care: neurologists, neurosurgeons, gastroenterologists, orthopedists, ophthalmologists, and therapists.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of Bennett Engel  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:38 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Enacting this bill would be catastrophic for myself and my wife. We purchase from the individual market and receive both premium subsidies and cost sharing. We purchased from the individual market before the ACA and it cost a ton of money for much worse coverage than we have today. It did not even cover prescription drugs. My wife and I are working very hard to improve our health but this would be pulling the rug out from under us. And no, I don't trust our state government to help much. They didn't before.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Matt Palmer <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:38 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Pre-existing conditions

I am a 41 year old successful banker with 2 young kids. I was diagnosed with lymphoma earlier this year. I am in remission now after receiving hundreds of thousands worth of treatment. Prior to my diagnosis, I was rarely sick and happily paid into the system. If insurance companies are allowed to charge higher premiums even if I am in remission, how am I supposed to take care of my family? Make my mortgage payment? Please don't pass this heartless bill!

Sincerely,  
Matt Palmer

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Beth Foraker <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:19 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

Hello,

This is my family last June when our daughter graduated from college. We were celebrating with her but holding our breath. We had watched the House pass legislation to repeal the ACA and to cut Medicaid by billions of dollars.

The proposed Graham/Cassidy bill is even worse.

For our family, that would be catastrophic.

Medicaid provides three things for people with disabilities:

- 1) healthcare
- 2) educational supports
- 3) independent living supports

Medicaid supports people with disabilities for their entire lifespan.

It quite clearly means freedom for this very marginalized group.

I am asking you today to consider the most vulnerable Americans. Consider the poor, the elderly and the disabled. All of these marginalized, vulnerable populations rely on Medicaid.

Frankly, going after Medicaid and working to dismantle it makes no sense.

It is efficient.

It allows families to stay together.

It prevents people from being institutionalized.

THAT IS WAY CHEAPER than anything you are proposing in this bill.

More than that, this bill is heartbreakingly cruel.

Families like ours need support. We need our government to stand with us as we care for our fragile family members. Medicaid offers the soft place to land for families. This allows family members to have jobs outside the home. It allows for individuals with disabilities to lead their best lives...which means working and contributing to society instead of sitting in some institution withering away.

Please consider the devastating impact this bill will have on families who have family members with disabilities and work to support them.

Thank you,

Beth Foraker and Family: John, Jack, Mary Kate, Patrick and Caroline

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Rachel Mulligan <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:52 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill

To whom it may concern:

I'm writing to share my story and to let Congress know exactly how this bill will affect myself and my family.

Let me start by giving you some background on my life. I suffer from depression. It started when I was 12 or 13 years old, and it has gotten progressively worse as time passes. The depression has nothing to do with my upbringing or my environment. I've had it good. I grew up in a financial stable household, with a loving, supportive family and went to a fantastic school. My problems are a result of chemical imbalances in my brain, and nothing can help that except for medication.

Trust me, I tried everything else. I tried positive thinking, I tried talk therapy, I tried berating myself on a daily basis to just buck up and get over it. None of that helped. I just kept spiraling downward, slowly but surely. The year after I graduated college was the absolute worst. The only thing that kept me getting up and going to work every day was my desperation to make it as an adult. Even if I was miserable, I wanted to work towards supporting myself like every other grown up. But at home...oh wow. That was another thing altogether.

By the time I found a doctor who was able to figure out which medication would work for me, I was the hottest of messes. I spent virtually all of my free time in bed. I wouldn't do anything. I wouldn't read, I wouldn't watch tv, I wouldn't talk on the phone. I just laid there with my eyes closed, hoping to fall asleep so I wouldn't have to think or feel. I expended so much energy pretending to be "normal" in front of customers and family that I didn't have an ounce of strength left to do anything else. I was absolutely exhausted. There were many times when I literally crawled from my bed to the bathroom and back again, because I just didn't feel that I could stand.

Finally, finally, my doctor hit on the perfect prescription for me, and life got better. Like, a lot better. Amazingly better. I have been on it for over 10 years, and I can actually function. More than that, I can be happy. I am able to work, have fun with my boyfriend, enjoy my family, and play with my son. It's not like it was before. Back then, my version of "happy" was feeling like I could go to the grocery store without bursting into tears.

Recently, I worked with my doctor to try to scale back the dosage I take daily. It had been years since I tried to do that, and it was worth a shot. Who wants to be pumping their body full of extra chemicals if it's not necessary? I continued to lower my dose until I hit a brick wall. It was like I was back in my 20's again. Crying for no reason, feeling hopeless, having to drag myself out of bed. I increased the dosage slightly, and I'm better again.

Here's the thing. Back then, if I was a mess, it didn't hurt anybody but myself. Now I'm a mother. I have primary custody of my amazing, creative, brilliant 10 year old son, Larry. I can't afford to be out of control. He needs the stable, loving mother he grew up with. He needs me to be my best. A depressive collapse is not an option. I NEED this medicine, and to get it, I need a health care plan that covers mental health issues. Right now I'm on the market through ACA, and I can afford all of the help that I need. If those protections are taken



away, I don't know what I would do. Even if I got health care through an employer, it's pretty useless if it doesn't guarantee coverage for my biggest health issue.

Even more frightening than the potential that my health care could be stripped of everything I actually need is the effect this bill could have on my son. Larry is absolutely incredible. He's the type of kid we need in this country. He is insatiably curious. He craves information, whether it's about science, literature, or history. Ask him about black holes, the South Sea bubble, or the Peasants' Crusade sometime. I guarantee you'll learn something.

However, Larry was born with moderate bilateral hearing loss. The hearing loss is stable- it doesn't get worse over time. It just is what it is. Larry can hear fairly well in quiet environments, but school is another matter. When he's in a large room with lots of kids who are moving around in their seats, unzipping bags, chatting, calling out answers, etc., he needs assistance. His hearing aids are absolutely vital, as is his FM system. For anyone who's not familiar, an FM system is a little gadget that his teacher wears. The teacher clips a small mic to his collar. When the teacher speaks, his voice goes directly into Larry's hearing aids, overriding any background noise and allowing him to hear clearly.

Even with this challenge, we are so much luckier than many other families. As I said, Larry's hearing loss isn't progressing, so he doesn't need new therapies or surgeries. He just needs to get tested once a year to make sure there are no problems and to have a working set of hearing aids and an FM system. This would still be pretty difficult for us if he wasn't on Medicaid. The hearing aids and FM are thousands of dollars. That doesn't count repairs, and with a 10 year old child, trust me, there will need to be repairs. And of course, we can only get this equipment if he is seen by a pediatric audiologist every year. We all know how cheap specialists are, right?

I've heard the talking points about Medicaid. This bill wouldn't cut Medicaid, it just wouldn't add additional money every year. But really, who do you think you're fooling? Prices go up for everything each year, especially health care. If I took \$100 dollars to the grocery store today, then took \$100 to the same grocery store 5 years from now, do you really think I'd be able to get the same amount of food each time?

If we as a nation don't continue to add to Medicaid's budget each year, people will begin to fall through the cracks. It's not rocket science. The question is, who will it be? How will we decide who gets the treatment they need and who has to try to fend for themselves? Will it be my son who is left without care one day? Will this funny, imaginative, crazy intelligent kid be left without the resources he needs to learn, to contribute, to make this world a better place? And if not him, then who? We're all somebody's son or daughter. Which parents will left awake at night, turning over their finances again and again, trying to figure out how to make things work?

I'm sure most of you in Congress have children. I know this is difficult to do, but try to put yourselves in our shoes. My family's case is not the most extreme by any stretch, but this bill will still do an incredible amount of damage to us. The majority of us, the normal folks who work and try to save (but usually aren't able to), who have families to support, who are as responsible as possible, need the protections Obamacare affords. You might not. If you get cancer or already have a preexisting condition I'm sure you could afford to pay out of pocket for treatment. That is not the case with the rest of us.

Please just think about this. Think about how you want to be remembered. Do you want your children to tell your grandkids all about how you made this country a better, safer, more stable place for it's citizens? Or do you want to go down in history as the Congress that stripped healthcare from millions?

Please, please vote no on Graham Cassidy.

Thank you,

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** John Richardson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:51 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** My statement

I am a nurse practitioner in NW ga/ SE tn and the father to a pre mature child who was born at 27 weeks. My population is that if chronic kidney disease and end stage renal disease with dialysis. To be brief, the bill would decimate my patients who have multiple complex co morbid conditions and my daughter who is almost three would have reached her maximum payout in the first 90 days of life that she spent in a NICU. Certainly post her stay, most insurance companies would bed themselves over backward to find any way to tie a new illness to a pre existing condition to avoid paying any or all of the payout. My dialysis patients, well anything with them could be determined pre existing. Anyone foolish enough to believe at this point that the insurance companies aren't making your medical decisions based off of financial reward to them their stock holders are misinformed.

J Richardson

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Sue Ellen Collins <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:51 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senator Young,  
We strongly urge you to vote NO on Graham-Cassidy bill that will repeal major parts of the ACA & Patient Protection.

Sue is a registered nurse and Bob is a former teacher at Arsenal Technical High School, Indianapolis. Over our professional lives, we have both seen the hardships for people who experience poor healthcare both physical and mental. The ACA is a program that has had a mighty impact in offering thousands of Hoosiers the opportunity to obtain quality/timely health care in settings that provided them continued continuity of care.

This opportunity must continue and expanded in an orderly fashion that involves care for children long into adulthood – the Graham-Cassidy bill will disrupt this care.

VOTE NO!

Bob & Sue

Bob & Sue Ellen Collins

[REDACTED]  
Monrovia, IN 46157

[REDACTED] landline  
[REDACTED] mobile  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Randall Lotowycz [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:50 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy healthcare bill

To Whom,

A bill that will have devastating effects on 1/5 of the nation's economy and the health and well being of millions of Americans shouldn't be rushed through in 10 days. Get a CBO score, get a bill that can find 60 votes. In the words of Senator McCain, return to regular order.

Thank you,  
Randall Lotowycz

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Mesfin Temtimie <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:50 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** The new health care bill.

If your intention is to help American this bill doesn't do that. Putting 31 million people loss coverage, denying people with pre-existing condition, raising premium. .... please vote no.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Mary Baker <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:29 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** vote against Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senators:

I am dismayed and disheartened by the proposed Graham-Cassidy bill! Please vote against this destructive proposed legislation. Many American families would face medical bankruptcy. Elders and children and adults with disabilities would lose care. The human cost alone would be horrendous. The monetary cost would remove insurance entirely from millions, drive up emergency medical costs and destabilize the insurance markets. Please examine your conscience, think of your own extended family members this would impact, and vote against this bill.

Sincerely,  
Mary Baker

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Anni Rodgers <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:29 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** American citizen opposed to Graham-Cassidy

Dear committee representative,

I'm writing as a concerned American citizen, urging you to share my opposition to the dangerous and repugnant Graham-Cassidy bill before the Senate.

It is appalling this bill does not prevent insurance companies from charging more for pre-existing conditions or from instituting a lifetime cap.

Please consider the opinions of experts like the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association ("This bill harms our most vulnerable patients"), the American Public Health Association ("Graham-Cassidy would devastate the Medicaid program, increase out of pocket costs, and weaken or eliminate protections for people living with preexisting conditions"), the National Institute for Reproductive Health ("the Graham-Cassidy bill preys on underserved communities ... a clear and present danger"), and Federation of American Hospitals ("It could disrupt access to health care for millions of the more than 70 million Americans") and do not allow this bill in its present form to pass the Senate.

The people of this country deserve better.

Sincerely,  
Ann Rodgers  
Mystic, CT

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Kate Pfaff <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:29 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy comment

Dear Congress:

The Graham-Cassidy health care bill requires new moms on Medicaid to get a job within 60 days of birth or lose coverage.

60 days after my daughter was born, I was barely functional. I had constant intrusive thoughts about killing myself and her. I was actively planning how I would do it. Every time I got in the car, I wanted to drive into the highway wall or over the side into the ocean, with her in the backseat.

Ten weeks after my daughter was born, I checked into the psych ward, having gone to my parent's house with the intention of killing us both there. It was the first of 3 visits, plus four months of intensive day treatment at El Camino Hospital's specialized moms program. Then outpatient therapy 1-2x/week for two years. Plus lots of expensive medications trying to find the right combo.

Then, I danced in the kitchen and sang a silly song. I didn't mean to. It just bubbled up in me. And I got my life back. My husband got his wife back. My parents got their daughter back. My daughter got her mom, whom she had never really known.

That first year of hospital bills alone ran about \$40,000. We had insurance, thanks to my husband's job. I had lost mine when the anxiety during pregnancy was too much to handle. (Fun fact: what we think of as postpartum depression is more properly perinatal mood disorder and can start during pregnancy, include PTSD, anxiety, and psychosis, and even affect dads!)

Thanks to the essential benefits protections of the ACA, everyone gets maternity and mental health coverage, everyone. The Graham-Cassidy bill would have told me to get a job by 60 days or I don't deserve to live. Yeah, that's what this bill does. There is no safety for those on private plans. This bill removes the requirement for large companies to offer plans and removes the requirement that the plans have to cover essential benefits, including maternity and mental health care. A person might get lucky and work for an employer with a better plan, but there is no guarantee.

If this bill passes, I guarantee dead moms and babies all across this land. I guarantee it because I've been there, because it's more common than anyone wants to think, because it doesn't care who you are or your education or your employment or marital status or skin color or how much you wanted or didn't want that pregnancy.

We were lucky. We got care. Our family is happy and healthy and whole. We pay boatloads of taxes now back into the system because we got through the storm. I am thrilled to pay the millionaire's tax in CA for expanded mental health care. We need more millionaire's taxes to invest in people and their recovery and their families.

My story is horrific (and far worse than even this describes). But it's more horrific that the GOP wanted to take coverage like this away from millions so they can get richer. They want to make money off the dead bodies of children and new moms.

Kill this bill before it kills someone you love.

Sincerely,  
Kate Pfaff



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Cathy Nobil-Dutton <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:29 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** My health story

My name is Cathy Nobil-Dutton.

I am a survivor of uterine cancer. During the process of my diagnosis, I discovered that I have a genetic abnormality called Lynch Syndrome.

This predisposes me to about 8 different types of cancer. The odds are good that I will see cancer again in my life time.

In order to not die of cancer, I have to have constant surveillance. This means a yearly mammogram, colonoscopy, endoscopy, urinary tract screening and my twice yearly oncology appointments.

To top it all off, my daughter, who is 27 years old, also has Lynch Syndrome has to have all of these tests as well.

2 years ago, I experienced an abnormal heart rhythm that resulted in my having to have a pacemaker put into my heart. Last February, I suffered a mild stroke. I had to have a lot of tests to determine the cause and found out that I have a hole in my heart that needs to be repaired.

It is ABSOLUTELY HORRIFYING TO ME to think that I may not be able to get health insurance because of this bill that you are considering passing.

I have worked all of my life and supported our government. I deserve to be able to be treated for my health problems, which are no fault of my own.

It scares me even more that my daughter could be put in this position as well and that her young life could be over some day because of greed and selfishness.

Please ask yourselves how you will sleep at night knowing that you are putting so many people's lives at risk!

What makes your life more valuable than mine or my daughter's, after all, we know you won't have your health insurance dropped or become so prohibitively expensive that you can't keep it.

I appeal to your humanity-

**THIS BILL IS BAD FOR PEOPLE! VOTE NO!!**

Thank you

---

Cathy Nobil-Dutton LCSW, CPT  
Owner, Body Esteem Wellness Coaching  
[www.BodyEsteem.org](http://www.BodyEsteem.org)  
Positive Directions for Mind & Body

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Patti Acurio <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:29 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Please vote NO on Graham Cassidy. My story

My late husband had entrepreneurial yearning. A colleague had similar yearnings.

This colleague left his full-time job and started what is now a multi-national, multi-million dollar business that employs almost 100 people. He was a job creator.

My husband's business likely would have as well.

He did not leave his job because my late husband had lymphoma and he was handcuffed to his job with his health care package. This was prior to Obamacare and freedom from fear of pre-existing condition insurance denial.

My current partner has entrepreneurial yearnings. He is 62 years old. He has had various medical issues all his life. I strongly counsel him NOT to leave his job because many Republicans in this country want to take away his pre-existing condition protection.

My niece has Trigeminal Neuralgia. My sister-in-law has MS. My dear friend's child was just diagnosed with diabetes. I fear for all of them as well as countless other Americans.

Please vote no for the sake of our country.

Patti Acurio  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Chicago, IL

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Erik Ostrom <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:28 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** against Graham-Cassidy

Without federal requirements on pre-existing conditions and lifetime caps, I face increased risk and increased costs. I will probably have to abandon my entrepreneurial, self-owned business, and go back to working for a corporation. That's bad for me, and I think it's bad for America. We should encourage more people to strike out for themselves; not to be dependent on big businesses.

I'm lucky – I'm healthy, I can get a job, I can get some kind of insurance. I won't be affected directly by the withdrawal of support for low-income adults, children, and women's health. But even for the lucky ones like me, this is a bad deal. Please don't pass Graham-Cassidy.

–Erik Ostrom  
Minneapolis, MN

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Karalee Alvey <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:27 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GCH Bill  
**Attachments:** babysam.jpg

To whom it may concern,

My name is Karalee Alvey. I have a six year old son, Sam, who was born with a pre-existing condition. I want it entered into the record that this bill is being pushed through without a CBO score. We have no idea how this will impact our economy. Experts are saying that it will leave millions, including children who rely on Medicaid to keep them alive, without health care. We have to be better than this. We can't be the shining light on a hill, the beacon of hope and freedom for the world and let our children die. We have the means, the technology, the talented doctors and nurses devoted to saving lives. Why is our government standing in the way of better care for its citizens? We're better than this. We have to be. For kids like my Sam who rely on insurance. For families like mine who are fearful of meeting caps and being denied care because of the bad luck of having a child born with a health condition.

This is wrong. And we need our representatives to do better.

Thank you,

Karalee Alvey

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Mary Ervin <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:26 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy insurance bill

To whom it may concern:

I strongly oppose this bill.

I have been denied insurance in the past because I'd had a caesarean section with a pregnancy. I do not trust insurance companies nor government to look out for me out of the goodness of their hearts; I want it written down into law. We have plenty of money for the military. Some of that money needs to go into looking out for the welfare of all the people.

Thank you,  
Teresa Ervin

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Sara C <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:25 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** McCain, Senator (McCain); Senator\_Flake@flake.senate.gov  
**Subject:** GC bill - please vote no

Dear Senators,

Please do not pass this rushed, ill-conceived bill to repeal the ACA. I can't imagine any legislation more hurtful to our great state of Arizona, and to the country as a whole. This is a truly terrible bill.

Respectfully,

Sara Clancy,  
Tucson, AZ

Sent from my iPad

Sent from my iPad

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Tom Shubert <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:25 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Insurance only works when all risks are pooled, and EVERYONE effectively subsidizes everyone since no one can know who will need to make a claim!

Insurance only works when all risks are pooled, and EVERYONE effectively subsidizes everyone since no one can know who will need to make a claim! And like term life insurance, once covered, no one should be allowed to be removed from coverage. Unlike term life insurance, once a covered individual gets treated for a condition, health insurance providers are allowed to re-evaluate risk and adjust premiums. With term life insurance, a person who develops cancer or a heart condition cannot be dropped or have their premium change. These risks are all factored in when the coverage is first underwritten. So why do we allow health insurance coverage to work differently? They have been gaming the public manipulating rates and trying to lure people from one company to another.

Unfortunately we have allowed insurance companies to create smaller and smaller risk pools, carving out the lower risk groups to offer them artificially low coverage resulting in loss of "subsidies" to the rest of the risk population. This practice MUST STOP! We have also allowed them in the past to increase premiums on, or drop coverage from, individuals who develop a "condition" and this must also stop. Our government MUST pass regulations that stop insurers from creating these micro-risk pools that adversely affect an aging population. Instead they must require all risks be pooled together so that insurance can actually function like it is supposed to.

Tom Shubert  
Tom Shubert IT Consulting, Providing Data and Voice Solutions and Support Since 1982  
YourWEB Services, Providing Internet Technology Consulting Since 1994

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

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## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** jane tea-hajosy <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:25 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect affordable health care for all Americans!

I am a single, 59 yo woman who had 2 major joints replaced in 2016. I am retired because of same. I currently pay \$817.00 per month. Even with 2 major surgeries I did not reach my deductable of \$9,000 so all expenses were out of pocket. I am fearful of what my rates will be and how I will pay for it.

The Graham Cassia bill will literally kill me. Is that really what you want?

Jane Tea-Hajosy

Sent via the Samsung GALAXY S® 5, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Mariana DiMartino <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:24 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Urging Action

Committee Members,

It is appalling this bill does not prevent insurance companies from charging more for preexisting conditions or from instituting a lifetime cap. I have a pacemaker due to a genetic disorder and this will bankrupt my family. I **do not mind** paying taxes - keep our protections in order!

Please consider the opinions of experts like the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association ("This bill harms our most vulnerable patients"), the American Public Health Association ("Graham-Cassidy would devastate the Medicaid program, increase out-of-pocket costs, and weaken or eliminate protections for people living with preexisting conditions"), the National Institute for Reproductive Health ("the Graham-Cassidy bill preys on underserved communities ... a clear and present danger"), and Federation of American Hospitals ("It could disrupt access to health care for millions of the more than 70 million Americans") and do not allow this bill in its present form to pass the Senate.

MDM

--  
Mariana DiMartino  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Anna Quintana <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:23 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

The number of people with pre-existing medical conditions has been on the rise in this country for the past decade, which is in direct relation with the number of disability claims submitted to the Federal Government during that same time period. A fear that Mrs. Obama saw coming when she first started her plea for better school meals for our children and her promotion of exercise as a daily part of school children's lives. However, it was just not meant to happen for Mrs. Obama due to the fact that our lifestyle is now sedentary thanks to technology and the ability to order everything you desire from your couch. So now that President Obama efforts to provide medical coverage for Americans who have embraced this sedentary lifestyle is going to be obliterated, it is my hope that 'we the people' speak out and say that our access to good health care in this country shouldn't be limited to the wealthy, famous and government representatives alone. We all need medical coverage regardless of our pre-existing health coverage. I stand with Jimmy Kimmel in saying that representatives must not vote to protect their governmental medical coverage for their families but for the families that live in their communities who are suffering each and everyday. Constituents should not have to hit the streets so that they can cover expensive medical procedures that could mean life or death. Stop passage of the Graham-Cassidy health care bill!!!

Best Regards,  
Anna  
Ms. Quintana  
Email: [REDACTED]

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## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Siobhan <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:22 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

> To Whom it may concern,

>

> The Graham-Cassidy bill is a disaster, as is the manner it is being railroaded through.

>

> To the latter point, no thoughtful reorganization of 1/6 of the American economy would occur at this pace, and without hearings or a CBO score!

>

> On the content of the bill, it is incredibly telling that every major insurer, insurance industry organization, and medical organization has come out publicly against this bill. It's bad for patients. It's bad for the public. It's bad for the economy.

>

> I keep reading comments from Republican senators that this bill must be passed to fulfill a campaign promise. I'm sure they'd like to achieve goals they've set for themselves, but to do so at the expense of millions of people, their health and that of their families is criminal. The projected increase in medical expenses for those with metastasized cancer is \$147,000 a year. THAT IS A DEATH SENTENCE.

>

> I also keep hearing from Senator Graham that this bill is the only thing to protect us from a single payer system. Respectfully, Senator you have the causality wrong - this bill is what is going to deliver a single payer system. This is so bad for so many people that if it passes, they will turn to Bernie Sander's plan and the Democrats. I see this already happening in my own Republican family. Everyone is ideologically opposed to a single payer system, but for us, that ideology falls away when it means my aunt is unlikely to survive the year.

>

> Respectfully, I urge you to vote against this terrible bill or even better, never bring it to the floor for a vote. We, the American people, deserve better.

>

> Siobhan O'Neil

>

>

>

>

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Dawn Marie [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:21 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** PLEASE DO NOT REPEAL AND REPLACE THE ACA

We will lose our healthcare, as parents of three children. Please vote NO.

dm

Dawn Marie Galtieri  
Founder & Executive/Artistic Director

Voice of the City

[REDACTED]  
Chicago, IL 60647  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Laurie Goldberg [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:21 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO, please leave well enough alone

Hello,  
Unless the health care bill would meet with approval for YOU and your family, please DO NOT pass a GOP bill tearing down the system for the rest of us.  
Sincerely,  
Laurie Goldberg-Foreman

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:21 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care bill

Everything about this bill is wrong.

It's wrong to lie about what this proposed legislation does or does not cover.

It's wrong to contribute to preventable deaths or severe illnesses of follow American citizens by denying them access to health care.

It's wrong to try to shove through partisan legislation when bipartisan legislation is both feasible and desired by the vast majority of U.S. citizens.

Every U.S. Senator has the same opportunity , to stand on the right side if human history, to do what is morally inherent in this situation.

Please - all of you - do the right thing, vote NO.

Wendy Jorgensen, PhD  
Family Health Education

*Sent from my Verizon LG Smartphone*

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:20 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

I would like it on record that I am opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am an oncology nurse, and I can see every day the positive impact that the Affordable Care Act has had on my patients. Many of them have access to care that they would not have had without it, and I can say without doubt, that some of them are alive today because of this.

As citizens and leaders, we share in a commitment to do all we can to help our communities. If we're honest, we all know that some day we will all need that same help in return when we become old or sick. Whether we identify as republican or democrat, we are human. In a country and in a world with so many problems, this doesn't have to be one more. Please look inside your hearts and do what is right for the American people. Do not vote for the Graham-Cassidy bill, but instead, commit to working in a bipartisan fashion to creating a healthcare system that truly works for all of us.

Sincerely,

Bruce Kahn  
Chicago, Illinois

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Laura Balson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:53 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Dick Durbin; Scheduling (Duckworth)  
**Subject:** Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing regarding the hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, scheduled for Monday, Sept. 25, 2017.

I am a resident of Skokie, IL, and have copied my state's two wonderful Senators, Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth, on this email.

I am 37 years old, a mother of two young children and an attorney. I have faced many personal health challenges, starting when I was about 22 years old, but have had the great fortune to always have health insurance and a broad safety net of family members who provided financial support in the most difficult times.

So my story is not about me. It is about a few of my dear friends who will be devastated if the Graham Cassidy proposal becomes law.

One friend, Heather, who is also a full-time working mother, has three young daughters, two of whom have struggled with seizures and other serious health issues since infancy. Heather's mother passed away unexpectedly last year which caused her elderly father to move in with her family, her husband has been out of work since the recession and she was recently discussing potentially filing for bankruptcy, in order to deal with the serious financial difficulties facing her family. Then, just a few weeks ago, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and her doctors recommended a double mastectomy. This has been almost too much for Heather to bear. She has a supportive group of friends, family, neighbors and church members who want to help, and we have organized a meal train, we've taken turns watching the children, and have offered emotional support, but it is still nearly more than she can handle. She is bravely facing her diagnosis and is working to get the medical care she needs, but she is in constant fear that because the Republicans have made it their mission to undo the advances of Obamacare, that her insurance company will one day be able to kick her off the employer-sponsored plan that she has enjoyed for years. Graham Cassidy's proposal would allow that to happen. I am not exaggerating when I say that either passing the Graham Cassidy proposal or actually enacting it into law could be enough to put Heather over the edge and make her give up her fight.

Another dear friend, Yael, lost her 10 year old son two years ago to a disease that he had been battling for most of his life. I cannot overstate how deep and how devastating her grief has been. I cannot imagine a more horrible sorrow than to see your child die. But she and her husband and their younger son have somehow found a way to band together and move on with their lives. Yael, like Heather, is an incredibly strong person, and has shown bravery and resilience that we should all envy. Last night, however, she had to take her husband to the ER because he was having difficulty breathing. After hours of tests, they were told that he has lymphoma. This diagnosis was shared with Yael's friends via social media early this morning, and has been on my mind all day. I do not know how advanced Yael's husband's cancer is, but I know that if insurance companies are allowed to substantially increase premiums or impose lifetime caps on individuals or families, Yael's family will suffer even more than they already have.


As you consider this bill and its cost implications, please know that the entire country is filled with stories like those of my friends - I can't think of a single family that hasn't been touched somehow by a horrible disease, medical diagnosis, accident or trauma. And all those families are living in fear of what callous, heartless, uninformed decision the Republican-led Senate is planning to make that will impact their lives forever. This is not just an economic issue,



it is literally a matter of life and death. Whatever the cost, you owe it to the American people to work to make their medical care better - not cheaper, not more profitable, not a smaller percentage of the national budget - BETTER. When your dear friends or family members become ill, which they will, I assure you that you will not care whether the insurance company executives have made sufficient profit-based bonuses, or whether you were able to secure enough room in the national budget to advance a tax cut that you'd promised to your wealthiest donors.

Whatever flaws Obamacare may have, its goal was to cover the most people, no matter what. And it has succeeded in that goal. If that's not your goal, you should not be in the business of creating laws that dictate who will live and who will die.

warm regards,  
Laura Balson



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Christophe Jammet <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:52 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No to Graham Cassidy

Good afternoon,

My name is Christophe Jammet, I'm a citizen an a New York City Resident. I'm email to voice my extreme disapproval over this disaster of a "health care" bill.

This bill doesn't take care of anyone's health. It's a wealth transfer cash grab driven by Koch brother donations. How dare the GOP put their financial interests above the well being of our country's citizens?

A bill that will have devastating effects on 1/5 of the nation's economy and the health and well being of millions of Americans shouldn't be rushed through in 10 days. Get a CBO score, get a bill that can find 60 votes. In the words of Senator McCain, return to regular order.

Why not try and improve ACA instead of gutting it? Why not add a public option to force real pro-consumer competition in the marketplace.

Do right by your fellow citizens. It's literally your duty to do so.

Best,

Christophe Jammet

Christophe Jammet

[REDACTED]  
[www.sparkifycorp.com](http://www.sparkifycorp.com) [REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Irene Lin <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:50 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** statement on Graham-Cassidy Bill for Senate Finance Committee Hearing  
**Attachments:** GCH Statement.docx

Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

September 25, 2017

Irene Lin  
[REDACTED]

Philadelphia, PA 19104

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in strong opposition to Graham-Cassidy-Heller on multiple grounds, the first of which is that it would be disastrous for my family and any American family that faces daunting healthcare challenges (translation: every American family outside of the top 1%). My sister suffers from a mental illness and, because of the nature of her disease, can not reliably hold on to a job that will cover health insurance benefits, and is often unable to seek the help she needs to stay healthy. When her disease takes over and she cannot stay medicated, she often requires hospitalization to get back on track. Without hospitalization, expensive medications and therapy, she would likely die from suicide or some other cause related to the risky behaviors and depression brought on by her disease.

My sister is fortunate to come from a middle-class family that loves and supports her. But without reliable government assistance for healthcare, my family would go bankrupt trying to keep her healthy and alive. No family should face that risk. And under GCH, that would be a risk that pretty much any family would potentially face.

My other objections to this bill:

-- It would jack up prices for just about everyone, but especially the most vulnerable of Americans: the sick, the poor, the elderly, women and children.

-- The majority of Americans don't want this.

-- It has no support from doctors, nurses, or even health insurers. No major medical association endorses it. I trust their judgement on what is best for healthcare, not a bunch of politicians.

-- It is being rushed through an undemocratic, shameful process with no hearings, amendments, or even a full CBO score. Most of its proponents openly admit or imply that they have no idea what it does or what its impact would be. That terrifies me.

-- It is being rushed through this process on an artificial timeline. There is no rule saying you have to do this by Sept. 30. Slow down. Go through the normal process. Let the American people have their say.

-- It is completely one-sided. Healthcare needs a bipartisan fix, not a one-sided, rushed, slipshod attempt at repeal just to appease the 30% (at best) of Americans who want that.

As a mother, wife, daughter, sister and concerned citizen, I implore Senate Republicans not to bring this up for a vote. Work with Democrats to fix what's not working with the Affordable Care Act, but keep its framework in place. That's what the majority of Americans -- and experts in the medical and health insurance field -- want.

Do what's right for the country, not for the very small percentage of Republican voters (and rich donors) who want Obamacare repeal at all cost. It's your job to do what is in the country's best interests. So do your job. Kill this bill. Please.

Thank you,

Irene Lin

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Tomi Vest [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:52 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy is not reading for a hearing or a vote

To whom it may concern,

A bill that will have devastating effects on 1/5 of the nation's economy and the health and well being of millions of Americans shouldn't be rushed through in 10 days. Get a CBO score, get a bill that can find 60 votes. In the words of Senator McCain, return to regular order.

Please do what's right - it's too important not to.

Tomi Vest

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Melanie Smith <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:06 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Sasse, info (Sasse); Fischer, Senator (Fischer)  
**Subject:** Title Of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017  
Submitted by: Melanie McKee Smith [REDACTED]

- Title Of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
- Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017
- Melanie McKee Smith
- [REDACTED]

Members of the Finance Committee of the Senate:

Our adults with disabilities have a right to life! Medicaid's Community Based Waiver programs and health insurance are critical to the safety and welfare of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, like my daughter Lauren.

Please, oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill or any other bill that cuts, caps, or block grants Medicaid!

Cutting Medicaid funding threatens the lives of adults with disabilities. In Nebraska there are already over 2000 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities that are on wait lists to access critical services. Any action you take to reduce or eliminate Medicaid funding to the states will worsen the wait lists, devastate families and threaten lives. If we are a nation that upholds the sanctity of life, we should start with taking care of those who cannot take care of themselves. If members of this committee believe that abortion is wrong, one would further understand that intentional failure to care for our citizens who are born with disabilities is worse! This Bill fails to protect our most vulnerable.

My step-daughter Lauren is 29 and she is a Medicaid beneficiary. When Lauren was 13, her mom died suddenly of a heart attack. I took on the role of mom when I married her dad. Lauren is strong and beautiful and kind. She is special and has special needs. Her father and I have been appointed her legal guardians because Lauren lacks the competency to care for herself or her affairs.

Lauren's IQ is less than 60; she cannot read or write, has speech impediments and developmental disabilities (her psychological/social age is 8) . She will never be able to live independently, drive a car or take a bus, shop for herself, or be alone (she believes that the Tornado Shelter is where you go in a fire). She has bipolar mood disorder and impulsive behaviors. Without her medications she would spin into mania. She needs others to look after her and keep her safe.

She also loves her family, Disney, horseback riding, art and movies and travel. And, she loves her job. Companion Services (See, <https://companionlinc.com/>) is a unique and fabulous organization that provides a supported environment to individuals with disabilities. Retail stores are operated in Omaha where Lauren and her co-workers have job coaches and work hard! She is paid a minimum wage. There

she learns how to talk to other people, tag items in the store, make smoothies. This program is funded by Medicaid through the Community Based Waiver program. Adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities rely on Medicaid for access to services that enable them to live, learn and participate in the community. Programs like Companion Services provide not only training, education and support but the opportunity to have work that matters! Without that funding, Lauren would have no where to go.

Lauren will never "get better". We can no longer care for her in our home as her behaviors threatened the safety of her younger sister. Lauren lives in a supported group home. She has thrived. (After all, what 29 year old thrives under their parent's roof?) She has roommates that she is able to socialize with, staff who support her and keep her safe and has developed a sense of independence, of dignity and pride in her ability to "be on her own." She pays for her rent and daily needs like food and clothes. The home's staffing is funded through Medicaid through the Community Based Waiver Program. Here too, actions by the legislature to alter Medicaid funding to the states places my daughter's stable environment, and those of other adults like her at risk. The alternative: psychiatric hospitalization or nursing home care for the rest of her life.

Changes in Medicaid should only occur after careful analysis, thoughtful planning and precise understanding of the current state as well as the impact those changes will have.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Ann Rider <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:58 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy would devastate lives

I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy "Healthcare" bill, for several reasons.

First, it's clearly not a "healthcare" bill but instead is a way to claw back money to give tax breaks to rich people and corporations. It's also a way to erase anything President Obama ever did. Neither of these goals is useful to the American people.

Second, I have worked as the Executive Director of a Community Mental Health Agency in two states (one red, one blue). I was working in that capacity when each state added Medicaid Expansion, and I saw how many people came into services who were not previously eligible. Many of the people who were added to services through that expansion would lose services under this bill, since the funding just goes away. And what do you think those people will do then? They are disabled, but most of them are on SSI and therefore not eligible for Medicare. Without Medicaid, they will lose funding for prescription medications, for case management, for therapy, and for peer support. They will lose every opportunity to achieve recovery and eventually get off disability. This is not only killing people, it's sentencing them to a very slow, miserable death.

Third, this bill will mean the loss of thousands, perhaps tens of thousands of jobs. I also saw the staffing increases that happened with Medicaid Expansion in particular, and also with other people finally getting health insurance and accessing health care. When that group of people no longer has access to outpatient care, relying instead on emergency rooms, the people who were brought on to staff those clinics will be laid off, with no place else to go for work.

Fourth, rural hospitals and emergency rooms throughout the country will fail. The burden of caring for uninsured people falls to emergency rooms and most hospitals, especially rural hospitals, simply cannot absorb the added expense.

This bill is a sham. Senators should be ashamed to vote for it, and even more ashamed to call it a "healthcare" bill.

Ann Rider, MSW, CPRP, CPC  
Whole Human Consulting

*Ring the bells that still can ring  
Forget your perfect offering  
There's a crack in everything  
That's how the light gets in  
~ Leonard Cohen*



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Joanie Butler <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:47 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Heartless Healthcare Bill

I have recently been diagnosed with Lymphoma and I currently received my first chemotherapy treatment this month. The cost alone to only determine my diagnosis is \$40,000. Fortunately, as a retired federal employee I have excellent healthcare and I am only responsible for \$2,600 of the \$40,000. I currently have no idea how much the chemotherapy will cost.

I turn 65 in November and am looking forward for Medicare to go into effect on November 1st. I have worked since I was 16 years old and my only major health matter was the birth of my daughter, however I've always had health insurance. It was instilled in me by my parents.

My concern is not everyone has been as fortunate and how can anyone humanely deny anyone healthcare, especially in this great country. We're supposed to be the greatest, but you're proving otherwise. How can anyone be so heartless? When did we become so selfish? We don't need to cut taxes to the wealthy, bloviate the military anymore than it already is -- cutting waste makes a lot more sense to me for that matter. And we definitely don't need to waste billions of tax dollars on a stupid wall. Healthcare for all is the only right thing to do! Do the right thing and stop being the heartless party!

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Eric Oberg <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:56 PM  
**To:** gchcomments

Since retiring from Goldman Sachs in 2005, I have had a gamut of experiences in purchasing my own healthcare insurance. At GS, I had employer healthcare, and it served me well through diagnosis of Type I diabetes, through the birth of my kids, etc. But I will never forget the afternoon of my exit interview when HR began explaining COBRA...it was an eye opener, because probably like most people who have grown up with employer-sponsored healthcare, I had never given it a thought.

I went through 18 months of COBRA, rolled onto a "continuation plan", and lived in three different states in the ensuing years, so I have pretty good experience in buying insurance. Just before ACA kicked off, I was paying nearly 25k a year for a family plan that had a 250k lifetime cap on benefits. Realizing this wasn't the most palatable plan in the world, I sought out new coverage. This is where I ran into the "pre-existing conditions" buzz-saw. (In my case, being a Type I diabetic.) I realized I couldn't even get an alternative insurance plan...I had to stay on my continuation plan.

Thus, the ACA has been incredibly valuable for me. First off, I couldn't be discriminated against for having a pre-existing condition in the individual market. Secondly, it eliminated the lifetime cap on benefits. So I have been through the Exchange a few times and think it works fairly well--and have been, yes, very happy with using it.

But I can see why it is a problem, because the pool is basically people like me--those who do not rely on a corporate plan and most likely have pre-existing conditions, thus the pool itself is somewhat adversely selected. This then got me thinking about fixes.

In short, I think the answer is to really **make the Exchanges the focal point of liquidity for healthcare insurance; we need to nudge people into the pool.**

Since WWII, our nation has relied on a system of "corporate paternalism". We have historically relied on our employer to provide retirement and healthcare benefits. And while on retirement the last forty years, we have moved from Defined Benefit to Defined Contribution (even offering opportunity to use an IRA in lieu of a 401k plan), healthcare has still largely been in the hands of the employer.

I think one basic tenet of employee benefits is that employers should only provide benefits if the employee values them by more than it costs the employer (otherwise, the employer should just pay cash). So it creates a win/win situation. In healthcare there are two dynamics that make this proposition work: opaque pricing (due to bulk purchase) and pre-tax payments. The Exchanges should help clear up opaque pricing. But we have this issue of pre-tax advantages.

If we **eliminate employer-based healthcare insurance tax benefits WITH THE EXCEPTION of vouchers to the Exchange**, then more people would enter the Exchange pool, and a win/win situation still exists. The employer can provide the employee a benefit which costs them less than the benefit derived. The employee can then go purchase whatever plan they like--if they want a Gold Plan, they might have to pay more out of pocket, if they want a Bronze Plan, maybe they can sock some money away in an HSA. With a significantly larger pool, costs should come down versus an adversely selected pool.

This also has a couple of significant side benefits. 1) It **creates true portability of insurance**--if I change jobs, I know what the costs are of my plan and I can keep it. And this is crucial because Millennials today are expected to switch jobs a dozen or more times in their career. (Another reason that corporate paternalism may be outdated). 2) Insurance companies will **carve out substantial costs** by not having a sales staff that tries to sign up GS, IBM, AAPL, etc. to be their provider every year. This savings can be reflected in their pricing on the Exchanges, where all insurance cos. can compete head to head. The Exchange brings the clients to the insurer. 3) If overall costs get lowered on the exchange, then **the value of subsidies will also come down** and 4) eases hassle for businesses, so **may aid in business formation**. No longer does a company's HR need to intermeditate a dispute between an employee and their insurer, spend time trying to come up with a one size fits all policy for their workforce, and so forth,

Now, there is still this issue of 30% of the (mostly rural) counties that only have one provider. Hopefully pushing everyone into the pool helps that. But states could also mandate if you are in one county in our state, you are in all

counties. Or maybe a broader cross-state lines pool could be created for such counties. (Note--this is also why EHBs are kind of, well, essential...)

I think this "middle path" offers something that could possibly gain bi-partisan support . For Dems, it strengthens a program they got rolling, for Rs, it offers choice via vouchers, lowers costs, aids in business formation, and cynically, you could also argue it isn't single payer--which is surely the predicted rebound from a failed ACA replacement (and one the Insurance Companies would not like). While those at the wings of either party may not like it, this is what I envision as a workable Centrist framework.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Laura Leebove [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:57 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please do not let the Graham-Cassidy bill pass

Dear Finance Committee,

Trying to ram this bill through Congress for the sole purpose of repealing the Affordable Care Act is irresponsible and will be harmful to millions of Americans — across states and political affiliations. The Graham-Cassidy bill is cruel and will leave the insurance industry in worse shape than it's already in now. Please remember these are real people who will be affected, and don't pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Laura Leebove

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Ashlee Christian <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:56 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy

To Whom it May Concern,

A bill that will have devastating effects on 1/5 of the nation's economy and the health and well being of millions of Americans shouldn't be rushed through in 10 days. Get a CBO score, get a bill that can find 60 votes. In the words of Senator McCain, return to regular order.

This is an assault on our democracy and on the lives of millions of Americans. I can't believe I even have to write this. I can't believe that I have to spend so much time convincing people why they should care about other people.

Ashlee Christian

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**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Eavvon O'Neal <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:55 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** PLEASE CONSIDER

A bill that will have devastating effects on 1/5 of the nation's economy and the health and well being of millions of Americans shouldn't be rushed through in 10 days. Get a CBO score, get a bill that can find 60 votes. In the words of Senator McCain, return to regular order.

Sincerely,

Eavvon O'Neal

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Allie Hanlon <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:56 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

To the Committee:

The Graham-Cassidy Bill should have never even been introduced, let alone should it pass. This is a terrible bill that would hurt a lot of Americans. This last ditch effort to just get something passed instead of nothing is a horrible political move that does not take into account the actual impact of the bill and what it would do to people.

No, the Affordable Care Act is not perfect. This attempt to repeal and replace it is worse. Healthcare is something that needs to be thought through, discussed, debated, and a solution found that won't hurt the very people it is supposedly trying to help.

Please. Do not let this bill pass.

Sincerely, a concerned citizen,

Allie Hanlon

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Rebecca Kell <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:55 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA Repeal

This bill will kill Americans who do not have insurance through their employers. It will kill Americans who have pre-existing conditions. This bill is NOT what Americans want.

<http://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/338984-obamacare-more-popular-than-house-gop-healthcare-bill-poll>

Even if you do not care about the suffering and deaths of Americans, you might want to consider that no one likes this bill. Think of your reelection. Think of the 2018 election of the rest of the GOP.

You've also promised to not vote on bills prior to CBO scores bills. This bill will not be scored before September 30. Please keep your promise to Americans to wait for CBO scoring before voting.

Thank you

Rebecca Kell



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Nancy <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:55 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** The Graham-Cassidy bill will devastate me and my state

I'm writing as a person living with a rare autoimmune disability imploring everyone in this committee to vote against the Graham-Cassidy Bill. I spent all last summer while people were enjoying vacation time in and out of treatment centers and hospitals for my latest round of infusion therapy. It's hard fighting my illness everyday, small things people take for granted, such as simply walking, is a challenge for me. But luckily, I have Medicaid which covers my care so I focus on my health rather than worrying about costs or bankruptcy. These last few months, with the constant threat to my healthcare, I've been stressed beyond consolidation. And seeing the numbers, that the Graham-Cassidy Bill will cut/cap my care by -15% makes me wonder about my survival. Please reject this bill, it is the worst iteration of Repeal and Replace yet. Even worse, it doesn't have a CBO score but independent analysts estimate 32 million people can lose their healthcare. Lives are the line. One hearing and 10 days is no way to address the issues of healthcare in the US that affects 1/6 of the economy.

Additionally, my state of New York would be one of the top states hurt most by this bill. All because we had the audacity to expand Medicaid and expand coverage to more people. My state would lose \$45 billion in funding and more than 2 million people would lose their healthcare coverage. Other states would gain healthcare funding with this reallocation. It's a shameful political ploy to gain votes. This is simply unfair and doesn't recognize the health expense disparity between states. This bill does not give freedom to states, it pits one against another in a healthcare "civil war" and locks them in a fix budget where healthcare is rationed amongst vulnerable populations and that is morally reprehensible.

And it's short term fix for states that do gain more funding (which could have be done by expanding Medicaid) because on a baseline level, the whole country loses. ACA protections and benefits, such as pre-existing condition protections, Essential Health Benefits will be jeopardized. These block grants would gradually diminish over time until it becomes nil by 2027. Do not vote for this bill. Patients', doctors' groups and even insurers have come out against it. It will hurt people, there will be fatalities. I'm not exaggerating because I'm one of those people who needs specialists care but will not be afford it after this bill passes. And I refuse to cause my family financial burden.

Please vote No on Graham-Cassidy and continue on with bipartisan efforts lead by Senator Alexander and Senator Murray. My life and that of so many other Americans are on the line. Thank you.

Nancy Ye

Sent from my iPad

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Caroline & Andy Armstrong <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:50 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

I am a 56-year old, hard-working American woman. I have been in the work force since graduating from college. For the first time in my life, as of 2016, I had to leave full-time employment due to a PRE-EXISTING MEDICAL CONDITION that began when I was a teen, resulted in two surgeries, and in recent years, has rendered me unable to work for weeks on end. I made the difficult decision that it would be best for my overall long term health to leave full -time employment, but still work on a part-time basis. The trade-off was that I'd no longer receive benefits. I analyzed the financial impact carefully, recognizing that since I am on the ACA, despite being ineligible for subsidies, I could afford to do this. Enacting the Graham-Cassidy bill will upend my decision and leave me (and millions of others) in a perilous situation.

Graham-Cassidy will spell disaster to New Jersey, my home state, which is projected to lose \$3.9 billion in federal funding and across the country. While the bill is especially punitive toward those states that took advantage of Medicaid expansion under the ACA, largely "blue states," in the end, when federal Medicaid expansion funds go away and the temporary block grants disappear, every state will suffer. In the short and long term, the individual market place, where I'm headed in January of 2018, will be sent into utter turmoil. Apparently, the GOP leadership has no interest in awaiting a CBO score before bringing this bill to a vote, and I understand, proposes a 90-second debate on the bill prior to the vote, with only Graham and Cassidy weighing in. Even without the CBO score, the Commonwealth Fund has weighed in and concludes that this bill will throw millions of Americans off of insurance. <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/blog/2017/sep/potential-effects-of-graham-cassidy>

This bill, unlike the prior (and equally horrible) repeal/replace bills and amendments put forth this year, proposes a drastically different structure for health care in this country. That in itself demands a careful, thoughtful analysis and plenty of debate, public hearings and town hall discussions. This political attempt to ram a horrible bill through Congress, with no public hearings worth mentioning, in complete disregard of those in the medical and insurance industry who have weighed in, in complete disregard for the group of bipartisan governors who recently weighed in, is a travesty and an attack on America's health. I think Senator Grassley's statement probably sums up the sentiment of many in support of the Graham-Cassidy bill. In an article published in the Sept 20<sup>th</sup> edition of the Des Moines Register, Mr. Grassley is quoted as having said "You know, I could maybe give you 10 reasons why this bill shouldn't be considered," Grassley said. "But Republicans campaigned on this so often that you have a responsibility to carry out what you said in the campaign. That's pretty much as much of a reason as the substance of the bill." And there we have it: politics over people.

According to the Kaiser Health Tracking Poll taken in August of this year, 78% of Americans think Mr. Trump and his administration should do what they can to make the current health care law work rather than sabotage it, and 57% want Republicans in Congress to work with Democrats to improve the ACA but not repeal the law. We want things fixed but that doesn't translate into fast-tracking bad legislation that will destroy lives. **This bill must be voted down.** There are too many lives and livelihoods at risk, including my own. I applaud recent efforts in both Houses of Congress to work on health care improvements and fixes in a bipartisan manner. The fact that the Senate has shut the door on Sen Alexander's bipartisan committee is another example of placing politics above the country's well-being. Let's continue down the path of bipartisanship and regular order and stop this political game that is flat out dangerous for America at so many levels.

Thank you.

Caroline Armstrong

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Diane Vogt <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:49 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Trumpcare / Graham Cassidy

I am a registered voter in 32927 I expect you to oppose the Graham - Cassidy health care bill. As a caregiver to someone with multiple sclerosis she receives \$20,000.00 annually but this would cost her \$26,580.00. No compassion to me equals no vote for the GOP forever. Please don't let the KOCH brothers dictate policy any longer. Do the right thing for the people that you represent over your love of money.

Thanks for listening.  
Diane Vogt

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Cacky Riegel <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:54 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** HOP healthcare bill

So very opposed to this. My daughter has epilepsy, my son is in remission from cancer... Neither will be able to get insurance if this passes. Shame on you republicans for killing Americans by denying insurance.

Sent from myMail for iOS

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Ruthie Westmeier <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:54 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GHC

If you want a statement entered into the record for the SFC hearing on Monday, please email: [REDACTED]  
cc @ASlavitt

This is how GCH will affect me.

First-The most obvious is that I will lose Insurance. As a self-employed person I have to buy my own insurance. Prior to ACA, the prices had gone so high I finally couldn't afford insurance. The last year I bought insurance it cost me for individual coverage \$550.00 a month. The next year the price increased so much I finally gave up and stepped out of the Health Insurance Market. With ACA I'm paying around \$300.00 Not the best insurance because the deduct. are high but still better than no Insurance.

Second, It also affects my business. I am a mental health counselor with my own office. When I decided to open up my Christian Counseling office, I faced the reality that there are almost no Christian counselors in NYC that accept ins. much less Medicaid insurances. This means that the poor in this city can only get secular counseling which is unacceptable to many believing folk. I really felt that God wanted this to change. So when opened up I got on most of the Medicaid panels as well as a few commercial insurances. More than 70% of my clients are either Medicaid or ACA. This bill could easily devastate my business. Now if you extrapolate this out to many businesses like mine, you can begin to see the huge effect this will have on the health care industry. In the Mental Health clinics I worked in, easily 90-95% of the income comes from Medicaid. Taking out of the system \$800 billion is going to have a huge effect on this industry. It will have an overall economic impact. I know I made the choice to serve the poor when I started which has impacted the amount of money I make, but I don't regret it for a minute.

Ruthie Westmeier LCSW

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Tricia Thompson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:53 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill  
**Attachments:** nathan.jpg

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

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

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

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

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

Please oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Please oppose any cuts to Medicaid

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

Sincerely,  
Tricia Thompson  
[REDACTED]  
Menomonie, WI 54751  
[REDACTED]

Today I can speak out for Lauren and advocate for her needs. What happens when her father and I are gone? How can I know that she will be safe, cared for and living a productive life? How do I tell a new parent with a baby with a disability or a pregnant mom expecting her newborn to have down syndrome or another known anomaly that their family will have access to the resources and care needed to enable their child to live a productive life with dignity? This Bill, if it becomes law, devastates the safety net families like ours and people like Lauren rely on.

Please, oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill or any other bill that cuts, caps, or block grants Medicaid!

Respectfully,  
Melanie M. Smith  
Omaha, NE

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Sheryl Small <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:36 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Abomination

I am writing to express my disgust with this health care bill. Each one gets worse than its predecessor.

I am a 62 year old woman. I am currently insured under a special program here in Montana. I will be paying a small percentage of my gross income as a premium in my Montana income taxes. This is the first time I have been able to afford healthcare in 11 years. I have been uninsured for most of the last 26 years because of premiums. I have pre-existing conditions and am on regular medication. This bill would be disastrous for me. I work as a motel desk clerk.

I have three children. My oldest is a Marine veteran. He blew his knee out in the Corps and is under the VA. Cuts to the VA will negatively impact him and his fellow vets. Is this the way you reward service to the country?

My second son has a pre existing heart condition. It was a minor birth defect. It has been repaired, but will show up as a pre-existing condition. He is working, but because of the 2008 financial crash, he couldn't get a job in his field. He was newly graduated from college. He works in a job that pays above minimum, but he still qualifies for Medicaid. Good paying jobs are tough to find in Montana, particularly in Missoula. He has plans for future study, but must first pay down his current student loans.

My daughter is an ER nurse. She also has a pacemaker. So, she, too, has pre-existing conditions. She must have her pacemaker monitored regularly, and replaced every 7 to 10 years. She is a hard working, compassionate woman in a challenging field of work.

The rich do not need more tax cuts, they need to contribute their fair share. You expect the other 99% to contribute more than their fair share. This bill is an abomination. I have been a proud American for all of my life. I have roots that go back to Mayflower, as well as ancestors that immigrated during the Irish Potato famine. There is a meme floating around the Internet. It is a joke about Montana being given to Canada by President Trump. Many of us laughed at the meme, but also confessed that might not be so bad. So...

Register me as a HUGE NO, with good reasons.

Sincerely,

Sheryl Small



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Patrick Gray <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:36 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Senator Cotton  
**Subject:** Re: Roman Todd Medicaid recipient

On Jun 27, 2017 1:25 PM, "Patrick Gray" <[REDACTED]> wrote:

This is our grandson Roman Rhett Todd. He was born February 29, 2016 at only 24 weeks gestation . He was in the neonatal ICU for the first 6 months of his life and has been hospitalized 4 more times since. Earlier this month he was having severe breathing troubles and his parents took him to the Little Rock, Arkansas Children's Hospital. While he was there the doctors did a follow up CAT scan on his brain to check on the shunt in his head for severe brain bleeds. They found the shunt had malfunctioned and he was rushed into operation. Afterward his breathing got much worse and his status declined rapidly. At one point his carbon dioxide levels reached 98% and he nearly died. He was in the hospital for two weeks recovering.

Roman is severely developmentally delayed. Sixteen months have gone by since he was born and he is still physically and mentally like a newborn. He can't sit up on his own, he can't even hold his head up straight for more than a few seconds. He doesn't crawl or even have the ability to roll from his stomach to his back. Though being disabled Roman is the happiest little boy, he wins over the hearts of all around him in moments.

Because of Medicaid Roman is still alive and thriving. He receives physical, occupational, and speech therapies from a Medicaid funded program for disabled children locally in Cabot, Arkansas.

Roman's father works for a Wal-Mart distribution center out of Searcy, Arkansas. Roman's mother is a stay at home mom taking care of Roman and taking him to doctor appointments.

My wife, Andrea, and I have Roman over on the weekends and sometimes during the week to give our daughter some rest from taking care of him. Roman is the love of our lives. He is sweet and loves to be held and even kisses back when kissed. Roman's laughter is contagious when you tickle him.

Even with Medicaid, Andrea and I help our daughter and son-in-law with paying for medication and medical supplies as Medicaid only provides a limited amount each month. This 800 billion dollar cut and caps on Medicaid will send our family into bankruptcy and possibly Roman's death.

Please vote against this horrible and immoral bill.

Sincerely,  
Patrick and Andrea Gray

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Kristin Munoz <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:35 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare Testimony

At 27 I was cut back to part-time from my full-time position. This is when the economy was crashing and employers had to make tough decisions. They wanted to keep me but couldn't afford me full-time, the largest savings for them was the benefits that I was no longer eligible for. I looked to get health insurance on my own or with my husband and daughter who were on a separate plan.

Multiple companies told me that I was "uninsurable" because I had been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), a chronic condition that is a result of repeated violent sexual abuse. Kaiser, the plan my husband and daughter belonged to, told us that any change to their plan would result in both of them being dropped. My daughter had also become "uninsurable" because she fainted from heat exhaustion and we took her to a hospital.

I left the job I had, that I enjoyed, and went to work for an awful man so I could be insured just in case something happened. The economy was getting worse by the day and jobs were fleeting, I sucked it up and stayed as long as I had to, knowing I was trapped. I am still afraid not to hold a full-time position that offers health benefits. This fear is primarily due to the unending effort to get rid of any progress that has been made to our country's healthcare system.

I have since been diagnosed with Celiac disease, another chronic condition.

It appears as though insurance companies will only willingly cover those that pay in but don't need anything more than the negotiation of invoices. With the high deductible plans that started popping up well before ACA, the insurance companies barely pay anything and thrive on the inflated healthcare bills that keep people tied to insurance. I've seen my bills as submitted (what I would pay without insurance) and the negotiated rate (which doesn't mean the insurance company is paying the difference, just negotiating) and the difference is astounding. Simple bloodwork would be unattainable by many if they had no insurance company to negotiate it down.

Our system is a mess, the costs are outlandish and that gives the insurance companies too much power.

Kristin Munoz

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Paul Snead <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:35 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

To whom it may concern,

I have a pre-existing condition that, left untreated, is life threatening. I visit several doctors a month and take several hundred dollars a month in prescriptions. My illness is no fault of my own. I take good care of myself and try and maintain a healthy and complete life. Currently, because I make more than 4x the poverty level, I receive no subsidy and pay a little under \$24,000 a year for insurance for 3 with a \$7,000 deductible for each of us. If the GC bill is passed as written states will be able to opt out of covering conditions like mine. If Ted Cruze's idea is accepted, prices will rise in the "sick" pool with the poor receiving some relief while I will be left to cope without any support at all.

I require health coverage to live and work and pay taxes. Right now I am a contributing member of society. If this bill is passed, my health and possibly my life will be a risk. I will become even more of a drag on society. It is critical for our country that we all step back from the abyss and do not pass this bill.

Instead, please work together to solve the problems with the ACA and help the millions of Americans like me who's health and welfare will be affected.

Respectfully,

William (Paul) Snead

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Mark Broeske [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:34 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Reject Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

I am an Arizona resident and the proud father of two adopted children. Pro-life conservatives should consider how this bill will affect women who choose adoption over abortion.

Obamacare's Medicaid expansion in Arizona allowed more people to get medical access through AHCCCS, Arizona's Medicaid program. While most keep their babies, many pregnant women on AHCCCS choose to find adoptive parents. A woman in this situation loves the child she is carrying and wants what is best for him/her, and, thanks to AHCCCS, she is able to get proper prenatal care for a child she knows will be raised by another family.

But what if AHCCCS/Medicaid wasn't there for this birthmother? Would she be able to get the proper care to ensure the mutual health and wellbeing of her and the baby? Would she be left in deep debt as a result of the pregnancy? Would she choose to terminate the pregnancy instead?

AHCCCS served between 22,000 and 29,000 pregnant women each month over the past year. Consider all of those children born healthy to women who didn't immediately sink into further financial troubles. And consider those families, like ours, who were granted a chance to raise a child we otherwise may never have.

Graham-Cassidy would gut Medicaid, and allow insurance companies to not cover pregnancy expenses. Pregnant women and unborn children may not get the medical care they need simply due to expense. While Republicans have made abortions harder to come by, they would be a cheaper alternative to the debt sentence this bill would give women and thus make abortion an alternative worth considering. These will be some unintended consequences of gutting and restricting healthcare coverage.

If you are so concerned about pregnant women and unborn children, and if you would prefer women choose adoption over abortion, do not support this bill.

Mark Broeske

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Kate Hermann-Wu <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:34 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comment on Graham-Cassidy

In Judaism, we're taught that if you save one life, it's as if you saved a world; conversely, if you extinguish one life, it's as if you've extinguished a world.

If Graham-Cassidy passes, innumerable lives -- and the lives of those connected to them -- will be put at risk, and for no good reason. I urge the Senate to stop trying to take away people's healthcare and focus instead on things that will help ALL Americans!

Kate Hermann-Wu  
Waltham, MA

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Ben Saia <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:33 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect affordable health care for all Americans!

We know that our Legislative Branch is failing us. We know how corrupt and disloyal most members are. Right now it seems that all we can do is watch and wait for the next election. I will work day and night to see Darell Issa and Duncan Hunter lose their jobs if proper reform is not achieved and voted for by them. They can ignore us for only so long. Health care for all!

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Richard Burkowicz <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:32 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Terrible news

They are going to mess up the medical services head injured ☹ need to survive, so sad.

Richard Burkowicz  
Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** David Casey <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:32 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy Bill

Greetings,

This continuation of Politics over Nation has to end. We've been forced to fight against our own Congress endlessly over nearly the same disastrous bill, and with each defeat, the forces trying to push this foulness onto the president's desk keep coming back like Jason Vorhees in the Friday the 13th series.

Please Stop.

No American wants this bill. No American needs this bill. We cannot keep wasting valuable legislative time with these misguided attempts to overthrow the ACA at the expense of the weakest among us. A "yay" vote on this bill is a vote to cull the population like deer during hunting season, and anyone who refers to this as anything less than un-aided euthanasia will be forced to speak to this truth.

Sincerely,  
David C. Casey  
American Citizen



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Lynda <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:32 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA

U.S. Senate,

We all know that the ACA has problems. We all know it has some wonderful strengths too. Strengths that help everyday Americans. We all also know that Republican leadership is increasing these problems rather than working on them. That is a mistake and they know it.

My request is that we focus on the good of the people and not some partisan, donor requested, tax break...repeal. We need to work together and create a solid, well thought out...for the people...healthcare program using the one we have as a basis. Fix what we have. Build on what we have.

Thank you.

Lynda Tripp

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Laura Dahl <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:31 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** vote NO to Graham Cassidy Healthcare bill

Dear Committee,  
I am writing to ask you to oppose the Graham Cassidy Healthcare bill that will be considered on Monday. This is a terrible bill for the American people, no matter which state they live in. It is essential that we provide Americans with healthcare insurance that is affordable for everyone.  
Thank you.  
Laura Dahl

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** bostonian71 <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:31 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Statement for the record

My statement is that this latest attempt to repeal and replace the ACA is a cruel, misguided plan that will endanger and damage the health of millions of Americans. I urge the Senate to consign this bill to the trash where it belongs!

Ailsa Hermann-Wu  
Waltham, MA

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Maura Murphy <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:10 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I am opposed to this bill

Dear Senators,

Please do not vote for this bill. It harms so many people and will harm so many more in the future. At the moment I am very fortunate. I have good job with good insurance. My husband is self employed; he and I and our two children are on my company insurance. Insurance is always important, but for us it is critical. My husband is a cancer survivor. At age 11, my now 13 year old son was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes (formerly known as juvenile diabetes.) When we went to the hospital pharmacy to fill our first round of prescriptions for his diabetes I was floored - the bill was several hundred dollars AFTER insurance. His supplies would cost thousands of dollars a year without insurance. Without insulin, my son will die. Without insurance many people with Type one diabetes struggle to pay for insulin.

My company has had 3 major layoffs in the last 6 years. Nobody's employment is ever secure. Therefore, my family's insurance is not secure. I fear for what we would do if I lost our coverage without the ACA in place.

Under this bill "access" to insurance for people with pre-existing conditions is a fiction. If insurers are allowed to adjust the premiums for pre-existing conditions they will - it is the economically rational thing to do. Covering my kid is way more expensive than covering a kid without Type 1 diabetes. Health insurance needs a risk pool - all of us together. The free market doesn't work for health insurance. Moreover, without essential health benefits - I might be able to buy a very expensive plan but there is no guarantee any plan would cover my son's diabetes. What if my husband's cancer returned? That could be excluded too.

Please don't convince yourself this is anything other than what it is. It would reduce access to healthcare by making premiums unaffordable for many, many people. It practically speaking eliminates access to care for many, many people by eliminating essential health benefits.

My kid is bright - I mean really bright. You want him healthy because he is going to do great things one day. But not if he cannot afford to properly care for himself. If he cannot afford his care - he will struggle with blood sugar and have a hard time keeping a job, making caring for himself even harder - resulting in long term complications of blindness and kidney damage and limb amputation - if he doesn't die of diabetic ketoacidosis in the short term. That's not what you want. You want him healthy, contributing, solving problems. I want him healthy and happy.

Please make sure you REALLY understand the impacts of this bill. Once you do, I know you will see it is not right. It is just not right.

Maura S. Murphy

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** erika jahneke <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:10 PM  
**To:** Donnelly, Colleen (Flake)  
**Cc:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Stop Cassidy-Graham Repeal and Replace!

September 21, 2017

Senator Jeff Flake  
413 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Flake:

I am writing to ask you not to cut Medicaid. As someone with a disability, I would face an uncertain future. Without this program, that future will be much harder!

For 24 years, I have tried many different living arrangements to be sure that I can get the personal-care assistance I need (with personal tasks like dressing and showering, even going to the bathroom). For a while, I tried to be more independent, but in the end my mom was the only one who was always there, so, when her life came apart as well, at least we had each other. Government money is part of the security in that arrangement, as much as I always wanted to break down barriers and make my own way with the power of my keyboard. That didn't happen the way I'd always hoped, but I am still doing things I am very proud of.

My father is rarely in the picture, so my care falls completely to my mother. Before I got funding, she tried a full-time job for a couple of years, but the situation was both unsafe and stressful for the two of us. With me at home alone, she worried constantly that something would happen to me, and I had to wait hours just to be able to go to the bathroom. She did not make enough money to allow her to hire someone to stay with me. Now she leaves me for short periods for part-time work, but that salary is not enough for us to live on.

Medicaid has been a lifeline for us. Senator Flake, I am a constituent and want and need to feel represented! Right now, I feel as if my representatives in Congress are not thinking about me or others with disabilities when they make decisions to cut programs that make us safe and allow us to live a fuller life. Please think of me and vote against heartless cuts to Medicaid.

Sincerely,  
Erika Jahneke

[REDACTED]  
Phoenix, AZ 85029-5621

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Doug Sample <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:10 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

I will be short and to the point with one example of why this bill is a disaster.

A close friend of mine has hydrocephalus (water on the brain). If the shunt that drains the fluid from her brain becomes blocked, she will die in a few hours. Without regular monitoring, that is exactly what could happen. Her health coverage is currently through the Iowa Health and Wellness plan. This bill would be a death sentence for her.

Despite a congenital disease that her parents were told would kill her in her first few months of life she lived. Despite the disease that was supposed to leave her in a wheelchair and a near vegetative state her entire life if she lived she walks. Despite a learning disability that was never going to let her even finish high school, she completed a college AA degree. She is now a substitute teacher. Her favorite jobs are when she is called to work in a special needs classroom. "Who better to take care of these kids than someone who was once one of them?" At 29 years old, this is the thing she says about her life and what she is doing now.

Please do not pass this bill.

Thank you, Doug Sample

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Helen Hanes <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:10 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** comments to the Senate Finance committee on the Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am a 65 yr. old woman who has worked with person with disabilities for almost 40 years. During that time I have seen the wonderful lives folks have been living because of Medicaid and the supports agencies have been able to provide. I have looked over the information provided on the Graham-Cassidy bill and the effects it would have on vulnerable people in NYS and all I can say is I am more scared than I have ever been before. I want to make it clear that if this bill is passed every Senator who votes for it will be guilty of neglect and will be responsible when people either die or are injured for life because of this bill. I do not want to hear about state choice every Senator in the senate knows for 100% sure that means people will suffer, they will not have enough care to spend time with the family and loved ones and in the end this will cost more money to fix the damage this bill will do. I have no idea how anyone who votes for this bill will have the ability to look at elderly or the disabled person and tell them they do care about what happens to them We all know actions speak much louder than words.

Helen Trowbridge Hanes  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** nancy koprowski <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:09 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy healthcare bill

Dear Chairman and Members:

I am 63 years old, have a long list of pre-existing conditions, and this year I am paying \$737.00 per month for Cigna insurance with a \$6500 deductible and \$60 co-pays. I am grateful to have this insurance. I do not qualify for any federal subsidies. I buy my insurance directly from the company on the individual market.

It is my understanding the bill you are considering prevents states from waiving the ACA provision that requires insurers to cover people with pre-existing conditions.

However, it does allow states to opt out of several other ACA rules that can cause people like me to pay more for their health care, including the ban on charging sick people higher premiums than healthy people, and the requirement that insurers cover "essential health benefits," including prescription drugs.

Also, services that aren't "essential" benefits are not subject to the ACA's ban on annual and lifetime limits. The bill also lifts restrictions on how much insurers can raise their premiums based on age.

Senators, this bill will ruin the insurance markets and make Americans pay a lot more for health insurance. Please do not pass this legislation.

Instead, work with Senators Alexander, Murray and Collins to develop a plan to fix the existing law FOR THE BETTER.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Linden Koprowski



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Karen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare

I am reaching out to ask that you please...please not make this bill political and think of each U.S. citizen as a human being. Most of us are not privy to the entitlements that you, as government employees, are gifted with. We are human beings....we have children, we have parents, we have friends and we even must take ourselves into consideration when talking about and worrying about the future of our healthcare. Something every U.S. citizen should be entitled to...yes, entitled to. You should not have the right to pick and choose our future in healthcare. You do not have to worry. Maybe if you were made to utilize the plans that we have, you might think differently. We elected you...we believed and trusted in you to do what is the best for us. Trying to do what you are doing...just to please your donors and have some "win" in your back pocket is .... wrong. I have been thinking lately...how do you sleep at night. So many of us ARE losing sleep at night worried about our healthcare. How can you turn your backs on us just to save face with a win...for the sake of your political gain and nothing more. You are not doing what is right or what is best for us. Not even close. We are facing an opioid epidemic in this country...and you are choosing/forcing a decrease in medicaid. Does that honestly make sense to you? I have someone dear to me, who recently lost her young daughter to a heroin overdose...my son's friends from school, several of them gone. The same dire end. It is everywhere and needs to be funded. There are successes that come from the care, treatment and recovery provided to addicts through medicaid. Granted, some never make it out, but we have to count the successes...not dwell on the negatives, which you seem to be doing. Nothing and no one is perfect. You need to truly see, understand and believe that. All of your ranting and overtalking everyone who questions, not only shows your rudeness but mostly your inability to understand the needs of the people. This healthcare plan has a 17% approval rate....shouldn't that speak volumes? Yet, you continue to turn a blind eye...do not consult with people in healthcare who overwhelmingly disapprove of your bill. You do not listen to the stories of your constituents...what does it take for you to "hear" what we are saying? See, the huge amount of problems that will result from this horrible bill will never affect you or your families....where is the fairness in that? Where is your understanding of the Constitution of the United States where the Preamble states, "A government for the people and a government by the people"? You seem to forget most of what our forefathers promised us from our government. You have become too entitled, your egos have become boundless. You only care about keeping your seat and keeping your donors happy. How sad is that..... you quickly forget who put you in your seat and why you were elected. We no longer matter to you or you would never even think of voting yes to this healthcare bill. Why not let the country see this plan? Too embarrassing, huh.... I understand that. I would be ashamed, very ashamed of myself to vote yes to this bill. It is called being human to care about the lives of our fellow human beings. It is about being human to do what you can to help others in need even if it means giving up a little of one's self. You have all lost your morals. Honesty is hard found from you guys... I listen to the Republicans rant and spout over how wonderful this healthcare bill will be yet not one can stray from their "script" and just honestly answer a question. Not one...they repeat the "script" and say nothing. No answers...no guarantees of pre-existing conditions. The people with pre-existing conditions are the ones in most need and they shouldn't have to pay the price because of an illness or disease they had. That is just heartless and wrong. There are no guarantees their costs will not rise...you keep saying it will be passed to the states and they can grant waivers.. That is laughable because these states are already strapped and hard-nosed on this issue. So how many waivers

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Laura Wells <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:08 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** consequences for people 50-64

This is the experience my husband & I had as self-employed people before Affordable Care was passed. In our 50s (we are now in our 60s and my husband just went on Medicare) we were unable to get insurance we could afford because of strict underwriting (basically making premiums so high that we would go away due to our age and that my husband had skin cancer). We then found a policy which we thought was legitimate only to find out the people absconded with all the premiums and despite it going to federal court no one with policies were ever reimbursed and when we went to the doctor and our care wasn't covered that was how we found out we were de-frauded because our visits weren't paid. Fast forward to our next attempt at getting care with a HSA. We paid \$700 a month for a year and when Affordable Care passed (even though it didn't immediately go into effect) the company told us they would have to double our premiums. With kids in college we couldn't afford it so nearly \$10,000 went down the drain. We then took our chances until 2015 when we had decent insurance finally.

I'm telling you we have been there and done that what Graham Cassidy is proposing. When we got Affordable Care we were able to have an emergency tonsillectomy for our son, two melanomas were discovered and operated on before they spread and we could actually sleep at night knowing if we got sick we'd have a chance. I currently need to have a physical but since Blue Cross dropped out in Kansas City for next year and I don't know if anything is found if I would be discriminated against due to my age. It is quite something to be afraid to use the insurance I now have because I'm afraid under Graham Cassidy if anything is found it will be the basis for denying me coverage because I can't afford it. Quite frankly the columnist for the Washington Post saying his government was making him sick is not far from the truth.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Karen Buckley <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:40 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please do not pass this inhumane bill

Please, put yourself in the shoes of someone who has to tell a loved one, " We can not afford to try to make you better."

Think of looking at your child to tell him/her that.

Horrifying!

USA is better, WAY better, than this.

Karen Buckley  
Wellesley, MA

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Emily Green <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:40 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO on Graham-Cassidy bill!

Dear Senate Committee on Finance,

As someone whose family relies on the Affordable Care Act for affordable health insurance, I implore you to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am a mother of two young children, and my husband is a self-employed musician. My husband works hard doing what he loves, and teaches at a local community college. I assist him with booking performances, but a lot of my effort is watching our children. Neither of us have employer-based insurance, and we pay more than \$600 per month in health insurance (this is the amount after what is subsidized by the ACA). If we had to pay more, we would need to sacrifice my husband's dream, killing his spirit and the art he produces, and sacrificing our time with our children by taking jobs with long hours. I know this is nothing of a sacrifice compared with people with pre-existing conditions - their sacrifice is literally their life.

I am most worried for my mother, who has pre-existing conditions and old enough to pay the most in health insurance, yet not old enough to receive social security benefits. She would be completely depleted of money to live off of in her later years. If this bill passes, an entire generation of elderly people will have nothing left, not for themselves or for their families. Think of the financial devastation on our country. Our counties will bear the burden in emergency room care - nothing will be left to provide the children who will need it most.

Additionally, it is atrocious that there is a health care bill proposed at a time when so many people cannot respond due to the attention they need to rebuild their lives after natural disasters. Putting forth a bill that affects the entire population of the country when millions cannot respond or provide attention is simply unconscionable. Along with the lack of a complete CBO score, everything about this bill is utterly wrong - its content, its timing, and its lack of consideration for our country.

Please do what you can to oppose this bill.

Thank you,  
Emily Green

San Diego, California

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of Tiffany Han [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:38 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please don't kill our healthcare.

Hello!

I am a small business owner and mother of 3 year old twins. We currently have health insurance through my husband's job but we are planning to move to another state next year and he won't work at first. Which means we'll be dependent on the ACA for our healthcare.

Our situation is not dire, and yet, being able to afford good quality healthcare is essential for our family. Currently, we are (luckily!) without pre-existing conditions that seem catastrophic, however, that can change in an instant, and being punished for getting sick is not part of being an American.

I urge you to vote no on this bill.

Thank you,  
Tiffany Han

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** caroline paulson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:38 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Hateful new Health care Destruction bill

It seems that most of the Republican members of the Senate have officially declared war on the average American citizen.

Why would they persist in trying to pass a bill that most voters hate and all health organizations detest?

Because they only work for "THE BIG DONORS".

Is there ever going to be an honest attempt at a fair election again?

It seems they are betting that fair elections are a thing of the past.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Lauren Lake <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:37 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comments for the record on the Graham-Cassidy amendment

My husband and I are self employed, in our early 50s, and buy insurance on the individual market. Before the ACA we could not buy a plan that would include pre-existing conditions, and the prices for what we could buy were sky-high. Please don't send us back to those days. Doctors, hospitals, insurers, the AARP, and the vast majority of the American public all agree this is a bad bill. Yes, health coverage in the US can be approved. But this bill is NOT the way to do it. Go back to regular order, listen to the experts, and create a bipartisan solution you can be proud of.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Dean J. Seal <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:36 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No to the Graham Cassidy Bill

Greetings.

This bill has not been vetted by any committee or public hearing. It is being rushed through without an evaluation by the Congressional Budget Office. Further, it caps payouts on those who cannot defend themselves; the old, the sick, the poor. It is a most egregious piece of bad legislation.

Rev. Dean J Sal,  
Minneapolis



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** RAMON ESCARFULLET <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:35 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GrahamCassidyBill

I have a daughter with pre-existing heart condition. Prior to Obamare we were not able to purchase health coverage for her. Thanks to ACA she is covered. We don't need Graham/Cassidy to take her Healthcare coverage and our peace of mind.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Janowski, Jennifer (GE Healthcare) [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:34 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Cassidy Bill  
**Attachments:** survival media release plus family names (1).pdf

This new bill is nothing short of devastating for families with disabilities. I pray that you come to your senses and vote NO.

Here is a video of my son, Will. He is 8 and through the support of many amazing therapists and enabling programs, here he is, RIDING HIS two-wheeler. [REDACTED]

Please do not take this away from us.

**Jennifer Janowski**  
Director of Product Management, Centricity Perinatal  
GE Healthcare Digital

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Melissa Dugan <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:36 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health Care Repeal Attempt

Dear Sirs and Mesdames:

Please vote NO on the latest iteration of healthcare "reform", the Graham-Cassidy bill.

This bill has been widely denounced by insurers (Blue Cross), organizations (the AMA) and the American public. Although there is no official CBO score (amazing considering this is 1/6 of the US economy), the bill is projected to cost millions, and would unfairly penalize the poor, the old, and the sick.

Is this really what you want your legacy to be? Please speak out and vote NO!

Thank you!

Melissa Dugan

Sent from Mel's iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Harrington, Charlene <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:34 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy health care bill

I am writing to say that the Graham-Cassidy bill would have devastating effects by eliminating access to insurance for millions of people. The cuts in Medicaid would also be horrible for millions of children and individuals are aged and disabled and would result in cuts in nursing home care and other long term care services. Please opposed this legislation. Charlene

Charlene Harrington, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus  
Department of Social & Behavioral Sciences  
University of California San Francisco  
[REDACTED]  
San Francisco, CA 94118  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Ben Fisher <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:13 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please Do Not Support the Graham Cassidy Bill

I'm writing to express my strong opposition to the Graham Cassidy health care bill. I rely on the ACA for my health care, and would be in considerable danger without it.

Best,

William Bennett Fisher  
Chicago, IL

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Shival Agarwal <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:33 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** In Opposition to Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

I oppose the Graham Cassidy healthcare bill.

Extend & fund ACA or move to a single-payer model.

-Shival

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Barbara Hague [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:33 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy Bill

I urge you to oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill. It would cause great harm to Americans, particularly the most vulnerable patients. Medical organizations strongly oppose this bill:

Graham-Cassidy Rejected by Health Care Groups: From David Leonhardt

It "violates the precept of 'first do no harm'" and "would result in millions of Americans losing their health insurance coverage." – American Medical Association, which represents doctors.

It is "the worst healthcare bill yet." – American Nurses Association.

It "would erode key protections for patients and consumers." – American Hospital Association.

The "process [in the Senate] is just as bad as the substance. ... Most Americans wouldn't buy a used car with this little info." – AARP.

The bill will "weaken access to the care Americans need and deserve." – American Heart Association, jointly with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, the American Diabetes and Lung associations, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the March of Dimes and others.

"This bill harms our most vulnerable patients." – American Psychiatric Association.

It would hurt "consumers and patients by further destabilizing the individual market; cutting Medicaid; pulling back on protections for pre-existing conditions." – America's Health Insurance Plans.

Barbara Hague  
[REDACTED]

Des Plaines, IL 60016

Barbara U. Hague Editing and Proofreading

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## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Cheryl Gaysunas Williams <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:34 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

To the Members of the Senate Finance Committee

PLEASE DO NOT PASS THE GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL

I am an almost 50 year old woman. I have (knock wood) been healthy all my life. We have had health insurance through my husband's work. My husband and I have an almost 13 year old daughter. I know that at any moment our lives could be turned completely upside-down if one of us fell ill, but especially if something happened to my husband's work.

There is no safety net when one loses their health insurance. And millions of Americans will die under this proposed bill because it will remove any version of a safety net that we have.

It does NOT IN ANY WAY benefit the American people. It does NOT help this country financially. How can it even be brought to a vote when so many institutions, including health insurance companies, say that it will be destructive to our health care system and possibly even our economy??

PLEASE DO NOT PASS the GRAHAM-CASSIDY bill. It is a bill that seems to exist simply out of spite. Even Senator Grassley said there is nothing good about it. It is not a health care bill. It is a death sentence.

Please help the American people and do not let this bill come to the floor for a vote.

Sincerely

Cheryl Gaysunas Williams  
[REDACTED]  
Chicago IL 60618



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Lanlan Hoo <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:34 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare repeal

The only way to repeal ACA without committing de facto mass murder is to replace it with Improved Medicare for all i.e. Single Payer health care, which would save this nation \$10 trillions and many millions lives in the next decade, not to mention making American businesses more competitive globally.

Graham-Cassidy health care bill is absolutely unconscionable, immoral, inhumane, un-Christian, cruel and unpatriotic. It will deprive 32 millions Americans of health insurance.

Only morally depraved psychopaths would place corporate profits ahead of the life and welfare of countless millions Americans.

Christians who support Graham-Cassidy health care bill bring disgrace and discredit to Christianity.

It is the ultimate chutzpah and insult to intelligence to pay lip service to God and country while depriving countless millions Americans of basic human right i.e. access to affordable health care, which makes the promise of the freedom to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness meaningless.

Lanlan Hoo

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kerry Wiessmarin <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:34 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because this is US Don't Care. It is high time the US took responsibility to insure that all our citizens have care they need, NOT just the rich. Vote NO.

Kerry Wiessmann

16801  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Roberta Pena <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:34 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care

Please don't make hasty decisions based on threatening rhetoric from your leader. This bill is a killer, literally! I live in California and feel safer than the rest of the nation. Our California governing body protects its citizens from damaging laws that have an adverse affect. Unfortunately not all Americans have this advantage Thank goodness for our Leaders Jerry Brown, Diane Feinstein, and Kamala Harris

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** JW Landscapes LLC <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:32 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

Dear esteemed and honorable committee members,

I will keep this short and sweet.

I am a successful small business owner.

I do quite well.

We take care of our employees.

But our success depends on the health of all of us.

We need the ACA to do that.

Please do not take away our care!

The Graham-Cassidy bill would do that. It would effectively end our ability to provide quality healthcare.

Please, if you value small business - than vote no on this disastrous bill.

If you value small business, you'd do everything you can to improve upon the ACA particularly on cost of prescription drugs.

Thank you!

John A West  
Small Business Owner  
Tax Payer and Tax Revenue Generator  
Patriot

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Sister Veronice Plewinski <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:35 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 being compassionate as your Heavenly Father is compassionate is not represented in this Health Bill

Sister Veronice Plewinski

19607  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jasmine Jackson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:35 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

My name is Jasmine Jackson and I am a physical therapist that specializes in treating brain injury patients in the greater Philadelphia area. The potential passing of this bill will negatively impact many of my patients' ability to obtain the proper healthcare required after such a traumatic event.

So many of the people I see are unable to initially resume their previous professions due to the cognitive and physical impairments that accompany a brain injury. Due to the loss of employment they rely on state funded insurance to assist in paying for all health care costs. They require rehabilitative and mental health services to make progress back to their prior level of function and to improve their quality of life. This bill threatens to remove these services which are essential to the rehabilitative process thus keeping our brain injured patients from reaching their full cognitive and functional potential.

I know our healthcare system is not perfect but this bill is not a step in the right direction, please vote against this bill to ensure that the brain injured population continues to receive the healthcare services they need and deserve.

Thank you for our time,  
Dr. Jasmine Jackson, PT, DPT, NCS

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Cheryl Gaysunas Williams [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:35 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Dick Durbin  
**Subject:** Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

To the Members of the Senate Finance Committee

PLEASE DO NOT PASS THE GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL

I am an almost 50 year old woman. I have (knock wood) been healthy all my life. We have had health insurance through my husband's work. My husband and I have an almost 13 year old daughter. I know that at any moment our lives could be turned completely upside-down if one of us fell ill, but especially if something happened to my husband's work.

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PLEASE DO NOT PASS the GRAHAM-CASSIDY bill. It is a bill that seems to exist simply out of spite. Even Senator Grassley said there is nothing good about it. It is not a health care bill. It is a death sentence.

Please help the American people and do not let this bill come to the floor for a vote.

Sincerely

Cheryl Gaysunas Williams  
[REDACTED]

Chicago IL 60618

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Steve Stambaughrr <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:35 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

This attempt at "health care reform", like all previous GOP proposals on this matter, serves only one purpose: to fulfill the Republican ideological obsession with repealing the Affordable Care Act. It will not improve health care for tens of millions of Americans who do not the luxury of being U.S. Senators, employed by companies generous with their employee benefit plans, or those whose personal wealth means they will never be denied access to health care. In short, this bill is mean-spirited and shame.

Instead of continuing these efforts to destroy the ACA, join hands with GOP Senator Lamar Alexander and his colleagues who are working to improve upon the ACA's weaknesses.