

COLORADO

Date: 2017-09-22 07:33:36
To: My Senator
From: karen hUBER
State: Colorado
Email: [REDACTED]



Please oppose the Graham Cassidy bill for my sake and for families like mine. Our lives were changed forever when our son was born with multiple disabilities.

If not for Medicaid services at a crucial time of family disintegration we would have spiraled down an ineffective, broken path .

After the birth of 2 typically healthy children our son was born. He spent the first 2 months of his life in the Childrens Hospital of Denver back in the 80's. We loved him and cared for him until it became physically and mentally impossible to keep him home. His multiple surgeries and medical needs were bankrupting our family and our family unit.

As "the MOM" I dealt with grief, guilt, sadness, depression and forever being tired from the exhausting care of a special needs child while being his best advocate.

If only I could get some sleep, rest and spend time with all my family, not just care giving .

We are all healthier because of Medicaid programs.

He now receives Home and Community Based Services from Medicaid, and has a meaningful life that we can participate in, has independence. love from his parents and sisters and nieces and nephew, but still be his own person. His life matters and this would be a devastating bill to pass.

Please vote NO on this bill that would hurt millions of people, REAL LIVE PEOPLE.

Date: 2017-09-21 17:21:16

To: My Senator

From: Sheila Bengtson

State: Colorado

Email: [REDACTED]



Our Medicaid CES waiver makes ABA therapy accessible for us where we need it the most, in the home. The skills learned through this therapy will help our daughter live as independently as possible, thus reducing the the overall long-term cost of her care. Without Medicaid services, many more individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities will need a lot more care down the road, and the institutions to provide it. Please don't send us back to the "dark ages" of horrific institutionalization! Home-based care is more effective, and preferred by the families.

Date: 2017-09-21 17:12:22

To: My Senator

From: Maria Cicarelli

State: Colorado

Email: [REDACTED]



Because of Medicaid, my daughter has been able to receive the medications she needs, she has been able to see the doctors she needs, she has been able to stay living with us and Medicaid has paid for care for her so that we could go out and make a living. She has been able to go to a day program to interact with peers. Because of Medicaid, she has a much needed wheelchair and physical therapy which has helped her to walk some. Because of Medicaid, my daughter is alive ,and nothing can top that.

Date: 2017-09-22 12:51:17

To: My Senator

From: Maria Cabral

State: Colorado

Email: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



I am writing this letter to tell you to vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill.

I have a 38 year old daughter with Cerebral Palsy who depends on Medicaid, She is non verbal and has a seizure disorder and is incontinent . My family depends on her medicaid for her medical needs and medications and supplies that she uses daily . We already are getting our home care allowance taken away that we used for her for additional expenses. Medicaid helps people with disabilities to live and work in the community. I know my daughter will never work but there are a lot of people with disabilities that depend on medicaid. this is the only health coverage that my daughter has please don't take it away. We took her to Steamboat to celebrate our thanksgiving weekend for a 5 days and she got sick while we were there they had her hospitalized for 4 days at the hospital she got a pneumonia and sepsis infection and a very high fever that they could not bring down. if it was not for her medicaid that covered I do not know what we would have done she could of got worse and died. We are voting citizens of Colorado we vote so people in the government can take care of our needs not take them away.

I also am speaking for my Spanish speaking in-laws who receive medicaid for there care and my father in law is in hospice at home currently and depends on his medicaid so they can give him the care and medication that he needs to keep him comfortable. My mother in-law also receives medicaid to get her health care and medications she can no longer walk like she used to due to a knee replacement and just being older. These are just a few people who depend on medicaid. any cuts to Medicaid threatens the lives and independence of elder adults and people with disabilities. Please oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill, Please oppose cuts to medicaid. thank you for giving us the opportunity to give our input.

Thank you, Maria Cabral

Medicaid Matters!

Date: 2017-09-22 08:56:22
To: My Senator
From: Jennifer Isom
State: Colorado
Email: [REDACTED]



My 4 year old was in a horrific car accident are only 2 months old. He now has non reversible brain damage, cerebral palsy, legally blind, epilepsy, gtube dependant and needs 6 therapies PER WEEK! He is wheelchair bound. He uses a stander and walker to bear weight so that we can try to prolong hip surgery which is inevitable. He uses an adapted stroller for comfort. He sees 5 specialist at the hospital every 6 months. He is on 7 medications daily. He uses a suction machine to help him be able to clear his airway and a cpap machine are night to make sure He keeps breathing in his sleep. He has in home nursing care 16 hrs per day. He has 4 siblings. Our world revolves around him and his care. None of his cares, medicines or equipment would be possible financially without Medicaid. Our world would crash down on all of us AGAIN without medical assistance.

Date: 2017-09-22 14:18:26

To: My Senator

From: Teresa Barnhart

State: Colorado

Email: [REDACTED]



Medicaid HCBS means my vibrant, 22 year old son is not reduced to another body in an institution.

Ben lives in a townhome with support. Intellectually, he is like a 2nd grade guy, so he needs help with most tasks of daily living, just like a typical child. He does not go to the grocery alone. He does not handle his finances or arrange his own doctor appointments, he does not clean his home properly or brush his teeth without reminders. But, with support, this all gets done and costs MUCH less than it would in an institution.

And, living in the community, he works three hours a day in a children's after school program. Kids and parents love him. Weigh this vs watching tv in an institution. He contributes to society.

He does typical things, eating out, shopping, athletic activities, and spending time with friends. He is happy. Severe cuts to Medicaid would cut these non-mandatory support programs and send him to an institution, erasing all the good parts of his life. Would you want this for your child?

I have cancer and most likely will not outlive my son. I need to know he will continue to get the support and care that he needs. Please help.

Please vote NO on Cassidy-Graham. It would devastate citizens with disabilities.

Date: 2017-09-22 17:05:38
To: My Senator
From: Heather Roberts
State: Colorado
Email: [REDACTED]



My 5 year old daughter is a PEDIATRIC STROKE SURVIVOR! Let that thought sink in your mind for a minute!!!! Yes, you read that correctly! Children, even unborn babies have strokes; it's not just the elderly! Medicaid has allowed her to get the needed therapy services (physical, occupational, & speech) that she desperately needs. Medicaid has also helped with the purchase of multiple ankle-foot orthotics (AFO's & SMO's), finger splints, and hand-wrist braces, and countless other important and medically necessary appointments to allow her to be a functioning little person in our world.. Without the financial support that comes from Medicaid, my daughter would not be able to walk, run, jump, throw a ball, etc. and along with that she would not be able to SPEAK! My daughter is in therapy three times a week! So please, stop attacking those of us that need the help! Stop threatening to change Medicaid! My family depends on it! Without it my daughter will fail as an adult. I beg of you, stop it! Just freaking stop messing with Medicaid!!!!

Date: 2017-09-21 18:55:04
To: My Senator
From: Deborah Neill
State: Colorado
Email: [REDACTED]



481 Moonlight Drive

I am a parent of a 28 year old female who happens to have Down Syndrome and Autism along with a number of other disabilities. I adopted her 28 years ago and advocated for her care and was assured through the court that care for her would be around for her life time. The medicaid waiver program is an essential piece of both of our lives. It allows her to stay in her home as well as me to work my full time position as a teacher.

Her medical needs are intense and I would never be able to afford all of the medical bills if I were to use my job insurance as we are a self servicing organization for health care.

Please do not cut funding to people such as my daughter for without this funding we would be out on the streets and I wouldn't be able to be the productive person I am in my community.

Thanks,

Deborah M. Neill

Kelli's legal guardian and adoptive mom

Date: 2017-09-22 15:26:34
To: My Senator
From: Eiko Browning
State: Colorado
Email: [REDACTED]



Senators, vote no on Cassidy-Graham. As a practicing physician and a parent of a child with special needs, I believe this legislation would be dangerous to my patients and my family.

1) No on block grants in Medicaid. Block grants will lead to rationing of care. If rationing of care is the way to go, it should be applied to all insurances, including your insurance, employer based health insurance, private insurance. To just apply rationing to the Medicaid expansion amounts to unwarranted experimentation on a vulnerable population.

2) No on the provision allowing states to opt out of covering essential health benefits. That is shortsighted. It will not improve individual or population health. It leaves vulnerable American families at risk of financial ruin due to health care expenses.

My son is 8 years old and has autism. He is nonverbal, and is still in diapers. He receives therapy support in the school district. Some of those therapy funds come from Medicaid. Will you deny my son the opportunity to become the most functional little person that he can be?

Defend the rights of our society's most vulnerable citizens.

Sincerely,

Eiko Browning, MD

Date: 2017-09-23 21:42:55

To: My Senator

From: Anne Thomas

State: Colorado

Email: [REDACTED]



Dear Senator,

I'm a proud Colorado native and the mom to 2 incredible boys. My boys, Brady and Matthew, are 4th generation Coloradans and love to cheer on the Broncos.

Brady has a smile that can light up a room and he also happens to have Cerebral Palsy. He has profound physical disabilities, requires 24-hour care, uses a wheelchair for mobility, has a continuous feeding tube for all of his nutrition and has multiple medical diagnoses.

Medicaid is a critical lifeline to Brady and so many others. Brady has health insurance through my husband's employer, however it does not cover everything needed to keep Brady alive and our family whole. Medicaid provides the feeding pump, feeding bags and liquid formula Brady needs to survive. The monthly cost alone for Brady's nutrition is twice our house payment. Medicaid also provides night nursing care to help us maintain 24-hour care in our home for Brady.

Brady belongs at home with his brother and family. Medicaid makes that possible. Medicaid works. Please protect Medicaid for my family and the millions of other Americans that count on it every day.

Please vote no on the Graham-Cassidy bill. Thank you for your service to our great country.

Sincerely,

Anne Thomas

Highlands Ranch, CO

Date: 2017-09-24 09:28:34

To: My Senator

From: Lily Papadopoulo

State: Colorado

Email: [REDACTED]



Hello -- I have asked my mother and guardian to type this story because I am not good at that. I want you to know that I am disabled. I have a lot of things that are very hard: cystic fibrosis which also includes asthma, CF-related diabetes, and allergies including allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis. Plus, I have three X chromosomes, which is called Trisomy X, and which means I have several very serious learning disabilities and cognitive delays. I also am on the Autism spectrum and am what my doctor calls 'developmentally delayed'. And I have two mental health conditions called mood disorders: Depression and Severe Anxiety. All of these conditions can make it very hard to learn at the same rate that other people do, to understand what's happening around me, and to control my emotions. I've worked very hard to learn about my disabilities and how to be a good person, and I very much want to get a job so I can help my mom and dad with bills and also have fun. I have been on Medicaid since I was almost 2 and a 1/2. It was very important because I have been in the hospital a lot for my cystic fibrosis, and my mom and dad could never have afforded all those bills. I see lots of doctors, and I have all my life. But my doctors work hard to communicate with each other, and my caregivers work hard too. Today, I am twenty years old. Without Medicaid, I would not have the good pulmonary health I have now; I would not be able to attend the day programs and high school transition programs I attend, where I learn more about how to find and be good at a job; I would not have the medical care at all that I need, including behavioral therapies that help me learn and practice skills that will help me be safe and healthy -- they are hard for me, so I have to practice them a lot -- and CF-related care that helps me deal with many, many things that are hard for my body. Medicaid also allows me to live and work in the community through the Home and Community Based Services -- as a child I would not have survived or my parents would have been bankrupt without these services, and today as an adult I would not have the medical care and would not survive long, nor would I be able to interact in the community and continue learning and contributing (I volunteer each week at the Arc and other businesses). I would like the Senators to know that Medicaid is very important. My mom tells me that it's also actually quite efficient and has 'good outcomes'. I am one of those outcomes. If you don't want people like to live anymore, then go ahead and kill Medicaid. But at least be honest, that when you do that you will be killing people, not giving them more freedom or choice -- those kinds of statements are lies and are mean. You would not get green stars in the programs I attend by saying things like that. Sincerely, Lily Papadopoulos

Date: 2017-09-24 09:39:13
To: My Senator
From: Lecia Papadopoulos
State: Colorado
Email: [REDACTED]



Hello! My daughter is entirely dependent on Medicaid. She has been a recipient of the Home and Community Based Medicaid waivers in Colorado since she was around 2.5. She is 20 now. She has a plethora of conditions that cause her to be disabled, that is, unable to learn and interact at the same speeds as peers, and is constantly dealing with significant and progressive medical and mental health issues related to Cystic Fibrosis and Trisomy X. She is on Autism spectrum and also intellectually delayed and struggles to understand the interactions going on around her with peers. She also experiences severe anxiety and depression, and often has trouble expressing her frustrations, disappointments and concerns appropriately. Without Medicaid HCBS children's programs during her childhood, our family would have been destitute. Even with Medicaid, her care is very time-consuming and stressful, impacting my ability to work for the last twenty years, reducing my productivity and adding to my own stress and health concerns. Without the adult HCBS Medicaid programs, she would be indigent and possibly homeless due to my own stress-related illness and she would be at extreme risk of exploitation, hard, violence and early death. Medicaid is one of the most efficient and effective mechanisms for caring for people with complex medical and developmental needs. The efforts of Medicaid providers to coordinate care, reduce bureaucracy as allowed by law, and focus on appropriate and cost-effective care and living options is truly profoundly impressive. Dismantling Medicaid will cause extreme hardship to the millions of families living with a disabled and/or chronically ill loved one. I urge the Senate to get focused on creating legislation that works rather than rolling back the clock on programs that are actually reducing costs through early and less costly interventions, and also thereby starting to improve recipient productivity since people's health issues are taken care of and their and their loved ones' health can improve. Thank you.

Date: 2017-09-22 22:56:00
To: My Senator
From: Alison Dawson
State: Colorado
Email: [REDACTED]



I am on the Medicaid Buy in program which is a program created by Colorado to give working adults with disabilities Medicaid through a buy in. We pay a monthly premium depending on our income and in exchange, we are able to access healthcare. With this program, I am able to continue working with my disability and afford the health care I need. I work for a small non profit working with people with all types of disabilities with no benefits. Without this program, I will be unable to work and unable to afford premiums. If you cap Medicaid or block grant it, creative programs like this one will be gone. The opportunity created for adults with disabilities to work while being able to affordably access health care will be gone. Before the Affordable Care Act, I went 7 years without insurance. Due to my disabling conditions, I was out of work and on Medicaid through the expansion for a while and without insurance, I would have had no treatment for my chronic disabling conditions.

My daughter is on Medicaid through the Medicaid expansion under the ACA. She has multiple disabilities and is waiting on the long process to get Social Security disability benefits. With the Medicaid expansion, my daughter has been able to access the mental and physical health care she needs. Without this program, she would be medically bankrupt at 25 and in an even worse position than she is already. Before the Medicaid expansion, I saw people like her unable to access healthcare and saw them literally die without access to the specialized care they needed. This is not an exaggeration. The Medicaid expansion has been one of the biggest blessings to my daughter and many people with disabilities that has happened in a long time. Please do not destroy this blessing.

I am terrified about what could happen to both of us if this bill passes. This could be devastating to my family and many other families around the country that rely on Medicaid.

Date: 2017-09-21 23:45:58
To: My Senator
From: Dawn Hunter
State: Colorado
Email: [REDACTED]



My son has Cerebral Palsy. He is 19 and currently lives at home with his parents and siblings. He is cared for by nurses and family members, in his own home. He uses a wheelchair to get around, he uses a communication device at school. He is non verbal and uses a g tube to eat. He is on 20 or so medications and supplements. He has a contagious smile and before his tracheotomy surgery this summer, he had a wonderful giggle. Our son has a good quality of life, who is loved by his family. His life is full and is able to live at home because of Medicaid. He is on a Medicaid waiver that is in jeopardy if this new bill before the Senate is passed. Optional Medicaid waivers would be the first to go. This bill will eliminate the Federal matching funds that are used to help fund the waiver programs like the one my son is on. My son needs nursing home level of care, yet he is currently able to live in our family home, because we have the help of nurses and therapists who come to our home to treat and care for his needs. Please do not force my son to go to a nursing home, a very inappropriate place for him to live, just because Medicaid will be drastically cut if this bill passes the Senate. It is much less expensive and much more efficient to allow my son to continue to live in our home, than it would cost to have him in a nursing home. Please allow him to continue to live in our home, it will cost tax payers less money for him to stay in our home. Cutting Medicaid drastically as this bill would do, will actually cost much more for my son's care, if he is forced into an institution to get nursing care. This bill is being pushed through the senate, without hearings, without public testimony, without even time for Senators to research it well. This is not responsible governing. Please vote no on the Graham - Cassidy bill. Please do not vote for any caps to Medicaid. Please do not vote for any cuts to Medicaid. Please do not vote for block grants to Medicaid. This is just another way to cut Medicaid to the states. Colorado has TABOR and Colorado will not be able to raise taxes to make up for the loss in matching Federal fund to Medicaid if this bill passes. Please do not vote to balance the budget on the back of my developmentally disabled son. The Government should be caring for and helping to take care of its most vulnerable citizens.

Date: 2017-09-21 16:17:36

To: My Senator

From: Laura Marrs

State: Colorado

Email: [REDACTED]



Senator Bennet, thank you for your continued support for families like us.

Senator Gardner-

This is getting exhausting. Having to constantly fight for our so to access being able to stay in our home and community

D is almost 18 and has been on the Children's Extensive Support Waiver for 15 years. That is the waiver in Colorado that requires 24 hour line of sight need and institutional level support to qualify.

Accessing the waiver kept us from loosing our home paying out of pocket for what wasn't covered by the best insurance on the market at the time.

It's kept my son alive and with his family where he belongs. You can not access this level of support need through natural occurring supports. There is only so much one person can do in a 24 hour period.

I am Ds primary caregiver and will continue to be once he turns 18 and transitions into adult services.

He loves us and shares joy with us.

He is a human being who should be allowed the most basic human right to exist in his home with his family even if it costs more.

I take care of a young man 24/7 and still am having to stop and write again why Medicaid is our life blood. I invite you, the next time you are home, to spend 72 hours with us. You will see my son is your constituent and deserving of your protection.

Date: 2017-09-21 16:34:38

To: My Senator

From: Carol Meredith

State: Colorado

Email: [REDACTED]



My 33 year old son is significantly impacted by autism and mental health disorders. He requires Medicaid Home and Community Based Services to safely live in and contribute to his community. Without these services he would need to be institutionalized or incarcerated.

With these supports he is able to work about 10 hours a week, pay taxes and contribute to his community through participation in various activities including community theatre, art shows, and recreational activities. Through mental health counseling, his self-injurious and combative behaviors have been significantly reduced there-by reducing the need for expensive hospitalization and interactions with law enforcement.

The proposed Graham-Cassidy bill currently before the Senate could severely reduce the optional (HCBS) services that have finally put him on the road to recovery. Colorado cannot afford to replace the 15 percent drop in federal funding that Graham-Cassidy would cut from funding for people with disabilities.

Community-based services that are provided at the right time in the right place and by appropriately trained staff can and do save money in the long run by reducing hospitalization, judicial and incarceration costs.

Please vote NO on this very bad bill. Take the time to do it right. Listen to people with lived experience.

Date: 2017-09-21 17:30:31
To: My Senator
From: David Sanchez-Iniguez
State: Colorado
Email: [REDACTED]



David is presently 27 years old and has intellectual disabilities with a mild form of Autism. He had never been truly identified in all his life, he went through school on individual learning plans and just got pushed through the system. I recently became his P.O.A. and just this year got him identified and into a wonderful program that will help him with life skills and some form of independence. This is only possible through the services Medicaid and social programs like ARC and Developmental Pathways, help to provide. David wants so badly to be treated as a normal person and is working hard to reach milestones that are things we take for granted, like doing laundry. I am a tax payer and now David is too, he, through the program has received help to find a job that will work with his abilities. It might not be much, but again, it is reaching a milestone that a lot of us take for granted. I kindly and respectfully request your help in not cutting the budget for these, oh so worthwhile services. Not everyone is trying to take advantage of the system, some of us that really need help, are working hard to achieve goals. These programs help people like David and so many others. I invite you to volunteer a day in a facility near you that helps these wonderful individuals and see for yourself their passion and desire to lead normal and productive lives. Please don't turn away. Thank you so much for your time, consideration and help.

Date: 2017-09-22 14:09:34

To: My Senator

From: Tabatha Shepard

State: Colorado

Email: [REDACTED]



Medicaid has helped my family to be a family. My special needs adult can live with his family and get the help needed with all the support he needs from home. Before he came to live back with us he was in group homes after group homes. Those homes were around \$5500.00 if not more a month. There was no way that I could have paid that or his father who was paralyzed could either. At that time our son needed help fast. His Medicaid program covered the cost and at that time we were very relieved because he was getting the care he needed. But after group home after group home because of his behaviors with his disabilities, and growing into adulthood I was offered a new program to keep him at home. I am a family home provider for my son. The best program ever. In the years of him being tossed around we had lost his father. He has been home over a year, which he would usually be moved every year and he is doing great. Medicaid provides his respite, a workshop for the disabled, for him to go to and income for me to still pay for us to live and lead a normal life. Also including his counseling, medical doctors, behavioral specialists in home and anything needed to help with him. This would be devastating to families like mine to accept the new bill. Please take in consideration what our disabled adults and children need and please fight to keep it the way it is. Thank you
Tabatha Shepard

Date: 2017-09-21 17:18:35

To: My Senator

From: Deana Watson

State: Colorado

Email: [REDACTED]



When my son, Max, had just turned a year old he was admitted into Children's Hospital Colorado for a month due to a severe allergic reaction to the flu vaccine. Max was born with a very rare metabolic disease called Cobalamin X, which was identified first in him as a new disease by doctors and scientists at University of Colorado and Children's Hospital. Max also has a severe form of epilepsy. Because of his multiple disabilities, the reaction to the flu vaccine caused many complications, including respiratory failure. In the month Max was in the pediatric ICU, they tried to wean him off of the vent that was breathing for him, but he could not breathe on his own, so a surgery was scheduled to put in a permanent tracheal tube and a vent would do the breathing for him for the rest of his life.

At this time, we had excellent private insurance and everything was paid for. By the end of Max's first year of life, he had spent over 70 days in the hospital, had had multiple brain surgeries, and had racked up over \$2,000,000.00 in medical bills. We only had to pay a \$25.00 co-pay for bringing him into the ER the first time. When the conversation of Max needing a tracheostomy and a vent to live came up, it didn't matter that we had great insurance. Our excellent insurance only went as far as the hospital walls. If we wanted our baby to live, he would have to live inside the hospital, in an isolation room, on a vent because our insurance wouldn't pay for the in-home care required to have a vent. We were told that in order to take him home, he would have to be on Medicaid, but it would likely take a year for him to be approved because of the long wait-lists for Colorado Medicaid Waivers at the time. We were given the choice to take our baby off the vent and let him die or choose to let him live by giving him the surgery which would mean living in the hospital for a year or more.

We chose the surgery and were starting to come to grips with the fact that we were going to be moving into a hospital with our son to live. We were a middle-class family who made far too much income to qualify for Medicaid and were being forced into living in a hospital with our baby. We had started the process of determination for Max to get Medicaid through a waiver based on his disability and not on our income, and scheduled the tracheostomy surgery for December 1, 2004. That morning before he was taken back to surgery, Max started coughing. He coughed until he had coughed the breathing tube out. By a true miracle, the doctors discovered he was breathing on his own and the surgery was canceled. Within a week, we were home with our baby and had avoided living in the hospital until in-home services through Medicaid were in place.

Before the scare of having to live inside the hospital with Max was a reality, we had no intention of putting him on Medicaid. We were ignorant and didn't know it wasn't just a type of insurance for low-income individuals. We didn't know it was also an insurance for children and adults with disabilities like our son. We didn't know he would need it. We didn't know our lives, and everything we were working for could be destroyed without Medicaid. Max has been able to live at home now for 13 years, with a Medicaid waiver and private insurance. He has had many other kisses with death and many more hospital stays. But when he's healthy, he's home - and at home, he's thriving and LIVING. He has been able to get therapies at home throughout the years because of Medicaid. These therapies have allowed him to become stronger, and have given him a way to communicate. Because of Medicaid, we have been able to adapt our home as he's gotten bigger to make it the best living environment he can have. Max is homebound most of the time because of his medical fragility, but when he can get out in the community it is because Medicaid paid for the ramp outside of our house, and the lift into his van. He is able to get to his doctor's appointments, and to the zoo. Medicaid has given him a life. Medicaid is what will continue to give him a quality of life he will not have if cuts and caps are placed.

Max is proud of his abilities. He never says he has disabilities. He says, "I am able." He is proud of every little thing he can do, and we are too. Although he doesn't remember the time when his parents stood crying over his hospital bed having to decide between life and death, begging him to fight and to live, we do. Max chose to fight to live, and because of his fight, we fight to give him the very best life. I implore you to vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill. Don't take us back 40 years when people in wheelchairs and with intellectual and developmental disabilities were warehoused in hospitals and nursing homes. Don't take

away Max's quality of life. Don't support any piece of legislation which will make cuts to or put caps on Medicaid. Remember Max, remember he is able. He is who you work for.

Nicole Jorwic

From: Nicole Jorwic
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 5:21 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Colorado

Robert Lawhead

COLORADO MEDICAID IN ACTION: SAVING LIVES, MAKING A LIFE-CHANGING DIFFERENCE FOR ONE PERSON AT A TIME

This story is about Jess, an infant with Down syndrome, born in Denver to a crack-addicted mother, and given up for adoption in early 1996. The adoption process, initiated through the weekly television-based Wednesday's Child project, was interrupted by a life-threatening event. At nine months Jess developed croup resulting in the need for a tracheotomy due to severe sub-glottal stenosis and tracheomalacia.

Children's Hospital physicians told the pre-adoptive family that the associated mortality rate for these conditions in infants with Down syndrome was significant and that if he survived, the associated morbidity included a life with no speech, and inability to breath without a machine. Jeffco Social Services fast-tracked the months-long adoption process to one week so Jess was released to his new family directly from Children's instead of going to a medical group home. This development would have been impossible without Colorado Medicaid.

Surgeons at Children's Hospital had limited experience with a life-saving operation that would involve severing his vocal chords to repair his trachea. After research, the family found Dr. Robin Cotton, a British surgeon practicing at Cincinnati Children's, who had successfully performed a procedure that widened and stabilized the trachea by suturing a section of rib directly into the windpipe. Following considerable advocacy on the family's part and extensive medical review, Colorado Medicaid approved the surgery in Cincinnati. The family had to wait until Jess weighed almost ten pounds which was challenging due to a failure to thrive diagnosis associated with the tracheostomy. Medicaid private duty nursing assured his medical stability prior to the operation.

Long story short, the operation was a success. Jess' vocal chords were saved. After 18 months of trach-suctioning induced sleepless nights and occasional private duty nursing through Medicaid, Jess was successfully decanulated. Through his childhood and teen years Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) have allowed him to build relationships and learn life skills within his community. As a result, he just graduated high school with numerous community connections and will hopefully begin work supported by a job coach paid for through Colorado's HCBS program at Cosmos Pizza or Rincon Del Sol in the fall.



Nicole Jorwic

From: Hooser - DOR, Robert [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 12:34 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Colorado-Medicaid Matters to Me and my Family

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to state my concern on the reform of the changes to the Medicaid program. I am concerned because I have four children with mental health disabilities and work hard to provide for them. My wife and I, both, ~~work for the state of Colorado in different agencies and work hard to provide for our family. We were dealt a difficult~~ hand having four children with disabilities. They need constant supervision and require high levels of therapy in order to function within the community. If this is passed we would be put in a situation where either my wife or I would have to choose between caring for our children or being productive members of society. It is not a good situation to be in. I understand the needing to cut the budget in places, but cutting the funds of helping people contribute to the community and the nation, should not be an option. We battle every day with the needs they have to have provided and adding more stress and uncertainty to the situation will only cause more problems now and in the future. If this nation is concerned with people taking advantage of the system, why don't they check into those who abuse the system. There are people that I have met that refuse to work, just so they get the benefits of Medicaid or Food Stamps or TANF. That is a place that needs to be fixed. I know of people that sell illegal drugs to make a living while taking those same benefits. This is what is frustrating for me. I am trying to do the right thing by working full time, going to school full time, taking care of four children with disabilities, and staying out of trouble with the law. I am doing the right thing and following the law, and I feel that the government is punishing me. There are a lot of hard-working people, trying to do the right thing. The government will cause nothing but more trouble and unproductive members of society with this bill. Please, if you care about the people of this nation, you will not approve this bill.

Sincerely,

Robert Hooser



Robert J. Hooser

Tax Examiner II
[REDACTED]

Nicole Jorwic

From: Celena Robinson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 4:10 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Medicaid Matters to Me - Colorado

To Whom It May Concern;

I can't tell you how fearful I am in regards to some changes that could be made to Medicaid that will have a severe and profound impact on my family. I have met many families that will also be affected by these changes and they, too share my concern. I not only have one child with disabilities, I have FOUR. All four of my children are covered by insurance that I pay for privately through my employer (I'm one of the lucky ones, and it still costs me almost \$600 per month for insurance). Unfortunately my insurance does not cover everything and there are many gaps in coverage that prevent my children from getting the care they need (insurance that was designed to meet the needs of "normal" families with less extenuating circumstances). Fortunately for us (at least for now) my children have what is called the "Medicaid Buy-in Program for Children with Disabilities" (which I pay an additional \$70 per month for). It covers what my insurance won't. One of my children also has a CES waiver (Children's Extensive Support Services) through Medicaid that pays for things that regular Medicaid does not cover, like care for an individual who cannot be left alone (respite care) so that I can continue caring for him at home. Believe it or not, this is much cheaper than placing him out of the home, as he is at risk of being institutionalized without these services.

It is a tough road having four children with special needs. I am one of thousands of families who depend on Medicaid just to get by, and in some cases, to stay alive. One of my children has been hospitalized over 30 times in the last three years alone. I adopted him and his brother after they were severely abused and neglected by their biological mother. His younger brother, also in my home, is learning to trust again after being sexually victimized by his biological mother's drug buddies when they were still in the home with her. My biological daughter attempted suicide by jamming a belt in between her door frame and the door. Fortunately the belt slipped when she placed her head through the loop and she began struggling for air. She was 13. I have been trying to keep her alive ever since. She battles with a mood disorder and chronic depression; disorders that threaten her life on a daily basis. Every day it is a fight and instead of a belt, she hangs by a thread with supports and services in place. And just like that....they could be taken away. My oldest son has autism, an early onset psychotic disorder, cognitive delays and speech delays. He tried to stab his sister a little over a year ago because the voices told him to do it. He was facing felony charges and out of home placement. In total, my children have been in 7 different hospitals over 50 times in the last three years. I am doing everything I can just to hang on while continuing to fight for the things they need in order to be whole, to be alive, and to be together. They are getting better, but there's still a lot of work to be done.

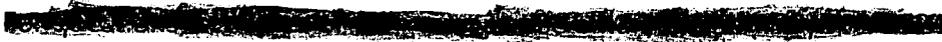
It is very easy for someone to deny these things happen; that families like mine don't exist and the means to provide access to supports and services aren't necessary. They couldn't be more wrong. This *is* my reality. This *is* my life. These are my children and this *is my family*. We are real, and so are our needs. For as much as I'd like to say I can do it on my own, the reality is I can't. My daughter is alive today because of the therapy she gets, the medications she's on, and the specialists she sees on a regular basis. My son's charges were dropped because the court felt he was getting the help he needed at home with services in place, and that adjudicating him and institutionalizing him was not in his best interest. My adopted son who has been hospitalized over 30 times is finally starting to make gains in treatment because he has access to consistent treatment. My

youngest son just got an in-home therapist that can work with him on his terrible past in a setting that he feels safest in. These are all services that my insurance **DOES NOT COVER!**

Imagine what it would be like to lose your child, standing in your driveway as the ambulance drives away. You wonder if there's something you could have done better, or different as the lights trail off in the distance. You get in your car to follow and along the way your head is swimming. You wonder what could be so bad that your oldest child would rather die, than find a way to survive in this world. You wonder how someone could hurt their children so bad that it would cause them to act out violently and how helpless it is to feel that you've done everything you can and it's not enough. Your love.... just wasn't enough. You wonder how you could have comforted a child who is frightened any better than you already have when they are hearing voices telling them to hurt others. All of these things go through your mind, and you know what? The one thing I haven't had to worry about up until this point is how is all of this going to be paid for? As long as my children have had Medicaid I didn't have to worry about the cost of their treatment, or whether or not they'd get the help they needed when my insurance alone wasn't enough. When my love wasn't enough. Medicaid is the reason we still have a home and are not living out on the streets. It is the reason I could take on two additional children instead of them being "raised" in the foster care system.

Medicaid is more than just the cost of care. It is keeping families like mine in tact. It is keeping children in the home where they belong instead of some facility, committed in the youth correctional system, or out on the streets. It frees up my mind as a parent to focus on what really matters - my children. Doesn't your family matter to you? Does my family matter any less? Please, do what you can, whatever is under your control to stop this from happening. YOU have the ability to help families like mine. To me, this is putting a price tag on my daughter's life and it is law makers telling me that her life isn't worth the money it takes to get her the help she needs. That is wrong. Please, I don't want to bury my child any more than you want to bury yours. I don't want to lose my sons who struggle just to stay in my home where they are loved and cared for. I would lose them just because I can't afford their medical bills. What is it worth to you and others who have the power to make a difference? Please, do the right thing. Keep Medicaid. Keep supports and services accessible to those who need it most. Thank you.

Respectfully,
Celena Robinson



Nicole Jorwic

From: Carol Silvestain [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 7:29 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: COLORADO

Please print this anonymously - I have heard horror stories about retaliation whenever someone speaks up, despite our 1st Amendment!

Dear Senator Gardner,

My daughter is 26 years old. She lives with us at home. I am her primary care giver - still and will be until I die and then I do not know who will care for her. In the meantime and beyond she needs purpose in her life with love, support and guidance. She gets that through her current Medicaid Waiver - which provides an opportunity for her to participate in:

1. a pre-vocational program during the day M-F.
2. therapy that teaches her how to manage her anxiety and
3. homemaker skills training

Through NO fault of her own (or mine) she was born with low muscle tone, an autism spectrum disorder, anxiety, sensory processing disorder, epilepsy, etc., etc., etc. She tries to work at volunteer jobs - but is not successful - yet. We would absolutely LOVE for her to be able to care for herself, like her 23 year old sister is able to do. The difference is in the ability piece. Desire and ability are not the same thing - reality is such that she can not work. Thus, she is dependent on Medicaid.

Additionally, Medicaid Medical is vital to her health: Preventative care now will always cost less later.

Is our Medicaid system perfect? No!

Can we, the people your represent, handle CUTS to an already imperfect system? No!

Do you or any of your colleagues have a clue as to what is NEEDED? I doubt it! If you have not walked in our shoes, how could you possibly make decisions that affect that of which you know nothing about?

PLEASE - leave Medicaid alone or work to fix it - not cut it!

WORK with US (the parents and the people with disabilities - not your politician colleagues) to make it better - over the long haul - little by little - NOT with massive cuts - that only HURTS the very people the system was designed to serve.

Thank you, Mr. Gardner, for listening and voting NO on the Trump Plan.

Sincerely,

A very worried Colorado mom!

Nicole Jorwic

From: Njcrandall [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 7:29 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Colorado SAVE Medicaid letter

Dear Nicole,

We have a daughter who is developmentally disabled. In her lifetime she has had several expensive surgeries. She will never be able to live on her own and we depend on Medicaid to help take care of her and her needs.

Every day, I work with other individuals who are mentally or developmentally disabled. Without funding from Medicaid they would have no place to go. Any cut to Medicaid would wield a devastating blow to parents and caregivers around our state and country.

These adults, young adults and children need a wide variety of procedures and equipment to simply help them get through the day. The costs of these procedures and aids can be staggering. It's criminal that our nation would want to cut services to those who are the most helpless in America. Please urge our Representatives to vote NO on this "Health Care Plan".

Thank you,
Nancy Crandall

Nicole Jorwic

From: Peggy Decker Berry [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 3:22 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Colorado Medicaid Letter

I work for an organization that provides services to people who are totally supported by Medicaid funds. I have hesitated to write so as not to be self serving, however, I see first hand every day the benefit of this funding for the people in need.

~~The Medicaid funded programs are the only life line for people with IDD. They were born with these limitations and do not have the same ability to earn money that other people do. Many of them so not have family or friends who will step in. Without this support, they will loose a large part of quality of life options including transportation to jobs and community connection, housing options and food quality.~~

We see people over and over, who are living in isolation and despair, but then become contributing people when they have the opportunity to be around friends, healthy environments and learning environments.

Please do not vote for a heath care bill that will eliminate this!

Peggy Decker Berry

Nicole Jorwic

From: Mel Persion [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 2:21 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Colorado - for the "Medicaid Matters to Me" campaign

Since the Republican lawmakers' delusions include lumping Medicaid recipients into being down-and-out aid-suckers, I want to point out the following facts:

I am employed by the State of Colorado as an accountant. Through my job, I and my family have decent health insurance.

My husband is employed also.

~~We have a mentally disabled 8-year-old daughter. We have Medicaid as our secondary insurance.~~

And we need to keep it.

Our daughter's needs surpass what our insurance or financial ability can provide.

For our daughter to, one day, be a contributing member of society, we need the assistance that our secondary insurance Medicaid provides.

Thank you.

Mel Persion

Nicole Jorwic

From: Ramirez Ambar R [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 1:42 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Colorado

To whom it may pertain,

Having Medicaid is crucial for the care of my child. She was diagnosed with cerebral palsy at the at the age of 2. Since then she has required a variety of surgeries, therapies, and medicine all of which would be financially impossible to have ~~obtained without Medicaid. I urge you to consider my child's medical needs when considering to do away with Medicaid~~ for the disabled. If needed please contact me directly at 720-382-9550.

Sincerely,

Ambar Ramirez

Nicole Jorwic

From: Lori Ropa [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 12:30 PM
To: thegon66@gmail.com; Nicole Jorwic
Subject: RE: Colorado

Beautifully said, Theresa. I know that your letter will make a difference, especially along with the thousands of others The Arc will surely receive!

Lori

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

From: Theresa Gonzales [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 11:45 AM
To: jorwic@thearc.org
Cc: Lori Ropa
Subject: Colorado

Dear Senator Gardner,

I live in Colorado and have been involved in the community of people who are developmentally disabled for over 40 years. My daughter was born with Down Syndrome but unfortunately passed away in 2013.

I have witnessed so many parents, children and adults suffer trying to get appropriate services, Medicaid being one of them. As you are well aware, it takes a village to take care of a child with special needs from birth to adulthood, such as the fields of medicine, education, psychology, respite care, and advocacy to name a few.

Many families whether they are poor or wealthy are overwhelmed by the struggles it takes to raise a child let alone help them to live full and happy lives while educating the general public on the fact that their child is a human being and deserves to live their lives as they choose in their community.

Without Medicaid helping these parents and persons with I/DD, the state of Colorado would move backwards to 40/50 years ago when we were first fighting for their rights to be integrated into the community. Please do not let this happen. Please vote NO on the BCRA and stop the devastating cuts to Medicaid that would have a negative impact on persons with I/DD in Colorado.

Theresa Gonzales

Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

Nicole Jorwic

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 11:34 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Fwd: Colorado

From: [REDACTED]
To: "jor wic" <jor.wic@thearc.org>
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 7:06:36 AM
Subject: Colorado

I am the parent of 4 individuals with IDD . We are dependent on Medicaid funding for their services. My husband and I are now considered elderly and not in the best of health. We would not be able to care for them in our home if their services were cut.

We have worked hard for them to be independent individuals, and would hate to see them lose this funding that helps them in so many ways.

Please vote against the cuts for Medicaid. As we age, the possibility that we parents will also need these services is another concern for us.

PLEASE<PLEASE help our family and many others to continue to have our services.

Thank You,

Mary Pat Jurann
Lakewood, Colorado

Nicole Jorwic

From: lily [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 6:37 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Colorado

Hello! I am writing this with the help of my guardian. I am disabled and rely on Medicaid to live in my community. I do not want to live in a nursing home with old people. I am young and I want to keep learning so I can get a job and help my mom pay for things. I have some serious medical conditions that I was born with. I did not 'do anything wrong' to be born this way. I wish people in Washington would understand that there are people like me who just need more help than others, even though we try really, really hard not to need it.

Anyway, please do not kill Medicaid. That would be mean.

Thank you.

Lily Papadopoulos
Zip code [REDACTED]

Nicole Jorwic

From: lecia [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 6:31 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Colorado

Hello! I'm writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposals to dramatically reduce, even gut, Medicaid. My adult daughter is profoundly disabled and relies on Medicaid to help pay for her frequent medical visits, hospitalizations, mental health and behavioral supports and perhaps most significantly the supports with daily living that allow her to live in our community, contribute through volunteer activities at the Arc, Goodwill and local businesses, continue to learn and gain pre-vocational skills, and interact with peers, both disabled and non-disabled.

Medicaid is an amazing program that is extremely efficient and effective. Lawmakers would do well to learn more about these programs that they appear to simply ideologically dislike. Ideology and reality can often be at odds with one another.

My sincere thanks for your service to all your constituents.

Thanks!

Lecia Papadopoulos
Zip code: 80401
Author

[REDACTED]

Nicole Jorwic

From: JEFF and GRACE HUNTER [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 1:23 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: vote no on BCRA from Colorado

Dear Senator Cory Gardner,

My understanding of the bill that will be coming up for a vote in the congress, it does NOT protect people with pre-existing conditions, and that such people could be charged many times more for health care coverage than those deemed without a pre-existing condition. My other fear for this particular problem with the bill is that it could easily be interpreted to include people with disabilities, like my son.

My son is 19, and he has severe cerebral palsy, which causes him to have breathing problems, he has a g- tube for feeding, and has to use a wheelchair to get around. He is non-verbal, so needs a communication device to communicate at school. My son needs to have Medicaid as a secondary insurance, in order to have his many medical needs met. As I told you earlier, my son currently lives in our home, with us, his family. We are able to make this work, because I am his paid family caregiver. He is not in a group home, he lives in our home. Here he gets nursing and loving family care. If there are cuts to Colorado's Medicaid money, he may be forced into a much more institutional type setting. In such a place, he would not get one on one care, as he does in our home. He would be much more likely to be at risk of dying due to lack of care, due to poor care, and poor oversight. Institutional care actually costs much more than it does to care for my son at home, with his family. We as a family, would never be able to afford all of his nursing care, his medications, his surgeries, and therapies, if we had to rely on our private insurance alone. On June 15 he got a tracheotomy. He currently qualifies for 24 hour nursing care. It is cheaper to care for him in our home than in a nursing home. Please do not force him to go to a nursing home to get nursing care.

This new BRCA bill will decimate Medicaid, with cuts as much as \$800 billion in cuts. If that much is cut from Medicaid, at the federal level, Colorado will never be able to come up with the portion that the Federal Government now pays for. As a result, the waitlists for services in Colorado, will grow very long, again. The Medicaid money that is available to people in Colorado will have to be reapportioned between, disabled, elderly and poor. Some of these groups or all of these groups will lose services, and or coverage.

Please, do not vote for this bill as it stands. It does not protect people with pre-existing conditions, it does not protect the most vulnerable of our society, the disabled, the elderly, and the poor. In my opinion, we should not balance the budget on the backs of the most vulnerable of our society. We voted for you to be our Senator. Please do the right thing and vote no.

Thank you,

Dawn and Charles Hunter
[REDACTED]

Littleton, CO
[REDACTED]

Nicole Jorwic

From: De Ann Gutierrez [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 12:55 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: FW: Medicaid matters from Colorado

Spelling correction. Thanks.

From: De Ann Gutierrez [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 10:51 PM
To: 'jorwic@thearc.org' <jorwic@thearc.org>
Subject: Medicaid matters from Colorado

Nicole Jorwic/Arc of the United States,

Our Medicaid is essential to our survival. Thank you for delivering this email on my behalf.

I spent the first 35 years of my life earning my own living and getting my education. I started working in family businesses when I was six years old. I worked throughout High School, and while I put myself through college. I paid taxes and bought my own health insurance. I paid for my education. At the age of 30, my son was born prematurely and diagnosed with cerebral palsy. He would need a lifetime of constant care. I continued working as my husband cared for him, because my job had the health insurance. I paid for everything for my son until he was 18 including wheelchairs and his health insurance.

When my son was released from the school system at the age of 21, my husband was no longer able to be a full-time caregiver so I left a position with an executive level salary. I went to work for a home health agency where I am paid less than \$35K per year to provide home care for my son as his Certified Nursing Assistant. My company, Personal Assistance Services of Colorado, still provides health insurance for me but my son must rely on Medicaid and since his Dad retired, Medicare also. I still pay taxes on my income.

We are not looking for a hand-out, just assistance and maybe a little return for all that I have contributed through taxes and community services. We live in a very small home and my husband did all the modification so that it is accessible. The medical insurance and community based services that Medicaid currently covers allows my son to thrive in the community but he cannot do this independently yet. Without vital Medicaid waivers and health insurance, we would not be able to keep our home, health, and livelihood. What would you want if you found yourself in a similar situation with rising food, living and healthcare costs and the need to care for your 28-year-old son with a significant disability?

With gratitude,

De Ann Gutierrez

Nicole Jorwic

From: Danae Davison [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 12:21 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Colorado
Attachments: 20170715_173751.jpg

What Medicaid means to my family:

My husband and I both work hard at our jobs, we take good care of our health and we volunteer in the community. We are not lazy or immoral and we depend on Medicaid for our daughter.

Our daughter was born with an unidentifiable illness through no one's fault. It is just how she was made. She depends on Medicaid for her 1) seizure medications, 2) home therapies, 3) medical specialist visits and 4) medical equipment.

Without Medicaid, our family would not be able to care for her at home. Ironically, it would be a significantly higher cost to the government if she were institutionalized, at a much lower level of care. Who but her mother would fuss over every detail of her health and happiness like I do?

I will fight for her Medicaid because she is my daughter, I love her unconditionally, and Medicaid keeps our family together.

Sometimes these things just happen. Medicaid means her illness is not the end of our family. It is just a hard thing but we can still go to work, be a part of the community and be a happy family.

Please don't strangle our family by strangling Medicaid.

Thank you,
Danae Davison in Arvada

Nicole Jorwic

From: Maryann Castellano [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 12:21 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Colorado

Dear Senator Gardner,

Please do not support the health care bill as it stands.

Millions of people with disabilities will lose their health care. Their health could suffer, those who are contributing members of the community could lose their ability to contribute financially to our society, their families and themselves, creating greater welfare roles.

By allowing states and insurance companies to set premiums at will, those who are elderly or have pre-existing conditions could be left without insurance.

Many hospitals in rural Colorado are their regions' biggest employers, so in addition to losing patients, they may also lose jobs for employees.

The Republicans ran on the "repeal and replace Obama care" platform. That should read, "replace and repeal". Until you can produce a bill that is better than ACA, you can't take every- thing away. Mr. Trump, congressmen and rich people won't suffer, but the middle and poorer classes will. We are the ones who carry the largest burden of taxation, increasing prices hurt us the most and now we will have to carry the health care increases as well.

Why does the USA have the most expensive health care system in the world, not necessarily the best and it does not reach all its people? Why haven't these questions been addressed? Why are we just throwing more money at a system that is so unbalanced? When will you address the important questions?

MaryAnn Castellano, registered voter

Nicole Jorwic

From: Spooner, Craig [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 11:57 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Americans of all ages depend on Medicaid

I hope our legislators will remember that the healthcare debate, and Medicaid in particular, is about more than balancing the budget and lowering taxes. For many people it is a lifeline--people with disabilities, older Americans in nursing homes, and so many others. I urge law makers to keep these individuals in mind as they consider the bills before them.

Craig Spooner,
Colorado

Nicole Jorwic

From: Diane PALACHEK [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 8:29 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: What Medicaid Means--Colorado 80603

[REDACTED]
Brighton, CO [REDACTED]
July 16, 2017

Dear Senator Gardner,

Medicaid means a future and a life for our daughter who is medically fragile and has multiple disabilities. It means supports so she can be healthy and contributing in her community—not a community made up only of those who have disabilities but in the REAL WORLD. She has been raised to have no fear of others. She has always gone to the same school as her typical sibling and she needs to continue living among all of us. To institutionalize her would slight the entire population—and her, especially.

Medicaid provides jobs to others. Eliminating it will leave a huge population of care providers without income. Many will qualify for federal supports, when they'd rather be working.

Medicaid provides a healthy environment in which our daughter can thrive. It provides her elderly parents with a break from lifting, transferring, nebulizing, g-tube feeding and oral feeding...allowing us to be refreshed and able to provide services as natural supports, again.

Medicaid allows people like our daughter to remain in their own beds at night; in their own kitchens during meals and among friends and family when relaxing. These are simple things we should all be allowed to enjoy.

Our daughter voted for you, Cory Gardner. Yes. She chose to trust you with her future, Senator. She cannot vote on the bill but she trusted that you would do the best things for her. She cannot choose to be disability-free but she chose you to keep her safe.

Please keep our daughter safe and healthy, VOTE NO ON THE BETTER HEALTH BILL. It fails Maggie.

Sincerely,

Diane Palachek

Nicole Jorwic

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 7:35 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: COLORADO

My name is Karen Huber, I live in Aurora, Colorado, and was born and raised in Denver. In a moment my typical, happy life with my husband and 2 healthy daughters was turned upside down.

I am writing so you know that the Senate non-healthcare bill MUST be defeated for families like mine to live.

The idea of having my third child born with multiple disabilities, unable to perform the milestones, then learning that he is deaf, nonverbal, physically and cognitively impaired devastated our family. We suffered financially and emotionally to keep our family together. It wasn't until he became eligible for Medicaid that he really flourished. Yes he still has all the issues he was born with because he has a rare condition known as mosaic extra ring chromosome on #8, but he can now see his doctors and therapists who have given us hope through medication and even having a job. These were made possible b/c dollars are going into helping to make individuals with different labels more independent. He inspires others, he connects and brings joy to others. I am 70 and my husband is 72. Our son is supported by HCBS waiver- Health Community Based Services. His life and ours would be devastated, his life shortened and we would be in bankruptcy. The trickle down effect would have dire consequences.

Helping the least of us is the function of government as much as building infrastructure, education, and military. These are people who can't live without Medicaid. Please help us and millions of families like us.

Sincerely,
Karen Huber and family

--

Sent from myMail for Android

Nicole Jorwic

From: Kriss Wittmann [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 7:32 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Colorado and the impact of the Healthcare Bill passing

I have lived in Colorado since 1991. I worked at CSU, where diversity was embraced, celebrated, and all people were included in the fabric of our work life. People with disabilities have a challenging time already negotiating the able bodied world. Where is your compassion for the vulnerable? Are we as a country really feeling like we can support more war fighting and not take care of our least vulnerable. The disabled are living on the lowest rung of the ladder for ~~the most part and now you want to take away their healthcare? Please take the high vision of what is right, what is just,~~ what would the God you worship do? Please do not embarrass us to our fellow earth countries by not fighting for our disabled family members.

Dolan was born with cerebral palsy, because his umbilical cord was wrapped around his neck at birth. Dolan has lived in his wheelchair most of his life. If Dolan was your child would you want his to not have health care? He isn't in this situation because of anything he did. He has very limited mobility and has a hard time focusing his eyes, so he can't read. I worked with Dolan for 3 years. He is a joy and a part of our community fabric. I want him to be cared for. I agree as a society we all need to reach out and do what we can for all our vulnerable groups. We are a rich country. Let's use our riches not to line the pockets of the few, but to take care of those that need our help.

Thank you for your Serious consideration of this healthcare bill

Kriss wittmann, Denver

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

Nicole Jorwic

From: Terencia K. Beauvais-Niki [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 6:54 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Colorado

If this healthcare bill passes, my daughter with a disability will no longer be able to live in the community with supports. I will have to go back to living in poverty in order to provide her care. Once I'm dead it will mean institutionalization for her as we have no family that could pick up her care.

Every time I think of these as possibilities I get closer to understanding the dynamic of murder/suicide driven by hopelessness. In essence she would receive a death sentence. That her life can have so little value to people in power is incredibly depressing.

--
Regards,
Terencia K. Beauvais-Niki, RN
Nurse Advocate Assessments
[REDACTED] Englewood, CO [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Nicole Jorwic

From: Anne Thomas [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 6:20 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Colorado--Medicaid story

July 16, 2017

Dear Senator,

~~I'm a proud Colorado native and the mom to 2 incredible boys. My boys, Brady and Matthew, are 4th generation Coloradoans and love to cheer on the Broncos.~~

Brady has a smile that can light up a room and he also happens to have Cerebral Palsy. He has profound physical disabilities, requires 24-hour care, uses a wheelchair for mobility, has a continuous feeding tube for all of his nutrition and has multiple medical diagnoses.

Medicaid is a critical lifeline to Brady and so many others. Brady has private health insurance through my husband's employer, however it does not cover everything needed to keep Brady alive and our family whole. Medicaid provides the feeding pump, feeding bags and liquid formula Brady needs to survive. The monthly cost alone for Brady's nutrition is twice our house payment. Medicaid also provides night nursing care to help us maintain 24-hour care in our home for Brady.

Brady belongs at home with his brother and family. Medicaid makes that possible. Medicaid works. Please protect Medicaid for my family and the millions of other Americans that count on it every day. Thank you for your service to our country.

Sincerely,

Anne Thomas

Nicole Jorwic

From: Saffel, Joyce [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 1:36 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Cc: Cari Brown (cbrown@arcl.org)
Subject: Medicaid - No Cuts or Caps

Columbine Health Systems provides senior care services and facilities for older adults in Northern Colorado since 1971. As the Human Resources Director for Columbine Health Systems, with a 1500 employee base, I am in charge of hiring a wide range of positions with an average of 30 jobs monthly available. This can be difficult in a city with the exceptionally low unemployment rate of 2.2%.

Starting in 2011, we partnered with Project SEARCH International, Poudre School District, Colorado State University, and Center for Community Partnerships. Project SEARCH brings High School Students with significant disabilities into our job sites for internships and other employment-related experiences. The program has an 80% success rate of students with significant disabilities graduating with a job within our organization or the community that pays at or more than minimum wage. This stands in stark contrast to the roughly 80% of working-age people with significant disabilities who are not working in Colorado.

Because of the success of Project SEARCH, we now have a diverse workforce, including many people with significant disabilities. I am concerned about the supports those employees with disabilities may lose if Medicaid is capped or cut.

While Project SEARCH works on helping young adults with significant disabilities obtain employment, Medicaid provides long-term support so that person can stay employed after he/she has graduated from the Project SEARCH program. Medicaid waivers can provide personal care, transportation, and even job coaches so employees with disabilities have the support they need to be successful in the workplace. If Medicaid is capped or cut, those benefits may be cut, leaving the people with disabilities who work for Columbine Health Systems without the support they need to work. It is critical for this support system be in place for successful long term employment. Retention is our focus at Columbine Health Systems.

Please vote no on any bill that cuts or caps Medicaid!

Joyce Saffel
Human Resources Director

Columbine Health Systems
Meaningful Careers for People Who Care



Nicole Jorwic

From: happyart [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 10:46 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Medicaid Matters to Me - Colorado

Dear Nicole,

Please pass along my story about how important Medicaid is to me and my precious son Ryan. For years, we struggled to find the right resources to help Ryan have a workable life in the community. He's developmentally disabled with several medical diagnoses. Finally we were able to get him into Medicaid-funded community-based residential and day treatment programs that have turned him from a violent outcast to a happy and productive young man with friends. I can't believe that Congress wants to take this away from us!!

Thanks for all you do at Arc to help Ryan and me; God bless.

Patsi Maroney

Nicole Jorwic

From: Yahoo [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 9:31 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: What Medicaid means to me
Attachments: June 22.docx

Attached is letter I previously sent.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: July 16, 2017 at 7:26:40 AM MDT
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Letter to Senator Gardner

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Dana Held [REDACTED]
Date: June 20, 2017 at 6:36:25 PM MDT
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Letter to Senator Gardner
Reply-To: Dana Held [REDACTED]

My letter includes a bit of my personal story- you are welcome to use it for media coverage or however you see fit.

Dana Held
[REDACTED]

Nicole Jorwic

From: Anne Kern [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 8:57 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: DO NOT GUT MEDICAID - CO

I am asking both of Colorado's Senators - Michael Bennet and Cory Gardner - to vote against the latest Health Care Act and to fight for their constituents with disabilities in Colorado. Protecting Medicaid is a true mark of protecting life. Gutting Medicaid funding will lead to premature death of seniors and people with disabilities.

They must demand a CBO score on anything they vote on. 15 million of the 22 million losing insurance will come from Medicaid. The per capita limits are NOT about repealing Obamacare - cutting Medicaid is not part of that.

Thank you,
Elizabeth Kern
Denver, CO

Nicole Jorwic

From: Robert Brennan [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 7:30 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: What Medicare means to me - Colorado

Dear Senator Gardner,

I am writing to you again to tell you what Medicare means to me, here in the state of Colorado.

I was diagnosed with relapsing/remitting Multiple Sclerosis in May of 2002. I had a sudden, unexplained fall in my home, from which I also endured closed head brain injury. Months of memory loss, loss of motor skills, all of which required multiple therapies just to recover from the brain injury. My PCP ordered an MRI, which discovered that what had caused the fall was Multiple Sclerosis. During the years that have passed, MS has raged it's attack on my central nervous system. At this point and time with my incurable disease, I am no longer relapsing/remitting MS - I have moved into another form of the disease which is Secondary Progressive MS. I have endured significant physical disabilities that require both physical & occupational therapy. I need assistance with most daily activities- even as simple as cooking, dressing, and bathing. I have endured many bouts of optic neuritis to the point that both of my optic nerves have been destroyed, and I am essentially blind. My care is complex, and requires that I have a team of medical professionals to make sure that I get the care I need. I rely on Medicaid to cover the expenses for the care that I require.

I am able to live independently in the community, and contribute to the community while my husband is able to be my care provider for me. Here in Colorado, I not only rely on Medicaid, but also on Long Term Supports & Services. I am able to be cared for by my husband, rather than placed in a nursing home. I am only 53 years old, and I cannot possibly understand how it would be more cost effective to place me in a nursing home, nor can I even imagine not having access to any health care.

There is no other insurance option for me, nor is there anything that I am able to transition to. I am a real person, with a disease that I did not ask for, trying to fight against the disease. Never did I imagine that I would have to fight against a plan by Republicans that would essentially "gut" Medicaid. If that happens, and Medicaid is gutted, I am left in terror as to what will become of my health, and life.

I am asking you respectfully to please vote no on this new reboot to health care. While I do as knowledge that Obamacare did not fix everything for everyone, why does it all need to be dismantled? Health care reform is not something that you just shove through so that campaign promises can be met - we are talking about millions of people being unable to access or afford health care. How are we "making America great again", while in the process millions of people will face immediate life and death consequences? There are always so many campaign promises that are left unfulfilled in both parties, but to truly make "America great again", shouldn't we first remember that no matter what party we align with, at the base of it, we are Americans. There is no United States of America, unless we are willing to acknowledge that Americans come in all races, disabilities, socioeconomic backgrounds, and needs. Our country ranks dead last when it comes to health care, this proposed health care legislation moves us dangerously backwards, and risks my life, and well as millions of others.

Again, please vote NO, consider voting with some heart and conscience, not with just your Republican Party and political aspirations.

Sincerely,
Traci Brennan
[REDACTED]

Nicole Jorwic

From: Robert Brennan [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 7:21 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: What Medicaid means to me - COLORADO

Dear Senator Gardner,

I am writing to you to explain why Medicaid is so important to me! My wife has dual disabilities and relies on long term support services for her care. These services enable her to live in the community with me being her care provider. We had become homeless before the expansion of Medicaid because I had to leave my job in order to care for her. My wife's Multiple Sclerosis had taken a turn for the worse and she had lost most of her vision and her ability to be home on her own. My fear is that if we were to lose the long term support services that we depend on we will once again become homeless and have no means to get the care that my wife needs. The passage of the health care bill as it stands now is completely unacceptable. If you really do have the interests of your fellow Coloradans as motivation for your vote on this bill I can not see how you can vote yes. I am asking you to vote no on this bill and work together with your fellow Senators in both parties to come up with a working solution for all Americans.

Thank you,
Robert Brennan

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Aurora Co, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Nicole Jorwic

From: Julie Reiskin [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 4:37 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Colorado -Medicaid Story

What Medicaid Means to Me:

I have been on Medicaid for 24 years. The two years before I had Medicaid, I had 14 hospitalizations. I was uninsured and uninsurable so those bills never got paid. Since I have had Medicaid I have not spent one night in a hospital. Colorado now has a Medicaid buy-in program for working adults with disabilities. I was forced to go on Social Security Disability in my 20's for the purpose of getting Medicaid Home and Community Based Services. I was so sick from not having care that doctors were refusing to treat me unless I got on Medicaid. When Colorado allowed us to work, and pay into Medicaid, I jumped at the chance. I now pay a premium for Medicaid and happily gave up SSDI. Over 7000 of us have started working in Colorado thanks to this program. We do not want it taken away

Medicaid allows me to get services that I need to work. This includes a decent, durable power wheelchair, personal care attendants to help with showering and other personal care, and medical supplies. Once my Medicare stops (7 years from when I ended SSDI) then Medicaid will cover medical bills. Most of what I need is not available with insurance, even the best insurance. Insurance only covers \$2500 for durable medical equipment. That would not even cover repairs for a year let alone a wheelchair. No insurance covers long term services like personal care.

Colorado Medicaid does a lot to make the program sustainable. Our accountable care collaborative has brought down emergency room use and inpatient hospital care in just a few years. Allowing consumer directed personal care improves quality by letting the client directly hire and train our in home workers. We do so with a rate 10.75% less than agencies. There are many more examples. Colorado Medicaid has made these improvements with optional benefits. If the budget is slashed they will not be able to use these optional benefits or do anything creative.

Medicaid is important to me, I have friends who will die in days if their Medicaid is interrupted. Friends that use ventilators need care every hour of every day. I have several friends with ventilators and other friends with very severe disabilities and they will die with per capita caps. Medicaid is the lifeline to so many and taking it away means that people with disabilities cannot be assured that we have a right to life, liberty or the pursuit of happiness.

--
Sent from my mobile device--please forgive brevity or typo's
Julie Reiskin NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US.....EVER

The best care coordination outcome is when a person gets what they need when they need it...no hoops to jump through-just action!

Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition is a member of www.INDIVISIBLE-CO.org

Indivisible!!

The information transmitted is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential and/or privileged material. Any review, re-transmission, dissemination or other use of, or taking of any action in reliance

upon, this information by persons or entities other than the intended recipient is prohibited. If you received this in error, please contact the sender and delete the material from any computer.

Nicole Jorwic

From: Anastasia Lawhead [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 3:55 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Colorado: What Medicaid Means to Me

My husband and I are aging parents of a 21 year old son with Down syndrome and other disabilities. He had a rare congenital condition requiring airway reconstruction as an infant, with less than a 1% survival morbidity rate. After 12 surgeries (paid for through Medicaid) to build a new airway, he was a thriving cheerful two year old and at that point, the courts approved our adoption from county social services. During this first 18 months that he lived with us, Medicaid paid for his medical equipment, medications, in-home therapies, doctor's visits, and some nursing for his tracheostomy care. In other words, what it took to save his life. After going through neighborhood schools included with his neighborhood peers, he graduated last May with over one hundred friends celebrating at his graduation party. He now volunteers in the community through several nonprofits and is learning more and more skills to get a job and contribute even more by paying taxes and being a valued member of his community. He is truly loved by his family and extended family and neighbors and friends. His life is a miracle and a gift. I did not mention that he did not learn to read or write or count, has a significant speech and communication disability and a very severe cognitive disability which makes daily living and self-care skills impossible without support. He cannot safely cross the street yet he loves life in the community. He has Medicaid to support about 20 hours of his weekly activities in the community. He will need lifelong support, more after his Dad and I are deceased or no longer able to care for him. Without these services and supports, he will be lonely, isolated and at risk for institutionalization, not safe or secure in any way. I implore all legislators to vote NO on the current health care act destined to destroy my son's life and many thousands of lives through such drastic Medicaid reductions that are proposed in this Act. Thank You.

Anastasia Lawhead
Boulder, Colorado

Nicole Jorwic

From: Pricilla Foos [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 3:53 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Health Care Bill -- Colorado

This is to ask that Senator Cory Gardner vote "NO" on the upcoming Health Care bill that Congress is trying to pass. Please do NOT cut funding to Medicaid or shift the costs to states. Medicaid helps seniors, people with disabilities and children have healthcare. We do NOT need a bill that will cause millions of Americans to lose their coverage.

I see your main job as doing "good" for the American people and not pursuing what a certain political party wants.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

--

Pricilla Garcia-Foos

[REDACTED]
"Life is like a coin.... you can choose to spend it any-way you wish, but you can only spend it once. Make your choices wisely."

Nicole Jorwic

From: Tina [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 2:41 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Vote no on BCRA. From Colorado

Vote no on BCRA. My family depends on Medicaid. My sons are autistic and I am disabled. Medicaid affords us to get treatments for my sons such as speech and ot as well as specialist at children's hospital. I have weekly psychotherapy appointments. One son is moderate on the asd spectrum and has the ces waiver. Without that and Medicaid it would put a huge burden on my family.

Sincerely,
Christina LaSalle

Nicole Jorwic

From: Mary Curtin [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 2:24 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic

This letter is being written from Littleton, Co. zip code 80127. I was born healthy and have been most of my life until I developed metastatic breast cancer. Much of my work career has been with intellectually and developmentally challenged infants and children. I have also worked in the NICU and did case management as well as routine developmental assessments with NICU graduates. I have been involved with the ARC of Jefferson and Clear Creek counties. I have worked with many families living from hand to mouth as I did as a child. These are the last people who ~~should lose health care and other forms of support. We are only as strong as our weakest members. In my mind, greed,~~ is the biggest problem we have world-wide. When is enough enough??????? Many of the recipients of Medicaid have done nothing to land in this position except maybe be unable to find a decent paying job or have a caring, supportive family. Please, please, please bear this in mind when considering taking from the poor to give to the rich.

Mary Curtin, B.A., M.A., Ph.D., MSW, LCSW.

Nicole Jorwic

From: Laura Marrs [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 1:51 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Colorado.

Dear Senator Gardener-

We needed a Medicaid waiver to help pay for all the therapies and copays not covered by the best insurance we could buy at the time for our son.

While sitting on a two year long waitlist for our slot in the Childrens Extensive Support Waiver (waiver for children who need institutional level 24 hour line of sight support) we were 30 days from foreclosure on our starter home and were in \$140,000 real debt (which we paid back with the sale of that house into the home we've been living in for the last eleven years)

Medicaid allowed us to raise our other children while giving our son the supports, therapies, doctors he needed.

He turns 18 in five months and we are in the middle of our transition into adult services. D will enroll on the DD/Comp waiver to keep him in the community he's built with friends and family.

I hate asking for help, I'm a second generation army brat and was taught you take care of your own. My family (marriage) would not have survived intact without Medicaid.

Laura Marrs
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from the itty bitty screen of my iPhone so please forgive all inappropriate auto corrects and fat thumbs as I'm getting old and can't see the screen like I would like without my old lady glasses anymore. 😊😊😊

Laura
[REDACTED]

Sent from the itty bitty screen of my iPhone so please forgive all inappropriate auto corrects and fat thumbs as I'm getting old and can't see the screen like I would like without my old lady glasses anymore. 😊😊😊

Laura
[REDACTED]

Sent from the itty bitty screen of my iPhone so please forgive all inappropriate auto corrects and fat thumbs as I'm getting old and can't see the screen like I would like without my old lady glasses anymore. 😊😊😊

Nicole Jorwic

From: Theresa Gonzales [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 1:45 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Cc: lori@arcjc.org
Subject: Colorado

Dear Senator Gardner,

I live in Colorado and have been involved in the community of people who are developmentally disabled for over 40 years. ~~My daughter was born with Down Syndrome but unfortunately passed away in 2013.~~

I have witnessed so many parents, children and adults suffer trying to get appropriate services, Medicaid being one of them. As you are well aware, it takes a village to take care of a child with special needs from birth to adulthood, such as the fields of medicine, education, psychology, respite care, and advocacy to name a few.

Many families whether they are poor or wealthy are overwhelmed by the struggles it takes to raise a child let alone help them to live full and happy lives while educating the general public on the fact that their child is a human being and deserves to live their lives as they choose in their community.

Without Medicaid helping these parents and persons with I/DD, the state of Colorado would move backwards to 40/50 years ago when we were first fighting for their rights to be integrated into the community. Please do not let this happen. Please vote NO on the BCRA and stop the devastating cuts to Medicaid that would have a negative impact on persons with I/DD in Colorado.

Theresa Gonzales

Sent from my iPad

Nicole Jorwic

From: Jean H [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 1:08 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Colorado wants you to vote NO

Dear Senators Gardner and Benett,

I urge you to vote NO on the healthcare bill because the cuts to Medicaid will be disastrous to my family. My 61-year-old brother has been physically and cognitively disabled since birth. He receives vital services through Medicaid that keep him healthy and a part of his community. Please do not take this away from him.

Sincerely,
Jean Heath

Nicole Jorwic

From: Jean H [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 1:08 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Colorado wants you to vote NO

Dear Senators Gardner and Benett,

I urge you to vote NO on the healthcare bill because the cuts to Medicaid will be disastrous to my family. My 61-year-old brother has been physically and cognitively disabled since birth. He receives vital services through Medicaid that keep him healthy and a part of his community. Please do not take this away from him.

Sincerely,
Jean Heath

Nicole Jorwic

From: Barry Rosenberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 12:31 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Colorado

RE: Better Care Reconciliation Act

Dear Senator Gardner,

In 1972 I worked in a Denver area nursing home that had a special wing that accommodated younger persons (as young as 10 years of age) with severe disabilities. Almost all of the residents preferred living independently, but in 1972, Medicaid community based services were pretty much non-existent. Ironically, Medicaid was the major funding source while these younger individuals were in the nursing home. In 1975 I co-founded a non-profit organization that transitioned dozens of persons with severe disabilities from nursing home to their own homes. Almost all of these individuals were able to live independently or semi-independently as a result of Medicaid funding in the years that followed.

I am 73 years old and had been a provider of home health and related services funded through Medicaid for approximately 40 years. The agencies I directed (both in the non-profit and later in the for profit sector) served very severely disabled adults and children. The major services provided were lifting, bathing, bowel/bladder/skin care, and a host of related services enhancing independence and quality of life. So during that span of 40 years, I was able to see firsthand how persons with severe disabilities thrived when Medicaid funding was available.

Yesterday (July 14, 2017) I was hiking with some friends and we were talking about divorce rates of parents who have or had children with disabilities. One stated that the divorce rate of parents who had children with severe disabilities was exceptionally high. Having been in the field for as long as I have my response was that the divorce rate, as I saw among clients I served, tapered off over the years significantly when Medicaid home health and home and community based services became available. While I saw this change as a provider I experienced this change on a very personal way. In 1992 my then one year old child was diagnosed with a terminal disease. While my daughter died at 3 ½, I was very involved in the organization (National Tay-Sachs and Allied Diseases) for over seven years. I knew well over 100 families and can say that the divorce rate among them was slightly below the national average. For sure there were strains on marriages, however, when resources were available, primarily through Medicaid, those strains were lessened, oftentimes significantly. I am extremely fearful that the proposed cuts to Medicaid will not only hurt persons with disabilities, but their families as well. I urge you to vote NO to the pending Better Care Reconciliation Act (BRCA).

Nicole Jorwic

From: Carol Meredith [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 12:10 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Colorado - now "in the body of the email"

Medicaid Matters Me

July 15, 17

Dear Senator,

Our family depends on the Home and Community Based Services that are provided under the Medicaid program in Colorado. Without those services, our adult son who is severely impacted by autism and several mental health diagnoses would not be able to live in his community. He needs support from a trained staff member 24 hours per day/7 days a week to ensure his basic health and safety.

In the days before these waiver services were available to our son, our family was not able to keep him safe. We lost track of him on a weekly basis, his self-injurious behavior was out of control, and his combative behavior was out of control. The police and emergency room were the only supports we had to keep him safe.

Now his self-injurious behavior is still present, but we have data to show that it has significantly reduced over time. He has not had involvement with the police in over 3 years, and has only had one admit to an emergency room for dehydration due to the flu. He also has a job two days a week for 4 hours a day where he earns minimum wage.

Home and Community Based Services have significantly improved his life and the life of our entire family, as we have been able to work full-time and contribute to the tax-base in our state and nation.

Please vote NO on the latest healthcare bill that would decimate Medicaid over the next decade. His life depends upon your vote.

Thank you,

John & Carol Meredith

[REDACTED]

Littleton CO [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Medicaid Matters to my family and Me

July 15, 17

Dear Senator,

Our family depends on the Home and Community Based Services that are provided under the Medicaid program in Colorado. Without those services, our adult son who is severely impacted by autism and several mental health diagnoses would not be able to live in his community. He needs support from a trained staff member 24 hours per day/7 days a week to ensure his basic health and safety.

In the days before these waiver services were available to our son, our family was not able to keep him safe. We lost track of him on a weekly basis, his self-injurious behavior was out of control, and his combative behavior was out of control. The police and emergency room were the only supports we had to keep him safe.

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Home and Community Based Services have significantly improved his life and the life of our entire family, as we have been able to work full-time and contribute to the tax-base in our state and nation.

Please vote NO on the latest healthcare bill that would decimate Medicaid over the next decade. His life depends upon your vote.

Thank you,

John & Carol Meredith

[REDACTED]
Littleton CO [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Nicole Jorwic

From: Rich and Kris Post [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 10:31 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Colorado

To All Concerned:

I am asking you and begging you that you DO NOT cut Medicaid. It is extremely important to our family. I have a son and a grandson who both have Asperger Syndrome, which affects his cognitive functioning, and communication and in both their cases they have seizures as well as ADHD. With Medicaid it has kept them on an even keel.

They are both on numerous medications to keep them stable. They are in need of counseling which has also helped in keeping them stable. Both are in need of services to help with their hygiene, house keeping, and our grandson needs extensive med management services. They are both able to live alone together. I am in my 70's and have tried to get services for them so in the event that I am no longer here I know that they will be okay and not under the bridge without their medication. They are both unable to manage their money so at this time I manage their SSI benefits to see that they are both taken care of with dignity and humanity.

I have to say that certain organizations that manage the care of the disabled should be monitored regularly and if not providing the necessary service appropriate to that individual needs or any others individuals needs lose their funding, but Medicaid must remain.

Medicaid does help with their needs such as their mental health services and medication etc. However, Medicaid, I thought was for those who are disabled and not for those who don't work and have children upon children. I know that children are extremely important but those individuals that were born with a disability didn't ask to be that way.

We are attempting to change services from one agency, Blue Skies to The Resource Exchange because, since I have become involved with the Colorado Cross-Disabilities Coalition one of the Advocates mentioned them and I had heard of them but knew they were based in Colorado Springs and had no idea they serviced Pueblo as well.

The change has been difficult as Blue Skies encouraged my grandson to stay with them and when he got home he indicated he was pressured to stay with them. I had been at their meeting then asked to leave and they would call for me when they were ready. When I was brought back in they said he wants to stay with their organization. My husband heard my grandson say he wanted to go with TRE. They even took away his nurse who "quote was supposed to work with him to manage his meds on his own and then transition when if and when it became a habit.

We are supposed to be a humane society and we need to keep that alive. I don't have an answer to those families who continually have children to get welfare but it shouldn't destroy Medicaid for those who are truly disabled.

I am on the fence on how to deal with the drug addicts and alcoholics, they Medicaid shouldn't cut into that until they deal with the truly disabled individuals.

I don't want my taxes to leave Medicaid. IT IS TRULY TRULY A NECESSITY.

Respectfully,

Kristen Post

COLORADO MEDICAID IN ACTION: SAVING LIVES, MAKING A LIFE-CHANGING DIFFERENCE FOR ONE PERSON AT A TIME

This story is about Jess, an infant with Down syndrome, born in Denver to a crack-addicted mother, and given up for adoption in early 1996. The adoption process, initiated through the weekly television-based Wednesday's Child project, was interrupted by a life-threatening event. At nine months Jess developed croup resulting in the need for a tracheotomy due to severe sub-glottal stenosis and tracheomalacia.

Children's Hospital physicians told the pre-adoptive family that the associated mortality rate for these conditions in infants with Down syndrome was significant and that if he survived, the associated morbidity included a life with no speech, and inability to breath without a machine. Jeffco Social Services fast-tracked the months-long adoption process to one week so Jess was released to his new family directly from Children's instead of going to a medical group home. This development would have been impossible without Colorado Medicaid.

Surgeons at Children's Hospital had limited experience with a life-saving operation that would involve severing his vocal chords to repair his trachea. After research, the family found Dr. Robin Cotton, a British surgeon practicing at Cincinnati Children's, who had successfully performed a procedure that widened and stabilized the trachea by suturing a section of rib directly into the windpipe. Following considerable advocacy on the family's part and extensive medical review, Colorado Medicaid approved the surgery in Cincinnati. The family had to wait until Jess weighed almost ten pounds which was challenging due to a failure to thrive diagnosis associated with the tracheostomy. Medicaid private duty nursing assured his medical stability prior to the operation.

Long story short, the operation was a success. Jess' vocal chords were saved. After 18 months of trach-suctioning induced sleepless nights and occasional private duty nursing through Medicaid, Jess was successfully decanulated. Through his childhood and teen years Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) have allowed him to build relationships and learn life skills within his community. As a result, he just graduated high school with numerous community connections and will hopefully begin work supported by a job coach paid for through Colorado's HCBS program at Cosmos Pizza or Rincon Del Sol in the fall.

Nicole Jorwic

From: Smith, Barbara [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 7:19 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: TrumpCare

Dear Senator Gardner:

I have some questions and concerns regarding "TrumpCare."

1.) Are physicians and hospital administrators at the core of this planning? They are the ones who know the medical business firsthand and inside out. They know better than legislators how changes will impact patients and providers! My son, an emergency physician, told me that currently, under ObamaCare, the hydration requirement for patients is so rigid that doctors do not have the latitude to adjust for heart and kidney conditions. As a result such patients become overhydrated and often must remain in the expensive intensive care unit longer and may even risk death from overhydration! Certainly doctors, after all their years of training, ought to be able to recognize patients' individual needs and have the freedom and responsibility to treat them appropriately.

2.) What is the role of nutritionists, dietitians, and educators in this planning? It is clear that the vast majority of America's colossal health care cost is preventable! It is due to unhealthy lifestyle—overconsumption of food and alcohol, drug dependence, and lack of exercise. We are a sick nation with a growing epidemic of morbidity from obesity and diabetes. These and heart disease and cancer, our leading causes of death, are largely due to our day to day choices of the food and drink we consume and our sedentary habits. Fast food lurks on every corner. Television commercials we view from the comfort of our sofas lure us to overeat high fat, high sodium, sugar, and cholesterol foods. We must find an effective way to motivate people to eat to live instead of live to eat! Keep people healthy and health care costs will drop. Regular check-ups can catch problems early and provide opportunity for educating about healthy living. Healthy people are productive people. Yet don't sentence those in need of medical care to suffer and die through neglect! I hate to say it, but I see an appalling parallel to Nazi-ism in the proposed TrumpCare plan. Instead of sending "undesirable" people to death camps directly, they will be left to starve or suffer and die of their pre-existing disease "on their own" while the government turns its back to their needs.

Your constituent in Fort Collins, Colorado

Barbara A. Smith, Ph.D., R.D.

Nicole Jorwic

From: Julia Bristor [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 10:12 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: CO

Do not support the proposed health care legislation. The Medicaid cuts are unacceptable and no matter how they are spun they will millions of people with disabilities. FOr example, without home health care services many people will have to be institutionalized.

1. My Friend, "A" is a quadraphonic who is able to work full time as a professional but needs help with basic functions. Without home health care she'll have to be institutionalized and who knows what will happen to her 2 children. I know no one who would want to be in this situation.

Others, especially women who are about 50% of the population , especially those who are economically disadvantaged will not be able to afford adequate health care, including preventative tests for conditions such as cervical cancer. Early detection via routine well-woman exams, which low income women wouldn't be able to afford -especially if planned parenthood is defunded - mean a saved life and and less cost to the system since there wouldn't be constant emergency room visits. And a life saved.

Health care is tHe difference between life and death.

Thank you.

Julia Bristor

[REDACTED]
Denver, CO [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Nicole Jorwic

From: Robin Bolduc [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 4:40 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Colorado - Medicaid Matters
Attachments: Photo 1327459942796.jpg

My family and I live in Boulder, CO. My husband, Bruce, is fully paralyzed and uses a ventilator to breath as a result of Primary Progressive MS. He has absolutely no movement below his neck. More importantly, he is a wonderful husband, my best friend, a father to 5 children (2 adopted from foster care), a stepfather to 3 children, and a grandfather to 2 amazing grandsons. Bruce is a valued member of his community. He has fostered 4 special needs foster children; showing them that fathers can be kind and patient; showing them that people with disabilities can lead productive, fulfilling lives. He often counsels newly disabled people. Bruce is a role model to adults and children with disabilities. He volunteers with our local open space and mountain parks; checking wheelchair accessible trains. He has a good life. And I love him more than life itself.

As a result of his Medicaid, Bruce employs 6 personal care attendants. He is a customer of countless medical-related businesses resulting in countless career opportunities for Coloradoans. These individuals and businesses create a significant tax base for Colorado.

My husband paid into federal and state safety net programs during his working life. He was promised that, in the event of a catastrophic illness, he would have the support of the governmental insurance programs like Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. Now that promise is being broken. If a life insurance company reneged on their obligations after years of paying premiums, we would all be up in arms.

Block grants for Medicaid will likely reduce funding to our state. Our state will be faced with the possibility of increasing state taxes or greatly reducing Medicaid-funded services. Tabor and Gallagher will severely limit Colorado's ability to increase taxes. Tax cuts will take many years to be recouped even in a good economy. That leaves the only option of cutting services to our most vulnerable citizens – low income adults and children, adults and children with disabilities, low income seniors. It will mean lowering their quality of life; for people like my husband, it will mean that their very lives will be placed in danger; uncompensated medical care will increase dramatically; jobs will be lost; our tax base will be jeopardized.

We would urge you to reject any attempts to block grant and/or reduce Medicaid funding to states. Further, we implore you to block any attempts to reduce Medicare and Social Security. The life of my husband depends on you.

Thank you for your anticipated support.

Robin Bolduc and Bruce Goguen

Robin Bolduc

There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest.

-- Elie Wiesel 1928-2016 Holocaust Survivor, political activist

For evil to flourish, it only requires good men to do nothing.

--Simon Wiesenthal

Nicole Jorwic

From: Charlene Willey [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 4:40 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: How Medicaid Affects My Life - Colorado
Attachments: Briana Willey Story Sheet.pdf

I am the parent of an adult daughter with disabilities. Thanks to support from a Medicaid waiver program, my daughter has transportation to work (she pays taxes too!) and help to live in her own home. She can access the community and now swims on a adult swim team in her community. She lives with a reasonable degree of independence and dignity. Without Medicaid, she would likely end up in a group home or even institution at MANY times the cost of her current waiver allowance. Thanks to Medicaid, she is a contributing member of society and has enriched the lives of many around her.

I have attached a story sheet:

Charlene Willey
Broomfield, CO [REDACTED]

Nicole Jorwic

From: Debra Kovacs [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 4:09 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Medicaid Matters to Me (Colorado)

I am the mother of an adult son whose disabilities, both physical and cognitive, have qualified him for Medicaid benefits since he was a child. Medicaid programs allow him to live with his family, in the community where he grew up, and to hold a part-time job that provides important exercise outdoors and contact with friends and neighbors, in addition to a small paycheck for the limited hours he is able to work. He also benefits from traditional medical care that is covered by Medicaid, with a history of multiple heart surgeries and other conditions that require frequent treatment and life-long follow-up. In short, Medicaid allows my son to be a productive, happy member of his community, and to obtain medical care to stay as healthy as possible. He has directly benefitted from living at home, having me there to literally save his life and obtain emergency assistance when he collapsed in the bathroom from a cardiac arrhythmia. The Medicaid cuts contained in the "Better" Care Reconciliation Act could eliminate the community-based programs that allow him to live at home, resulting in institutionalization that would tear our family apart, cost my son his job and rightful place in our community, and likely reduce access to the healthcare he needs - which could directly result in his death from a cardiac event. VOTE NO!!

Debra J. Kovacs

Nicole Jorwic

From: Lori Ozzello [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 4:04 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: COLORADO

My sister Jo Ann, victim of a rare brain disease in infancy, wasn't supposed to live. But she did. She's the cornerstone of our family.

Now 53, she lives in a group home in southern Colorado, works in a sheltered workshop, and depends on Medicaid for a host of care and services. She has no vote and no voice, so I will step in and vote and speak for her.

Please do not agree to Medicaid cuts, especially for the most vulnerable in our state and our country.

--
Lori Ozzello

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Nicole Jorwic

From: kathleen shanahan [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 3:47 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Do not cut Medicaid - From Fort Collins Colorado

Senator Gardner,
Senator Corey Gardner
2001 S. Shields Street, Building H
Fort Collins, CO 80526

Senator Gardner,

The latest Senate bill, as of today, states that insurers would be able to charge older customers five times more than they charge younger customers. This charge will result in an untenable decision for older members of your voting community, either pay the 5 x surcharge, or go without coverage. In effect, sign your own death warrant.

Under the ACA, Medicaid is an entitlement program, with open ended matching funds from the government. The Senate proposal, would change Medicaid to funding by giving states a per capita amount or block grant, beginning in 2021. The amount would grow more slowly than in the House bill, meaning bigger spending cuts overall.

Additionally, under the new Senate bill, states would not be able to expand Medicaid after three years. In states that do expand by the deadline, the federal government would pay a smaller portion of the cost starting in 2021.

If you vote in favor of passing this bill you will create a society of uninsured citizens. What does this mean;

If you order food at a restaurant, that uninsured cook fixing your food, will go to work when he or she is sick.

If you use touch a door handle at a store, the person before you may have a communicable disease, and they touched that door handle too

If your grandchild goes to a park, the child playing next to him/her may be harboring a transmittable illness, and they may cough on your family member

The decisions you make regarding health care in this country, will determine if the United States sinks to a third world status, within your lifetime, and by your actions.

Don't let this happen.

K. M. Shanahan / D. Scheiman, K. Scheiman
Voters in every election – Fort Collins Colorado

Nicole Jorwic

From: Dawn Reed [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 3:42 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Colorado

Dear Senator Garnder,

I strongly urge you to oppose any bill that will cause millions of Americans. The current health care proposal will harm those most vulnerable in our country such as those with disabilities, children and seniors. Additionally, any health care bill should include coverage for the treatment of addition and mental health.

This issue is complex, but there is no doubt that a sensible and thoughtful approach can yield results for ALL Americans, including those most at risk. This process should be done with full transparency and I am not supportive of the secrecy in which you have participated in the draft of this bill. Democracy is dependent on input from all sides of issues, particularly one that affects as many lives as this one does.

Thank you for the opportunity to have my voice heard.

Dawn Reed
Fort Collins, CO

Nicole Jorwic

From: Joyce DeVaney [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 3:31 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Colorado

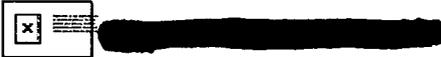
Senator Gardner: The Senate health care bill is mean-spirited and un-American, with proposals to cut health care coverage to millions of Americans. As you know, over 400,000 people in Colorado have been helped by the Affordable Care Act, and most of those are on Medicaid - seniors or those with disabilities. It is unthinkable to deny them coverage! Please don't vote for any health care bill that cuts coverage to Americans. And please don't vote for any bill that denies women's health care services at Planned Parenthood. I am a nurse, and I know how many women are being helped. The abortion scare is just that - a scare!

People will die without health care coverage. Do you want to have that on your conscience?

Vote NO on the proposed Senate health care bill.

Thank you.

Joyce DeVaney
Fort Collins, Colorado



Nicole Jorwic

From: Betsy J DePersis [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 2:30 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Why Medicaid Matters to our COLORADO family

Dear Senator,

My husband and I sold our home in New York State that we had owned for 35 years and we sacrificed a tax-free situation regarding our pension to help our family. In January 2016, our granddaughter who is now almost three was diagnosed with a rare genetic syndrome called Pitt Hopkins. Our PhD educated daughter is not able to work because she has to take care of her daughter. They survive on a single income and able to make it all work because of the Affordable Care Act. Her physical, occupational and speech therapies are all ~~subsidized by Medicaid. She is making steady progress because of these services. I have nightmares about~~ how things will fall apart if these services are taken away. It's heartbreaking to think she will not be able to reach her potential because of money. If you could see her eyes twinkle when she finally reaches a goal, you'd do anything to make it happen for her again, and again. Please keep these kinds of stories close to your heart and head when you vote. We are all counting on you!!

Betsy DePersis

Nicole Jorwic

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 2:26 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: matters to me

(Thank you, ARC, for advocating for those who might not always be able to advocate for themselves. Thanks for collecting these and sending them where they can do the most good.)

Healthcare is important. Vote No on the current version of the health care bill, and just tweak the ACA where needed to make it work better for the majority of Americans. ~~Don't throw 22 million Americans off health care to give tax breaks to 400 of the wealthiest of the wealthy.~~

My husband and I have our health care through our jobs, but his brother, who has had severe physical and intellectual disabilities from birth, relies on Medicaid. Our parents have worked and saved all their lives and looked forward to retirement. Ten years into their "golden years," my mother-in-law has now suffered three strokes and will need enhanced care in the near future, which will probably be funded through Medicare, since her savings are gone. My dad is in a similar situation with health issues.

A childhood friend is a Coast Guard veteran and now has severe arthritis and other health issues. His health insurance premiums are predicted to increase drastically if the current version of a health care bill is passed.

Thank you for considering our input and representing all Americans.

-wendy moraskie

[REDACTED]
denver, co [REDACTED]

Nicole Jorwic

From: Cg La Scala [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 1:56 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Colorado

Senator Gardner,

I request that you represent the people of Colorado. Sir, in the 2016 presidential election, Colorado voted against President Trump.

That Colorado majority also supports the current health care law in effect and appears NOT to support the proposed repeal and replacement law, the American Health Care Act. Yes, there are some but not more than those who support the ACA. I can only conclude that you have not had opportunity to visit with all your constituents or read their messages or heard their phone calls. Your staffers send email frequently asking for our "patience as we work to respond to the high volume of mail my office receives each day and will get back to you as quickly as possible."

Sir, please attend to the efforts of Colorado residents, many of whom lives depend on continuing Medicaid, not because they are "loafers" but are infirmed, disabled, and veterans without the means to other kinds of health care. People with pre-existing conditions may have their private insurance imperiled by this law. We are not all able to pay the high premiums for insurance that covers such conditions, as most will be at the fixed income level and too old to have meaningful employment!

Please think about the practicality of protecting the people you are elected to represent. Please vote "no" for the people of Colorado on any bill that caps or cuts Medicaid, cuts health care for people with disabilities and does not protect people with pre-existing conditions.

Thank you for your service as our Senator.

Dann and Cg (Carlagene) Fowler La Scala

[REDACTED]
Highlands Ranch, CO [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Nicole Jorwic

From: Marijo Rymer [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 1:12 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Colorado--Medicaid Matters

Senator Gardner

I realize that you have committed to a yes vote on the BCRA. PLEASE RECONSIDER!

The bill goes well beyond addressing problems with the Affordable Care Act. It will devastate long term community based services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. And, as you know, Colorado will not be able to “make up the difference” in state funding for cuts to “optional” services—including assistance with dressing, bathing, and eating! Yes-- those are optional Medicaid benefits—along with dental and vision services and many others that most of us would not consider optional!

The Senate bill will be disastrous for people with disabilities.

PLEASE LISTEN TO YOUR CONSTITUENTS!

Marijo Rymer
Executive Director



For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

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

Nicole Jorwic

From: Helen Pietranczyk [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 1:03 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: COLORADO: How Medicaid Impacts Our Life

Medicaid provides the ability for my daughter with IDD to work (transportation and job support), live independently (support through Medicaid waiver) and contribute to society. Medicaid is also the only medical coverage she has.

Without Medicaid, she will have to live with me, and I am 70 years old, and not in the best of health. That will cause me to have to continue to work, in order to support her in addition to myself. I fear that continuing to work will negatively ~~impact my own health. She will be unable to work, further compromising our financial situation.~~ And without medical coverage, or reduced medical coverage, and a diminished financial environment, the likelihood of increased medical crises exists, with ER visits, unpaid bills, etc.

Please, please **VOTE NO FOR THIS VERSION OF CHANGES TO MEDICAID.**

Helen Pietranczyk

Nicole Jorwic

From: Lynette Lobato [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 12:17 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Colorado

Please don't make any cuts to Medicaid! My son is disabled so he relies on all the benefits that are currently provided to him, such as health care without any cuts! Thank you!

Lynette Lobato sent from my iPhone
