September 23rd, 2017

Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

My name is Eric Gabriel and on September 21st, I celebrated my 8-year anniversary of being a right-leg, above knee amputee. Without proper health benefits and prostheses, I would not be able to have an enjoyable, productive life. I am writing because the Graham-Cassidy Health Care Plan will hurt me and all individuals living with limb loss/difference in the United States. Let me state the importance of this issue clearly: *I will not vote in the midterm and next presidential election for any Representative or Senator who supports this bill.*

I have studied the effect of this bill since it became public. The impact it would have on amputees like me would be catastrophic.

1. **Graham-Cassidy will allow insurers to assert annual and lifetime caps on prostheses.** Currently, all 50 states consider prosthetics an essential health benefit, but that would change under Graham-Cassidy. In states where prosthetics lose essential health benefit status, amputees will be subjected to annual and/or lifetime caps that render the insurance we pay premiums for useless. This will put the devices that we depend on to take every step and to open every door financially out of reach for many amputees. Alternatively, insurers can simply choose to offer policies that provide no coverage for prosthetics at all. This amounts to tacit federal sanctioning of discrimination against amputees. It is unacceptable.

2. **Graham-Cassidy will permit insurers to discriminate against individuals with pre-existing conditions.** While Senators Graham and Cassidy insist that the prohibition against pre-existing condition exclusions will remain in effect under their proposal, they ignore the fact that the bill simultaneously gives insurers the right to charge higher premiums to people with pre-existing conditions. I urge you to look beyond the political spin and examine the actual *effect* of this change. People like me will suddenly see their premiums explode because we have a pre-existing condition; for many Americans with limb loss, this will be a financial burden they simply cannot bear, and they will fall into the ranks of the uninsured, unable to receive *any* prosthetic care and treatment. Not only is this bad from a moral and ethical standpoint, it is also a shortsighted economic decision. *Because of* our current access to quality prosthetic care and treatment, millions of amputees in the U.S. live active, productive lives. Relegating us to crutches and wheelchairs will cost the government money in the long run.

3. **Graham-Cassidy will result in an explosion of uninsured Americans.** While current indications are that the Senate majority is willing to put this bill up for a vote without a CBO score, The Commonwealth Fund has published a preliminary analysis of the effects of Graham-Cassidy. It concludes that over the next 10 years, more than 30 *million* Americans will lose access to health insurance as a result of this ill-conceived proposal. Again, this is not acceptable.

I cannot say it strongly or plainly enough: Graham-Cassidy is bad politics, bad politics, and it will do incalculable damage to Americans with disabilities generally and amputees like me specifically. Instead, I urge Congress to follow the bipartisan efforts of some in the Senate and of numerous state governors: work together to fix the issues that everyone – Democrat, Republican, and Independent – freely acknowledge exist with the health care system.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my point of view on this critically important issue. I will be watching and voting in 2018 and beyond based on what happens in Washington over the next week.

Very truly yours,

Eric Gabriel

Statement Submitted by Kimberly L. Reno
Senate Committee on Finance
Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal
September 25, 2017

As someone who has worked with individuals with CF, the current health care debate in Washington is personal to me. Cystic Fibrosis (CF) is chronic disease that effects the lungs and digestive tract, leading to frequent lung infections and other complications. The current life expectancy for someone with CF is about 40 years.

I have been walking side by side with patients and families who are affected by CF for over 23 years as my role as their Social Worker in a CF Care Center. I remember when families were choosing to remain at jobs they despised or at a job with no opportunity for growth and advancement due to the concerns of not having health insurance with a new job, due to pre-existing conditions. In addition, families were fearful of meeting the life time cap with their plans and would choose to NOT take lifesaving medications in order to avoid meeting their cap. When families did meet their cap, they were left with no opportunity for insurance coverage due to pre-existing health conditions. Additionally, I recall families quite literally choosing between food on the table and medications. Without the medications, patients were admitted to the hospital more frequently thus driving the cost for their care even higher. Therefore, families would quit working and enroll in Medicaid. This put an unnecessary burden on an already strained system. I feel this will happen again with this bill. People with CF CAN and DO become productive members of society; they want to work and have access to insurance, quality medical care and services they require to remain healthy.

The Graham-Cassidy proposal, which the Senate is expected to vote on next week, is unacceptable for people living with CF and other chronic conditions. People with CF require a complex and demanding care regimen, and need access to high-quality, specialized care. **I urge all U.S. Senators to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill** because it would roll back protections for people with CF and jeopardize their access to affordable, adequate health care coverage.

The Graham-Cassidy bill fails to protect our community and is absolutely unacceptable for people with CF because it would:

a. **Remove full pre-existing condition protections for people with CF** by allowing insurers to set premiums based on an individuals' health status. This may put insurance coverage financially out of reach for some people with CF and prevent them from accessing critical health care.

b. **Eliminate Medicaid expansion and drastically cut funding for the program** by instituting a per capita cap or a state block grant system, putting coverage of new and innovative treatments at risk. Medicaid provides a critical source of health care coverage for one half of children and one third of adults with CF. We must preserve this safety net by retaining expanded eligibility and ensuring adequate funding for Medicaid.

c. **Remove protections against annual and lifetime coverage caps**, including for the millions of Americans with employer-sponsored insurance, by making it easier for states to amend Essential Health Benefits standards. Health care costs can accumulate very quickly for people with CF, making it very easy to reach annual or lifetime caps. The results of these caps can be devastating – leaving people with CF stranded without any coverage – and our community needs the protections against these caps to be kept in place.

d. **Allow states to waive Essential Health Benefits.** Eliminating the guarantee of essential health benefit coverage for individual insurance plans would segment the market into plans for sick people and plans for healthy people. This would likely drive up the cost of plans needed by people with CF, which provide more robust benefits.

While the Senate has considered several similar bills this year, Graham-Cassidy is the worst for people with preexisting conditions like CF, cancer, asthma, diabetes, or arthritis. Our health care system is far from perfect, but I refuse to believe any changes must come at the expense of the people who rely most on adequate, affordable health insurance.

I urge all US Senators to please keep families like those I work with as well as ANYONE with a chronic medical condition in mind as you consider this legislation.

easterseals

STATEMENT TO THE

U.S. SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE HEARING ON THE GRAHAM-CASSIDY-HELLER-JOHNSON PROPOSAL

BY

KATY NEAS
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, PUBLIC AFFAIRS
EASTERSEALS, INC.

SEPTEMBER 25, 2017

Chairman Hatch, Ranking Member Wyden, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to share Easterseals' views on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson (Graham-Cassidy) health care proposal being considered by your Committee.

As a leading national provider of Medicaid-funded care and community supports, Easterseals understands how critical Medicaid is to improving the health and independence of children and adults with disabilities. Easterseals is greatly troubled by the Medicaid and related provisions included in the Graham-Cassidy amendment that would make it more difficult for individuals with disabilities to access these life-changing supports. ***Easterseals opposes the Graham-Cassidy proposal for its provisions that cap Medicaid services (Sec. 124), cuts $19 billion in community-based disability services (Sec. 119), and puts at-risk essential health benefits and other protections for individuals with disabilities and pre-existing conditions (Sec. 106).***

CAPPING MEDICAID SERVICES HURTS INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES: Section 124 of the Graham-Cassidy proposal ends Medicaid as we know it by removing the federal government commitment to match a state's actual costs to care for and provide supports to people with disabilities and others who are enrolled in Medicaid. Recent analysis found that billions of dollars currently invested in Medicaid care and community supports would be lost in a switch to a Medicaid per capita cap, such as the one proposed in the Graham-Cassidy proposal.[i] Given one in seven Medicaid enrollees have disabilities, individuals with disabilities would be among the hardest hit (15 percent cut in services) under capped funding, according to Avalere Health.[ii] The significant loss of federal Medicaid resources will leave states with little choice but to eliminate and restrict home and community-based services (HCBS) or cut rates for community providers, such as Easterseals, who deliver essential HCBS supports to children and adults with disabilities.[iii] The Congressional Budget Office concluded that if states reduced payment rates,

fewer providers might be willing to accept Medicaid patients, especially given current Medicaid rates often fail to meet true costs to deliver quality care and services.[iv]

The loss of Medicaid services and community providers will hurt individuals with disabilities like Rain, a young boy from Louisiana. When Rain was 18 months old, his mother noticed he wasn't reaching developmental milestones. Rain was evaluated through Medicaid's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment program and diagnosed with Autism. Rain and his mother were connected to Easterseals in Louisiana, who provided Rain with Medicaid-funded early intervention supports and services. Rain, now five, is making great strides, no longer needing speech and occupational therapy that he received as a toddler. However, Rain will continue to need and benefit from personal care and applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy. Medicaid funding cuts to the states will make it more difficult—not easier—for Rain and other children and adults with disabilities to access needed Medicaid supports. Even worse, the per capita cap formula used to calculate annual adjustments under the Graham-Cassidy plan will pay for less care over time because it does not account for full medical inflation.

CUTTING CURRENT HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED DISABILITY SERVICES:
Section 119 of the Graham-Cassidy proposal ends Community First Choice (CFC), a program that pays for supports to help individuals with disabilities transition from institutions and live independently in their communities. Under current law, states that provide attendant care and other specified home and community-based services to individuals with disabilities receive a 6 percentage-point increase in their federal Medicaid matching rate. Terminating the program in 2020, as proposed in the Graham-Cassidy amendment, would eliminate $19 billion in direct investments in community supports that are currently helping individuals with disabilities to live independently in their communities.

RISKING ESSENTIAL HEALTH BENEFITS AND PROTECTIONS:
Section 106 of the Graham-Cassidy proposal creates great uncertainty for individuals with disabilities who currently can afford to buy health insurance that covers their pre-existing conditions. The Graham-Cassidy proposal gives states broad authority to waive provisions in current law that would negatively impact the ability of individuals with disabilities to access habilitative, rehabilitative, and other essential health benefits as well as puts at risk key protections that make it possible for individuals with pre-existing conditions to access affordable, quality health care.

While the wavier provision included in the Graham-Cassidy proposal requires states to describe how it "intends to maintain access to adequate and affordable health insurance coverage for individuals with pre-existing conditions," the provision does not establish criteria or minimum standards for determining what is considered "adequate and affordable" coverage. This determination will be made solely by the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. People with disabilities need a guarantee, not simply a statement of intent, that their access to affordable health care, including essential health benefits and pre-existing condition protections, will continue under any state waiver program.

CONCLUSION:
Millions of children and adults with disabilities, like Rain, require medical and long-term care to maintain their health, independence and well-being. Medicaid is the largest payer for long-term

care for all Americans and, often, the sole source of health and long-term care for many individuals with disabilities. The Graham-Cassidy proposal threatens access to these Medicaid supports by imposing a restrictive funding cap and ending community services for people with disabilities. Easterseals asks that the Senate reject the Graham-Cassidy legislation for its harmful provision to cap, cut, and restrict access to needed Medicaid home and community services. Instead, Easterseals urges the Senate to continue the bipartisan health care reform work that started earlier this month to help stabilize health care markets and to improve access to affordable, quality health care.

Thank you for your consideration of Easterseals views.

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[i] Congressional Budget Office Senate Health Reform Analysis, June, 2017
[ii] Avalere Health Graham-Cassidy Analysis, September, 2017
[iii] Congressional Budget Office Senate Health Reform Analysis, June, 2017
[iv] Congressional Budget Office Senate Health Reform Analysis, June, 2017

Dutch deCarvalho
[redacted]

RE: 9/25/17 Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Act Hearing

Dear Senate,

My name is Dutch deCarvalho and I am currently a Senior in college, planning on becoming an Early Childhood Teacher in our public schools. Currently, I work as a Teaching Assistant in our local, title-one, rural school district and I see firsthand the impact which having inadequate access to healthcare resources can have on both my students and their families. Because we live in a rural area, many of our families have their own businesses and farms, and so they cannot rely on companies or employers to provide them with insurance. As a result, they rely heavily on insurance programs provided by the Marketplace and the Affordable Care Act. Additionally, many of my students families are on Medicaid and receive access to healthcare via state programming. Both of these programs are in extreme danger if the Graham-Cassidy bill is passed, as it could result in up to 32 million people losing coverage, completely ending marketplace subsidies. The bill would also devastate Medicaid, stopping its expansion and reducing its funding, resulting in millions of adults *and* children losing coverage.

I also know, firsthand, what it's like to need state healthcare and Medicaid programs. When my Mom, a single parent, lost her job, we also lost our health insurance. As a result, we started using Medicaid, and had to use it for a number of years. Living in New York state, we were incredibly lucky, as our Medicaid program is excellent. We were able to receive quality care and never had to worry if everything was going to be okay. My students and their families deserve the same thing – healthcare is a human right – not a privilege. They should be able to take care of their health and have access to the services which they need.

I am asking that you please work to STOP the Graham-Cassidy bill and vote NO on this horrible idea. Our children and their families deserve better.

Sincerely,

Dutch deCarvalho, New York

Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal,
September 25, 2017
Statement of Gay MacGregor
[redacted]
Ann Arbor, Michigan

My name is Gay MacGregor. I am a private citizen and I want to join the many Medical, Hospital and Health Professional Associations, Governors and State Medicaid Directors in strong opposition to the Graham Cassidy Bill.

Provisions of this bill will irreparably harm millions of Americans and cause economic harm to the country as a whole. While this bill has yet to be scored by the Congressional Budget Office the Senate's own Joint Economic Committee (JEC) staff has estimated that 32 Million people will lose their health insurance if this bill becomes law.

Just in Michigan where I live, JEC estimates the economic impacts of this bill will be devastating. Over 860,000 people will lose health coverage and 101,500 people will lose their jobs. Michigan will lose $9 Billion in Federal support. Hospitals will incur $776 Million in uncompensated care making health care cost rise for everyone. By 2027, Michigan's gross product will drop by $54 Billion.

Taking away Federal protections for pre-existing conditions and lifetime caps will not stabilize the insurance market. Shoving the decision on whether to cover pre-existing conditions to the states is just abdicating your responsibility as Senators to the citizens who elected you. Graham-Cassidy's drastic cuts in federal dollars supporting Medicaid and state health programs will force many states to eliminate protections for those with pre-existing conditions. It will create inequities between states and unintended consequences. I have already seen posting on social media by people who intend to move to states that keep protections for pre-existing conditions--and I know it's not just a threat because I would do it myself. The exorbitant premiums for people with certain pre-existing conditions will cause people to go without insurance. Once again this will result in solidly middle class families going bankrupt due to medical costs. This will exacerbate the already widening income disparity in our country.

Estimates by U.S. Health and Human Services in 2014 indicated that between 50 million and 130 million Americans between 17 and 50 years old have at least one pre-existing condition. Additionally, 1 in 4 Children, including my own grandchildren, have a pre-existing condition. In fact, in the 3 generations of my extended family alive today, there is not one person that does NOT have one or more pre-existing conditions. These conditions are not the result of poor eating or an unhealthy lifestyle--they are not our fault. They are autoimmune disorders that are genetic. Under Graham-Cassidy, depending on what our state decides, we could be refused insurance unless we could pay outrageous premiums. Fortunately, for now, our family has employer based insurance but there are no guarantees that our coverage won't be reduced or our premiums won't sky rocket. If insurance costs too much people postpone getting care. They end up going to the ER, where, yes, they will be treated but at what cost to the taxpayer? And will it be too late for them? It is very possible people will die if this bill is

enacted into law. But maybe that is the intent--to systematically eliminate that class of people NOT in the economic upper 1%, who don't have perfect health and are unable to afford health insurance or care under the Graham-Cassidy Plan.

Further, as many have pointed out, this bill is horrific, barbaric actually, for women across the economic strata. I challenge you to name ONE other country in the developed world that does not provide universal prenatal care for its mothers and babies. The United States has a problem already with maternal mortality. "Between 1990 and 2013, the maternal mortality ratio for the USA more than doubled from an estimated 12 to 28 maternal deaths per 100 000 births and the country has now a higher ratio than those reported for most high-income countries and the Islamic Republic of Iran, Libya and Turkey". (*Bulletin of the World Health Organization* 2015;93:135. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.2471/BLT.14.148627). Graham-Cassidy will ensure maternal death rates continue to rise. Eliminating funds for Planned Parenthood preventative care and cancer screenings again discriminates against a wide cross section of women but particularly poor women of color.

Healthcare impacts everyone. Healthcare reforms should be transparent to your constituents with public committee hearings that include panels of experts that can discuss the details of the reform. While the focus of most of our concern has been on pre-existing conditions and monetary impacts of this bill, there are provisions hidden in this bill that deserve discussion and clarification as to their impact. For example, there are citizenship requirements that impact how much money a state will get under the Market Based Health Care Grant Program in Section 106. Will this disadvantage states with high immigrant populations? Section 122 includes optional work requirements that states can impose on assistance recipients. There is language in section 124 that eliminates expenditures for the Vaccines for Children's program in FY19 and subsequent years. And how exactly do the Health Savings Accounts work? Who benefits from them and what are their limits? Section 117 seems to eliminate a woman's right to use own money that she puts into a Health Savings Account to choose a High Deductible Health Plan if that covers abortion. These lesser discussed provisions of Graham-Cassidy have not been given the attention they deserve but the American people need to hear about them.

I urge you to vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill. Return to regular order of the Senate. Go forward in a bipartisan effort to provide American's the health care they deserve. Hold open committee hearings that include testimony from experts in health care and healthcare economics. And on any bill wait for a score from the Congressional Budget Office before there is any vote.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my views.



HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN®

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

September 22, 2017

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the Human Rights Campaign's 2 million members and supporters nationwide, I write to express our opposition to the proposed plan by Senators Lindsey Graham and Bill Cassidy to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA). As the nation's largest civil rights organization working to promote equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people, we are deeply concerned about the negative impact that a bill like Graham-Cassidy would have on communities such as ours that already face systemic discrimination and healthcare disparities.

By drastically restructuring the Medicaid program, and repealing the ACA's expansion of that program, Graham-Cassidy would have a swift, stark, and devastating impact on vulnerable Americans, including LGBTQ individuals or persons living with HIV. Under the ACA's Medicaid expansion, thousands of low-income people living with HIV were able to obtain health insurance before becoming disabled by the virus, thereby ensuring that these individuals had access to lifesaving treatments. This critical change ensures that people living with HIV have access to the medical care and treatment necessary to live longer, healthier lives. Graham-Cassidy's changes to Medicaid will undoubtedly strip these persons and other, similarly-situated vulnerable populations of the essential healthcare they need and undermine progress in America's fight against its HIV epidemic.

The proposed legislation detrimentally affects members of our community by increasing the out-of-pocket cost of insurance for our vulnerable citizens. LGBTQ people already have some of the lowest insurance rates of any population in the country. Under previous repeal and replace legislation with comparable provisions for block-granting Medicaid the Congressional Budget Office, projected 32 million people could ultimately lose health coverage. These projections foreshadow an unacceptable growth in healthcare disparity rather than improved access for thousands of LGBTQ individuals if Graham-Cassidy is enacted.

Additionally, Graham-Cassidy's proposed elimination of tax subsidies and enhanced matching rate for Medicaid expansion in favor of block grants to states promises to leave more Americans without affordable and essential healthcare coverage they need. Graham-Cassidy's proposed revisions to the ACA will make healthcare less affordable and accessible, especially for Americans with chronic conditions such as HIV. Our community has benefited from the ACA's tax credit structure and the Medicaid expansion that the Graham-Cassidy threatens to demolish. Rescinding both the tax structure and Medicaid expansion will effectively price low-income families and individuals out of coverage with devastating consequences for a community already facing significant healthcare disparities.

Finally, Graham-Cassidy undermines patient choice and access to reproductive care and contraception services provided by Planned Parenthood Federation of America by eliminating funding to these clinics. Rescinding federal funding jeopardizes these clinics' ability to deliver preventive healthcare services, such as HIV testing, and transition-related care. In many communities, health centers such as Planned Parenthood are the only culturally competent healthcare providers for LGBTQ people, and this is especially in rural and isolated areas.

This flawed proposal turns a blind eye to the essential health benefits that millions of Americans have come to rely upon. For the aforementioned reasons, the Human Rights Campaign opposes the Graham-Cassidy amendment.

Sincerely,

David Stacy

David Stacy
Government Affairs Director

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

Lauren Brewer
[redacted]
Arlington, VA 22209

I am writing this letter because I am forever indebted to making sure healthcare is affordable and accessible to all Americans, especially the poorest and most vulnerable. In 2007, at the age of 54, my father Jeffrey Brewer from Rock Hill, SC passed away in his bed. He died at home because he could not afford an ambulance ride to take him from his home to the ER. He even called the EMT to his home and they said there wasn't anything they could do for him and he would have to go to the ER. After he declined the ambulance ride, he took cold medicine that suppressed his already labored breathing due to sleep apnea and died in his sleep. He died from complications of high blood pressure and sleep apnea exacerbated by the common cold. My father was a middle-aged, non-disabled childless adult, and no matter how low his income, he fell into a coverage gap and had very little options for health coverage.

Every single thing that happened should have been prevented had he affordable, accessible healthcare. At the least, he should have not had to worry about the cost of an ambulance ride. This is supposed to be the greatest country in the world but in this country in the 21st century, you can work 2 jobs, pay your taxes, and still have to make a life and death choice because you can't afford basic medical supplies, ambulance rides, or a visit to the ER. You are suppose to go to the hospital if you need help, not weigh the balance of your life with how much you can afford.

Shortly after he died, the ACA was implemented and some states chose to expand Medicaid to cover lower income Americans that lie in the coverage gap like my father. For ten years, what gave me peace was knowing that somewhere, there was a 21-year old college student who wasn't worrying about her father's health because healthcare was expanded to cover the working poor. But in 2017 that peace was taken away from me, and I will fight until my last breath to make sure I always stand up for working poor Americans to have affordable, accessible healthcare.

This decision should not be left up to the states because this is a HUMAN BEING problem. How would this proposed bill ensure that all states have affordable healthcare? How does it keep what happened to my father from happening to anyone else's dad? Poorer Americans will not be able to pick up and move to another state with a better healthcare plan and so they will be resigned to meet my father's fate. Having a low income and getting sick should not be a death sentence in this country. Healthcare is a human right no matter what state you live in, and that should be a constant in all 50 states. I implore you to reject the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill.

Sincerely,
Lauren N. Brewer

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION.

Harold P. Wimmer
National President and CEO

September 22, 2017

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chairman
Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Hatch:

The American Lung Association appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony for the record on the "Graham-Cassidy" healthcare bill. The American Lung Association strongly opposes this bill and urges the Senate to reject it.

The Lung Association believes that any changes to current law should prioritize preserving quality and affordable healthcare coverage for all Americans. Instead of proceeding with this legislation, we urge the Finance Committee to return to its bipartisan efforts on the Children's Health Insurance Program and proceed in a similar, bipartisan effort to improve our nation's current healthcare system.

In March of 2017, the American Lung Association and other leading national health groups released a set of joint principles that our organizations believe should guide any healthcare legislation. The three tenants – affordability, accessibility and adequacy of healthcare coverage – must be incorporated into any proposal to alter the current system. Unfortunately, the Graham-Cassidy bill does not provide these three elements and instead, will negatively impact patients' access to adequate and affordable healthcare.

Protecting People with Pre-Existing Conditions

Ensuing patients have adequate and affordable healthcare is critical to any healthcare reform bill. As an organization representing lung disease patients, we recognize that it is of utmost importance. Lung diseases such as asthma and COPD can be managed, but patients need to have regular clinical services and medication. Patients must be able to afford health insurance premiums and have plans offered.

Current law protects patients with preexisting conditions in a number of vital ways. First, it prohibits denying insurance to people with pre-existing conditions and it prohibits charging people and families with pre-existing conditions more for premiums than healthy people. Current law also defines a basic set of ten

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benefits that must be covered by qualified health plans – these are the essential health benefits (EHB).

The EHB requirements ensure plans cover a baseline of services, so that all patients have access to the appropriate care when they need it. Since plans are required to cover a baseline of benefits, patients don't need to pay more if they are sick to a plan that covers their illness.

The proposed Graham-Cassidy bill would give the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) a new and expansive waiver authority to allow states to definite what qualifies as an EHB. This opens the door for insurance companies to provide different tiers of coverage; charging sick patients more for a plan that covers their illness – a point that was made by insurance company Blue Cross Blue Shield in its statement opposing the Graham-Cassidy bill this week[1]. This is likely to make insurance unaffordable for people with pre-existing conditions, which is unacceptable for lung disease patients.

In state-granted waivers, plans would no longer be required to cover EHBs including prescription drug coverage and can re-impose annual and lifetime caps on coverage, which negatively impact patients with illnesses such as lung cancer, asthma and COPD who may rely on costly medications to manage their conditions. This would undermine any form of meaningful coverage for patients with pre-existing conditions. We should not return to an insurance market that often excluded those who needed coverage the most.

State Flexibility/ Market-Based Health Care Grant Program

Current law allows state flexibility to create state marketplaces and test innovative ideas for the private marketplace through the 1332 waiver process. This process requires states to work with their legislature and the federal government to design innovate ideas. The current process has built-in protections for patients.

The 1332 waiver process requires soliciting and responding to public comment. This gives patients and consumers the ability to provide feedback on system changes that will impact their healthcare. Additionally, there are four guardrails around 1332 waivers: states are required to show how the waiver program will not increase the number of people uninsured, not increase healthcare costs, not lower the quality of the coverage and not add to the federal deficit.

The current waiver program allows for states to design programs that work best for their states, but still provide patients with the protections to receive the healthcare they need. For lung disease patients, these protections are critical. They provide that patients receive the treatments they need to manage their diseases.

The Graham -Cassidy bill does not require states to ensure there are adequate patient protections in place. As mentioned before, there is no federal oversight in the new waiver program that would be created by this bill and states only need to have proposals that do not add to the deficit.

Under Graham-Cassidy, states will be allowed to change how much premiums can vary based on age, potentially making insurance unaffordable for older Americans. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO)



previously found if states were allowed to increase the rating to a 5:1 ratio, the annual cost of premiums could increase to $20,500 for a 64-year-old buying a silver plan. A premium at this level would price far too many people out of the insurance market and is unacceptable.

In order to fund this new waiver program, the Graham-Cassidy bill will siphon the money that is currently funding Medicaid expansion in the 31 states and the District of Columbia (DC) that chose to expand the Medicaid program. This punishes states that implemented the Affordable Care Act (ACA) as it was designed. Every state had and still has the opportunity to expand their Medicaid program and receive an enhanced Medicaid match – and with it, ensure more of its citizens have quality and affordable healthcare. We strongly recommend ALL states expand Medicaid to increase the number of people with health coverage. Instead, the Graham Cassidy Bill moves in the wrong direction and reduces the number of people with health coverage. It is harmful to millions of patients to take money away from a program that provides healthcare to low-income individuals. Congress should work with states and CMS to encourage every state to expand to increase the number of people with healthcare coverage.

Market Stabilization

The proposed bill would destabilize the health insurance marketplace. The Graham-Cassidy bill repeals the Advanced Premium Tax Credits (APTC), which help families with incomes up to 400 percent of the federal poverty level pay for insurance premiums. The bill would also remove the individual and employer mandate that encourages people to buy insurance. And lastly, the bill does not fund the cost sharing reductions (CSRs). The removal of these three provisions spell disaster for state marketplaces. Without a robust marketplace, patients will not have any opportunity to purchase coverage.

Repealing the APTCs will make it more expensive for lower-middle class families to purchase health insurance. By foregoing health insurance, patients will not be able to access preventive services, such as immunizations, lung cancer screenings and tobacco cessation treatments. Without preventive services, there is a much higher likelihood of disease and that disease having a worse prognosis. Patients with health coverage are better able to manage their chronic disease and avoid costly emergency room care and hospital admission.

In addition, failing to pay the CSRs is irresponsible. These payments allow insurers to reduce cost-sharing for people with incomes less than 250 percent of the federal poverty level. Lung diseases can be expensive to treat, but they can be managed. CSR payments allow lower income people get the treatment they need, allowing lower income patients to not only have coverage, but have actual healthcare.

Medicaid

The Graham-Cassidy bill would make the deepest cuts to the Medicaid program since its inception by implementing a per-enrollee cap starting in 2020, threatening the healthcare of 68 million low-income patients who depend on the program for healthcare. The implementation of a per-capita cap would significantly cut federal funding to states across the board and place a huge cost-sharing burden on states. Between 2020 and 2026, states would lose $53 billion in Medicaid funding. The strain on state



budgets pressures states to make difficult decisions to limit their Medicaid spending. States would be forced to cut services, reduce eligibility or increase cost-sharing for their Medicaid program to keep costs down.[2]

Medicaid is an important source of coverage for patients with serious and chronic health needs, especially those living with lung disease like asthma. Nearly half of children with asthma are covered by Medicaid or CHIP. Medicaid cuts would lead to fewer people with lung diseases having quality and affordable coverage, especially if services are cut. Medicaid may no longer cover the care and treatments they need, including breakthrough therapies and technology that represent a new lease in life. A per capita cap will only exacerbate the downward pressure on Medicaid budgets and will further reduce access to treatments for patients.

Medicaid Expansion

Medicaid expansion has been crucial in expanding coverage to more than 15 million Americans, half of whom are permanently disabled, have serious health conditions or in fair or poor health, and approximately a third of whom smoke. The Graham-Cassidy bill would end federal match funding for Medicaid expansion and marketplace subsidies in 2020, and reallocate the funding to states through smaller block grants. These block grants provide states flexibility in choosing to use it for health coverage or other healthcare purposes, but do not guarantee coverage or financial assistance for individuals. The block grant funding is also insufficient to maintain current coverage levels. Overall, states would lose $107 billion. Individually, states stand to lose up to $55 million if they expanded Medicaid. After 2026 no additional funding for this population is provided.[3]

Such a substantial loss in funding would most certainly impact the coverage of Medicaid expansion patients, including those with lung disease. It is only logically that states would be forced to cover fewer services or fewer people with less money. Additionally, seven states have "trigger laws" that would effectively eliminate Medicaid expansion immediately or soon after the expansion match rate is eliminated. Patients in these states would lose their healthcare coverage without any other options. The elimination of Medicaid expansion coupled with the elimination of subsidy assistance in the marketplace would result in significant coverage losses.

Prevention and Public Health Fund

The ACA dedicated funding for prevention and public health – in an attempt to improve the health of Americans and reduce the number of Americans with chronic disease. The Prevention and Public Health Fund (Prevention Fund) has allowed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to increase its reach, working with patients to prevent disease. Prevention is almost always less expensive than treatment and is a good investment for patients. The Prevention Fund allowed for the designation of more smokefree public spaces, helping ensure people, including kids with asthma breathe clean air. It is responsible for funding the Tips From Former Smokers Campaign, which has helped 500,000 Americans quit smoking. The Prevention Fund currently comprises 12 percent of CDC's budget and is critical in ensuring that CDC can continue its important and life-saving work.

The Graham- Cassidy bill threatens the health of far too many lung disease patients. It jettisons key patient protections that individuals afflicted by lung disease depend on in order to breathe. It is irresponsible to move forward on this bill, as it does not protect patients. The American Lung Association urges Congress to continue the important bipartisan effort to improve our healthcare system rather than advancing the Graham-Cassidy bill which would eliminate coverage for many Americans and devastate patients with pre-existing conditions. The American Lung Association stands by, ready to work with you on legislation to ensure all Americans have access to affordable and adequate healthcare coverage.

Sincerely,

Harold Wimmer

Harold P. Wimmer
National President and CEO

CC: Senate Committee on Finance

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[1] Blue Cross Blue Shield Association. (2017). *Blue Cross Blue Shield Association Statement on Graham-Cassidy Health Care Reform* Proposal [Press Release]. Retrieved from https://www.bcbs.com/news/press-releases/blue-cross-blue-shield-association-statement-graham-cassidy-health-care-reform

[2] Garfield, R, L. Levitt, R. Ridowitz, & G. Claxton. (Sept 21, 2017). State-by-State Estimates of Changes in Federal Spending on Health Care Under the Graham-Cassidy Bill. *Kaiser Family Foundation.* Retrieved from http://www.kff.org/health-reform/issue-brief/state-by-state-estimates-of-changes-in-federal-spending-on-health-care-under-the-graham-cassidy-bill/?utm_campaign=KFF-2017-sept-21-GrahamCassidy-state-analysis&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=56569375&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-8zPzKBNCEcMSoTS44BvZ5dEMU9V3hSK5Dh9szFGzXXFfUfDR4tvoitcSujaJ7zaC3g_XtOqSoX3yW1v88SobKzecl8pQ&_hsmi=56569375

[3] Garfield, R, L. Levitt, R. Ridowitz, & G. Claxton. (Sept 21, 2017). State-by-State Estimates of Changes in Federal Spending on Health Care Under the Graham-Cassidy Bill. *Kaiser Family Foundation.* Retrieved from http://www.kff.org/health-reform/issue-brief/state-by-state-estimates-of-changes-in-federal-spending-on-health-care-under-the-graham-cassidy-bill/?utm_campaign=KFF-2017-sept-21-GrahamCassidy-state-analysis&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=56569375&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-8zPzKBNCEcMSoTS44BvZ5dEMU9V3hSK5Dh9szFGzXXFfUfDR4tvoitcSujaJ7zaC3g_XtOqSoX3yW1v88SobKzecl8pQ&_hsmi=56569375





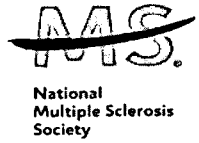








































Consensus Healthcare Reform Principles

Today, millions of individuals, including many with preexisting health conditions, can obtain affordable health care coverage. Any changes to current law should preserve coverage for these individuals, extend coverage to those who remain uninsured, and lower costs and improve quality for all.

In addition, any reform measure must support a health care system that provides affordable, accessible and adequate health care coverage and preserves the coverage provided to millions through Medicare and Medicaid. The basic elements of meaningful coverage are described below.

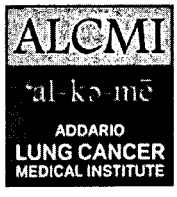
Health Insurance Must be Affordable – Affordable plans ensure patients are able to access needed care in a timely manner from an experienced provider without undue financial burden. Affordable coverage includes reasonable premiums and cost sharing (such as deductibles, copays and coinsurance) and limits on out-of-pocket expenses. Adequate financial assistance must be available for low-income Americans and individuals with preexisting conditions should not be subject to increased premium costs based on their disease or health status.

Health Insurance Must be Accessible – All people, regardless of employment status or geographic location, should be able to gain coverage without waiting periods through adequate open and special enrollment periods. Patient protections in current law should be retained, including prohibitions on preexisting condition exclusions, annual and lifetime limits, insurance policy rescissions, gender pricing and excessive premiums for older adults. Children should be allowed to remain on their parents' health plans until age 26 and coverage through Medicare and Medicaid should not be jeopardized through excessive cost-shifting, funding cuts, or per capita caps or block granting.

Health Insurance Must be Adequate and Understandable – All plans should be required to cover a full range of needed health benefits with a comprehensive and stable network of providers and plan features. Guaranteed access to and prioritization of preventive services without cost-sharing should be preserved. Information regarding costs and coverage must be available, transparent, and understandable to the consumer prior to purchasing the plan.

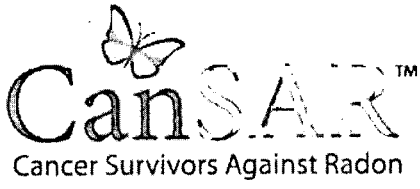

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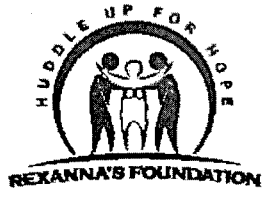

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Upstage Lung Cancer

Colorado Consumer Health Initiative

September 22, 2017

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

September 25, 2017 Senate Finance Committee Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal
Statement by the Colorado Consumer Health Initiative,
1420 N. Ogden St, Suite A1, Denver, Colorado 80218

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Chair, Finance Committee
United States Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member, Finance Committee
United States Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Comments on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

On behalf of our members, the Colorado Consumer Health Initiative (CCHI) is writing to voice our opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal. We are a nonpartisan, nonprofit state-based membership organization dedicated to ensuring that all Coloradans have access to quality, affordable, and equitable health care. Through our 45 organizational members' members, we represent over 500,000 Coloradans.

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal will have disastrous impacts on health care access for all Americans. In Colorado alone, this proposal, if passed, would:

- Eliminate the financial assistance that helps over 100,000 Coloradans purchase health care coverage;
- End expanded Medicaid coverage that helps 450,000 Coloradans access care;
- Gut Medicaid through deep, permanent cuts that would grow over time and threaten care for hundreds of thousands of low-income seniors, children, and people living with disabilities and shift massive costs and risks to states;
- Jeopardize access to life-saving and effective treatments for addiction and weaken states' efforts to address the current crisis of drug overdose deaths (in Colorado alone, 912 individuals died from overdoses in 2016); and
- Undermine essential protections for thousands of Coloradans with pre-existing conditions and do away with essential health benefits that provide robust coverage.

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

Below we've laid out in detail our major concerns with the proposal and the devastating impact it will have in Colorado.

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

This proposal ends the Affordable Care Act's (ACA's) successful Medicaid expansion, which has extended coverage to almost 450,000 Coloradans. It also eliminates the ACA tax credits that over 100,000 Coloradans rely on to afford coverage through our state-based marketplace, Connect for Health Colorado. Although it replaces this funding with a block grant to states, the proposal offers no guarantee that states will provide an alternative affordable coverage option to former enrollees - and indeed the block grant is inadequate to pay for comparable benefits. According to an Avalere Health analysis, from 2020 through 2026, Colorado would experience a funding cut of $6 billion under the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal, as compared to current law. Moreover, the block grant ends in 2027, meaning thousands of Coloradans will be left with no support whatsoever in accessing coverage.

Threatens care for low-income seniors, children, and people living with disabilities.

This proposal also threatens the care of millions of low-income seniors, children and people living with disabilities who relied on the Medicaid program even before enactment of the ACA. By capping and slashing funding for the traditional Medicaid program by 12% ($1,079 billion) between 2020 and 2036, the per capita cap will force states to cut payments to health care providers and health plans, eliminate optional services, and restrict eligibility for enrollment - all of which could restrict access to important health care services for Medicaid enrollees.

No eligibility category would be immune to the impacts of these cuts. Since children make up almost one-half of the Medicaid beneficiaries, they cannot possibly be protected if cuts of this magnitude are enacted. In fact, the Avalere Health analysis shows children nationally will see a 31% cut to their funding. And seniors and people living with disabilities would also face painful cuts, since Medicaid is the primary payer for long-term services and supports. Community Based Services - the services that keep people with cognitive and physical impairments home and in their communities - are "optional" in Medicaid. The fiscal pressure created by per capita caps will likely lead states to cut back on these services, forcing seniors and people living with disabilities out of their homes and into institutions for

their care. And the burden will likely hit communities of color especially hard, where Medicaid enrollment is especially high.

Pushes Massive New Costs onto States

All states would take on new risks and costs because this proposal converts the overall Medicaid program into a per capita cap. Under this proposal, the federal government would cap its payments to states for most enrollees, and those caps would grow more slowly than actual Medicaid expenditures, leaving states with insufficient funding to meet their current obligations. This is funding that in Colorado we cannot easily replace because of the restrictions under the Taxpayer Bill of Rights. In addition, states would be fully exposed to any unexpected health care cost increases, such as from a natural disaster, an aging population or medical innovations. The per capita cap alone would reduce federal Medicaid spending by 12% ($1,079 billion) by 2036.

On top of those cost shifts, the 31 states – including Colorado - that expanded Medicaid under the ACA will face far deeper cuts. This proposal ends all federal matching funds for the Medicaid expansion in 2020. While some of the funds that the federal government would have spent on Medicaid expansion get rolled into the block grant, the block grant simply doesn't make up for expansion states' losses. The block grant is inadequate overall, the formula favors non-expansion states (it redistributes funding from expansion to non-expansion states), and it ends entirely in 2026, leaving states with no funding to replace the lost expansion funds.

Because federal dollars for Medicaid account for about 20% of state budgets, FitchRatings "believes substantial Medicaid cuts would require states to make material budget adjustments over the next decade and beyond."[1] And by pulling coverage from so many, this proposal would drive up uncompensated care costs on local communities, state budgets, safety net providers, and hospitals. This is a completely irresponsible and unacceptable burden to place on the state of Colorado and our residents.

Increases Premiums and Out-of-Pocket Costs and Destabilizes the Individual Market

By repealing the individual mandate and eliminating advanced premium tax credits and cost sharing reductions, this proposal would drive up premiums and cause insurers to exit the ACA's marketplaces. As we know from previous Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projections, repealing the individual mandate alone would increase the number of uninsured individuals by 15 million and cause premiums to increase by 20 percent. Furthermore, by replacing the financing of the ACA's financial assistance with a block grant without any guarantee that states would direct their temporary block grant funds toward financial assistance, this proposal puts over 100,000 Coloradans who currently rely on financial assistance at risk for sharply higher out-of-pocket costs and coverage loss.

As an example, AARP recently released data showing the impacts of the proposal on older Americans. That analysis indicates that a 60-year old Coloradan making $25,000 per year

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

could see increases in health care costs (premiums and out of pocket costs) of almost $17,000 in 2020.

Beyond the impact of this proposal on individuals, insurers currently selling on Connect for Health Colorado would face extreme uncertainty. Because this proposal allows states to change the market reform rules under the ACA and because there are no requirements or standards on how states must use the block granted money, insurers would likely face completely unpredictable risk pools. To make up for this uncertainty, insurers would likely impose large premium increases to protect themselves from unpredictable claims costs or choose to exit the marketplace completely. This means that consumers who purchase coverage on the individual market would likely have fewer coverage options, much higher premiums and no guarantee of financial assistance to shield them from the increasing out-of-pocket costs.

Eliminates Critical Consumer Protections

This proposal allows states to eliminate one of the most popular and important consumer protections under the ACA - the prohibition on charging higher premiums based on a person's health status or a preexisting condition. This means that in states that choose to eliminate this requirement, insurers could charge individuals with even relatively mild pre-existing conditions thousands of dollars above standard rates to obtain the same coverage as someone without a preexisting condition. Additionally, this proposal allows states to waive the requirement that insurers cover essential health benefits including mental health services, substance use disorder treatments, and maternity care. This could lead to discrimination against segments of the population (e.g., older adults, LGBT community) or consumers with specific chronic conditions (e.g. mental health or substance use disorders). For example, this could return us to a time when insurers only covered short-term, minimal treatment for mental health or substance use disorders, if they covered it at all. Before the ACA, almost half of plans in the individual market excluded addiction treatment.

Lacks Transparency and Opportunity for Meaningful Input

Finally, we object to the rushed nature and complete lack of transparency of this entire process. With only one hearing scheduled days before a possible vote, with no opportunity of a mark up, and without a full CBO score to properly evaluate the budgetary and coverage loss impacts, it is impossible to have an open and deliberative process that would allow for a true evaluation of and meaningful input on the policies in this proposal that would affect millions of people and one sixth of the US economy.

We were, and continue to be, supportive of bipartisan efforts to improve and stabilize the health insurance marketplaces. We believe the proposals developed collaboratively between our governor, Governor Hickenlooper, and Ohio Governor Kasich provided a positive starting point for those conversations. We encourage a return to "regular order," as requested by many members of the Senate and supported by the American public, which would require the opportunity for stakeholders, including industry experts, providers, consumers, and state policymakers to weigh in.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments.

Respectfully submitted,



Adela Flores-Brennan
Executive Director
Colorado Consumer Health Initiative

cc: The Honorable Michael Bennet
The Honorable Cory Gardner

1420 Ogden, Suite A1
Denver, CO 80218

303 839 1261
@cohealthaccess

cohealthinitiative.org

Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

September 25, 2017
Antonio Zavala-Lopez

Greetings, I want to share my views on the legislation being considered in the United States Senate, it is disgraceful to consider repealing a law that is working for people. In my my case, I rely on Medicaid for my hospital check-ups with my neurosurgeon. I am pleading for all Senators to vote their conscience and vote "No" I am a hispanic American in Community College, if the "bill" passes through the Senate it will become law it will have a negative impact on not just me but millions across America. Medicaid has helped me throughout my life and I have went through countless surgeries and I need that protection to live my life to the fullest. Please do not take something that has saved my life and let me to pursue something and let me have stability and perseverance to achieve the American dream.

September 21, 2017

To the Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I write to you as the parent of a 14-year old daughter with Aicardi Syndrome, a very rare genetic disorder that causes unrelenting seizures, significant intellectual and physical disabilities, and early mortality. She began having seizures at 3 months of age. She does not walk, nor talk, but she is deeply engaged with her world, her school, her family.

She is the light of my and my husband's life, and she is the reason that I am a committed parent advocate for the interests of all children in our country who have medical complexity or disability.

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

I write to ask you to **oppose** this bill, but not because I believe that the Affordable Care Act is perfect. Far from it—I believe that the ACA can, and should, be reformed and improved upon if people of good will and conscience come together to work sincerely to do so.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Such cuts would be simply devastating to the free-standing children's hospital where my medically-complex child gets all of her specialist and primary care: neurologists, neurosurgeons, gastroenterologists, orthopedists, ophthalmologists, and therapists.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Margaret Storey
Evanston, Illinois







September 22, 2017

Title Of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017
Full Name: [redacted]
Anne Hawthorne, Executive Director
Address: [redacted]
Los Angeles, CA [redacted]

To whom it may concern,

Please place this letter into the record for the Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing.

The United Methodist Urban Foundation's youth leadership and development, college access and support programs provide services to hundreds of low-income young people and their families. Hardworking students and family members rely on the Affordable Care Act for medical care. While some students at four-year institutions may have access to related health services, many many students, and graduates do not.

For low-income families, the Graham-Cassidy Bill would be devastating. Health care is a right and should be made available and affordable for all. The Affordable Care Act made health care possible for the first time for many of our program participants and their families. For the first time, these families are able to live with the secure knowledge that when a family member becomes ill, they will have access to a doctor. These are the families that most certainly will lose coverage should the Graham-Cassidy bill pass.

Please, abandon this terrible, cruel bill, and put bi-partisan efforts toward medicare for all, or at the very support the Affordable Care Act.

Thank you sincerely,

Anne Hawthorne
Executive Director

714 W. Olympic Blvd, Suite 922 • Los Angeles, CA 90015 • T: 213.749.0212 F: 213.749.0232
www.urbanfoundation.org • info@urbanfoundation.org



September 22, 2017

Dear members of Finance Committee:

Proposed changes to the ACA will have a profoundly negative impact on the lives of my family, our friends and the many lives of people with disabilities, whom I serve as a Support Administrator for a local county board of developmental disabilities.

My husband and I both work full time and we receive health care insurance through our employers. Our reliance on high quality health care began in 2014. Although under these most recent proposals, insurance companies could not deny coverage, it would make insurance unaffordable for my family due to the legislation regarding pre-existing conditions and life-time caps. Let us be clear: availability and affordability are two different things. This legislation would ensure that my daughter and I would not survive. This loss is unimaginable. I will share our story in a short four year timeline to provide some perspective on how quickly a person's life can change with an unexpected medical diagnosis.

My husband and I were married in September, 2010 and started a family soon after. I had a typical pregnancy and our oldest daughter, Adelaide, was born perfectly healthy in August 2011. Like many families, we wanted our first child to have a sibling. It was far more difficult getting pregnant the second time. Insurance does not cover the costs of infertility tests and treatment. We were so fortunate because after nine months of trying to get pregnant, and a couple of months after an early and devastating miscarriage, I became pregnant with our second child.

August 2013: I was 12 weeks along when a prenatal test revealed **our daughter had Down syndrome**.

October 2013: At almost 19 weeks gestation, we learned **our daughter had a fatal condition called non-immune fetal hydrops** (https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007308.htm)

Our perinatologist recommended we consider termination as our daughter would likely be miscarried, still born or born alive and then die soon after. After some research, we decided to pray and to hope that our daughter would fight as hard as we were. We cried in private and painfully discussed how we would bury the little girl we so desperately wanted, all while we continued to work full time and care for our two-year-old daughter.

Each week, we watched our tiny little girl on the sonogram fight for her life and each week, we waited nervously as our new doctor delivered the news that the hydrops was resolving. I was seen almost weekly by a perinatologist through the remainder of my pregnancy.

November 2013: We received an echocardiogram in utero and no heart issues were discovered. However our daughter was diagnosed with duodenal atresia (https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001131.htm.) She would require surgery immediately following her birth.



February 25, 2014: Lorelei was born! She no longer had non-immune fetal hydops. I held her, kissed her tiny hands and beautiful cheeks, and said a tearful goodbye as she was whisked away to Children's Hospital. I insisted my husband, Bryan, leave me so he could be with our daughter at the hospital.

February 26, 2014: Lorelei's duodenum was repaired and she began her recovery in the NICU.

March 12, 2014: Lorelei came home! She finally got to go home to meet her big sister!

March 26, 2014: On this particular day, I was enjoying the calm of our life out of the hospital, nursing Lorelei when I suddenly began hemorrhaging. It turns out I had retained placenta (http://www.healthline.com/health/pregnancy/complications-retained-placenta). I was rushed to the hospital and under went a dilation and curettage procedure (D and C – the procedure many mothers who miscarry must undergo). The procedure I might have had if our little warrior had not survived.

May 2014 – July 2015: Due to **recurrent incisional hernias** caused by the repair to her bowel, Lorelei underwent **four different repairs**. (http://www.uwmedicine.org/health-library/Pages/repair-of-ventral-incisional-hernias.aspx). Each surgery requiring some length of stay (between 2-5 days) at the hospital. On one occasion, she also had tubes placed and adenoids removed due to **chronic ear infections and sinusitis.** Lorelei takes daily medications for **hypothyroid** (https://www.thyroid.org/hypothyroidism/). and her liquids are thickened for **aspiration(**http://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/aspiration) and has speech delays due to **hearing loss** and **dysphasia (**http://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/dysphasia). If cap limits existed, she would be over half way to that cap limit by now. She is three-years-old!

In order to be closer to family, we moved to northeast Ohio. My husband and I both had success in finding better paying and more flexible employment. Moving, selling a house, buying a house and starting new jobs, life was stressful. But it was and still is wonderful. We are active and look like anyone else you might run into at the farmer's market, grocery store or the community Park.

June 4, 2016: After suffering intense **abdominal pains**, having **unexplained weight loss of 40 lbs. in less than 6 months**, my doctor ordered an ultrasound. It turns out that all I had was a simple case of gastroenteritis. Oh, and they also found **a malignant tumor on my left kidney!!!!!** https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000516.htm. This was an incidental finding and not the cause of the gastroenteritis or weight loss. I had none of the risk factors or symptoms for renal cancer.

What if? What if under a different law or if covered by a different insurance company, this test was denied? What if we were broke and I could not even afford the $100 out of pocket expense this would cost me? It was a

simple, seemingly arbitrary ultrasound and it saved my life. I did not think twice about it getting it. What if it was never discovered and the cancer grew, and spread? What if I died? What if my husband was widowed and my children lost their mother at young and vulnerable ages?

June 30, 2016: My left kidney was removed in a procedure referred to as a left radical nephrectomy (http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/448878-overview). I had a difficult, yet determined, road to recovery and I was back to work a month later. I did not require chemotherapy or radiation since the cancer was removed and had not spread. However, it was found very close to a vein so I will require ongoing monitoring to ensure that if the cancer cells spread undetected, we can catch it early enough to once again save my life.

After the surgery, I began having intense dizzy spells, continued abdominal pain, weight loss and numbness in my legs and arms, and orthostatic hypotension upon standing, after bending or squatting and most recently intense headaches. By the way, try not bending or squatting with two children under the age of five. It has been, at times, debilitating. Some days, I feel excellent and other days it is I struggle to work and care for my children. Luckily, my husband is amazing and steps in without complaint when I am sick. After undergoing countless medical tests, there is likely a cause of these symptoms, which is called autonomic dysfunction. (http://www.dysautonomiainternational.org/page.php?ID=30). With all the tests I endured, the following conditions were also discovered: **thyroid nodules** and an **arachnoid brain cyst** (https://www.healthline.com/health/arachnoid-cysts#overview1).I will require ongoing monitoring but as far as we know, I have not been affected too negatively by these other conditions. I have yet to visit the specialized center at Cleveland Clinic to help treat the autonomic dysfunction. As you can imagine, our lives our quite busy. In addition, to working full-time, regular medical appointments, both of our daughters are active in dance and Lorelei attends speech therapy 1-2 times per week.

February 2017: Lorelei was scheduled to have ear tubes due to chronic ear infections and an Auditory Brain Response (ABR) test (http://www.asha.org/public/hearing/Auditory-Brainstem-Response/) due to hearing loss. What was to be an outpatient procedure, turned into heart surgery along with a week long stay in the hospital. It was discovered that Lorelei was in third degree heart block. (http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/162007-overview) and she received a pace maker just four days before her third birthday. Lorelei will require life-time monitoring and additional surgeries as she grows and as the pacemaker batteries require replacements.

What if? What if we could not afford the cost of the ear tube procedure and ABR? She would have died. As one of the cardiologists described the condition to us, he said how incredible the circumstances were to find it, especially considering she exhibited no other symptoms. This physician told us that it is likely that when children and adults with Down syndrome die inexplicably, it is this condition that takes them. But, not our Lorelei; Her life was saved. Again. And she recovered quickly -- running and jumping as soon as she got home from the hospital.

May 2017: Lorelei received new hearing aides and we increased speech therapy. Her vocabulary has exploded and she says new words and phrases every day.

Between 2006 -2010, I had two knee surgeries, a foot surgery and two sinus surgeries as a result of chronic sinusitis. I also have Anxiety (surprise, surprise) and ADHD (not afraid to disclose this either since it is pretty obvious to anyone who spends more than 15 minutes with me). Fortunately, Lorelei's older sister has only

required tubes and a tonsil and adenoidectomy and my husband has only had a knee surgery. When it comes to future medical needs, *it is not a 'what if' for us; it is a when and how.*

As a friend to many other families with children with medical issues and as a professional working closely to ensure people with disabilities receive the supports they need, I watch families that struggle with far more difficulty, higher medical and therapeutic needs than ours. I am deeply saddened that we have to fight so hard against our own government to ensure our children, our parents, our clients, our neighbors, friends, co-workers, and ourselves, are able to get AFFORDABLE medical care and services that allow us to be contributing members of the work force and our community. The stress of fearing for my life, my daughter's life, my parent's lives, my friend's children's lives and my client's lives weighs especially heavy on my heart and mind these days.

I am terribly confused that Republicans (my husband is also a life-long Republican) who declare they are pro-life are creating a system that will encourage pregnancies be terminated out of fear of the medical costs. 90% of children with Down syndrome are not born alive because they are being terminated due to misconceptions and misunderstanding about what their life is worth. Spend two minutes with Lorelei and you will see how worthy she truly is. Sadly, many of those pregnancies are terminated out of fear of the medical costs. Medicaid saves lives, Medicare saves lives, affordable private insurance that does not discriminate against pre-existing conditions and does not allow cap limits, saves lives!

People with disabilities whom receive Medicaid to increase access to the community, independent living skills, work, required medical and therapeutic interventions, will lose and THIS will create a financial strain on families and local communities. I have told my story, so now I must defer to the families that benefit from Medicaid and Home and Community Based Medicaid waivers (https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/hcbs/authorities/1915-c/index.html) to tell you their stories.

Instead of having a bipartisan resolution to fix the current Affordable Care Act, the Graham-Cassidy bill, just like the bills before them, **WILL COST PEOPLE THEIR LIVES!**

Sincerely,

Catherine Green and Family of Copley, Ohio
[redacted]

David C. Humes

[redacted]

September 22, 2017

Unites States Senate
Committee on Finance

Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Honorable Senators:

You have taken an oath, although not Constitutionally required, to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States. One of those things that most need protecting is the health of its citizens, their general welfare. The 25th – 29th words in the Constitution of the United States are in fact, ***"promote the general Welfare"***. The Founding Father's considered it to be so important that it is one of only two items that is mentioned twice in the Constitution of the United States. The second mention is found is in Article I that establish the very institution of Congress that you serve. Section 8. Specifically states, ***"The Congress shall have Powers ... provide for ... general Welfare."***

Senator Grassley has stated words to the effect that there are ten reasons to vote against this bill, but has expressed his intention to vote for it because he promised to vote against it. I cannot find any provision for voting for things promised anywhere in the Constitution of the United States. I have to inquire as to who asked the Senator to make this promise? Polling tells me that between 83 – 88% of Americans are against this bill. The Constitutional obligation to "promote the general Welfare" far outweighs any promise made or implied by any Senator.

There are some things that the federal government is far better handling than the States. The defense of our country by the armed forces is one example. Healthcare is another of those things. Americans need to have their general welfare and freedom protected. They must have the freedom to move to another state when required or requested by their employment. Their needs to be continuity to one of their most vital needs, healthcare protection.

The Graham-Cassidy bill does not have the best interests of American citizenry. It is a purely political bill that is being rushed to a vote and forced down the throats of Americans based on your own self-imposed political deadlines. Graham-Cassidy was being thrown together under the cover of darkness while a true bi-partisan effort at good law making was under way led by Senators Alexander and Murray. Some of you are business men and women. You would never put a business program forth not knowing the financial ramifications.

The public health crisis of the 21st Century is death by opiate/heroin overdose. The CDC statistics indicate we have lost over 600,000 Americans in this century. Opiate/heroin overdose is now the leading cause of death for Americans under the age of 50. Passage of Graham-Cassidy would be a severe setback for this health crisis that is already underfunded. States such as Maine, Ohio and West Virginia would lose funding for treatment at a time when it is most needed. In the upcoming years I fear the

David C. Humes

[redacted]

opiate/heroin public health crisis will worsen before it begins to subside. Part of the reason is due to the wider spread of the use of fentanyl, a drug 50 times stronger than heroin. The life-saving medication naloxone, the opiate antagonist that reverses the effects of opiates has become more readily available over the past several years. A large part of this is due to Medicaid programs. Once again, Graham-Cassidy will end up cutting funding. More lives lost.

To all those Senators who voted in favor of the prior "skinny repeal", you have had time to write good legislation. You have chosen not to do so. You now have an opportunity to make amends for voting for a very bad bill. Graham-Cassidy is even a worse, more devastating bill than the prior bill. Please do not play politics with the health and lives of Americans.

For those of you who intend to vote for this very flawed legislation I can only paraphrase the words of Joseph Welch; 'Senators, have you no decency? Haven't you harmed enough? At long last have you no decency?'

Vote against this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

David C. Humes

Ted Meyer
[redacted]
September 22, 2017

September 25, 2017 Senate Finance Committee Hearing

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

The purpose of this letter is to provide my perspective on the pending bill introduced by Senators Cassidy and Graham to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and ask you to vote "No" on this bill. It is also to request that you make changes in the Cassidy and Graham bill that are necessary to prevent destruction of Medicaid not only as a Health Insurance program but also as the primary provider of services to enable individuals with disabilities to live and work in the community.

As a health insurance program one of the most important attributes is to not penalize "pre-existing conditions." When I got married I did not initially have the benefit of a corporate health insurance program and therefore, I had to purchase health insurance for my wife and I in the open market. Previously she had a bone spur removed from her foot. Given this simple pre-existing condition the open market health policy would cover my wife except for "any ailment of her foot." This large limitation was made just because of a simple bone spur. This is how ridiculous it can get.

As a provider of services the Kaiser Family Foundation determined that 76% of the people covered by Medicaid are children and adults while 24% are seniors and people with disabilities. However, when we consider where Medicaid spending occurs 64% of the spending provides supports to seniors and individuals with disabilities. *This means when the Federal government decides to dramatically reduce the funding for Medicaid the impact will fall largely on seniors and individuals with disabilities...some of the most vulnerable segments of our citizens.* So, the image of reducing Medicaid and thus requiring people to go to work is, largely, a false image. When speaking of individuals with disabilities, significant reductions in Medicaid will actually reduce their employment because they will lose the supports that enable them to work and live in the community.

I have two adult children with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD). They both have jobs that use Medicaid waiver funding to provide transportation here in rural Westmoreland County and a team job coach. Without these supports they would not be able to be employed. They also have caregivers funded by waiver that give them a level of independence that most others enjoy. It is heart-warming to see my daughter interact in the community with these supports. I could not do this for her forever. *These life supports are 100% dependent on a fully funded Medicaid Program!*

Please do not turn your back on some of the most vulnerable segments of our citizens by abandoning 50 years of caring and supporting them for the sake of large tax cuts to individuals who likely do not have to worry about having sufficient food, health care or losing the supports that enable them to work and live in the community by transforming the Federal Medicaid contribution to block or per-capita grants.

Thank you,

Ted Meyer

September 22, 2017

Dear Senate Committee on Finance Members:

We are writing regarding the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill. We are Montanans and would like to share our perspective on healthcare in Montana. We have lived in Montana for over 60 years and therefore are qualified to comment on Montana's healthcare situation.

The block-grant proposal from this bill is of concern. In Montana, our state budget is currently in the red, and the legislature, which is a republican majority, wants to cut Medicaid funding to Montanans as well as other social justice programs benefitting our most fragile Montanans, the poor, the mentally ill and the disabled. A block grant would place our legislature in the position of having to decide who would be excluded from the healthcare benefits.

Montana also has a 6.6% population of American Indians. This population has benefited from Medicaid expansion and Obama Care. For those of you with issues about immigrants and immigration, let us remind you, these are our first peoples and they are not immigrants. Unfortunately, they were much too gracious to our ancestors who came to this country. Those of us who's ancestry is European are responsible for genocide and oppressive treatment of the American Indians. They are an important part of our nation. They deserve to have access to healthcare.

Montana is a rural state. Our rural healthcare centers and hospitals are not in favor of this proposed bill. Medicaid Expansion and Obama Care helped to increase funding for these health centers and hospitals because more people were accessing healthcare! Our nursing home population is 68% Medicaid dependent. The Medicaid block grant would not be able to preserve these healthcare facilities.

On a personal note, I have type I diabetes. I have had diabetes for 50 years. The cost of insulin when I first was diagnosed was $0.28 per bottle. The price has increased over the years and if I were to pay full price for insulin without the help of health insurance, it would cost $309.00 per vial. I use two different types of insulin. I won't go into the price of syringes, needles, test strips, or lancets, which adds up as well. (We did not have blood glucose monitoring until I was in my 20's) I am healthy; I have worked as a nurse for 37 years. I have worked hard, have paid taxes, and I am a productive Montanan. We have a son who is a teacher in Montana. I mention my personal story because, in the event that I were to lose my coverage due to diabetes being a pre-existing condition, I would be toast. My husband and I value our fellow Montanans and Americans and we DO NOT want someone with diabetes to not be able to have access to their essential supplies and health care. We do not want anyone to be excluded.

We support the legislation proposed by Susan Collins which would help subsidize insurance for middle class Americans.

Please choose to listen to your constituents instead of being pressured by the Super PACs who fund campaigns. The Super PACs may insist on tax breaks, but they are a fairly small part of the population in the US. Please consider this carefully.

Humbly,

Rick & Beth Cottingham
[redacted]
Helena MT [redacted]
[redacted]

CENTER FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Testimony of the Center for Reproductive Rights

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

U.S. Senate Committee on Finance
September 25, 2017

Chairman Hatch, Ranking Member Wyden, and Members of the Committee:

The Center for Reproductive Rights respectfully submits the following testimony to the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance **in strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal** to repeal the Affordable Care Act and reform health care.

Since 1992, the Center for Reproductive Rights has worked toward the time when the promise of reproductive freedom is enshrined in law in the United States and throughout the globe. We envision a world in which every woman is free to decide whether and when to have children; every woman has access to the best reproductive health care available; and every woman can make medical decisions without coercion or discrimination. In short, we envision a world in which every woman participates with full dignity as an equal member of society.

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal ("Graham-Cassidy") would be devastating to women's health. The Affordable Care Act greatly expanded women's healthcare access, affordability, and quality of care. Since the enactment of the ACA, 9.5 million uninsured women have gained affordable, comprehensive coverage.[1] Between 2013 and 2015, the first two full years of ACA implementation, the proportion of uninsured women of reproductive age (15-44) declined by 36%.[2] Millions of low-income women and families in particular experienced dramatic coverage gains due to the ACA's premium tax credits and cost-sharing reductions,[3] as well as the expansion of Medicaid[4]—successful policies and milestones in improving the health and well-being of our nation which are gravely threatened by the proposed bill.

The ACA was explicit that insurance plans must cover specific services. The requirement that plans cover women's preventive services, such as birth control, well woman visits, lactation counseling and supplies, and screenings for gestational diabetes and cervical cancer at no cost to the patients has been groundbreaking for women's health.[5] An estimated 57.6 million women now have coverage of birth control and these other services without out-of-pocket costs thanks to the ACA.[6] Additionally, the required essential health benefits established by the ACA—and on the chopping block in the proposed bill—are particularly important for women, as plans must cover services such as pregnancy, maternity, and newborn care. The average cost of pregnancy and newborn care in 2010 for women with commercial insurance was $21,001,[7] a staggering price for basic care that just 12% of individual market plans covered prior to the ACA—and even the rare plans that did provide maternity services often offered only limited and prohibitively expensive

coverage.[8] These critical reforms empower women to take charge of their health and strengthen their economic security, conferring benefits for society as whole as women and their families become healthier and more financially stable.

Beyond the ACA, Graham-Cassidy sabotages traditional Medicaid as well, a program that is critical for women's health. Established in 1965, Medicaid operates as a highly-successful federal-state partnership that is significantly more cost effective than private insurance[9] and the foremost provider of many essential services, paying for half of all births in the United States and 75% of all publicly funded family planning services.[10] Thirteen million (one in five) women of reproductive age rely on Medicaid for access to basic reproductive health services. Due to discriminatory systemic barriers, women of color disproportionately comprise the Medicaid population with nearly one in three Black women and one in four Latinas of reproductive age enrolled in the program.[11]

All of these gains are threatened by Graham-Cassidy. By shifting to a block grant funding structure for premium assistance and Medicaid expansion—and eventually phasing out that funding—the result is that millions of people will lose health coverage over the next several years. By further capping funding for traditional Medicaid, millions more people, including women of reproductive age, people of color, people with disabilities, and others who are the most vulnerable, stand to lose access to critical services or, in many cases, any health coverage at all. And by allowing states to waive protections against insurance companies charging higher premiums because of health status, many people with pre-existing conditions will likely be priced out of affordable coverage. This could have an adverse impact on women, since conditions such as pregnancy and a prior C-section could be considered pre-existing conditions.

Beyond devastating coverage losses, the bill takes further, targeted aim at women in several ways, including: 1) expanding abortion coverage restrictions; 2) defunding Planned Parenthood; and 3) allowing states to obtain waivers weakening or eliminating the Essential Health Benefits requirement, including maternity care.

Restrictions on Abortion Coverage

Congress already denies too many people access to abortion care via discriminatory policies that restrict coverage for most abortions in Medicaid and other federal programs. Yet, like other versions of legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act, Graham-Cassidy goes to extreme lengths to *further* restrict funding and coverage for abortion care. The bill extends its reach into the private market by prohibiting individuals who need tax credits to help purchase health insurance from getting a plan that includes abortion care, except in the limited cases of rape, incest, or when the life of the woman is at risk. Similarly, it prohibits small businesses from using tax credits to purchase insurance for their employees if the plans cover abortion care. Also, people are prohibited from using Health Savings Accounts to purchase high deductible health plans if they cover abortion care.

The clear purpose of these restrictions is to disincentive private insurance companies from offering any plans that cover this care, leaving those in the individual market with no

options for purchasing abortion coverage. In pushing such a policy, proponents of this bill are advancing their own political agenda to deny women both their constitutional right and the dignity and respect to make their own health care decisions. The result of these policies could drive more women into poverty. A recent study found that women who are denied abortion care are three times more likely to fall into poverty than women who are able to get the care they need.[12]

Defunding Planned Parenthood

Graham-Cassidy prevents women who rely on Medicaid from using their insurance at Planned Parenthood clinics. One in five women in America have relied on Planned Parenthood in her lifetime, and more than half of Planned Parenthood's patients rely on Medicaid for care. Defunding Planned Parenthood will disproportionately harm low-income women and women of color, many of whom rely on Planned Parenthood for cancer screenings, contraception, STI testing, and other health care services.[13] Many Medicaid patients already have limited options for health care—whether they live in a rural or medically underserved community or have little access to providers who accept Medicaid—and blocking them from coming to Planned Parenthood would leave many with nowhere to go for basic reproductive health care. It is clear that other providers cannot pick up the slack,[14] and many people would lose all access to reproductive health care and family planning under this bill.

Reducing Access to Maternity Care

Graham-Cassidy weakens the ACA's guarantee of maternity coverage by allowing states to waive out of mandating coverage of Essential Health Benefits. Under such a bill, 13 million women could be at risk of losing maternity coverage.[15] Research shows that when women have health coverage before becoming pregnant as well as between pregnancies, they are healthier during pregnancy and their babies are more likely to be healthy at birth.[16] Our policies should support universal access to comprehensive, nondiscriminatory maternal health care before a woman becomes pregnant, during her pregnancy, and after she gives birth. Tragically, Graham-Cassidy would instead take us to a time when pregnant women who cannot afford high premiums for care may be forced to put their pregnancies at risk, forgoing important check-ups and procedures to save money and avoid falling deeper into debt.

Overall, Graham-Cassidy is one of the worst proposals yet to repeal the Affordable Care Act. It has implications for the future of our health care system beyond what we have yet been able to study, given the uniquely expedited way in which this bill has been moving through the Senate. Senate leaders have not even allowed time to wait for a full CBO analysis, let alone time for regular committee process. The bill would have devastating impacts on women's health, and yet no woman has been invited to testify and tell her story. What we do know is that the bill would kick millions off coverage and drastically reduce women's access to comprehensive reproductive health care. We know that this bill threatens to take us backward, leaving our country less healthy and less secure. The Center for Reproductive Rights is strongly opposed to the bill and urges all Senators to vote no.

NCADD
SACRAMENTO

recovery is everywhere

September 25, 2017

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

Submitted by: NCADD of Sacramento
1440 Ethan Way # 101
Sacramento Ca. 95821

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

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal. I am writing today to express my/our strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal. I cannot support legislation that would jeopardize access to life-saving and effective treatments for addiction and weaken states' efforts to address the current crisis of drug overdose deaths.

I am a resident of Sacramento Ca. and I care about this issue because 15 years ago when I needed the help it was there for me. I had lost everything and did not have the money to pay for treatment. If it weren't for the funding here in Sacramento I would probably be dead. I am now the Executive Director at the outpatient that I got my services through. Our community needs to know that our elected officials care about them as well as finding ways to prevent this devastating disease.

- States could waive the requirement that private plans offer substance use disorders treatment. This could return us to the tragic situation before the ACA when more than one third of people with private insurance did not have coverage for addiction services and supports.
- People with pre-existing conditions would be priced out of coverage for any illness, including people with substance use disorders who could face an additional $20,000/year on top of existing premium costs.

NCADD
SACRAMENTO

- The bill would disproportionally harm communities of color and others whose access to coverage and treatment is already restricted.
- The end to Medicaid expansion would leave millions of low-income consumers without health care coverage or access to life-saving addiction treatment.
- A $4 trillion reduction in federal funding to states for health coverage over the next 20 years would devastate state budgets and put pressure on states to cut services.

I want to reiterate my strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal and we thank you for hearing my/our concerns.

Sincerely,
Mary Pruitt CADC II,ICADC
1440 Ethan Way # 101
Sacramento, Ca. 95821
916-922-9217 ext. 113

Title Of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017
Full Name: Deborah Schultz
Address: [redacted]

The ongoing effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is of great concern to me. I fully appreciate that the ACA is not perfect and that opportunities exist to improve the overall workings and benefits of the ACA. At the same time I believe it is a key step in the right direction to ensuring healthcare for all. Below is my family's story which I hope you will read and appreciate why my husband and I were very relieved when the ACA was passed.

At the age of 53 I learned why my father who looked healthy as can be died at age 43 of heart and kidney disease and why my paternal grandmother was bedridden for most of my life due to a series of strokes beginning at age 32. I had Fabry Disease, a rare genetic disease which is associated with a defective X chromosome. Shortly after, my husband and I learned that I had passed this disease to both of my then teenage daughters and this by far was the most disconcerting aspect of learning about Fabry Disease. It was helpful to understand the cause of various unusual symptoms and pain which each of us experienced but knowing the health history of my dad and grandmother scared us greatly. A series of tests demonstrated the damage that had already occurred, the most eye-opening was that one of my daughters had already had a stroke.

There is no cure but fortunately a bi-weekly enzyme replacement infusion is now available. It's fairly new and its effectiveness is not yet fully known but it appears that it is helping to lower the substance which builds up and damages the cells of the heart, kidney and skin. I know it is not the cure-all but at least it is a step in the right direction.

My husband and I are proud of our daughters who in the midst of a busy young adult life of working, friends and community engagement chose to face this disease head-on and find time once every two weeks for this enzyme replacement infusion which takes anywhere from two – six hours. At the same time we realized that with the $13,000 - $20,000 cost of each infusion, they would reach their maximum lifetime benefit in 2-3 years. We also worry that if either of our daughters became unemployed their ability to get insurance would be challenging if not impossible.

My story is not to discount the existing and potential health challenges of my sister and me who are of the age where Fabry Disease takes its greatest toll on most women with the disease. We have high hopes that our bi-weekly infusions slow down the decline of our major organs, particularly the kidneys and heart. But as a mother I can't help but worry about what the future will be for our two daughters and thus my focus is on them.

Thank you for considering my family's health story.

Senate Finance Committee
RE: Graham-Cassidy Bill
Monday, September 25, 2017

From: Mary A. Fedoroff
[redacted]
Portland, Oregon [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

I am writing in opposition to the **Graham-Cassidy Bill**. I have a 40 year old son who was diagnosed with testicular cancer in January. He is married with a 14-month old son. My son has insurance coverage through his employer, but the coverage is somewhat lacking as it is. His insurance company, United Health Care, has currently denied a CT scan to detect any cancer that may be remaining in his body after having his testicle removed even though it is part of a surveillance schedule he must undergo, including blood testing, to insure that he is cancer free or to detect anything requiring treatment. To date, he is two months past the date that the CT was supposed to be performed, according to the accepted surveillance schedule. Of course, the insurance company states that they are only denying payment, not that the patient cannot have the CT. If the precedent is set for this, the costs can be astronomical. And, if the CT is performed and found that there is existing disease, the length of treatment and associated costs can increase with the extent of the disease. And this is the scenario *with* insurance, such as it is. What if there were no insurance because of a pre-existing condition?

I believe that when we think of people with pre-existing conditions, we might think of those with unhealthy lifestyles or smokers or people who do not have a healthy diet. My son is a marathon runner, has a master's degree and is a contributing member of society. He did not ask to develop cancer at 39 years of age after being newly married and beginning a family. If he is denied coverage for a pre-existing condition, he may be sentenced to devastating medical costs having to cover his own surveillance and/or treatment. And, if he is unable to handle any associated costs, of course as his parents, we would help, but our retirement plans do not include paying hundred of thousands of dollars in medical costs for our son. You can see where this can grow to a wide-spread cost burden, even for those without a disease! I don't believe there are many Americans who could shoulder the burden of cancer testing and treatment without financial ruin. Is this what we want for our young people? To do everything right, to contribute, to be good citizens and then ruined when they are starting out in life because of a medical condition which developed despite living a healthy life?

Why is it that repeal of the Affordable Care Act is first and foremost in the minds of the Republican contingent in our Congress? Is there such

disdain for the health and well-being of every American citizen that Congress is unable to work together to agree to a system of health care that works for a majority, not one which is ramrodded into law for the sake of a few who care more for their prospects for re-election and their party affiliation than the good of the people?

I stand with John McCain in his feeling that a more bipartisan plan could be adopted with the give-and-take that characterizes a healthy, mature legislative body who should have the well being of the citizens of the United States of America as their first priority and leave partisan politics and self-centered beliefs out of the decision making process. Let us work together to make the Affordable Care Act something that can be better, stronger and allow our citizens to participate without being bankrupted.

Please. We can do better.

Mary A. Fedoroff

EDITH TRUBEK SULLIVAN
[redacted]

September 22, 2017

U.S. Senate Committee on Finance
Attn: Editorial and Document Section
Rm SD-219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510-6200

Re: Repealing/replacing the Affordable Care Act

Your Honors:

As you consider how to enact health care legislation that will serve "we the people" well, and improve upon our current system, please keep in mind the old adage "Haste makes Waste". Rushing to get a vote just for the sake of doing so before the end of September & because Republicans ran on a promise to "repeal & replace the ACA" makes no sense if crafting a workable health care bill is the goal.

It is essential that all stakeholders be heard and their concerns understood viscerally. Public hearings with opportunities for all to be heard are a necessary part of developing decent bills. Senators must have sufficient time to read and understand the ramifications of a proposed bill before voting on it. The CBO, and possibly others, have to analyze the proposed bill out to determine what the impact will be on the number of people insured will be before a vote is taken.

Health care is expensive and complicated and the need for it continues throughout each person's lifespan. There must not be lifetime caps on coverages since one never knows until it happens just how much care an individual will need. Proper prenatal care is essential and goes a long way toward improving the health of both the infant and the mother forever. "Pre-existing conditions" must be covered: consider the emotional and financial impact on a family whose infant is born with a defective heart if that child can not be insured for health care. People with disabilities of all sorts need full, affordable coverage for their entire life time. Good insurance underwriting principles require that all participate; a form of individual mandate is crucial. Premiums need to be affordable; insurers are part of the solution; subsidies for those who need them are important. Maintaining Medicaid is essential.

Please do not rush to present a faulty, incomplete bill and schedule a vote before it can be studied in detail by all Senators.

Respectfully submitted,

Edith T Sullivan
Edith T Sullivan

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

Carolyn Goldhush
[redacted]

I have epilepsy.
I don't tell many people that I have it. I can't afford for them to think that I might not be able to do my job or worry I'll have a seizure in an awkward moment, like a client meeting or a family gathering. I also can't afford to live without having insurance that covers a pre-existing condition. The medications are expensive. They're vital as well. Taking my medication later than my regular time can bring on seizures, as can missing a dose. Missing two consecutive doses in one day could put me in the hospital. I need regular access to a neurological specialist, called an epileptologist. I can't go without that support.

One in 26 people living in the U.S. has a seizure disorder. Children are the worst afflicted, having conditions where their seizures can go on for hours. Epilepsy is also a side effect for people with other severe neurological conditions, brain tumors and cancers (like the type Senator McCain has). Visiting my doctor is always a wake-up call as her office is filled with children who clearly will never have a normal life, who will need constant care, who will never walk on their own or leave a wheelchair. They're the ones who will be hurt the most if the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal passes. They're the ones who will be a burden on society, and cost the government millions. They'll suffer for no reason, and put unnecessary, additional strains on their families, who don't need more worries or expenses than they already have.

This bill is economically impractical. It's beyond unpopular. It has no logical reason for being. But most importantly, it's inhumane, totally lacking heart and consideration for people already suffering from conditions that will last their whole lives. Like me.

Senate Finance Committee Hearing on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Margie Schaps
Executive Director
Health & Medicine Policy Research Group
29 East Madison, Suite 602
Chicago, IL 60602

September 22, 2017

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

- Eliminate the financial assistance that helps low- and moderate-income families purchase health care coverage;
- End expanded Medicaid coverage that helps millions of low-income adults;
- Gut Medicaid through deep, permanent cuts that would grow over time and threaten care for millions of low-income seniors, children, and people living with disabilities and shift massive costs and risks to states;
- Jeopardize access to life-saving and effective treatments for addiction and weaken states' efforts to address the current crisis of drug overdose deaths
- Undermine essential protections for people with pre-existing conditions;
- Resurrect - *and worsen* - the devastating cuts in coverage and benefits that the American public and the majority of Congress have already rejected.

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal threatens the health and financial security of millions of Americans including older adults, low-and moderate-income families, people living with disabilities, veterans and people with preexisting conditions. It does nothing to improve affordability or availability of coverage for consumers and will likely result in at least 965,000 Illinoisans losing coverage by 2027 and will undermine the financial stability of our health care system and place additional fiscal strains on our state budget. Below we've laid out in more detail our concerns with this proposal and the devastating impact it will have on consumers.

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

This proposal takes away secure coverage from millions, and replaces it only with the possibility of inadequate and temporary coverage. It ends the ACA's successful Medicaid expansion, which has extended coverage to nearly 12 million newly eligible low-income adults. It also eliminates the ACA tax credits that 10 million low- and moderate-income people rely on to afford coverage in the individual market. Although it replaces this funding with a block grant to states, the proposal offers no guarantee that states will provide an alternative affordable coverage option to

former enrollees - and indeed the block grant is inadequate to pay for comparable benefits. From 2020 through 2026, block grant funding would be at least 7% ($95 billion) below projected spending under current law. Regardless, the block grant ends in 2027, leaving states and former enrollees with no help whatsoever. We do not believe it is likely that Congress would reauthorize additional funds for these programs at a later date, because the funds would no longer be in the baseline of the federal budget. Congress would therefore have to identify and reauthorize a new funding stream – something that would be extremely difficult, if not impossible.

Threatens care for low-income seniors, children, consumers with substance use disorders and people living with disabilities.

This proposal also threatens the care of millions of low-income seniors, children and people living with disabilities who relied on the Medicaid program even before enactment of the ACA. By capping and slashing funding for the traditional Medicaid program by 12% ($1,079 billion) between 2020 and 2036, the per capita cap will force Illinois to cut payments to health care providers and health plans, eliminate optional services, and restrict eligibility for enrollment - all of which could restrict access to important health care services for Medicaid enrollees.

No eligibility category would be immune to the impacts of these cuts. Since children make up almost one-half of the Medicaid beneficiaries, they cannot possibly be protected if cuts of this magnitude are enacted. Cuts to Medicaid would also leave consumers with substance use disorders without access to the most effective treatments for addiction and to life-saving overdose medicine. And seniors and people living with disabilities would also face painful cuts, since Medicaid is the primary payer for long-term services and supports. Community Based Services - the services that keep people with cognitive and physical impairments home and in their communities - are "optional" in Medicaid. The fiscal pressure created by per capita caps will likely lead states to cut back on these services, forcing seniors and people living with disabilities out of their homes and into institutions for their care. And the burden will likely hit communities of color especially hard, where Medicaid enrollment is especially high.

Pushes massive new costs onto states.

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

On top of those cost shifts, the 31 states that expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act will be at risk for far deeper cuts. This proposal ends all federal matching funds for the Medicaid expansion in 2020. Some of the funds that the federal government would have spent on Medicaid expansion get rolled into the block grant, but the block grant doesn't make up for Illinois' losses because the block grant is inadequate overall, the formula favors non-expansion states (it

redistributes funding from expansion to non-expansion states), and it ends entirely in 2026, leaving states with no funding to replace the lost expansion funds.

Because federal dollars for Medicaid account for about 20% of state budgets, FitchRatings "believes substantial Medicaid cuts would require states to make material budget adjustments over the next decade and beyond."[1] And by pulling coverage from so many, this proposal would drive up uncompensated care costs on local communities, state budgets, safety net providers, and hospitals.

Increases premiums and out-of-pocket costs and destabilizes the individual market.

By repealing the individual mandate and eliminating advanced premium tax credits and cost sharing reductions, this proposal would drive up premiums and cause insurers to exit the ACA's marketplaces. As we know from previous CBO projections, repealing the individual mandate alone would increase the number of uninsured individuals by 15 million and cause premiums to increase by 20 percent. Furthermore, by replacing the financing of the ACA's financial assistance with a block grant without any guarantee that states would direct their temporary block grant funds toward financial assistance, this proposal puts the 253,542 Illinoisans who currently rely on financial assistance at risk for sharply higher out-of-pocket costs and coverage loss.

Beyond the impact of this proposal on individuals, insurers currently selling in *Get Covered Illinois* would face extreme uncertainty. Because this proposal allows states to change the market reform rules under the ACA and because there are no requirements or standards on how states must use the block granted money, insurers would likely face completely unpredictable risk pools. To make up for this uncertainty, insurers would likely impose large premium increases to protect themselves from unpredictable claims costs or choose to exit the marketplace completely. This means that consumers who purchase coverage on the individual market would likely have fewer coverage options, much higher premiums and no guarantee of financial assistance to shield them from the increasing out-of-pocket costs.

Eliminates critical consumer protections.

This proposal allows states to eliminate one of the most popular and important consumer protections under the ACA - the prohibition on charging higher premiums based on a person's health status or a preexisting condition. This means that in states that choose to eliminate this requirement, insurers could charge individuals with even relatively mild pre-existing conditions thousands of dollars above standard rates to obtain the same coverage as someone without a preexisting condition. Additionally, this proposal allows states to waive the requirement that insurers cover essential health benefits including mental health services, substance abuse treatments and maternity care. This could lead to discrimination against segments of the population (e.g., older adults, LGBT community) or consumers with specific chronic conditions (e.g. mental health or substance use disorders). For example, this could return us to a time when insurers only covered short-term, minimal treatment for mental health or substance use disorders,

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

if they covered it at all. Before the ACA, almost half of plans in the individual market excluded addiction treatment.

Lacks transparency and opportunity for meaningful input.

We believe that everyone should have a say in the decisions that affect their health. With only one hearing scheduled days before a possible vote, and without a full CBO score to properly evaluate the budgetary and coverage loss impacts, it is impossible to have an open and deliberative process that would allow for a true evaluation of and meaningful input on the policies in this proposal that would affect millions of people and one sixth of the US economy. We encourage a return to "regular order," as requested by many members of the Senate and supported by the American public, which would require the opportunity for stakeholders, including industry experts, providers, consumers and state policymakers to weigh in.

Nearly every major health and healthcare organization in this country has spoken out against this bill. We join them together and urge you not to pass this bill, which would be disastrous for our country's people.

Sincerely,

Margie Schaps
Executive Director
Health & Medicine Policy Research Group

Email: mschaps@hmprg.org
Phone: 312-372-4292, x23

Daniel Ramos
One Colorado
1490 Lafayette Street, Office 304
Denver, Colorado 80218

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

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

- Eliminate protections for Americans with pre-existing conditions, including having gender dysphoria, HIV, depression, anxiety, obesity, diabetes, pregnancy, cancer, epilepsy, Alzheimer's disease, congestive heart failure, hepatitis, sleep apnea, and Parkinson's disease, among other conditions;
- Eliminate the financial assistance that helps over 100,000 Coloradans purchase health care coverage;
- End expanded Medicaid coverage that 450,000 Coloradans rely on;
- Gut Medicaid through deep, permanent cuts that would grow over time and threaten care for hundreds of thousands of low-income seniors, children, and people living with disabilities and shift massive costs and risks to states;
- Jeopardize access to life-saving and effective treatments for addiction and weaken states' efforts to address the current crisis of drug overdose deaths
- Resurrect - *and worsen* - the devastating cuts in coverage and benefits that the American public and the majority of Congress have already rejected.

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

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

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

This proposal takes away secure coverage from millions, and replaces it only with the possibility of inadequate and temporary coverage. It ends the ACA's successful Medicaid expansion, which has extended coverage to nearly 12 million newly eligible low-income adults, 450,000 here in Colorado. It also eliminates the ACA tax credits that 10 million low- and moderate-income people rely on to afford coverage in the individual market. Although it replaces this funding with a block grant to states, the proposal offers no guarantee that states will provide an alternative affordable coverage option to former enrollees - and indeed the block grant is inadequate to pay for comparable benefits. According to an Avalere Health analysis, from 2020 through 2026, Colorado would experience a funding cut of $6 billion under the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal, as compared to current law. Moreover, the block grant ends in 2027, leaving Colorado and its enrollees with no help whatsoever. It appears unlikely that Congress would reauthorize additional funds for these programs at a later date, because the funds would no longer be in the baseline of the federal budget. Congress would therefore have to identify and reauthorize a new funding stream – something that would be extremely difficult, if not impossible.

Threatens care for low-income seniors, children, consumers with substance use disorders and people living with disabilities.

This proposal threatens the care of millions of low-income seniors, children, and people living with disabilities who relied on the Medicaid program even before enactment of the ACA. By capping and slashing funding for the traditional Medicaid program by 12% ($1,079 billion) between 2020 and 2036, the per capita cap will force Colorado to cut payments to health care providers and health plans, eliminate optional services, and restrict eligibility for enrollment - all of which could restrict access to important health care services for Medicaid enrollees.

No eligibility category would be immune to the impacts of these cuts. Because children make up almost one-half of Medicaid beneficiaries, they cannot possibly be protected if cuts of this magnitude are enacted. In fact, the Avalere Health analysis shows children nationally will see a 31% cut to their funding. Cuts to Medicaid would also leave consumers with substance use disorders without access to the most effective treatments for addiction and to life-saving overdose medicine. And seniors and people living with disabilities would also face painful cuts, since Medicaid is the primary payer for long-term services and supports. Community Based Services - the services that keep people with cognitive and physical impairments home and in their communities - are "optional" in Medicaid. The fiscal pressure created by per capita caps will likely lead states to cut back on these services, forcing seniors and people living with disabilities out of their homes and into institutions for their care. And the burden will likely hit communities of color especially hard, where Medicaid enrollment is especially high.

Pushes massive new costs onto states.

All states, including Colorado, would take on new risks and costs because this proposal converts the overall Medicaid program into a per capita cap. Under this proposal, the federal government would cap its payments to states for most enrollees, and those caps would grow more slowly than actual Medicaid expenditures, leaving Colorado with insufficient funding to meet its current obligations. This is funding that in Colorado we cannot easily replace because of the restrictions

under the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR). In addition, states would be fully exposed to any unexpected health care cost increases, such as from a natural disaster, an aging population or medical innovations. The per capita cap alone would reduce federal Medicaid spending by 12% ($1,079 billion) by 2036.

On top of those cost shifts, the 31 states – including Colorado - that expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act will face far deeper cuts. This proposal ends all federal matching funds for the Medicaid expansion in 2020. Some of the funds that the federal government would have spent on Medicaid expansion get rolled into the block grant, but the block grant doesn't make up for Colorado's losses because the block grant is inadequate overall, the formula favors non-expansion states (it redistributes funding from expansion to non-expansion states), and it ends entirely in 2026, leaving states with no funding to replace the lost expansion funds.

Because federal dollars for Medicaid account for about 20% of state budgets, FitchRatings "believes substantial Medicaid cuts would require states to make material budget adjustments over the next decade and beyond."[1] And by pulling coverage from so many, this proposal would drive up uncompensated care costs on local communities, state budgets, safety net providers, and hospitals. This is a completely irresponsible and unacceptable burden to place on the state of Colorado and our residents.

Increases premiums and out-of-pocket costs and destabilizes the individual market.

By repealing the individual mandate and eliminating advanced premium tax credits and cost sharing reductions, this proposal would drive up premiums and cause insurers to exit the ACA's marketplaces. As we know from previous CBO projections, repealing the individual mandate alone would increase the number of uninsured individuals by 15 million and cause premiums to increase by 20 percent. Furthermore, by replacing the financing of the ACA's financial assistance with a block grant without any guarantee that states would direct their temporary block grant funds toward financial assistance, this proposal puts over 100,000 Coloradans who currently rely on financial assistance at risk for sharply higher out-of-pocket costs and coverage loss.

Beyond the impact of this proposal on individuals, insurers currently selling in our state based marketplace, Connect for Health Colorado, would face extreme uncertainty. Because this proposal allows states to change the market reform rules under the ACA and because there are no requirements or standards on how states must use the block granted money, insurers would likely face completely unpredictable risk pools. To make up for this uncertainty, insurers would likely impose large premium increases to protect themselves from unpredictable claims costs or choose to exit the marketplace completely. This means that consumers who purchase coverage on the individual market would likely have fewer coverage options, much higher premiums and no guarantee of financial assistance to shield them from the increasing out-of-pocket costs.

Eliminates critical consumer protections.

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

ONE COLORADO

This proposal allows states to eliminate one of the most popular and important consumer protections under the ACA - the prohibition on charging higher premiums based on a person's health status or a preexisting condition. This means that in states that choose to eliminate this requirement, insurers could charge individuals with even relatively mild pre-existing conditions thousands of dollars above standard rates to obtain the same coverage as someone without a preexisting condition. Additionally, this proposal allows states to waive the requirement that insurers cover essential health benefits including mental health services, substance abuse treatments and maternity care. This could lead to discrimination against segments of the population (e.g., older adults, LGBT community) or consumers with specific chronic conditions (e.g. mental health or substance use disorders). For example, this could return us to a time when insurers only covered short-term, minimal treatment for mental health or substance use disorders, if they covered it at all. Before the ACA, almost half of plans in the individual market excluded addiction treatment.

Lacks transparency and opportunity for meaningful input.

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

Sincerely,

Daniel Ramos
Executive Director
One Colorado

From: Arlene J. Crawford
[redacted]

To: Senate Committee on Finance
Attn. Editorial and Document Section
Rm. SD-219
Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510-6200

Date: September 22, 2017

Re: Hearing to Consider Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal
Monday, September 25, 2017, 2:00 PM

Senator Hatch and members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing to share my views on the above-mentioned bill. I strongly oppose this legislation. I not only oppose the contents, I oppose the backhanded and unethical way it has been crafted and advanced.

Treating the lives and health of American citizens as some sort of political football is repulsive. Valuing slogans and political points above careful and considered governance is a shameful and willful failure to fulfill jobs you were elected to do.

I have been an independent voter without party affiliation since I started voting during the Reagan era. Through all those years, I have been open to candidates of either party, and have voted for both Republicans and Democrats.

The Republican party is destroying any claim they have to being a respectable option by pushing a hastily-written, unscored, undebated bill through Congress in a blatantly partisan way. You have had literally **years** to prepare legislation to tackle the problems the US has with the healthcare sector, and you wasted them. You don't get credit for throwing together a half-assed Hail Mary pass now.

Patriotic catchphrases about how states are so amazingly innovative don't matter - treating healthcare and insurance as the life-altering topics they are for most Americans does. Write a bipartisan bill, hold hearings, gather input, accept and debate amendments, get a CBO score. If the GOP continues to try to run the country like their personal fiefdom, I will never again vote for anyone with an (R) after their name on the ballot for local dogcatcher, much less any higher office.

Sincerely,

Arlene J. Crawford

Arlene J. Crawford

RHODE ISLAND PARENT INFORMATION NETWORK
RIPIN
1210 Pontiac Avenue Cranston, RI 02920 CALL 401.270.0101 800.464.3399 (in RI) FAX 401.270.7049 VISIT www.ripin.org

United States Senate
Committee on Finance
By Email To: GCHcomments@finance.senate.gov

September 22, 2017

Re: **Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal**

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

The Rhode Island Parent Information Network (RIPIN) is a statewide nonprofit founded in 1991 by a group of parents of children with special healthcare needs. RIPIN serves all Rhode Islanders who might benefit from education, advocacy, and peer-to-peer support in navigating healthcare and education systems. **We write to express our opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson (GCHJ) healthcare proposal.**

Simply put, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is working in Rhode Island. Since 2014, Rhode Island's uninsurance rate has dropped to under 5%, one of the lowest in the nation. Our healthcare marketplace (HealthSource RI) has brought additional carriers into an individual market that only had one option before the ACA. Premiums on the marketplace are stable, and benchmark plan premiums have even reduced year-over-year multiple times. Rhode Island's Medicaid program has also grown with expansion, and Rhode Island boasts extremely popular Medicaid managed care organizations that are among the highest quality in the country. Rhode Island's hospitals are healthier from the reduction in uncompensated care. And Rhode Island continues to be a leader in innovative delivery system and financing models, thanks largely to the path set by the ACA.

The GCHJ proposal would likely do great harm to Rhode Island's healthcare system and economy. Estimates vary, but it is clear that Rhode Island would lose many hundreds of millions of dollars in federal healthcare funding during the GCHJ block grant period, and potentially even more if the block grants expire. The Center for American Progress estimates that 89,000 Rhode Islanders (about 9% of the State) would lose coverage after 2027. Analyses of prior repeal laws projected the loss of millions of jobs nationally, and there is no reason to believe that this proposal would be different.

For the reasons stated above, RIPIN opposes the GCHJ proposal.

Sincerely,

/s/

Stephen Brunero
Executive Director

/s/

Samuel Salgnaik
Attorney / Health Policy Analyst

Copy: Senator Jack Reed
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse


HEALTH ACCESS
AGING SERVICES COLLABORATIVE of Santa Clara County
ALAMEDA HEALTH CONSORTIUM
ALAMEDA HEALTH SYSTEM
AltaMed
QUALITY CARE WITHOUT EXCEPTION
Alliance MEDICAL CENTER
Alzheimer's GREATER LOS ANGELES
ACLU
AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION of CALIFORNIA
Asian Law Alliance
Working for Justice, Dignity and Equality
ASIAN AMERICANS ADVANCING JUSTICE
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS, CALIFORNIA
axis community health
California Alliance for Retired Americans
AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION
CALIFORNIA
APLAHealth
ADA
AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION
CALIFORNIA LATINAS for REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE
HEALTH CARE & JUSTICE
CaHPSA
CALIFORNIA IMMIGRANT POLICY CENTER
CAPH
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS
CFILC
California Foundation for Independent Living Centers
California LGBT Health & Human Services Network
LGBT HEALTH
CSEA
AFL-CIO
DEAR LORD BE GOOD TO ME THE SEA IS SO WIDE AND MY BOAT IS SO SMALL
Children's Defense Fund CALIFORNIA
CCoA
CALIFORNIA COLLABORATIVE FOR LONG TERM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS
CCLTSS
California Commission on Aging
... a citizens voice within government
CaPA
California Physicians Alliance
COMMUNITY CLINIC CONSORTIUM
Serving Contra Costa and Solano Counties
Clínica Romero
PROJECT INFORM
CLTCOA
California Long-Term Care Ombudsman Association
CPEHN
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
PARTNERSHIP
Center for Health Care Rights
ADVOCACY FOR HEALTH CARE CONSUMERS
CH1LDREN NOW
華埠服務中心
Chinatown Service Center
COUNTY OF ALAMEDA CALIFORNIA
COMMUNITY CLINIC ASSOCIATION OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY
COMMUNITY HEALTH PARTNERSHIP
CHIRLA
Coalition For Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles
CHC
Community Health Councils
COFEM
Council of Mexican Federations
NHeLP
NATIONAL HEALTH LAW PROGRAM
COURAGE CAMPAIGN
DMC
DAYLE MCINTOSH CENTER
COMMUNITY HEALTH INITIATIVE OF ORANGE COUNTY
ELLA BAKER CENTER for HUMAN RIGHTS
EPIC
EQUALITY CALIFORNIA
Desert AIDS Project
care . prevention . advocacy
IECHI
Inland Empire Coverage & Health Initiative
HCV ADVOCATE
www.hcvadvocate.org
JUSTICE IN AGING
FIGHTING SENIOR POVERTY THROUGH LAW
The Arc California
PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS LOCAL 21 IPTE AFL-CIO
FATHERS & FAMILIES OF SAN JOAQUIN
LPOC
LATINO PHYSICIANS OF CALIFORNIA
nextgen america
La Clínica
a californiahealth center
LCHC
LATINO COALITION FOR A HEALTHY CALIFORNIA
LOS ANGELES LGBT CENTER
LifeLong Medical Care
Health Services For All Ages
a californiahealth center
LifeSTEPS
Life Skills Training & Educational Programs
Little Tokyo Service Center Community Development Corporation
L.A. Care HEALTH PLAN
NASW
National Association of Social Workers
Planned Parenthood
Act. No matter what.
Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California
MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH ACCESS
PUBLIC HEALTH ADVOCATES
EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO BE HEALTHY
PASC
MI FAMILIA VOTA
NICOS Chinese Health Coalition
Partners in Care FOUNDATION
PIRS
Prevention and equity
Prevention Institute
at the center of community well-being
Reform CA
Religious Action Center
REDWOOD HEALTH COMMUNITY COALITION
Santa Rosa COMMUNITY HEALTH
All of us. For all of you.
Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County
sail
Service Center for Independent Living
SIREN
SERVICES IMMIGRANT RIGHTS & EDUCATION NETWORK
SERVING SENIORS
SVILC
www.svilc.org
SACRAMENTO LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER
SAN FRANCISCO AIDS FOUNDATION
HEALTHY AGING ALLIANCE
SAN South Asian Network
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center SEARAC
The Children's Partnership
THE GREENLINING INSTITUTE
UDW
The Home Care Providers Union
AFSCME Local 3930 / AFL-CIO
SONOMA-VALLEY COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER
ST. ANTHONY'S
Hope Served Daily
TRI-CITY HealthCenter
Our Community. Your Health.
WESTERN CENTER ON LAW & POVERTY
VASQUEZ HEALTH CENTER, INC.
A Culture of Care and Giving

September 22, 2017

To: United States Senate Committee on Finance
Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal
Monday, September 25, 2017 | 2:00 PM EST

From: The California Fight4OurHealth Coalition
1127 11th Street, Suite 925
Sacramento, CA 95814

On behalf of the **Fight4OurHealth Coalition and our 104 organizations,** we write in strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal in the U.S. Senate, and we urge you to denounce this devastating and intentionally disproportionate attack on California and our health system.

Republican Senators Lindsey Graham, Bill Cassidy, and others are proposing to once again repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA), ending funding for the ACA's financial assistance for consumers and Medicaid expansion while also making devastating cuts to the overall Medicaid program. In addition, the proposal will allow states to waive important consumer protections and essential health benefits, undermine and eliminate protections for people with pre-existing conditions, and defund Planned Parenthood.

Graham-Cassidy directly threatens coverage for the 14.1 million Californians who get coverage through Medi-Cal (especially the over 4 million who got coverage through the ACA expansion) and the 2.3 million who buy coverage in the individual market, in which 1.5 million are in Covered California (1.2 million who get ACA tax subsidies). The proposal would ultimately eliminate all federal funding available under the ACA. In the state's Medi-Cal program alone, California will lose a total cumulative cut of $114.6 billion between 2020 and 2027, and another $5-6 billion annually in subsidies now available through Covered California.[1]

Elimination of ACA Funding, With a Formula to Specifically Disadvantage California
While Graham-Cassidy is in many ways similar to other ACA-repeal proposals that failed to pass the Senate, one difference is that it would replace funding for premium tax credits, cost-sharing reduction payments, and Medicaid expansion with insufficient block grants—especially for California. Under this block grant proposal, **California stands to lose $28 billion a year by 2026,**[2] even more than under previous ACA repeal proposals. **On top of that cut, California stands to lose an additional $58 billion in 2027** due to the block grant expiring, and the per capita caps getting larger for the core Medicaid program.[3]

Federal resources would be redistributed to states based on criteria that are unrelated to actual coverage and spending needs and in ways that favor other states. Graham-Cassidy deliberately shifts resources from large, densely-populated states that embraced and implemented the ACA, to smaller, more sparsely-populated states that did not. States like California, New York,

Maryland, and Massachusetts that were successful in enrolling millions of people in the marketplace and on Medicaid would face disproportionately larger cuts.

This is the intent of the authors, like former Senator Rick Santorum, who said to Breitbart News: "What you can do is redistribute this money that has been heaped upon these four ultra-blue, very wealthy states.... If California simply wants to expand Medicaid with this money, good luck. They're going to have to cut their program dramatically because they don't have the money with what they're funding now."

Cuts and Caps to Medicaid and Care for Children, Seniors, and People with Disabilities
The Graham-Cassidy proposal also fully incorporates the original Republican Senate proposal, Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA), which would cap and cut Medicaid funding for seniors, children, adults and people with disabilities, resulting in an additional $180 billion in Medicaid cuts over the next ten years.[4] The CBO estimates Medicaid would be cut by over a quarter (26%) by 2026 and over a third (35%) by 2036.[5] The per capita caps proposal would undo Medicaid's 50-year guarantee of matching funds and shift the responsibility for 100% of the costs above the per beneficiary cap back to the state. On top of the marketplace subsidy and Medicaid expansion block grant cuts, the per capita caps would cost California's overall Medicaid (Medi-Cal) program another $11.3 billion in 2027.[6] It would also not account or adjust for increasing health care costs, an aging population, or other public health emergencies.

Graham-Cassidy: Devastating to California's Health Care System and State Budget
Between 2020 and 2026, Graham-Cassidy's block grants will shrink annually compared to current spending. After 2026, the block grants would be completely eliminated, leaving no federal funding for California and other states' marketplaces subsidies and Medicaid expansions.

In California, the structural impacts of eliminating marketplace subsidies and Medicaid expansion funding, as well as changing Medicaid federal funding into a per capita caps would **result in a federal spending cut of over $28 billion annually by 2026.[7] Additionally, California will be cut an additional $58 billion starting 2027 as a result of the block grant expiring and per capita cap cuts getting larger**.[8]

The Graham-Cassidy proposal will have an even more devastating consequence than the Republican House's "American Health Care Act" and the Senate's "Better Reconciliation Care Act." The Graham-Cassidy proposal will still result in at least 4 million Californians losing coverage, undermine key protections for those with pre-existing conditions, and force consumers to pay more for their health care for less coverage.

We urge all Senators of both parties, to denounce both the devastating cut to health care—which impacts all states—and the specific disproportionate money grab from our state. These cuts are dramatic enough to impact all Californians, regardless of their party affiliation.

For these reasons, **the 104 undersigned organizations** are opposed to the Graham-Cassidy propose and urge you to oppose this proposal, as well as any other action that takes away the financial assistance, benefits, and consumer protections provided by Medicaid, Medicare, and the ACA. The health and lives of millions of Californians are at stake. **We urge our United States Senators of both parties to denounce such a direct attack on the health system all Californians depend on.**

1. Health Access California
2. Aging Services Collaborative of Santa Clara County
3. Alameda Health Consortium
4. Alameda Health System
5. Alliance Medical Center
6. AltaMed Health Services
7. Alzheimer's Greater Los Angeles
8. American Academy of Pediatrics, California
9. American Civil Liberties Union of California
10. American Nurses Association California
11. Americans for Democratic Action Southern California
12. APLA Health
13. Asian Americans Advancing Justice - CA
14. Asian Law Alliance
15. AXIS Community Health
16. California Alliance for Retired Americans
17. California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems
18. California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports
19. California Commission on Aging
20. California Foundation for Independent Living Centers
21. California Health Professional Student Alliance
22. California Immigrant Policy Center
23. California Latinas for Reproductive Justice
24. California LGBT Health and Human Services Network
25. California Long-Term Care Ombudsman Association (CLTCOA)
26. California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
27. California Partnership
28. California Physicians Alliance

29. California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation
30. California School Employees Association (CSEA)
31. California Women's Agenda (CAWA)
32. Center for Health Care Rights
33. Children Now
34. Children's Defense Fund - California
35. Chinatown Service Center
36. Clinica Mons. Oscar A. Romero
37. Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
38. Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County
39. Community Clinic Consortium of Contra Costa and Solano Counties
40. Community Health Councils
41. Community Health Initiative of Orange County
42. Community Health Partnership
43. Council of Mexican Federation
44. County of Alameda
45. Courage Campaign
46. Dayle McIntosh Center
47. Desert AIDS Project
48. Ella Baker Center for Human Rights
49. Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)
50. Equality California
51. Fathers & Families of San Joaquin
52. HCV Advocate
53. Inland Empire Coverage and Health Initiative
54. International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers Local 21
55. Justice in Aging
56. L.A. Care Health Plan
57. La Clinica de La Raza
58. Latino Coalition for a Healthy California
59. Latino Physicians of California
60. LatinoCare
61. LifeLong Medical Care
62. LifeSTEPS

63. Little Tokyo Service Center
64. Los Angeles LGBT Center
65. Maternal and Child Health Access
66. Mi Familia Vota
67. National Association of Social Workers - California
68. National Health Law Program
69. NextGen America
70. NICOS Chinese Health Coalition
71. Owl Sacramento Capitol
72. Partners in Care Foundation
73. Personal Assistance Services Council
74. Placer Independent Resource Services
75. Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California
76. Positive Women's Network - USA
77. Prevention Institute
78. Project Inform
79. Public Health Advocates
80. Redwood Community Health Coalition
81. Reform CA
82. Sacramento LGBT Community Center
83. San Francisco AIDS Foundation
84. Santa Rosa Community Health Centers
85. Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County
86. Service Center for Independent Life
87. Services, Immigrant Rights, and Education Network (SIREN)
88. Serving Seniors
89. Silicon Valley Independent Living Center
90. Sonoma Valley Community Health Center
91. South Asian Network (SAN)
92. Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
93. St. Anthony Foundation
94. The Arc California
95. The Children's Partnership
96. The Greenlining Institute

97. Tiburcio Vásquez Health Centers
98. Tri-City Health Center
99. United Domestic Workers/American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 3930
100. Voices for Progress Education Fund
101. West County Health Centers
102. Western Center on Law and Poverty
103. Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance
104. Young Invincibles

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[1] CA DHCS and DOF, Summary and Preliminary Fiscal Analysis of the Medicaid Provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act, June 27, 2017.
[2] Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Jacob Leibenluft, Edwin Park, Matt Broaddus, and Aviva Aron-Dine, Like Other ACA Repeal Bills, Cassidy-Graham Would Add Millions to Uninsured, Destabilize Individual Market, September 13, 2017.
[3] Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Edwin Park and Matt Broaddus, Cassidy-Graham Plan's Damaging Cuts to Health Care Funding Would Grow Dramatically in 2027, September 16, 2017.
[4] Congressional Budget Office, H.R. 1628 Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 Cost Estimate, June 26, 2017.
[5] Ibid.
[6] CA DHCS and DOF, Summary and Preliminary Fiscal Analysis of the Medicaid Provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act, June 27, 2017.
[7] Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Jacob Leibenluft, Edwin Park, Matt Broaddus, and Aviva Aron-Dine, Like Other ACA Repeal Bills, Cassidy-Graham Would Add Millions to Uninsured, Destabilize Individual Market, September 13, 2017.
[8] Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Edwin Park and Matt Broaddus, Cassidy-Graham Plan's Damaging Cuts to Health Care Funding Would Grow Dramatically in 2027, September 16, 2017.

Statement Submitted by Sophie Malchus
Senate Committee on Finance
Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal
September 25, 2017

As someone who has a younger brother with cystic fibrosis, the current healthcare debate in Washington is personal to me. Cystic Fibrosis (CF) is chronic disease that affects the lungs and digestive tract, leading to frequent lung infections and other complications. The current life expectancy for someone with CF is about 40 years.

My younger brother, Jacob age 15, was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis at the age of three months. Each day he endures two hours of breathing treatments twice a day and intakes 25 pills daily all just to try and live a normal life. Jacob's numerous medications cost thousands of dollars each and with this new healthcare plan Jacob, along with 30,000 other Americans who live with CF, would be left out to die. These medications are the only way my brother can literally breathe. Taking away his health care would be detrimental. My brother is a normal teenager who loves to laugh and play video games with his best friends, he should not have all of this taken away from him due to his preexisting condition.

The Graham-Cassidy proposal, which the Senate is expected to vote on next week, is unacceptable for people living with CF and other chronic conditions. People with CF require a complex and demanding care regimen, and need access to high-quality, specialized care. I urge all U.S. Senators to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill because it would roll back protections for people with CF and jeopardize their access to affordable, adequate health care coverage.

The Graham-Cassidy bill fails to protect our community and is absolutely unacceptable for people with CF because it would:

a. Remove full pre-existing condition protections for people with CF by allowing insurers to set premiums based on an individual's' health status. This may put insurance coverage financially out of reach for some people with CF and prevent them from accessing critical health care.

b. Eliminate Medicaid expansion and drastically cut funding for the program by instituting a per capita cap or a state block grant system, putting coverage of new and innovative treatments at risk. Medicaid provides a critical source of health care coverage for one half of children and one third of adults with CF. We must preserve this safety net by retaining expanded eligibility and ensuring adequate funding for Medicaid.

c. Remove protections against annual and lifetime coverage caps, including for the millions of Americans with employer-sponsored insurance, by making it easier for states to amend Essential Health Benefits standards. Health care costs can accumulate very quickly for people with CF, making it very easy to reach annual or lifetime caps. The results of these caps can be devastating – leaving people with CF stranded without any coverage – and our community needs the protections against these caps to be kept in place. Jacob would have already used his lifetime caps and he is only 15!

d. Allow states to waive Essential Health Benefits. Eliminating the guarantee of essential health benefit coverage for individual insurance plans would segment the market into plans for sick

people and plans for healthy people. This would likely drive up the cost of plans needed by people with CF, which provide more robust benefits.

While the Senate has considered several similar bills this year, Graham-Cassidy is the worst for people with preexisting conditions like CF, cancer, asthma, diabetes, or arthritis. Our health care system is far from perfect, but I refuse to believe any changes must come at the expense of the people who rely most on adequate, affordable health insurance.

I urge all US Senators to please keep families like mine in mind as you consider this legislation.

Sophie Malchus

American Diabetes Association®

Senate Finance Committee
Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal
Monday September 25, 2017

Submitted by:
American Diabetes Association
2451 Crystal Drive, Suite 900
Arlington, VA 22202

American Diabetes Association Urges Senators to Oppose Graham-Cassidy Repeal Bill and Continue Working on Bipartisan Health Care Legislation

Proposal would be devastating for the more than 30 million Americans living with diabetes

The American Diabetes Association is extremely concerned with the Graham-Cassidy health care bill and the impact it will have on people with diabetes. Individuals with diabetes need ongoing access to health care to effectively manage their disease and to prevent dangerous and costly complications. Access to affordable, adequate health coverage is critical to people with diabetes. The proposed legislation does not guarantee this access and would instead increase costs and jeopardize care for those with pre-existing conditions such as diabetes. The Association urges Senators to vote against this misguided and harmful legislation should it be brought to a vote in the Senate.

The Association is deeply troubled by many aspects of the Graham-Cassidy bill. It allows states to opt out of key insurance protections for patients, including the ban on charging people with preexisting conditions higher premiums and requirements that ensure adequacy of coverage. This would put people with diabetes at risk of being unable to get the care necessary to manage their disease. In addition, the bill is estimated to slash more than $4 trillion in vital health care funding to states by 2036, and lumps all funding for health programs designed or administered by states into a single block grant. States will have a limited amount of funds available for multiple critical health care programs, such as offering low and moderate-income people coverage or financial assistance and covering adults under Medicaid, and will be forced to make difficult trade-offs in determining how the funds are used. Even worse, the funding is cut off completely after 2026.

The bill also makes drastic changes to the financing structure of the Medicaid program. In addition to repealing funding for the Medicaid expansion program, the bill converts the traditional Medicaid program to a fixed per-capita cap, severely limiting the funding provided to states. It is estimated that this bill would cut federal Medicaid funding to states by $489 billion by 2027. These cuts would have a devastating impact on low-income Americans, who are disproportionately affected by diabetes. In states that expanded their Medicaid programs, more individuals are being screened for diabetes than non-expansion states. Cuts to Medicaid would

American Diabetes Association®

leave the most vulnerable individuals with, or at risk for, diabetes without the health coverage they need to be diagnosed and treated for the disease as early as possible.

The Association is also alarmed that the Senate would vote on this legislation without understanding its full impact on insurance coverage for millions of Americans. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO), which provides nonpartisan estimates on the impact of proposed legislation, recently announced that they would take several weeks to provide an estimate on the number of Americans who might lose their coverage under this bill. We ask the Senate leadership to not hold a vote on this bill until they have a full understanding of the impact it will have on all Americans. The wellbeing of millions of Americans with diabetes is at risk.

The Association opposes the Graham-Cassidy legislation because it falls short of the minimum standards for replacing the important safeguards and coverage provided by the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which the Association has outlined. We urge the Senate to reject this bill and continue negotiations on a bipartisan health care bill that will protect access to affordable and adequate health coverage for people with diabetes.

If you have any questions, please contact Rob Goldsmith, Director, Federal Government Affairs at rgoldsmith@diabetes.org or 703-253-4837.

2451 Crystal Drive, Suite 900
Arlington, VA 22202
1-800-DIABETES
diabetes.org

Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
September 25, 2017
Patricia L. Driscoll
450 Upstream Street
River Ridge, LA 70123

Senator Hatch and Committee Members:

I wish to make a statement in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy health care bill. Although I have many concerns with this bill, I will limit my comments to two areas which directly impact my family.

Senior Citizens in Nursing Homes

A family member of mine, Mrs. K, is currently confined to a nursing home. She and her husband worked throughout their lives, bought a home, raised four children and saved for retirement. Her husband died nearly 3 years ago, after suffering with dementia and spending several years in a nursing home. Mrs. K is now 89 years old, and living in a nursing home herself. Nursing home care has drained all her assets, and within a few months she will have to move to another nursing home that takes Medicaid patients. Her children, reaching retirement age themselves, are in the process of enrolling her in Medicaid. If Graham Cassidy passes, Medicaid programs will be the sole responsibility of the states. Although the federal government will provide block grants, these will be capped beginning in 2020, and will be cut off altogether in 2027. I am extremely concerned for the senior citizens in nursing homes (currently 45% are on Medicaid) as funds shrink just about the time baby boomers will be reaching the age when nursing home care becomes a reality. I myself am 70 years old. My husband and I have spent years accumulating a retirement fund that we hope will last us through our lives. However, no matter how prudent people are in saving for the future, the future is unknowable, and we may encounter expenses that will exhaust our life savings.

Children with Special Needs

I have a 9-year-old great nephew, Ryan, with autism. He doesn't speak, and requires many special education services. Currently those services are paid through his mother's employer-funded health insurance. Many of Ryan's classmates rely on Medicaid. (Currently 50% of children with disabilities receive Medicaid.) What will happen to these children as federal block grants fall behind the children's needs. An economic downturn, causing unemployment for Ryan's parents, would leave this precious child very vulnerable.

The Graham-Cassidy bill will force states to choose between groups of citizens, and cut benefits for many.

I urge you not to place this bill on the Senate floor for a vote. Thank you for considering my statement.

Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
September 25, 2017

Statement of the American Geriatrics Society (AGS) –

40 Fulton Street, 18th Floor
New York, New York 10038

Graham-Cassidy Bill Jeopardizes Care For Us All As We Age

Latest heath reform proposal in a line of legislation to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act will harm access to key health services for older Americans, families, caregivers, and healthcare professionals.

The American Geriatrics Society (AGS) opposes the Graham-Cassidy bill, the most recent attempt at health reform and one that would again have harmful consequences for older adults. Released last week, the Graham-Cassidy bill would cut benefits, increase costs, and reduce coverage for too many Americans – especially older adults.

"The Graham-Cassidy bill will have a negative impact on us all as we age," notes Nancy E. Lundebjerg, MPA, Chief Executive Officer of the AGS. "The bill will make drastic changes to Medicaid resulting in deep cuts that will impact older adults' access to long-term care, including nursing home care and home health care. We call on Congress to work with the American public and stakeholders to design health system reforms that improve access and care quality for all Americans."

As an advocate for older Americans and the health professionals who serve them, the AGS is deeply concerned that the Senate will be voting on a legislative proposal that has not been scored by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and has not been open to the public or stakeholder organizations for review and comment.

# # #

About the American Geriatrics Society
Founded in 1942, the American Geriatrics Society (AGS) is a nationwide, not-for-profit society of geriatrics healthcare professionals that has—for 75 years—worked to improve the health, independence, and quality of life of older people. Its nearly 6,000 members include geriatricians, geriatric nurses, social workers, family practitioners, physician assistants, pharmacists, and internists. The Society provides leadership to healthcare professionals, policymakers, and the public by implementing and advocating for programs in patient care, research, professional and public education, and public policy. For more information, visit AmericanGeriatrics.org

ADA American Dental Association®



AMERICA'S PEDIATRIC DENTISTS
THE ONLY AUTHORITY on little teeth

STATEMENT OF THE

AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION

AND

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

TO THE

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

UNITED STATES SENATE

ON

"HEARING TO CONSIDER THE GRAHAM-CASSIDY-HELLER-JOHNSON PROPOSAL"

SEPTEMBER 25, 2017

On behalf of the American Dental Association and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, we appreciate the efforts you and your colleagues have engaged in to reform our nation's health care delivery and financing systems. Our organizations are committed to ensuring that families have access to comprehensive, affordable health coverage, including oral health coverage. Medicaid, our nation's safety-net health insurance program, currently provides vital coverage to over 70 million Americans, including 37 million children. In addition, newly established standards for private dental plans and mechanisms to increase their affordability have improved the private dental insurance market for consumers.

We believe provisions in the current proposal introduced by Senators Lindsay Graham and Bill Cassidy will be detrimental to Medicaid programs and the vulnerable Americans who rely on them for health care and coverage.

Poor oral health has long-term effects on an individual's life. Tooth decay remains the most chronic condition among children and adolescents, impacting school performance and attendance. Because it is a progressive, chronic condition, the oral health problems that impact children continue on into adulthood impacting employability, military readiness and overall health status.

Additionally, untreated dental disease has a significant economic impact on our healthcare system. For example, between 2008 and 2010, 4 million Americans went to the emergency room for dental related problems at a cost of $2.7 billion dollars.[1] In 2014, an emergency room visit for

[1] Sun BC et al. Emergency department visits for nontraumatic dental problems: A mixed-methods study. American Journal of Public health; 2015; 105(5): 947-955.

a dental condition occurred every 14 seconds in the United States, costing approximately $863 per visit compared with an average dental office visit cost in 2014 of $240.[2]

The good news is that since 2000, the percentage of children without dental coverage has been cut in half.[3] Additionally, 5.4 million adults gained access to dental benefits as part of the Medicaid expansion through 2015. As public insurance has reached greater numbers of children, the rate of untreated decay has fallen among low-income kids,[4] and research shows emergency department visits for dental related issues decreased for the first time since the early 2000s between 2012 and 2013, with the largest declines among children and young adults.[5] And it is recent improvements to public and private oral health plans that have led to these improvements.

The Medicaid program's importance to Americans' oral health cannot be overstated. Medicaid provides coverage for low-income and disabled children, adults, pregnant women and seniors. Dental services are an essential part of the Early Periodic, Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) program and are designed to respond to a child's individual need. States develop dental periodicity schedules for their programs, ensuring that enrolled children receive services at regular intervals as well as any medically necessary care that is part of an ongoing treatment plan. Under the current structure and financing system, Medicaid provides a significant foundation for children to achieve optimal oral health through preventive efforts and routine care.

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[2] American Dental Association Health Policy Institute analysis of 2014 Truven and Nationwide Emergency Department Sample data. Accessed May 25, 2017.

[3] Nasseh K., Vujicic M. Dental benefits coverage increase for working-age adults in 2014. Health Policy Institute Research Brief. American Dental Association. October 2016. Available: http://www.ada.org/~/media/ADA/Science%20and%20Research/HPI/Files/HPIBrief_1016_2.pdf?la=en.

[4] Saint Louis C. Untreated dental decay is falling among children. New York Times. March 5, 2015. Available from: https://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/03/05/untreated-dental-decay-is-falling-among-children/?_r=0.

[5] Wall T, Vujicic M. Emergency department visits for dental conditions fell in 2013. Health Policy Institute Research Brief. American Dental Association. February 2016. Available from: http://www.ada.org/~/media/ADA/Science%20and%20Research/HPI/Files/HPIBrief_0216_1.pdf?la=en.

The establishment of Medicaid and EPSDT ensured that poor children with public insurance have access to dental care that is comparable to the services available to more affluent children with private insurance. Dental care utilization among publicly insured children has steadily increased over the past decade even as increasing numbers of children enroll.[6] To that end, we are concerned that proposed fundamental changes to Medicaid funding could put the nation's overall oral health at risk.

While we support state flexibility and innovation, we also believe states should follow statutory guidelines when designing their Medicaid benefit programs because without such guidelines, care can and may be reduced or eliminated entirely. This was clear under the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) prior to the enactment of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009, when states had the ability to limit or eliminate dental benefits for enrolled children and great variation existed across states. Further, state legislatures have historically eliminated adult dental benefits in Medicaid when required to reduce their budgets because adult dental benefits are considered an optional benefit for states to provide. Granting more flexibility in coverage requirements may result in incomplete or inconsistent care for our most vulnerable citizens. We believe that the coverage requirements and guidelines currently in place for states help ensure Medicaid provides necessary and appropriate care for children and would advocate for stronger guidance regarding coverage of adult dental services rather than increased flexibility that may chip away at the significant oral health progress that has been made among publicly insured individuals.

[6] Nasseh, K., Vujicic, M. Dental Care Utilization Rate Continues to Increase Among Children, Holds Steady among Working-Age Adults and the Elderly..October 2016. Available: http://ada.org/~/media/ADA/Sicence%20and%20Research/HPI/Files/HPIBrief_1015_1.pdf?la=en.

Similar to the Medicaid program, significant oral health improvements in recent years have been achieved in the private market as well. While pediatric dental benefits are an essential health benefit, the most significant coverage gains in the marketplace have been among adults. We are concerned that proposed changes to private dental plan offerings and private health insurance financing could undo these improvements. Proposals that waive benefit standards for private insurance packages will put at risk the availability of comprehensive oral health coverage currently offered to children, while significant changes to affordability mechanisms like tax credits and cost-sharing reductions will make it more difficult for families to purchase the coverage their children need. Rather, benefit packages for children in the individual and group insurance markets must be designed with a comprehensive, prevention focused dental benefit. Additionally, all individuals, regardless of age, should be made better aware of what dental plan offerings are available and the affordability measures in place to help them purchase those plans.

As the Senate moves forward with health care reform, we urge you to reject drastic reductions and restructuring of the Medicaid program. We also urge you to resist the elimination of oral health services for families enrolled in private insurance plans and consider policies and guidance that would make dental services more accessible to all citizens, regardless of income or insurance type. Coverage impacts the ability of individuals to access care in the most appropriate, cost-effective setting, and our organizations believe that drastic funding cuts and structural changes to the oral health system will undermine the gains that families have made in accessing dental care and ultimately be detrimental to the entire healthcare system.

We encourage you and your colleagues to reject the proposed changes to Medicaid funding and seek alternatives that will ensure continuity of coverage and continued access to oral health services for the most vulnerable Americans. Please utilize our organizations as resources and look forward to working with you to ensure that our nation's children and low-income, working families can continue to benefit from measurable improvements in oral health care and access to dental coverage.

Senate Committee on Finance
Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller- Johnson Proposal
September 25, 2017

Testimony by:
Richelle Sabia
[redacted]

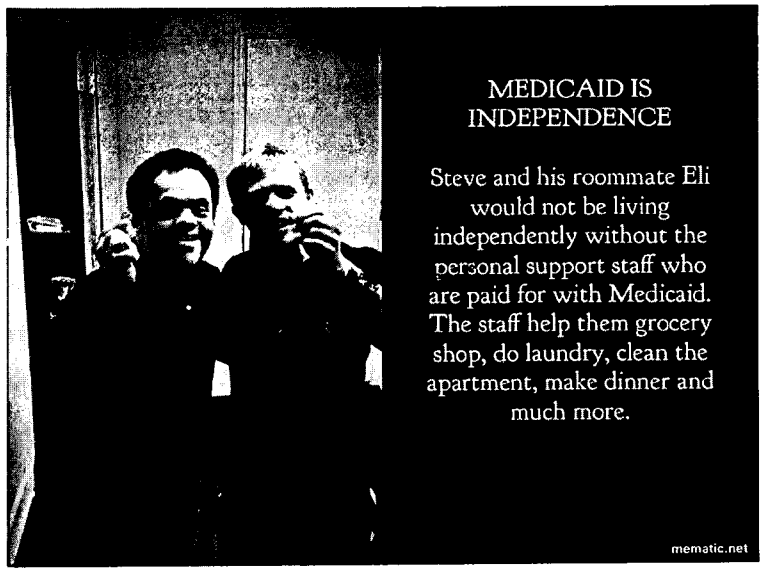
I am writing to urge opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill. Our family relies on Medicaid services under the HCBS waiver, which are optional. With cuts and caps applied to Medicaid my state would have little choice but to cut those services. I also am very concerned that my state would not allow insurers to raise their premiums for individuals who have existing conditions, which nearly every one of my family members has. We need the current protections in the law from this discrimination, which will make insurance coverage inaccessible to many Americans.

My son Steve and his roommate Eli moved into their first apartment together 18 months ago. Both Steve and Eli have Down syndrome and would not have been able to live independently without some hours of personal supports that are paid for with Medicaid funding.

Living in this apartment has given them better access to public transportation, which opens more employment opportunities. Both of them use Medicaid funding to pay for job development and job coaching. Eli now works 20 hours a week and no longer receives SSI benefits, plus is a taxpayer. Steve doesn't have a consistent job yet but we are working on that with the help of his Medicaid funded employment services. They also both use Medicaid for health services and need protection of healthcare in light of their pre-existing condition-Down syndrome and other health issues.

In addition my husband and I have numerous health issues and would be greatly harmed by changes to the pre-existing conditions rules. If we cannot afford to pay higher premiums for healthcare we will not stay well and will not be able to provide as much support for our son as we do now. That would mean he would need additional personal supports under the waiver, which may not be funded adequately under this bill. As you can see there are many unintended consequences that will be financially disastrous for states and families if Congress permits the structure of ACA and Medicaid funding to be decimated by this bill.

See the photo of my son, Steve, and his roommate, Eli, below holding keys to their own apartment!


MEDICAID IS
INDEPENDENCE
Steve and his roommate Eli would not be living independently without the personal support staff who are paid for with Medicaid. The staff help them grocery shop, do laundry, clean the apartment, make dinner and much more.
mematic.net



Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal
September 25, 2017, 2:00 PM

The Chronic Illness and Disability Partnership
122 Boylston Street
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

Dear Chairman Hatch:

We are writing on behalf of the Chronic Illness and Disability Partnership (CIDP). CIDP consists of national organizations representing individuals living with a wide range of chronic illnesses and disabilities, including cerebral palsy, HIV, Hepatitis B and C, and mental health and substance use disorders. We represent the 117 million Americans estimated to be living with a chronic illness and/or disability, many of whom rely upon Medicaid and the Marketplaces to obtain needed care. While our organizations are national in scope, we also affiliate with strong regional, state, and community based advocacy networks

We strongly urge Congress to reject the Affordable Care Act (ACA) repeal and replace proposal put forward by Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Dean Heller (R-NV), and Ron Johnson (R-WI) (the Plan). If enacted, the Plan would fundamentally retreat from the federal commitment to Medicaid and destabilize the private health insurance marketplace. It would eliminate the Medicaid expansion and gut funding to the traditional Medicaid program by roughly $299 billion by 2027. It would eliminate the premium and cost-sharing subsidies that make private health insurance affordable for millions of Americans. Together these changes would be devastating to many people living with chronic illnesses and disabilities who would be left without affordable health care coverage options and would reverse recent gains in reducing the incidence of chronic disease and improving health outcomes.

We oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan because it will:

- **Severely Weaken the Ability of the Medicaid Program to Respond to the Needs of People Living with Chronic Illnesses and Disabilities and Millions of Others who Count on It for Lifesaving Care.** Low-income individuals living with chronic illnesses and disabilities rely on the Medicaid program for access to health care. Over 15 million individuals living with a disability depend on Medicaid for their care and treatment needs. The Plan's capped spending approach would leave states ill-equipped to respond to rising drug costs, curative break-through treatments for hepatitis C, natural disasters or public health crises, such as the 2015 HIV and hepatitis C outbreak affecting nearly 200 residents in Scott County, Indiana within a 12-month

period.[1] The capped spending approach would abandon the federal government's commitment to supporting health care access for our nation's low-income children, adults, seniors and disabled.

- **Leave Millions Worse Off by Phasing Out the Medicaid Expansion.** Prior to the Affordable Care Act, individuals living with chronic illnesses did not qualify for Medicaid coverage, no matter how poor they were, until they became so sick as to be considered disabled by their conditions. In the 31 states and the District of Columbia that expanded Medicaid coverage, the ACA ended this cruel irony by providing access to the health care and medications that help to prevent this deterioration. The Plan would put vital state Medicaid programs at risk and slash funding for states who have made significant investments in expanding Medicaid to over 12 million Americans.

- **Make Health Insurance Unaffordable for Millions of Americans.** The Plan would leave millions of lower-income individuals and families without the means to afford quality private health insurance coverage. It eliminates the premium tax credits and subsidies that significantly reduce the cost of insurance plans sold on the Marketplace. People living with chronic illnesses and disabilities and others living on low incomes are surviving paycheck to paycheck and have little or no savings. If the ACA's tax credits and subsidies are eliminated, many individuals and families will lose their health insurance.

- **Eliminate or Weaken Protections for People Living with Pre-Existing Conditions.** Pre-ACA insurance practice oftentimes locked people living with chronic illnesses and disabilities out of the private insurance markets. Insurers had free reign to charge individuals exorbitantly higher premiums due to a pre-existing condition. Further, insurance plans did not always include coverage of services critical for people living with chronic illnesses and disabilities, such as prescription drug benefits, chronic disease management, and substance abuse and mental health services. The Plan would allow states to apply for a waiver of the ACA's community rating rules and Essential Health Benefits standards that ended these practices that disproportionately harmed people living with pre-existing conditions.

We cannot afford to go back to the pre-ACA sick care system that focused on treating disability and disease rather than preventing it. Please reject the Graham-Cassidy Plan and instead work to improve and build upon health care reforms that have benefited millions of Americans, including hundreds of thousands of people living with chronic illnesses and disabilities. Please contact the Chronic Illness and Disability Partnership co-chairs Amy Killelea with the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (akillelea@NASTAD.org), Jean McGuire at Northeastern University (j.mcguire@neu.edu), or Robert Greenwald with the Treatment Access Expansion Project (rgreenwa@law.harvard.edu) to further discuss issues related to health reform and people living with chronic illnesses and disabilities.

Respectfully submitted by the co-chairs of the Chronic Illness and Disability Partnership

Amy Killelea
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors

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[1]CROI 2017. *The Evolving Epidemiology of HIV Infection in Persons Who Inject Drugs: Indiana 2015. John Brooks.*

Jean McGuire
Northeastern University

Robert Greenwald
Treatment Access Expansion Project

Hearing to consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal
Monday, September 25, 2pm EST
Comments submitted by: [redacted]

Members of the Senate Finance Committee:
The following letter was sent to Colorado Senators Michael Bennet and Cory Gardner on Friday, September 22, 2017 in regards to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal. We are submitting it for your consideration as well. Thank you.

The Colorado Health Policy Coalition is a broad and diverse group of over 100 organizations representing all of Colorado's 64 counties. This coalition has come together because health care policy is critical to the wellbeing of Colorado residents, businesses and communities, and we are working to ensure that Colorado values are reflected in any federal policy that aims to substantially change our national health policy framework. We, the undersigned, are leading members of the coalition, representative of business interests, consumer advocacy organizations, health care provider groups and health insurers.

As the U.S. Senate once again draws nearer to voting on legislation overhauling the structure and financing of the U.S. health care system, this time in the Graham-Cassidy proposal, we are reaching out to you with grave concerns about both the policies in the proposal and the process being used to fast track it through Congress and so respectfully request that you to vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy Amendment to the American Health Care Act.

Our coalition previously shared principles with you on both the process Congress should follow to bring about any changes, as well as the goals for the policies ultimately adopted, which are included in the attached fact sheet for your reference. Our positions on process included requests that Congress move forward only once a clearly identified and carefully-considered, comprehensive plan is identified and ideally supported in a bipartisan manner.

While the procedural objective of using budget reconciliation to modify the nation's health care system garners differing opinions, we agree that moving forward without a robust public discussion or full analysis of the impacts of the Graham-Cassidy proposal from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) does not meet our expectations for a carefully-considered process. The current timeline for this proposal inhibits thorough and thoughtful evaluation of impacts on coverage, cost, and financial consequences for states. Once again, we urge you to demand procedural transparency and allow adequate time for consideration of such monumental legislation before the Senate is asked to vote.

In addition to objecting to the way in which this policy is moving forward, we are deeply concerned that the reallocation of federal funding and the 2026 wholesale discontinuation of federal support called for in the proposal would be devastating to Coloradans' health and to the health of Colorado's economy. Absent a CBO score, it is impossible to fully understand the potential impacts to our state, but projections from reliable sources all show significant federal funding losses to Colorado, ranging from $2.8 billion to $78 billion depending on whether you consider annual or cumulative impacts over what time period. Regardless of how you calculate it, a loss of federal funding of this magnitude will have a crippling impact on Colorado's budget, the state economy and our health care infrastructure. We urge you not to support policies that shift financial responsibility to the states without adequate and sustained federal funding.

Further, the Graham-Cassidy proposal excludes and even repeals some market stabilization provisions, like funding for cost-sharing reductions, which we are concerned will cause sharp increases in insurance premiums to the detriment of Colorado residents. This is in direct conflict with one of the coalition's principles, which is to promote affordability and stability in the private insurance market.

We have strong concerns about the impact of this proposal on uninsured rates in Colorado. Just this week, the Colorado Health Access Survey announced that the state had reached an all-time low of just 6.5 percent of residents uninsured. No estimates have been published on the impact of the Graham-Cassidy proposal on uninsured rates. However, to the extent this is similar to past proposals that had the benefit of a CBO score, long-term coverage losses may reach above 32 million nationwide and endanger coverage for hundreds of thousands of Coloradans receiving Advance Premium Tax Credits through Connect for Health Colorado or coverage through Colorado's Medicaid program, thus undercutting Colorado's strong historical commitment to health insurance coverage.

Finally, we are disappointed that the focus on the Graham-Cassidy proposal appears to have scuttled bipartisan Congressional discussions squarely aimed at addressing some of the most urgent challenges under current law. Regardless of the fate of the Graham-Cassidy proposal, we ask that you engage in reinvigorating the bipartisan discussions previously spearheaded by Sens. Alexander and Murray, as this path offers the opportunity to provide much-needed relief in the short term.

As a diverse group of organizations, we appreciate the challenges you face in reforming our nation's health care policy framework, and we want to stand with you in meeting those challenges. Not all of us will ultimately agree with every element of any policy proposal considered or ultimately adopted. But we are unanimous in our opposition to the Graham-Cassidy proposal and our support of a process that gives Congress the benefit of public participation and open debate. We urge your thoughtful consideration throughout the upcoming deliberations – especially when time is short and outside organizations are not given the full opportunity to prepare

analysis and provide feedback on legislation altering one-fifth of the nation's economy.

Sincerely,
Children's Hospital Colorado
Colorado Association of Health Plans
Colorado Center on Law and Policy
Colorado Consumer Health Initiative
Colorado Hospital Association
Colorado Medical Society
Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce
HealthONE
Kaiser Permanente
League of Women Voters of Colorado
Pro 15
UCHealth

PRO BONO
COUNSELING PROJECT

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MARYLAND NONPROFITS
STANDARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

September 22, 2017

Honorable Ben Cardin
United States Senate
Washington, DC

Dear Senator Cardin,

I write to you as the Executive Director of the Pro Bono Counseling Project. The Pro Bono Counseling Project exists to 'fill in the gaps' of the mental health system. We match individuals who are unable to afford mental health care with licensed mental health providers who volunteer their time. Every year we receive requests from nearly 2000 individuals, couples, and families who could not otherwise receive mental health services.

The Pro Bono Counseling Project commends you and Senator Chris Van Hollen for strongly opposing the Graham-Cassidy bill, and agree with Governor Hogan that this bill is "not a solution" for Maryland.

At Pro Bono we have seen first-hand how the expansion of Medicaid has resulted in increased access to mental health services. We have also seen how the increases in access to insurance under the Affordable Care Act has resulted in better access to mental health care.

We still have a long way to go. Many Americans continue to struggle with deductibles and co-pays. Many Americans' mental health struggles are a barrier to their enrollment in health insurance. Decimating the Affordable Care Act will not solve these problems. Instead, it will result in a leap backwards, and mental health services will become a luxury that only the wealthy can afford.

Should Graham-Cassidy become the law of the land, Pro Bono will not be able to keep up with the number of requests for free counseling services that will result. We have never had a waiting list or had to turn away individuals who qualify for our services. Graham-Cassidy will result in the disenrollment of 12 million Americans from Medicaid, and the loss of tax credits for 10 million Americans. These individuals will rely on the services of organizations like Pro Bono, and frankly, we do not have the resources to meet this demand.

I urge you to continue your fight against the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Sincerely,

Amy R. Greensfelder

Amy R. Greensfelder
Executive Director



Maine Developmental Disabilities Council

Senate Committee on Finance
Attn. Editorial and Document Section
Rm. SD-219
Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510-6200

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

Councils on Developmental Disabilities were created through the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act) in 1970 to "engage in advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change activities that are consistent with the purpose of the DD Act; and contribute to a coordinated, consumer and family-centered, consumer and family-directed, comprehensive system of community services, individualized supports and other forms of assistance that enable individuals with developmental disabilities to exercise self-determination, be independent, be productive and be integrated and included in all facets of community life." Under the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, MDDC is required to ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of, and have access to, needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, integration, and inclusion in all facets of family and community life.

The Maine Developmental Disabilities Council (MDDC) is a partnership of people with disabilities, their families, and agencies which identifies barriers to community inclusion, self-determination, and independence, and acts to effect positive change. The Council has a vision that all people are included, supported, and valued in communities that provide opportunities to participate and succeed as they choose. MDDC acts to effect positive change through advocacy, capacity building, training, demonstration projects, and support for other inclusive and collaborative systems change activities.

The US Department of Health and Human Services' Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities states that:
"A developmental disability is a severe chronic disability of an individual that:

- Is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments
- Is manifested before the individual attains age 22

- Is likely to continue indefinitely
- Results in substantial functional limitations in 3 or more of the following areas of major life activity: self-care; receptive and expressive language; learning; mobility; self-direction; capacity for independent living; and economic self-sufficiency
- Reflects the individual's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic services, individualized supports, or other forms of assistance that are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated

An individual from birth to age 9, who has a substantial developmental delay or specific congenital or acquired condition, may be considered to have a developmental disability without meeting 3 or more of the criteria described above if the individual, without services and supports, has a high probability of meeting those criteria later in life." (Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000)

The Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities estimates the population prevalence of developmental disabilities at 1.8%. Approximately 24,000 Mainers of all ages have developmental disabilities. The majority of this population relies upon Medicaid for access to health care and long term services and supports. Healthcare is a critical need for people with significant disabilities. In addition to healthcare, Medicaid programs provide access to services and supports that allow people with disabilities to live in and contribute to their communities. Many long-term services and supports cannot be accessed in any other way but through Medicaid: they are simply unavailable or completely unaffordable. Access to these critical community based services and supports will be seriously compromised by this proposal.

MDDC urges the Senate to reject this or any other proposal that will cause harm by substantially altering the safety net for people with disabilities.
This health care repeal bill would make huge cuts to the Medicaid program, end the Medicaid expansion and marketplace subsidies in the Affordable Care Act. It would also allow states to waive protections for people with pre-existing conditions.
This bill would be devastating to people with disabilities and their families and threaten access to community living, employment opportunities, and educational supports.
Please oppose this bill and instead work in a bipartisan fashion to increase access to affordable, accessible health care and long term services and supports.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Maine Developmental Disabilities Council

Dear Senators,

I am sure you have heard many comments about how much states would lose in funding if Graham-Cassidy were to pass. I am sure you have heard from many who would wish to see a return to regular order as well. **But this fight is very personal to me.** I am one of the millions of Americans with a *pre-existing condition* who would be affected by this bill since many states would get rid of the protections for pre-existing conditions, pricing me out of the health care market. Just because I can buy a Porsche, doesn't mean I can afford one. **Access to buy and affordability are two very different things.** Our Bill of Rights mentions the pursuit of *"life, liberty and happiness."* Having affordable health care is part of life and a key part to the happiness of all Americans. Health care is a right, not just a privilege for the wealthy and why I ask you **to vote no on Graham-Cassidy**.

But I'd like to share with you just how personal this fight is to me. So let me tell you a little about myself. I am a 33-year-old Colorado native. I play flute and piccolo in two local music groups. I do contract work for a Colorado social media and marketing company. I also own my own small business, called Alice Scraps Wonderland, in which I create scrapbooks for my clients. It is a wonderful creative outlet and allows me to help my clients preserve their most precious memories. Prior to this, I helped take care of my aging grandmother so she could live in her own home until she passed. I did this for nearly five years—I gave up my life and career to do this. Before that, I worked as a video editor and promotions producer for several local production companies and television stations, including a non-profit that produced a full-length documentary.

My younger childhood was much like most children—I took ballet and tap dance lessons, was on the local swim team and both my parents and babysitter would let my imagination run wild. I wrote my first book in pre-school called "The Princess' Pink World" about a princess who loved the color pink but in the end, realized she loved all the colors in the world. When I was eight, my little sister was born and not long after, my parents separated. I became like a second parent to my little sister, helping out with feedings, diaper changes and the like. I had to grow up very fast. Money was short and there were nights where I went to bed hungry. But we were lucky. My mom's mother helped us out financially. If it weren't for her, we would have been out on the streets—she gave my mother a house. If it weren't for my grandmother, I would never have been able to take private flute lessons when I was older or later, tour with my Youth Symphony to Europe, Australia and New Zealand.

But when I was in seventh grade, I began to experience some things with my health that were *not normal.* It started with swollen and bruised joints and pain in my hands after a day at school. By the time I was a freshman in high school, I was experiencing severe fatigue, pain all over my body and all of my joints were popping and cracking. Headaches were becoming a normal part of my day. My doctor took blood tests that showed nothing wrong with me, even put me on a high calcium regiment all to no avail. I was sent to physical therapy but that didn't even lessen the pain. As a senior in high school, I was referred to an orthopedic doctor who finally, after *six years of agony and wondering what*

the hell was wrong with me, gave me a name for what I had: ***Fibromyalgia Syndrome*** (FMS).

Fibromyalgia is *mostly known* as a chronic pain disorder. I feel pain in every single part of my body—let me repeat that so it sinks in—**I feel pain in *every single part of my body, every single second* of my life** and quite possibly for the rest of my life since it is not known what causes FMS, nor are there any real treatments for it.

But Fibromyalgia is *so much more than a chronic pain condition*; **it affects every system in the body**, which is why it is a syndrome. It also was only recently listed as an *autoimmune disorder* because it depresses the immune system, making FMS patients extremely susceptible to illness. Not to mention that there is many other overlapping disorders and illnesses people with FMS are diagnosed with.

One of the other major aspects of FMS is the chronic fatigue. *Chronic Fatigue Syndrome* (CFS) is one of those overlapping disorders many Fibro patients are diagnosed with. We have difficulty falling asleep and staying asleep. **Scans have shown abnormal brain activity** during stage 4 sleep, causing our brains to "wake up" and so we never receive that restorative, refreshing deep sleep. This is also why our immune systems are depressed. It is during this last stage of sleep that the immune system repairs itself, but because people with FMS essentially wake up during this stage, **our immune systems never have a chance to heal themselves properly, leaving us *highly susceptible* to catching colds, the flu and many other communicable illnesses.**

But I'd also like to share **a list of other common symptoms of Fibromyalgia** so that you can understand *what I experience on a daily basis.* Some of these symptoms are:

- Allergies that develop or worsen
- Chronic sinus infections
- Frequent canker sores
- Bruxism (grinding and clenching of teeth) and TMJ
- Unexplained toothaches
- Cold hands and feet due to poor circulation; splotchy skin, Reynaud's Syndrome
- On-going or recurrent flu-like symptoms including chills, fatigue and fever
- Alopecia (hair loss)
- Low blood pressure
- Low static body temperature
- Painful and swollen lymph nodes
- Reactive hypoglycemia
- Thyroid inflammation (hypothyroidism)
- Cardiac abnormalities, heart palpitations, a pulse that skips
- Shortness of breath after minimal exertion
- "Fibro Fog" (the inability to think clearly)
- Becoming lost in familiar locations or forgetting how to do routine things
- Difficulty moving tongue to speak; slowed and slurred speech

- Word-finding difficulty
- Short and long-term memory loss
- Impaired ability to concentrate; periods of extended concentration cause physical and mental exhaustion
- Diminished or absent reflexes
- Fainting, dizziness, vertigo, disequilibrium
- Impaired coordination, bump into things frequently, drop things frequently
- Frequent headaches, including migraines
- Severe muscle weakness, muscle twitching, tremors and trembling, weak grasp
- Hearing fluctuations
- Vision fluctuations that have nothing to do with prescription changes
- Slowed accommodation (switching between near and far and far and near with vision)
- Blurred vision, double vision
- Eye pain
- Chronic tearing eye and/or dry eye
- Dry nose and mouth
- Sensitivity to noise, noise intolerance, Tinnitus
- Tingling, itching and crawling sensations of skin, Restless Leg Syndrome
- Photosensitivity
- Sensory alterations (hyper or hyposensitivity) to smell, taste, hearing
- Allodnyia, touch or weight of clothing against skin causes pain
- Sensitive to temperature changes
- Anxiety and panic attacks
- Bloating
- Alternating increased and decreased appetite, food cravings (especially for carbohydrates)
- Heartburn
- Alternating constipation and diarrhea, IBS
- Nausea, vomiting, stomach cramping/aches
- Weight loss or gain
- Arthritic pain, carpal tunnel syndrome
- Joint aches and swelling, reduced range of motion
- Morning stiffness
- Writing causes pain in hand, arm and shoulder
- Abrupt mood swings and irritability
- Irregular hormones (need meds like birth control to moderate hormone levels)
- Depression not caused by a chemical imbalance
- Depression caused by a chemical imbalance
- Frequent crying for no reason
- Suicidal thoughts or suicidal attempts
- Chemical sensitivities, acute or abnormal reactions to medications; food sensitivities
- Abnormal scarring, bruise easily
- Eczema or psoriasis, rashes

- Fragile nails
- Increased and thickened secretions (nose, bowel, vaginal)
- Altered sleep/wake patterns (sleepy during day, alert at night)
- Frequent nightmares or night terrors
- Women: Endometriosis, worsening of PMS and menstruation symptoms, painful intercourse; miscarriage, stillbirth or newborns born prematurely, with low birth weight and failure to thrive
- Men: prostate pain, swollen testicles
- Frequent urination
- Pelvic and/or rectal pain
- Changes in sweating (decrease/increase, change in odor)
- Delayed reaction/onset to over-activity/exertion
- Decreased activity level due to pain
- Electromagnetic (EM) sensitivity (thunderstorms and full moon increase symptoms)
- Ice and cold water causes severe pain

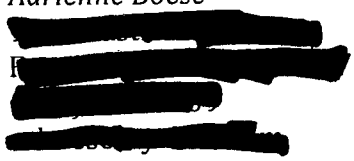
This list of the most common symptoms of FMS **is an incomplete list**. I've seen lists that are more than ten pages long single-spaced. As you can see, *treatment for the symptoms of Fibromyalgia can add up quite quickly.*

FMS has many overlapping illnesses and a co-morbidity rate of 99.9%, meaning that I am 99.9% more likely than a healthy person to develop other illnesses that will kill me prematurely. These other illnesses include but are not limited to: Lupus, Multiple Sclerosis, Rheumatoid Arthritis and various kinds of cancer.

There is no cure and no real treatment for what I have. Symptoms are treated separately. Pain medications only lessen the pain. It is not known what causes FMS though it is believed to be hereditary. My maternal grandmother had it. I lived my life as healthy as I could as a child. I did not ask for this. I would not wish Fibromyalgia on my worst enemy. I would not.

It is as though you wish to punish me for something I have no control over. With this letter, **I am in essence, begging you for my life and the lives of millions of other Americans** with pre-existing conditions. This is a quality of life and **life or death situation** for us. *This is not an overstatement.* For me, I am one untreated sinus infection away from permanent blindness and brain damage or death. And at any time, I could be diagnosed with MS or cancer. Again, I beg you to **vote NO on Graham-Cassidy**, because this is not a health care bill. This is a *death* bill.

Sincerely,
Adrienne Boese



Submitted Comment on the Graham-Cassidy Bill for the hearing of the Senate Finance Committee on 9/25/2017

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

The Graham-Cassidy Bill is yet another unconscionable effort to reverse the progress that has been made towards affordable and accessible health care since passage of the ACA. Though not without its flaws, the ACA has expanded health care to millions of Americans. It needs to be repaired, not "repealed and replaced" with a bill that simply returns us to an unacceptable status quo. It will be most detrimental to the most vulnerable among us: low-income people, disabled people, seniors, families of modest income, people with mental illness and addiction. However, let us not pretend that it only affects people who are not among those our society tends to value most. Lifting requirements for insurance companies not to treat people with pre-existing conditions differently will lead to inadequate care and financial ruin for people across socioeconomic lines. Few of us can afford to pay for millions of dollars worth of medical bills.

It is impossible for me to believe that anyone with the capacity for true human feeling and a sound moral compass could continue to support efforts that clearly will leave many Americans in desperate circumstances. And, as the mother of a disabled child, I am truly afraid of what this means for my family.

Kill this bill.

Sincerely,

Charlice Hurst
[redacted]



Hearing Name: **Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal**
Date: **September 25, 2017**
Time: **2:00 p.m.**

Senate Committee on Finance
Attn. Editorial and Document Section
Rm. SD-219
Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510-6200

September 22, 2017

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I, Christine Paula-Santos, write to voice my extreme opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal. As a nurse with seven years of experience treating patients from all walks of life, I am very discouraged that instead of continuing down a bipartisan path and working on issues to improve the strength and stability of the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) marketplaces, the sponsors of this legislation have put forward a proposal that will:

- Eliminate the financial assistance that helps low- and moderate-income families purchase health care coverage;
- End expanded Medicaid coverage that helps millions of low-income adults;
- Gut Medicaid through deep, permanent cuts that would grow over time and threaten care for millions of low-income seniors, children, and people living with disabilities and shift massive costs and risks to states;
- Jeopardize access to life-saving and effective treatments for addiction and weaken states' efforts to address the current crisis of drug overdose deaths
- Undermine essential protections for people with pre-existing conditions;
- Resurrect - *and worsen* - the devastating cuts in coverage and benefits that the American public and the majority of Congress have already rejected.

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal threatens the health and financial security of millions of Americans including older adults, low-and moderate-income families, people living with disabilities, veterans and people with preexisting conditions. It does nothing to improve affordability or availability of coverage for consumers and will likely result in at least 965,000 residents of Connecticut losing coverage by 2027 and will undermine the financial stability of our health care system and place additional fiscal strains on our state budget. Additional concerns are outlined below.

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

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

Threatens care for low-income seniors, children, consumers with substance use disorders and people living with disabilities.

This proposal also threatens the care of millions of low-income seniors, children and people living with disabilities who relied on the Medicaid program even before enactment of the ACA. By capping and slashing funding for the traditional Medicaid program by 12% ($1,079 billion) between 2020 and 2036, the per capita cap will force Connecticut to cut payments to health care providers and health plans, eliminate optional services, and restrict eligibility for enrollment - all of which could restrict access to important health care services for Medicaid enrollees.

No eligibility category would be immune to the impacts of these cuts. **Since children make up almost one-half of the Medicaid beneficiaries, they cannot possibly be protected if cuts of this magnitude are enacted.**

Pushes massive new costs onto states.

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

Eliminates critical consumer protections.

This proposal allows states to eliminate one of the most popular and important consumer protections under the ACA - **the prohibition on charging higher premiums based on a person's health status or a preexisting condition**. This means that in states that choose to eliminate this requirement, insurers could charge individuals with even relatively mild pre-existing conditions thousands of dollars above standard rates to obtain the same coverage as someone without a preexisting condition.

Sincerely,

Christine Paula-Santos, RN
Newington, CT

Resolution 2017-XX

Regarding the protection of the Medicaid system from proposed cuts and ensuring economic security and stability for blind Americans

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Social Security Amendments Act of 1965, the Medicaid social insurance program has provided critical economic and family security for blind Americans for over fifty years, and today, there are an estimated 1.4 million blind people in this country who rely on Medicaid for health insurance, economic stability, and family security; and

WHEREAS, blind people comprise an estimated 17 percent of disabled people currently using the Medicaid program, and thus Medicaid has provided millions of blind Americans since 1965 with the peace of mind of knowing that they will have access to vital healthcare services without incurring prohibitive expenses and decimating household budgets; and

WHEREAS, the United States House of Representatives recently passed the American Health Care Act (AHCA), which contains $839 billion in proposed cuts to Medicaid, and the current administration recently released a budget proposal for fiscal year 2018 that contains within it an additional $610 billion in cuts to Medicaid, for a total of $1.4 trillion in cuts to the program; and

WHEREAS, if the cuts to Medicaid set forth in the American Health Care Act were to be implemented, more than one hundred thousand blind Americans would lose their health insurance, and such loss of health insurance represents a catastrophic strain on the resources and stability of households that rely on Medicaid for insurance: Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind in convention assembled this fourteenth day of July, 2017, in the city of Orlando, Florida, that this organization condemn and deplore any effort to cut funding for the Medicaid insurance program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this organization call upon both houses of the United States Congress to oppose cuts to Medicaid and to incorporate the concerns of blind Americans in the future when considering any similar reforms.

Adult Congenital Heart Association

September 22, 2017

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chairman
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden,

On behalf of the Adult Congenital Heart Association (ACHA) and the more than 1.4 million American adults with congenital heart disease (CHD) that we represent, I am writing to express our strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy legislation that is set to be considered by the full Senate next week. Founded in 1998, ACHA is committed to improving and extending the lives of individuals living with heart defects. It is estimated that more than 2.4 million Americans live with congenital heart disease (CHD) and even those who receive successful intervention are not cured. Adults with CHD require ongoing, costly, highly specialized cardiac care from ACHD specialists and face a lifelong risk of permanent disability and premature death. It is imperative that this growing population has access to lifelong, specialized, expert care to manage their condition.

Adults with CHD need access to high-quality insurance that provides access to the highly-specialized care they need to manage their condition and lead productive lives. Accordingly, we are concerned about the negative impact on our community that the Graham-Cassidy bill will have if it becomes law.

ACHA believes that Graham-Cassidy will limit the care available to Americans will chronic conditions, including CHDs, by allowing states to weaken the Essential Health Benefits (EHBs) protections, implementing policies that will potentially make insurance coverage unaffordable for individuals with CHDs, and eliminating the Medicaid expansion and replacing the current Medicaid funding structure with a system of block grants to states. We urge you not to incorporate these policies into the legislation currently being developed in the Senate. Our concerns are discussed in more detail below.

Patient Protections

ACHA supports the many patient protections in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) that ensure people with CHDs and other expensive, chronic conditions maintain access to comprehensive insurance. These protections include the elimination of pre-existing conditions exclusions, guaranteed issue and renewal, extension of dependent coverage to age 26, elimination of lifetime and annual limits, out-of-pocket maximum, prohibition of discriminatory benefit design, and network adequacy policies that ensure access to specialists. The essential health benefits (EHBs) are an especially important policy since this ensures access to a comprehensive health care plan that covers a broad set of services. The EHBs are

also critical since several of the ACA patient protections only apply to the services defined as EHBs, including the elimination of lifetime and annual caps, out-of-pocket maximum and prohibition of discriminatory benefit design. Any weakening of the EHBs will undermine these patient protections.

Graham-Cassidy would allow states to apply for waivers to redefine EHBs in their state, negatively impacting access to care for adults with CHDs. ACHA urges the Senate to reject this policy and ensure that those with pre-existing conditions retain access to this basic set of life sustaining services and the critical patient protections that follow.

Affordability

We are concerned provisions of Graham-Cassidy will jeopardize affordability for health insurance. The potential for states to redefine EHBs in their state will limit the ability of many Americans, particularly those with CHDs to afford meaningful coverage. Changes to the definition of EHBs could make the out-of-pocket maximum toothless, removing predictability and the backstop for financial costs. Also, the legislation's elimination of the individual mandate will negatively impact the affordability of coverage for individuals with pre-existing conditions, as healthier people will leave the market. We cannot support a policy that will make health insurance less affordable for people who need it most.

We request that the Senate reject these Graham-Cassidy provisions that will make health insurance less affordable for adults with CHDs and ask that Senate develop policies that improve affordability, particularly for those with pre-existing conditions.

Medicaid

Finally, we believe the Medicaid proposals in the Graham-Cassidy will reduce access to this critical program for low-income Americans. The repeal of the Medicaid expansion will jeopardize coverage for millions of individuals, including members of our community who gained coverage in the 31 states plus DC that expanded Medicaid eligibility. The changes to Medicaid financing will also reduce federal support for the program, which could lead to states reducing services, increasing cost-sharing or limiting eligibility. If it becomes more difficult for states to respond to fluctuations in the price and demand for health care services, people with high cost, chronic conditions will be negatively impacted. These policies combined will make it difficult for all Medicaid enrollees, and particularly those with CHDs, to maintain adequate coverage.

We are concerned that the Medicaid provisions of Graham-Cassidy will lead to adults with CHD losing coverage and ask that Senate maintain the Medicaid expansion and current funding structure to ensure that individuals maintain access to this critical program. If the Senate chooses to make changes to the Medicaid funding structure, we request that they more closely reflect the growth in actual Medicaid spending than what is included in Graham-Cassidy.

On behalf of the adult CHD community, thank you for your consideration. We seek to ensure that any changes to health insurance policies are adequate for our community. If you have any questions, please contact Danielle Hile, Director of Programs at 267-339-0511 or via email dhile@achaheart.org.

Sincerely,

Mark Roeder
President & CEO
Adult Congenital Heart Association

Cc: Members of the United States Senate

ANCOR American Network of Community Options and Resources

SHAPING POLICY • SHARING SOLUTIONS • STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee
Washington, DC 20510-6200

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee
Washington, DC 20510-6200

September 25, 2017

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden,

The American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR) is a nonpartisan national trade association that represents over 1,400 disability service providers serving over 1 million people with intellectual and developmental disabilities nationwide. Our members are able to provide critical services to this important population because of the Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS) and intermediate care facility (ICF/IID) programs.

As the Committee prepares to hold a hearing on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal (GCHJ proposal) and deliberate on the impact of the bill, ANCOR would like to express its strong opposition to the proposal because of the harm it will cause to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). We are hopeful that the deliberative body of the Senate will instead commit to a bipartisan process. While we understand that several Senate members seek to address issues specific to the Affordable Care Act (ACA), we are dismayed that the GCHJ proposal uses the traditional Medicaid program to help pay for such changes.

Services provided to people with disabilities by the traditional Medicaid program are proven to be successful, allowing state-run institutions in several states to close, and children with disabilities the opportunity to live in the community with their family and peers. Now is not the time to disrupt the funding mechanisms in Medicaid that made this historical progress possible. The Committee should note that developmental disability prevalence in the U.S is on the rise and, as confirmed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the need for these critical services are going to continue to increase in the next several years. For example, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported that, in the year 2000, 1 out of 150 children had autism. Today the prevalence has increased to 1 in every 68 children having a diagnosis of autism. Further, in the past few decades, CDC has documented that the prevalence of Down Syndrome births has increased by over 30%, with about 1 in every 700 babies in the U.S. being born with Down Syndrome.

The GCHJ proposal will cause irreparable harm to programs for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This bill replicates legislative language from the Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA) in its details around setting Medicaid per-capita caps. Earlier Congressional Budget Office scores predicted that these identical cuts would cost the traditional Medicaid program (non-expansion) $175 billion in the first five years of implementation and this is all before the growth rate for the disabled population is reduced in 2026.

Avalere Heath released data on September 20, 2017 that indicated that the GCHJ proposal will reduce federal funding dramatically in every state in the United States adding up to hundreds of billions of dollars that states will not be able to replace. ANCOR modeled the impact of the per-capita proposal in the GCHJ proposal on real Medicaid data for traditional disability services between 2001-2005 (to replicate pre-ACA passage) and it revealed that the vast majority of states will immediately lose 15% or more of their federal Medicaid spending dedicated to traditional disability services.

The HCBS and ICF/IID programs that our members provide are optional services under Medicaid – that means that states can choose to offer them, but unlike mandatory services, states are not required by the program to include them

as part of their Medicaid partnership with the federal government. This classification leaves our services extremely vulnerable under the GCHJ proposal. Even a state with the best intentions will find itself short on state/federal dollars and optional services will be the first to be cut. The GCHJ proposal does not protect people with disabilities who need Medicaid to survive; instead it puts them at extreme risk.

The bill itself contains a provision that highlights the danger to HCBS programs. On page 95 under Section 124, the legislative language details a four year demonstration project to sustain HCBS programs with priority given to rural states. While ANCOR appreciates the legislative highlight of the importance of HCBS programs, the demonstration project seems to indicate that funding will be needed to sustain these programs in light of the drastic cuts under the per-capita cap system.

To be more specific, the cuts created through the per-capita cap formula in Section 124 of the bill will devastate providers and the businesses around the country that provide these critical services. Not only does the growth rate for the people ANCOR members support get cut to an unsustainable CPI-M (even the American Health Care Act as passed in the House had initially proposed a CPI-M plus 1% into perpetuity) which is far less than the predicted growth rate of the true cost, but it also locks in a base period from quarters within FY14-FY17. Avalere Health, MACPAC, and other reliable data sources show that post 2026, this equation will drastically reduce federal Medicaid funding jeopardizing vulnerable populations and the providers that serve them. This is a formula set up for failure and the losers will include the most vulnerable citizens in our country.

Passage of the GCHJ proposal would represent a moral shift in our history of over five decades of bipartisan support for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live in the community. Without these services, people with disabilities who are now active parts of their communities will be shifted to nursing homes and hospitals, and waiting lists will grow significantly. A vote to support GCHJ is a vote to confirm that the imperative to achieve a publicized political outcome is being prioritized ahead of maintaining a successful safety net for people with disabilities. Please do not allow the services that have been built over half a century to be a casualty to this political debate around health care.

We respectfully request that you vote no on the harmful GCHJ proposal.

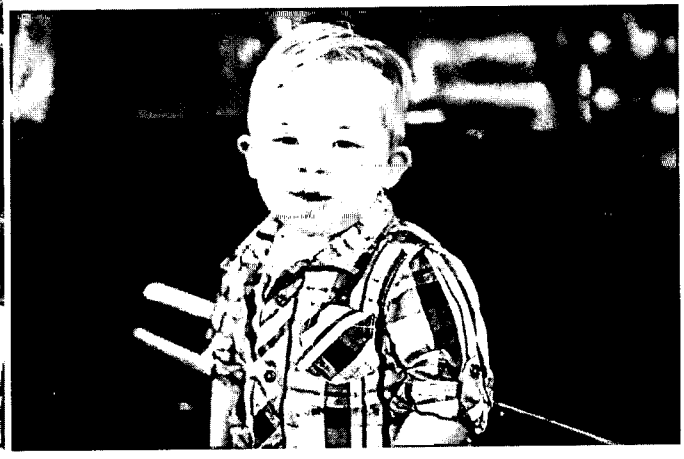
Sincerely,

Esmé Grant Grewal, Esq.
Senior Director of Government Relations
American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR)
1666 K Street NW, Suite 440
Washington, DC 20006
202-579-7789
egrant@ancor.org

I am a lifelong resident of Nebraska and a special needs mother. I am writing this blindly without any idea as to which parts of the AHCA the Senate plans to incorporate into its bill. With today's announcement that Senators may not discuss the bill on camera, I am becoming increasingly concerned. It is hard to reconcile the secrecy with the statements that this bill will have the best interests of the citizens of our already great nation.

I would like to respectfully ask that you not vote for any bill that cuts or caps funding for Medicaid, both now or in the future. I have read that some senators are proposing a phase out over the next several years. My son has Down syndrome and before he was born, I knew very little about the impacts of Medicaid on people with disabilities. I now know that Medicaid supports special education related services that are designed to help my son succeed. He should have the same opportunities as everyone else and his disability should not limit his future. When I received Maddox's diagnosis, I was devastated until I educated myself. I read stories of people with Down syndrome marrying, going to college, and even living independently. Those options would not be possible without the assistance of community supports provided by Medicaid. Cuts to Medicaid would severely limit my son's future. It is my hope that Maddox will one day live independently and not in an institution. As of right now, his possibilities are endless. Please don't limit him and his future.





Lindsey and Zach Bitzes

Papillion, NE

National League
for **Nursing**

Title of Hearing:	Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal
Date:	September 25, 2017
Submitted by:	National League for Nursing 2600 Virginia Ave, NW 8th Floor Washington, DC 20037
To:	Senate Finance Committee

As the oldest nursing organization in the United States, the National League for Nursing (NLN) opposes the health system reforms included in the ***Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson (GCHJ) proposal.*** The NLN promotes excellence in nursing education to build a strong and diverse nursing workforce to advance the health of the nation and the global community. The League represents more than 1,200 nursing schools, 40,000 members, and 25 regional constituent leagues.

The ***GCHJ proposal*** not only goes against the League's mission, but also goes against our core values of caring, integrity, diversity, and excellence. Nursing brings a steadfast commitment to patient care, and the unique ability to partner with the other health professions to ensure quality, safety and access to care for all of our nation's patients in all settings where care is delivered. Unfortunately, the most vulnerable will be ill served by the ***GCHJ proposal*** and the NLN cannot in good conscience support this legislation. ***We encourage Congress to focus on bipartisan efforts to stabilize the health care system through regular order rather than rushing a repeal and replace proposal of our complicated health care system through the current budget reconciliation authorization.***

Fundamental to the nursing profession and the NLN is the principle that all individuals have equitable access to comprehensive health and wellness care across the lifespan of patients and caregivers. This includes all care for health conditions regardless of pre-existing condition status, behavioral health, and substance abuse disorders. We recognize that the ***GCHJ proposal*** would require coverage of mental health and substance use disorder treatment consistent with the ***Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA)*** as part of the new Medicaid Flexibility Program. However, we do not support many of the other changes to the health care system in the proposal that would result in reduced access to substance use disorder and mental health treatment, including changes that would cap federal funding for Medicaid, end the Medicaid expansion, and eliminate mental health and substance use disorder benefit protections for Americans insured through the small group and individual markets.

We have serious concerns with provisions in the proposal that would allow states to easily waive essential health benefit requirements, end Medicaid expansion and change

Medicaid to a per-capita or block grant financing system. Capping federal Medicaid funding through per-capita caps or block grants would strain state budgets and likely force states to cut benefits and/or limit access to care particularly for the most vulnerable. These changes would be devastating to states grappling with the current opioid epidemic. This is unacceptable to the NLN as it is not aligned with our core values and mission.

If the NLN is to abide by our core values—caring, integrity, diversity, and excellence—and fulfill our mission to advance the health of the nation, we cannot support the GCHJ proposal. As the voice for nursing education, it is imperative that we speak out on the negative health effects this bill would have on all communities. This proposal would hollow out or terminate coverage for tens of millions of Americans and especially impact those who need it most.

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Chartered by the Congress of the United States

STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD BY THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE ON THE GRAHAM-CASSIDY-HELLER-JOHNSON HEALTH CARE REFORM PROPOSAL

SEPTEMBER 25, 2017

Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) strongly objects to this latest attempt to re-write this nation's health care system as embodied in the proposal put forward by Senators Lindsey Graham, Bill Cassidy, Dean Heller and Ron Johnson. PVA is the nation's only Congressionally chartered veterans' service organization solely devoted to representing this nation's veterans with spinal cord injury (SCI) and/or disease. For over seventy years, PVA's mission has focused not only on assuring quality health care for our members and the benefits to which they are entitled as a result of military service, but also advancing the civil rights and opportunities that maximize the independence of paralyzed veterans and other people with disabilities. Graham-Cassidy threatens these pillars of PVA's mission and – with few hearings, no complete score from the Congressional Budget Office, and no real opportunity for affected stakeholders to weigh in on this plan - rejects the spirit of bipartisanship and regular order that PVA has continually urged in deliberations on health care reform.

According to a newly released report from the RAND Corporation, among veterans under age 65 who are enrolled in the VA, "most use VA to meet only a portion of their health care needs, receiving the remainder of their health care from another source."[1] These other sources include employer-sponsored insurance, other private insurance, TRICARE or Medicaid. Even PVA members, who are among the heaviest users of VA services because of its gold standard level of specialized care for SCI, use these other sources of insurance coverage, as well as Medicare if they are not in the workforce. For veterans with disabilities, indeed all people with disabilities, the insurance protections embedded in the Affordable Care Act have been among its most important provisions. By allowing insurance companies to reinstate pre-existing condition exclusions and lifetime or annual caps on coverage and permitting states to eliminate essential health services

[1] Veterans' Health Insurance Coverage Under the Affordable Care Act and Implications of Repeal for the Department of Veterans Affairs, M. Dworsky, C. Farmer, M. Shen, RAND Corporation, September 2017

such as rehabilitative care, Graham-Cassidy will return to the days when many PVA members could not obtain affordable, high quality health insurance coverage for themselves and their families.

The RAND study further reveals that previously uninsured veterans were 36% less likely to lack coverage after implementation of the ACA and that gains in coverage could be attributed to increased employer sponsored insurance, direct purchase of coverage through the insurance exchanges as well as the Medicaid expansion.[2] Dual enrollment in the VA and Medicaid increased for both disabled veterans and low-income veterans between 2013 and 2015 according to RAND. "Low-income veterans who live far from VA facilities experienced particularly large gains in Medicaid coverage and reductions in uninsurance as a result of Medicaid expansion." RAND suggests that the expansion provided a "valuable new coverage option for veterans facing barriers to VA access." [3]

Indeed, Medicaid and its expansion under the Affordable Care Act have had a significant effect on coverage for millions of veterans and their families. In 2015, more than 913,000 veterans between the ages of 18 and 64 were enrolled in Medicaid, and about 340,000 veterans received Medicaid because of the ACA's Medicaid expansion. Close to half a million additional veterans over 65 were on Medicaid.[4]

Earlier studies have indicated that the expansion of Medicaid coupled with the establishment of health insurance marketplaces with income based subsidies and other ACA reforms also had a positive impact on insurance coverage for veterans' spouses and their children. For veterans' spouses, uninsurance fell from 9.2 percent in 2013 to 5.5 percent in 2015 and for veterans' children, the uninsurance rate fell from 4.5 percent to 2.9 percent. Overall, only 5.0 percent of all veterans and their family members (an estimated 939,000 people) lacked health insurance coverage in 2015, 730,000 fewer than in 2013.[5]

Graham-Cassidy converts the traditional Medicaid program to a per capita cap or alternative block grant, slashing funding for Medicaid beneficiaries. Earlier estimates from CBO suggest that these changes to the traditional Medicaid program could cut the program by $175 billion. The plan also takes the federal funds for the Medicaid expansion and for financial assistance currently available for insurance marketplace coverage and combines those monies into a new block grant to the states. However, it would eliminate this block grant entirely after 2026, meaning that in 2027 and beyond, there would be zero funding available to replace states' Medicaid expansions and marketplace tax credits and cost-sharing reductions. As a result, states would face a severe funding shortfall that would leave them with no federal resources to continue to provide coverage for their low- and moderate-income residents who've gained coverage under the ACA's coverage expansions. What will happen to those 1.75 million veterans as well as their family members when states must dramatically reduce their Medicaid programs?

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[2] RAND, op.cit., p.16

[3] RAND Corporation Research Brief, How Might Veterans and the VA Health System Be Affected by Repeal of the Affordable Care Act?, September 2017

[4] FamiliesUSA Fact Sheet, Cutting Medicaid Would Hurt Veterans, May 2017

[5] Veterans Saw Broad Coverage Gains Between 2013 and 2015, The Urban Institute, J. Haley, G. Kenney, J. Gates, April 2017

The RAND research offers some insights into the impact of the ACA's repeal and replacement with fewer insurance market protections and drastically diminished Medicaid on vulnerable veterans and the VA health care system. Using elements of earlier reform bills similar to Graham-Cassidy, RAND found[6] that:

- Reductions in insurance coverage would be concentrated among older, lower-income, less healthy non-elderly veterans.

- VA patients would receive less health care overall (1.7% fewer office-based visits and 1.7% fewer prescriptions) but more VA health care (2.3 percent more VA office based visits and 3.2 percent more VA prescriptions). That translates into an estimated annual increase of 245,000 VA visits and 910,000 VA prescriptions, or 1 percent and 1.4 percent of total VA use in 2015.

- Impacts of repeal on veterans' insurance coverage and VA demand would also vary widely across states. Medicaid expansion states with higher proportions of low income and non-elderly veterans would experience the largest VA demand increases, with Arkansas, Kentucky and Louisiana experiencing the largest increases in VA demand relative to total VA use.

Had Congress followed a more thoughtful, deliberative process to health care reform, there might have been time to consider the effect on veterans and the VA health care system. The rush to pass this deeply flawed legislation precludes that opportunity.

[6] Veterans' Health Insurance Coverage Under the Affordable Care Act and Implications of Repeal for the Department of Veterans Affairs, M. Dworsky, C. Farmer, M. Shen, RAND Corporation, September 2017

The National
CONSUMER VOICE
for Quality Long-Term Care
formerly NCCNHR

Iris Gonzalez, President
Lori Smetanka, Executive Director

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September 22, 2017

United States Senate Committee on Finance
Attn. Editorial and Document Section
Rm. SD-219
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6200

RE: Statement for the Record on Monday, September 25, 2017 Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

Dear Chairman Hatch, Ranking Member Wyden, and Members of the Committee:

The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care would like to thank Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden for holding this hearing on the impact that the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal will have on the healthcare, including access to care, for millions of Americans. The Consumer Voice also appreciates the Committee's decision to hold the record of this hearing open to receive additional viewpoints from beneficiaries and providers.

The Consumer Voice is the leading national voice representing consumers in issues related to long-term care, helping to ensure that consumers are empowered to advocate for themselves. We are a primary source of information and resources for consumers, families, caregivers, advocates and ombudsmen to help ensure quality care for the individual.

As an advocate for vulnerable elderly and disabled Americans who need long-term care services, the Consumer Voice is concerned that this year's debate about Medicaid is taking place in the context of mandated budget cuts. The Graham-Cassidy Proposal calls for an estimated $175 billion in cuts over ten years. For nursing home residents and other long-term care consumers, cuts to Medicaid would result in reductions to available care and services and make it harder to qualify for care. Nursing home quality care would decline because nursing homes would decrease staff and conditions would worsen across the country.

Therefore, the Consumer Voice urges the Committee to:

- Refrain from restructuring Medicaid funding into per capita caps and minimize cuts to Medicaid;
- Continue Medicaid expansion instead of eliminating it; and
- Prevent loss of health coverage, including for the workers who care for residents.

The Consequences of Restructuring Medicaid Funding Into Per Capita Caps for Long-Term Care Consumers

Medicaid is the primary source of payment for long-term care in this country, spending $158 billion on all long-term services and supports (LTSS), with $55 billion spent specifically on nursing home care. It pays for more than half of all long-term care in the United States,[1] and nearly 50% of all nursing home costs.[2] In fact, Medicaid is the only way most people can afford long-term care since these services, particularly nursing home care, are extremely expensive. In 2016, the annual cost of a shared room in a nursing home was $82,125.[3]

Restructuring Medicaid through a per capita cap funding means the federal government will give states a fixed amount of money for each Medicaid beneficiary. The amount does not change over time to account for the growing costs of health care or the rising needs of the population. The result is a massive cut in Medicaid funding. This would have many disastrous effects for long-term care consumers.

Fewer people would be eligible to receive supportive care. This would result in unmet needs among many older adults, just as the population continues to age. By 2050, the population aged 65 and over is projected to be 83.7 million,[4] with increasing numbers of dementia cases. Approved hours of care will be cut for recipients living in community settings, optional services covered by states will be cut, eligibility for Medicaid and nursing home care will become more difficult, and quality will decline due to less staff and oversight of nursing homes.

With less money in the Medicaid system, states will cut back on the resources made available to individuals receiving care at home or in community settings. The number of hours of care current HCBS consumers receive would be cut. This means individuals will be provided with far fewer hours of assistance from an aide or an attendant, leaving them without someone to help them bathe, get in and out of bed or chairs, or prepare and assist with meals. With less care being provided at home and in community settings, care recipients will be forced to either do without, putting their health and well-being at risk; or to seek nursing home care, at higher costs.

States are also likely to eliminate coverage they are not required by the federal government to furnish. This includes nursing home bed hold coverage for hospitalization and therapeutic leave, and other services such as dental service, optometry services, case management services, hospice care, physical therapy and respiratory services for ventilator-dependent persons. These are important services that promote the health and well-being of beneficiaries.

Eligibility standards would be tightened making it harder to get into a nursing home or receive and home and community-based services. To qualify for Medicaid coverage of nursing home care or HCBS,

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[1] Reaves, Erica L. "Medicaid and Long-Term Services and Supports: A Primer," (Kaiser Family Foundation, 2015) available at http://www.kff.org/medicaid/report/medicaid-and-long-term-services-and-supports-a-primer/.
[2] "Selected Long-Term Care Statistics," (Family Caregiver Alliance, 2015) available at https://www.caregiver.org/selected-long-term-care-statistics.
[3] See "Compare Long Term Care Costs Across the United States," (Genworth Financial, 2017) available at https://www.genworth.com/about-us/industry-expertise/cost-of-care.html.
[4] Ortman, Jennifer, Victoria a. Velkoff, and Howard Hogan. "An Aging Nation: The Older Population in the United States," (U.S. Census Bureau, 2014) available at https://www.census.gov/prod/2014pubs/p25-1140.pdf.

an individual must require a certain level of care (usually determined by the number of activities of daily living – ADLs – needed). This level is determined by states. To save money, states would almost certainly increase the number of ADLs necessary to be eligible for long-term care services. The impact could be catastrophic: residents who do not meet the revised level of care could be forced out of their nursing homes and people at home who need nursing home care would have to wait until they were even more impaired and dependent to be admitted to a nursing home or receive home care services. Care needs for frail elders will increasingly be borne by family members, many of whom hold full time jobs and are caring for children. Many will either have to leave their jobs to care for an aging parent, or find the resources to pay for care, both of which put at risk their own future needs. Many family members will inevitably have to make the painful choice of choosing between caring for their parents or providing for their own retirement or children's education.

Furthermore, the personal needs allowance for nursing home residents could be slashed to the federally required minimum of $30 per month, leaving residents with even less money for items like clothing or personal items and services, such as haircuts. All of residents' monthly income, except this small PNA, goes towards the cost of their care. Reducing this amount would affect residents in approximately 46 states.

Finally, nursing home quality of care would decline because nursing homes would cut staff and decrease quality assurance with less inspectors (surveyors). Nursing homes would receive a lower Medicaid reimbursement rate and in turn, further decease their staffing levels. Lack of inadequate numbers of nurse and nurse aides is already the number one problem voiced by residents and their families. Medicaid helps pay for facility inspections (surveys) and enforcement of nursing home regulations. Less money would mean fewer and less trained surveyors, greater workloads, and delays in complaint investigations. Problems in nursing homes would go undetected and unaddressed.

For all the reasons stated above, we recommend the Committee to refrain from restructuring the Medicaid program into a per capita caps program. Restructuring Medicaid would result in devastating cuts to care and services for long-term care consumers. To ensure that long-term care consumers and their health care is not placed in jeopardy, we urge the Committee to minimize any cuts to Medicaid.

Continuing Medicaid Expansion

Medicaid is a key player in providing nursing home and other long-term care. Through Medicaid expansion, many older adults and those who are disabled can qualify for Medicaid coverage and receive LTSS in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and in the home and community. Medicaid expansion has been instrumental in helping people move out of nursing homes and into HCBS, all of which are less expensive than nursing home care. In 2015, the median cost for one year of home health aide services was $45,800 and adult day health services was $17,490, both substantially lower than the average of $82,125 for a shared nursing home room.[5] The Medicaid expansion has been critical to ensuring that elders and those with disabilities are able to access necessary care in the most cost-effective setting.

However, if the Committee accepts the Graham-Cassidy Proposal, then Medicaid expansion will end and long-term care consumers will no longer have access to necessary health care. Furthermore, the

[5] Reaves, Erica L. "Medicaid and Long-Term Services and Supports: A Primer," (Kaiser Family Foundation, 2015) available at http://www.kff.org/medicaid/report/medicaid-and-long-term-services-and-supports-a-primer/.

Graham-Cassidy Proposal converts Medicaid expansion funding into a block grant until 2027, after which the block grant will be eliminated. Since this block grant is a fixed amount of money, it will not be adjusted for the growing cost of health care or the rising care needs of the population.

Converting Medicaid into block grant funding will result in cuts of services for long-term care consumers across the country. Eliminating Medicaid expansion will leave elders and disabled consumers uninsured and without a way to access necessary health care services, including in the less costly home and community settings.

For the reasons stated above, we urge the Committee to continue the Medicaid expansion.

Preventing Loss of Health Coverage for Critical Health Care Workers

Through the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid expansion, home health workers and certified nursing assistants (CNAs) have been able to receive or purchase their own health insurance. These health workers are vital to care for long-term care consumers across the country across all settings, whether in the nursing home or at home. They provide individualized and person-centered care and respond to care needs as they arise.

Health workers need health care insurance so that they and their family members can access affordable health care. Very few health workers receive health insurance through their employers, and due to low wages,[6] many cannot afford to purchase health insurance on their own. Home-care worker wages fall short of living wages.[7] Furthermore, home care workers were only granted federal overtime protections in October 2015. With such low wages, Medicaid is often the only available health care insurance for long-term care health workers.

In addition, it is not uncommon for health workers to experience work-related injuries , especially in long-term care settings. More than 60% of CNAs experience work-related injuries from lifting, bathing and handling residents, and accidents involving facility equipment.[8] In addition, health workers are more prone to becoming sick with the flu, common cold, and other infectious diseases due to the nature of caring for others who may be sick. The ACA and Medicaid expansion have been critical in providing a way for these essential workers in our country to receive the services they require.

For the reasons stated above, we urge the Committee to prevent the loss of health coverage for critical health care workers.

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[6] Nurse aides earn a median salary of $25,710, or approximately $12.36 per hour. *See* "How Much Do Nursing Aides Make?", (U.S. News, 2017) available at https://money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/nursing-aide/salary.

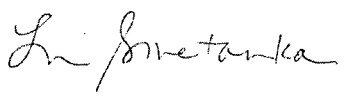
[7] Home care workers make a median salary of $10.30 per hour. See "Home Care Worker Salary," (PayScale Human Capital, 2017) available at https://www.payscale.com/research/US/Job=Home_Care_Worker/Hourly_Rate.

[8] Research Triangle Park, Joshua Weiner and Wayne Anderson. "Certified Nursing Assistants in Nursing Homes at High Risk of Work-Related Injuries," (RTI International, 2012) available at https://www.rti.org/news/certified-nursing-assistants-nursing-homes-high-risk-work-related-injuries.

Conclusion

At this time in our history, the government should initiate a strong and thoughtful bipartisan process to determine how to pay for long-term care in the future, to enable those who need financial assistance to choose from an array of appropriate services, and to ensure that all Medicaid-reimbursed long-term care is of high quality. In this budget reconciliation process, nursing home residents ask only that Congress avoid choices that would put their rights, dignity, access to care, or health, safety and quality of life at risk.

Sincerely,



Lori Smetanka, J.D.
Executive Director

Title of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017
[redacted]g

My name is Katelynn Smith and I am A Disability Resource Coordinator through the nonprofit organization, Directions in Independent Living, located in Olean, NY. I am also a spouse of a man who lives with a preexisting condition: Type 1 Diabetes. I am opposed to the Graham Cassidy Bill because not only does it affect my professional career, but also affects me personally. Here is my story.

I am an advocate, a mother, and a wife who know people who live and deal with disabilities on a daily basis. As an advocate, I help guide, coordinate, and support individuals find the right medical mental, emotional, or physical attention when it comes to their disabilities. Upon my own mental health, my spouse lives with the pre existing condition: Type 1 Diabetes. He was diagnosed at the young age of 10 years. There is no cure for Type 1 Diabetes. Scientists are still conducting research to see if there is a functional cure through the research and testing of utilizing stem cells. Treatment is there for individuals who have this haunting disease, but it is extremely helpful to have health care.

The health care available to individuals today, helps receive the services needed for pre existing conditions. For my husband's sake, he can see an endocrinologist, receive updated monitors, testing strips, and insulin for a small co pay. However, if the Medicaid bill is set off to a lifetime cap, our health care plan will change. We, as professionals in the community, would have to pay thousands of dollars out of pocket to make sure my husband is receiving the correct treatment and medical equipment need in order for him to **survive.** Another factual piece of information is the health insurance obtained while attending law school and working overnight as stock personnel helped him tremendously. Not only did he have work about his health insurance not covering his disability, but he was able to attend law school, study for the bar exam, and accept a position as an attorney for Cattaraugus County.

As new parents, my husband and I have discussed that when our little one is older, she respects individuals with all types of disabilities. This includes employment, legal services, family services, and other services needed for those who are less fortune than us. However, if this bill goes into effect, she may accept that health care is not important, under the American government.

So I ask, as a mother, wife, and advocate to please reconsider your proposition. For my family sake, but also for our youth, lower income families, and individuals who cannot speak for themselves regarding this bill. Not only would this affect my family, but also affect the services and programs that my organization, Directions in Independent Living, provides within the community. Thank you.

Senate Finance Committee Hearing on Graham-Cassidy Bill
Sept. 25, 2017

Amanda M. Vote
[redacted]

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

- Eliminate the financial assistance that helps low- and moderate-income families purchase health care coverage;
- End expanded Medicaid coverage that helps millions of low-income adults;
- Gut Medicaid through deep, permanent cuts that would grow over time and threaten care for millions of low-income seniors, children, and people living with disabilities and shift massive costs and risks to states;
- Jeopardize access to life-saving and effective treatments for addiction and weaken states' efforts to address the current crisis of drug overdose deaths
- Undermine essential protections for people with pre-existing conditions;
- Resurrect - *and worsen* - the devastating cuts in coverage and benefits that the American public and the majority of Congress have already rejected.

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal threatens the health and financial security of millions of Americans including older adults, low-and moderate-income families, people living with disabilities, veterans and people with preexisting conditions. It does nothing to improve affordability or availability of coverage for consumers and will likely result in at least 488,000 Hoosiers losing coverage by 2027 and will undermine the financial stability of our health care system and place additional fiscal strains on our state budget.

Of the many problems evident with this proposal, the most personally disturbing to me are the effects on Medicaid. Although my family was fortunate to have health insurance coverage prior to the ACA, our nine-year-old son's care related to his autism diagnosis was not covered. Once we received an autism diagnosis, we placed our son on Indiana's waiting list for the Family Supports Waiver, which provides Medicaid to children who have a qualifying disability. After a three year wait, we were granted coverage. We rely on his Medicaid coverage for vital services, including speech therapy, occupational therapy, consultation and therapy sessions with a behavior specialist, and even respite care. As he ages, my husband and I hope our son is able to utilize community-based services so that he will not have to be institutionalized at the time of our death.

Since children make up almost one-half of the Medicaid beneficiaries, they cannot possibly be protected if cuts of this magnitude are enacted. Cuts to Medicaid would leave consumers with substance use disorders without access to the most effective treatments for addiction and to life-saving overdose medicine. And seniors and people living with disabilities would also face painful cuts, since Medicaid is the primary payer for long-term services and supports. Community Based Services - the services that keep people with cognitive and physical impairments home and in their communities - are "optional" in Medicaid. The fiscal pressure created by per capita caps will likely lead states to cut back on these services, forcing seniors and people living with disabilities out of their homes and into institutions for their care. And the burden will likely hit communities of color especially hard, where Medicaid enrollment is especially high.

Finally, I believe that everyone should have a say in the decisions that affect their health. With only one hearing scheduled days before a possible vote, and without a full CBO score to properly evaluate the budgetary and coverage loss impacts, it is impossible to have an open and deliberative process that would allow for a true evaluation of and meaningful input on the policies in this proposal that would affect millions of people and one sixth of the US economy. I encourage a return to "regular order," as requested by many members of the Senate and supported by the American public, which would require the opportunity for stakeholders, including industry experts, providers, consumers and state policymakers to weigh in.



The National Campaign
to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy

September 22, 2017

Senate Committee on Finance
Attn. Editorial and Document Section
Room SD-219
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6200

RE: The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy
Statement for the Record
"Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal"
Monday, September 25, 2017

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy respectfully submits this statement in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill. The National Campaign is a private, non-partisan, non-profit organization that seeks to improve the lives and future prospects of children and families by preventing teen and unplanned pregnancy. We know that when young people have the power to decide if, when and under what circumstances to get pregnant they will have more educational and economic opportunities, improved maternal and infant health and stronger families. We as a society will also see fewer abortions and reduced public spending.

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill unfortunately does nothing to further the goal of reducing unplanned pregnancy, and in fact will make it much harder to do so. The bill would repeal many existing provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) that have resulted in greater access to contraception.

By making severe cuts and changes to the Medicaid program—including eliminating the Medicaid expansion and shifting Medicaid to a per capita cap or block grant—the bill would end Medicaid as we know it by 2020, slashing federal contributions to the program and shifting costs to states. These changes to Medicaid would be devastating the roughly two-thirds (67%) of adult women on Medicaid who are in their reproductive years (19 to 49)[1] and rely on the Medicaid for their coverage of birth control. In fact, women comprise two-thirds of the adult Medicaid population and so would be disproportionately harmed by this bill. Drastically cutting Medicaid as this bill and previous provisions have done would also disproportionately impact women of color, who make up a significant portion of women on Medicaid.[2]

Beyond the drastic cuts to Medicaid, the bill also makes it harder for people not on Medicaid to afford health insurance. It would convert current federal cost-sharing reductions and tax subsidies to annual block grants. These lump sums—given to states for years 2020 through 2026—would be capped, meaning that they would not be adjusted to respond to enrollment changes or a public health crisis. The block grant would end in 2027. This elimination of federal support would result in low- and moderate-income women losing their ability to afford health insurance and with it their coverage for contraception.

The bill would also blocks women's access to contraception by banning those on Medicaid from seeking care at high quality contraceptive care providers like Planned Parenthood. The ACA has resulted in millions of women gaining health insurance coverage that has enabled them to obtain the full range of contraceptive methods without co-pays or deductibles. However, research from The National Campaign shows that despite the coverage gains of the ACA, more than 19 million American women already live in contraceptive deserts—defined by their lack of reasonable access to public health care sites offering the full range of contraceptive methods.[3] By denying low-income women on Medicaid the ability to access high quality contraceptive care, this provision would only exacerbate the current gaps in contraceptive access.

Beyond these devastating changes to our health care system, the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill would also eliminate protections for those with pre-existing conditions, and allow anyone to buy a catastrophic plan, and eliminates individual and employer mandates. All this could result in insurance becoming significantly more expensive all while there is less federal support to help people afford an insurance plan.

Ultimately, like previous proposals in the House and Senate, the proposed changes in the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill would fundamentally damage the ability of millions of women to decide if, when, and under what circumstances to get pregnant. Should this bill become law, millions of women, especially those with modest or lower incomes, would lose their health insurance and, with that, their coverage and access to birth control. For these reasons, The National Campaign stands opposed to this bill and urges the Senate to reject it.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Rachel Fey, Director of Public Policy at (202) 478-8529 or rfey@thenc.org.

Sincerely,

Ginny Ehrlich

Ginny Ehrlich
CEO

[1] http://www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/fact-sheet/medicaids-role-for-women/

ALPHA-1 FOUNDATION

September 22, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

I am writing on behalf of the Alpha-1 Foundation to express our opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson (Graham-Cassidy) health reform legislation. The Alpha-1 Foundation is committed to finding a cure for Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency (Alpha-1) and to improving the lives of people affected worldwide.

Alpha-1 affects about 1 out of every 2,500 people in the US or more than 100,000 people in sum, equally affecting men and women in all races and ethnicities. An estimated 19 million people in the U.S. have one normal and one defective gene and are Alpha-1 carriers, who may pass the defective gene to their children. Alpha-1 may result in serious lung disease in adults and/or liver disease at any age. Individuals with Alpha-1 (Alphas) who are lung-affected depend on a biologic augmentation therapy to protect their health and prevent further deterioration. This treatment is extremely effective, allowing Alphas to lead full and productive lives, but also very expensive, with average annual treatment costs of $100,000. Alpha-1 is the most common genetic risk factor for COPD and Alpha-1-related lung disease is commonly called "genetic COPD."

The Foundation has long advocated for policies to ensure that Alphas have high-quality insurance that provides access to the specialists and therapies needed for them to manage their condition and lead healthy, productive lives. The most generous health insurance plan is only as good as an Alpha's ability to purchase it, so we support efforts to further improve affordability and access to health insurance. The Foundation supports the array of private insurance market reforms that were included in the ACA as these work together to ensure that Alphas, and all individuals with rare, expensive and chronic conditions have adequate insurance.

We oppose the Graham-Cassidy legislation, since it would invalidate all four of our key patient protection priorities:

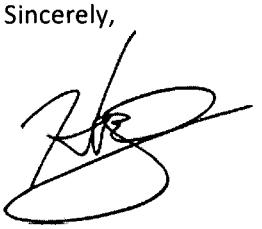
- **No pre-existing conditions restrictions:** States could allow plans to charge people more for premiums based on having a pre-existing condition. Moreover, allowing states to define the essential health benefits (EHBs) allows plans to remove coverage for treatments needed by Alphas or others with high-cost, chronic conditions.
- **No annual or lifetime limits on EHBs:** States could remove the essential health benefit requirements, making the ban on annual and lifetime caps meaningless, since it only applies to services defined as EHBs.
- **A reasonable limit on out-of-pocket expenses:** Likewise, the limit on out-of-pocket expenses only applies to EHBs, so this is also significantly weakened if states narrow the definition EHBs.

- **Insurance coverage up to age 26 on a parent's plan:** Plans could charge parents much more to cover a child affected by Alpha-1 or stop covering Alpha-1 treatments, undermining this protection, too.

We ask that you reject the Graham-Cassidy proposal and restart bipartisan negotiation to implement changes to protect and enhance coverage for Alphas and all Americans living with chronic diseases. Many of the insurance reforms included in the ACA have positively impacted our community, but many Alphas continue to struggle with the high cost of insurance coverage comprehensive enough to meet their complex health care needs. We urge you not to implement policies that will limit patient access to care, particularly for Alphas and other patients with chronic conditions.

Thank you for your consideration. Your efforts to reform our health insurance markets will have profound effects on our community and many others. We would be pleased to serve as a resource to you. If we may be of further assistance, please contact me at hmoehring@alpha1.org.

Sincerely,



Henry R. Moehring
Chief Executive Officer

CC: Members of the United States Senate

September 22, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the women and men served by Susan G. Komen, I am writing you to express our opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson (Graham-Cassidy) health reform proposal. As you know, Komen takes a multifaceted approach to addressing issues related to breast cancer diagnosis, management and treatment, and barriers to access. Our work includes supporting patients, funding breast cancer research, and advocating on behalf of patients and families.

We expressed concern about previous health care efforts in this Congress that would have significantly impeded our patients' access to insurance due to pre-existing conditions, led to them paying more for less coverage and made key patient protections optional. Unfortunately, the Graham-Cassidy proposal is just as concerning since it would jeopardize access to public and private insurance coverage for millions of individuals and have devastating effects on women and men with breast cancer and survivors.

Graham-Cassidy will lead to breast cancer patients paying more for less coverage. Premiums will increase for millions of sicker Americans, including those with breast cancer, since plans could set premiums based on health status. While insurers would still be required to offer plans to breast cancer survivors and those with pre-existing conditions, the plans offered are not required to cover the cancer care, including chemotherapy or "no-cost" screening mammography and other elements of treatment. Mandatory annual and lifetime cap protections would be eliminated for millions of people. In addition, the repeal of the Medicaid expansion and reduction in federal spending for Medicaid will lead to coverage losses. A recent study concluded that decreases in Medicaid availability are associated with later-stage disease at the time of a breast cancer diagnosis for low-income women.

We use our Breast Cancer Bill of Rights to guide all of our advocacy efforts, and hope that this guideline of issues will be helpful to you as you consider reforms to our health care system:

- **ACCESS**: Breast cancer patients and survivors have a right to affordable, quality and accessible health insurance coverage, including those with pre-existing conditions.
- **CLINICAL TRIALS**: Breast cancer patients should be educated about clinical trial opportunities and patients who participate in a clinical trial have a right to coverage of routine health care costs.
- **EARLY DETECTION**: Every woman has a right to access the most effective, evidence-based breast cancer screening and diagnostic tools.

- **FINANCIAL STABILITY**: Breast cancer patients have a right to fight the disease without fear of bankruptcy.
- **HIGH QUALITY**: Every woman has a right to high-quality care, no matter where she seeks medical services.
- **INNOVATION**: All Americans have a right to a government that makes investment in cancer research a national priority.
- **PATIENT EDUCATION**: Every woman has a right to make informed decisions and control her own health.
- **RECONSTRUCTION**: Breast cancer survivors have a right to insurance coverage for full mastectomy care, including reconstruction or prosthesis.
- **STRONG SAFETY NET**: Uninsured and underinsured women have a right to a strong breast health care safety net.
- **TIMELY CARE**: Every woman who has an abnormal mammogram has a right to a diagnosis and treatment, if needed, without delay.

Thank you for your consideration. In accordance with the Breast Cancer Bill of Rights, we seek to ensure that all breast cancer patients and survivors have access to quality, affordable health insurance. We urge you to reject this proposal and restart bipartisan discussions to implement policies that empower patients, improve patient access, and increase affordability. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Molly Johnson, mjohnson@komen.org, with any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Ellen D. Willmott, Esq.
Interim President & Chief Executive Officer
Susan G. Komen

Cc: Members of the United States Senate

My Personal Experiences with Children with Autism
9/25/2017
Erin D. McPherson
[redacted]

I have two children with autism spectrum disorder. Both are high-functioning but still have more than their fair share of problems. My older son was not diagnosed until 2015 (when he was 8) with Asperger's Syndrome even though one previous psychologist he had while at his first residential facility thought this was what he suffered from. He is very smart and very charming at times, particularly with adults. He does, however, have extreme sensory issues, socialization issues, emotional issues, and behavioral issues that my husband and I as well as our own parents and siblings have been struggling with since my oldest son was very young. Due to my son's love of being around adults and extremely high intelligence no one saw any of his autism problems on a first-hand basis until he was in a residential setting where they could observe him with peers. Unfortunately for us, this meant we received no help for him as we couldn't pay for intensive therapies ourselves (I was the only one working as my husband is a 100% disabled veteran) unless we went through our local community services board. We did do this for him but even still it took several months and often, when new legislation would go through, we were left with no help at all for this extremely volatile and often violent child. At this point I have finally gotten him diagnosed correctly with an autism spectrum disorder and have a Medicaid waiver for him so he can receive the intensive therapies he needs as well as regular attendant care to help him with his hygiene issues and medication management. Even still, though, we are currently again in the process of securing funding for yet another residential treatment program for him through our community services board because his behavior and emotional regulation problems have again escalated past the point where his therapists or us can help him in his home environment. My younger son, also with high-functioning autism, is also receiving Medicaid waiver services for targeted ABA therapy, respite care, and attendant care as he also has problems with self-care activities, medication management, and problem behaviors. When he was much younger, though, we initially went through our community services board for speech and occupational therapy for him as he was over 2 years old and still not talking or walking and we had no diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder for him yet nor any way to pay for needed therapies ourselves. If we had not had the extremely dedicated and fully-funded help from our community that we have had, we would probably have had to give up our children to supportive group homes or something similar due to their extreme (and different) problems in several areas of life. I beg you, please, do not let children like these fall through the cracks in an effort to save money. They are worth all we can give and more. They, and their families who often have no other recourse other than community service boards and funds, deserve to have productive and peaceful lives.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Erin D. McPherson

VICTORY
HUMAN SERVICES
People are greater than their disabilities

September 22, 2017

Senate Finance Committee Hearing on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

Victory Human Services (VHS) is a private non-profit organization founded in 2000 by a group of health care professionals to mend the disadvantage in the human services field in Massachusetts facing minorities and immigrant populations. We provide DDS funded services, 24-hour residential support services, 24-hour Shared Living In-home care and In-Home individual support services. We also currently provide Adult Family Care (AFC) and in-home supports for MassHealth members ranging in ages from 18 to 85 years across 15 cities in Massachusetts from New Bedford to Worcester.

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

1. Eliminate the financial assistance that helps low- and moderate-income families purchase health care coverage;
2. End expanded Medicaid coverage that helps millions of low-income adults;
3. Gut Medicaid through deep, permanent cuts that would grow over time and threaten care for millions of low-income seniors, children, and people living with disabilities and shift massive costs and risks to states;
4. Jeopardize access to life-saving and effective treatments for addiction and weaken states' efforts to address the current crisis of drug overdose deaths
5. Undermine essential protections for people with pre-existing conditions;
6. Resurrect - and worsen - the devastating cuts in coverage and benefits that the American public and the majority of Congress have already rejected.

The Graham-Cassidy- Heller-Johnson proposal threatens the health and financial security of millions of Americans including older adults, low-and moderate-income families, people living with disabilities, veterans and people with preexisting conditions. It does nothing to improve affordability or availability of coverage for consumers and will likely result in approximately 665,000 Massachusetts residents losing coverage by 2027 and will undermine the financial stability of our health care system and place additional fiscal strains on our state budget.

MAIN ADDRESS: *1115 WEST CHESTNUT STREET, BROCKTON, MA 02301* | **MAILING ADDRESS:** *P.O. BOX 240934, DORCHESTER, MA 02124*
MAIN: *(508)232-3774* **WEBSITE:** *WWW.VICTORYHS.COM* **EMAIL:** *HR@VICTORYHS.COM*

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

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

This proposal takes away secure coverage from millions, and replaces it only with the possibility of inadequate and temporary coverage. It ends the ACA's successful Medicaid expansion, which has extended coverage to nearly 12 million newly eligible low-income adults. It also eliminates the ACA tax credits that 10 million low- and moderate-income people rely on to afford coverage in the individual market. Although it replaces this funding with a block grant to states, the proposal offers no guarantee that states will provide an alternative affordable coverage option to former enrollees - and indeed the block grant is inadequate to pay for comparable benefits. From 2020 through 2026, block grant funding would be at least 7% ($95 billion) below projected spending under current law, including a $5-$8 billion loss in federal funding to Massachusetts.

Regardless, the block grant ends in 2027, leaving states and former enrollees with no help whatsoever. We do not believe it is likely that Congress would reauthorize additional funds for these programs at a later date, because the funds would no longer be in the baseline of the federal budget. Congress would therefore have to identify and reauthorize a new funding stream – something that would be extremely difficult, if not impossible.

- **Threatens care for low-income seniors, children, consumers with substance use disorders and people living with disabilities.**

This proposal also threatens the care of millions of low-income seniors, children and people living with disabilities who relied on the Medicaid program even before enactment of the ACA. By capping and slashing funding for the traditional Medicaid program by 12% ($1,079 billion) between 2020 and 2036, the per capita cap will force Massachusetts to cut payments to health care providers and health plans, eliminate optional services, and restrict eligibility for enrollment - all of which could restrict access to important health care services for Medicaid enrollees.

No eligibility category would be immune to the impacts of these cuts. Since children make up almost one-half of the Medicaid beneficiaries, they cannot possibly be protected if cuts of this magnitude are enacted. Cuts to Medicaid would also leave consumers with substance use disorders without access to the most effective treatments for addiction and to life-saving overdose medicine. And seniors and people living with disabilities would also face painful cuts, since Medicaid is the primary payer for long-term services and supports. Community Based Services - the services that keep people with cognitive and physical impairments home and in their communities - are "optional" in Medicaid. The fiscal pressure created by per capita caps will likely lead states to cut back on these services, forcing seniors and people living with disabilities out of their homes and into institutions for their care. And the burden will likely hit communities of color especially hard, where Medicaid enrollment is especially high.

- **Pushes massive new costs onto states.**

All states, including Massachusetts, would take on new risks and costs because this proposal converts the overall Medicaid program into a per capita cap. Under this proposal, the federal government would cap its payments to states for most enrollees, and those caps would grow more slowly than actual Medicaid expenditures, leaving Massachusetts with insufficient funding

to meet its current obligations. In addition, states would be fully exposed to any unexpected health care cost increases, such as from a natural disaster, an aging population or medical innovations. The per capita cap alone would reduce federal Medicaid spending by 12% ($1,079 billion) by 2036.

On top of those cost shifts, the 31 states that expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act will be at risk for far deeper cuts. This proposal ends all federal matching funds for the Medicaid expansion in 2020. Some of the funds that the federal government would have spent on Medicaid expansion get rolled into the block grant, but the block grant doesn't make up for Massachusetts' losses because the block grant is inadequate overall, the formula favors non-expansion states (it redistributes funding from expansion to non-expansion states), and it ends entirely in 2026, leaving states with no funding to replace the lost expansion funds.
Because federal dollars for Medicaid account for about 20% of state budgets, Fitch Ratings "believes substantial Medicaid cuts would require states to make material budget adjustments over the next decade and beyond." 3 And by pulling coverage from so many, this proposal would drive up uncompensated care costs on local communities, state budgets, safety net providers, and hospitals.

- **Increases premiums and out-of- pocket costs and destabilizes the individual market.**

By repealing the individual mandate and eliminating advanced premium tax credits and cost sharing reductions, this proposal would drive up premiums and cause insurers to exit the ACA's marketplaces. As we know from previous CBO projections, repealing the individual mandate alone would increase the number of uninsured individuals by 15 million and cause premiums to increase by 20 percent. Furthermore, by replacing the financing of the ACA's financial assistance with a block grant without any guarantee that states would direct their temporary block grant funds toward financial assistance, this proposal puts Massachusetts residents who currently rely on financial assistance at risk for sharply higher out-of- pocket costs and coverage loss.

Beyond the impact of this proposal on individuals, insurers currently selling in the Health Connector would face extreme uncertainty. Because this proposal allows states to change the market reform rules under the ACA and because there are no requirements or standards on how states must use the block granted money, insurers would likely face completely unpredictable risk pools. To make up for this uncertainty, insurers would likely impose large premium increases to protect themselves from unpredictable claims costs or choose to exit the marketplace completely. This means that consumers who purchase coverage on the individual market would likely have fewer coverage options, much higher premiums and no guarantee of financial assistance to shield them from the increasing out-of- pocket costs.

- **Eliminates critical consumer protections.**

This proposal allows states to eliminate one of the most popular and important consumer protections under the ACA - the prohibition on charging higher premiums based on a person's health status or a preexisting condition. This means that in states that choose to eliminate this requirement, insurers could charge individuals with even relatively mild pre-existing conditions thousands of dollars above standard rates to obtain the same coverage as someone without a preexisting condition. Additionally, this proposal allows states to waive the requirement that insurers cover essential health benefits including mental health services, substance abuse treatments and maternity care. This could lead to discrimination against segments of the

population (e.g., older adults, LGBT community) or consumers with specific chronic conditions (e.g. mental health or substance use disorders). For example, this could return us to a time when insurers only covered short-term, minimal treatment for mental health or substance use disorders, if they covered it at all. Before the ACA, almost half of plans in the individual market excluded addiction treatment.

- **Lacks transparency and opportunity for meaningful input.**

We believe that everyone should have a say in the decisions that affect their health. With only one hearing scheduled days before a possible vote, and without a full CBO score to properly evaluate the budgetary and coverage loss impacts, it is impossible to have an open and deliberative process that would allow for a true evaluation of and meaningful input on the policies in this proposal that would affect millions of people and one sixth of the US economy. We encourage a return to "regular order," as requested by many members of the Senate and supported by the American public, which would require the opportunity for stakeholders, including industry experts, providers, consumers and state policymakers to weigh in.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson health care proposal. This legislation would have extremely detrimental impacts on millions of Americans and hundreds of thousands of Massachusetts residents. We are hopeful this legislation will not move forward.

Sincerely,

Habib Jalloh
Chief Financial Officer
Victory Human Services, Inc.

March of Dimes Foundation

Office of Government Affairs
1250 H Street, NW
Suite 400B
Washington, DC 20005
Telephone (202) 659-1800
Fax (202) 296-2964

marchofdimes.org
nacersano.org

STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD
SENATE FINANCE HEARING ON GRAHAM-CASSIDY-HELLER-JOHNSON

SUBMITTED BY
STACEY D. STEWART, PRESIDENT
MARCH OF DIMES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2017

On behalf of the March of Dimes, a unique collaboration of scientists, clinicians, parents, members of the business community, and other volunteers representing every state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, I appreciate this opportunity to submit testimony for the record of the hearing to consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson health care proposal.

I will be blunt: this legislation poses a dire threat to the health of women, infants and families across our nation and should be rejected outright by every Senator.

In particular, the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill poses a special danger to pregnant women and infants, some of the most vulnerable populations. At every turn, this proposal rejects approaches that would make it easier for women and families to obtain affordable, comprehensive care, instead erecting barriers to coverage and removing critical consumer protections.

The March of Dimes is particularly concerned about the impact of this proposal in three areas: Medicaid, the individual insurance market, and state health care systems.

Medicaid Impacts Would Be Devastating

Each year, approximately half of all births in the U.S. are covered by Medicaid.[i] Millions of pregnant women receive comprehensive prenatal care under Medicaid, and their infants are covered for hospitalization, vital well child care, and illness. Medicaid also covers a disproportionate share of high-risk births.[ii] In many states, Medicaid provides crucial wrap-around services for families who have private coverage, but whose children face major health crises with catastrophic costs. For millions of families, Medicaid can make the difference

between a healthy or sick pregnancy or baby, and serves as a bulwark against financial ruin for families of medically complex children.

Under the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill, states would lose the ability to cover additional populations under Medicaid, as permitted under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The March of Dimes estimates that **this rollback alone would result in up to 6.5 million women of childbearing age losing coverage,[iii] denying them the opportunity to get healthy before they get pregnant.** Many of these low-income women would have no recourse for obtaining coverage or health care.

The bill would also convert the existing Medicaid program from an entitlement program to a combined block grant and per capita cap funding structure, potentially wiping out the current requirements that states cover certain mandatory populations, such as pregnant women and children. In addition to these likely coverage losses, the conversion of Medicaid from an entitlement to a capped system is expected to eliminate numerous patient protections in the name of state flexibility. For example, states might no longer be required to adhere to the Early Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (ESPDT) standard of providing medically necessary care to children.

Finally, the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill is estimated to reduce federal funding Medicaid by over $713 billion through 2026 alone[iv]. It is simply impossible to drain this degree of resources from our health care system without extensive consequences for patients, providers, and other stakeholders. States will be forced to serve fewer people, offer fewer services, cut payments to doctors and hospitals, raise taxes, or some combination of all of these measures.

The Individual Market Would Revert to Only Serving the Healthy

Under the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal, the Affordable Care Act's provisions around Marketplaces would be eliminated and states would receive funds to establish their own systems. In the name of flexibility, states would be allowed to permit insurers to charge sick people higher rates, not cover essential health benefits, and impose caps on services and benefit levels.

In a nutshell, **this bill would return us to the days when only healthy people could afford coverage in the individual market.** Allowing insurance companies to engage in medical underwriting again will almost certainly set off a "race to the bottom," where insurers compete for the healthiest customers by offering cheap plans that cover few services. Lower premiums may be achieved, but they will only be available to a limited population, and the plans with lower premiums may not cover the services people actually need. Prior to passage of the ACA, only 13% of plans in the individual market covered pregnancy[v]; in most cases, women who needed this coverage had to purchase costly riders, or could not obtain maternity coverage at all. Numerous analysts have noted that maternity and newborn coverage will likely be among the first benefits insurers will choose to exclude from plans.

Among those states that waive the essential health benefits (EHB) requirements, annual and lifetime caps will also make an unwelcome reappearance. Because the ACA's prohibition on annual and lifetime caps only applies to EHBs, the elimination of the EHB requirement will functionally void the ban on caps. Once again, families will be find themselves in dire straits

when a single major illness or chronic condition could render a child uninsurable permanently. In some cases, an infant born extremely preterm or with other serious complications could exhaust her lifetime limit before even leaving the hospital.

States Need Appropriate Time and Investment to Build New Health Systems

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill envisions each state undertaking the herculean task of building a new individual marketplace system in only two years. While some states may be capable of producing a full-fledged system within this timeframe, many will likely require more time. If states must have functional systems by 2020, it is highly probable that those systems will not adequately address the needs of maternal and child health.

In fact, states are already struggling to serve maternal and child health appropriately. For the past two years, preterm birth rates have increased, after declining for the prior several years.[vi] Maternal mortality rates across the U.S. exceed those in most developed nations.[vii] In many U.S. communities, infant mortality rates rival those of third world countries.[viii] Stark disparities exist among birth outcomes for many racial and ethnic groups. Maternal and child health serves as an exquisitely sensitive barometer for the effectiveness of our health care system, and in too many communities it already indicates serious problems.

Moreover, the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill seems to expect that states will be able to impose cost-containment efforts that the federal government, with its more significant bargaining power and reach, has not. Any serious attempt to restrain costs in our health care system must recognize that the least effective approach is simply to reduce spending. Instead, the government should closely examine the actual drivers of costs and address them directly with targeted interventions. One of the most effective ways to restrain costs would be to engage in sensible, meaningful efforts to promote preventive care. For maternal and child health, this would mean increasing access to well woman, prenatal and well child care to improve outcomes for both mothers and their babies.

States require time, resources, collaboration, and access to best practices in order to construct a health care system that supports healthy pregnancies, babies, and families. The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal provides none of the tools necessary to make that possible.

Conclusion

Throughout our history, the March of Dimes has advocated for patient-centered systems of care that expand access, improve quality, and reduce costs for all parties in the system with the ultimate goal of healthy pregnancies and healthy babies. Unfortunately, the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill fails on all counts to satisfy these standards. **Expecting states to produce dramatically better outcomes with radically fewer resources is little more than magical thinking.**

The March of Dimes urges all Senators to oppose the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson legislation. **This bill is bad medicine for pregnant women, children, and families all across our nation.**

[i] Markus AR, Andres E, West KD, Garro N, Pellegrini C. Medicaid covered births, 2008 through 2010, in the context of the implementation of health reform. *Women's Health Issues.* 2013;23(5):e273-e280.
[ii] Markus A, Garro N, Krohe S, Gerstein M, Pellegrini C. Examining the Association between Medicaid Coverage and Preterm Births Using 2010-2013 National Vital Statistics Birth Data. *Journal of Children and Poverty.* 2016;23(1):79-94.
[iii] http://www.marchofdimes.org/news/statement-of-stacey-d-stewart-president-march-of-dimes-on-release-of-the-better-care-reconciliation-act.aspx
[iv] http://avalere.com/expertise/managed-care/insights/graham-cassidy-heller-johnson-bill-would-reduce-medicaid-funds-to-states-by
[v] http://www.marchofdimes.org/advocacy/affordable-care-is-essential-to-moms-and-babies.aspx
[vi] https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/vsrr/report002.pdf
[vii] http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/monitoring/maternal-mortality-2013/en/
[viii] https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr63/nvsr63_05.pdf

friday
health plans

September 22, 2017

Senate Committee on Finance
Attn. Editorial and Document Section
Rm. SD-219
Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510-6200

Re: Statement for the Record Submitted for September 25 Hearing Titled "*Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal*"

Friday Health Plans is a small health insurer focused on ACA compliant health insurance for rural Colorado. Unlike many larger insurers who are running away from the ACA, we are investing to grow our participation in this market to additional parts of Colorado. We are also working proactively with additional states in need of offering new, innovative health insurance options to their residents.

We support measures that will stabilize the individual marketplace, lower premiums for more Americans, and improve consumer choice. Unfortunately, the Graham-Cassidy bill would significantly increase the uncertainty and risk in this market. The ensuing confusion and volatility this bill would create would also make it essentially impossible for us to expand and invest in new markets.

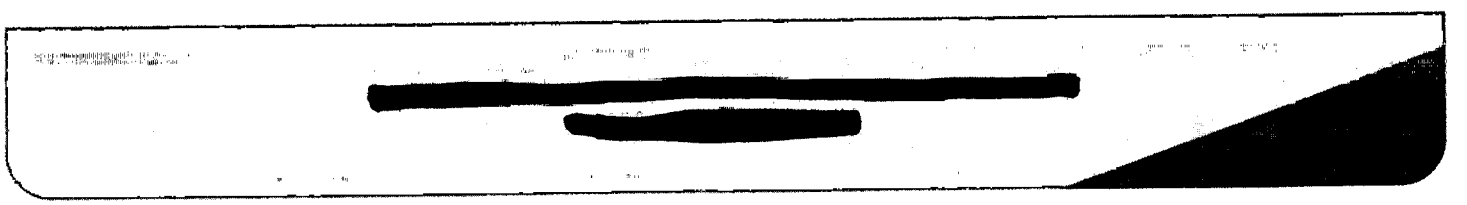
Despite our deep concerns about Graham-Cassidy, it is our goal to be constructive participants in the national dialogue on improving health care access and quality, while lowering costs. We have many policy recommendations that could help to achieve the goals of market stabilization, lower premiums, and increased choice - here are some we consider to be most important:

1. *Enforce the individual mandate.* Without the mandate (or a functional equivalent), community rating and guaranteed issue are highly impractical.
2. *Commit to continued cost sharing reduction (CSR) subsidies.* The uncertainty around this funding is hurting consumers and is driving higher premiums this year.
3. *Fix risk adjustment methodologies.* While we agree in principle to compensating insurers who have higher risk populations, the current risk adjustment formula has structural flaws that disadvantage small carriers, rural carriers, and carriers that strive to offer affordable premiums.

Thank you very much for affording us this opportunity to comment on the Graham-Cassidy proposal and provide additional input on your efforts to improve the health care system in the U.S. We stand ready to work with you and any other members of the Finance Committee who share this important goal.

Sincerely,

David Pinkert
President, Friday Health Plans






Chris Black shares a moment with his daughter, Gracie, during the afternoon rally. The


Include for input to be considered
Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
September 25, 2017

[redacted]

Dear Chairman Hatch and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Christy Black, I am the mother of a 13-year-old young lady, named Gracie who happens to have Down syndrome. As you can see in her pictures, Gracie looks like a healthy little girl with almond shaped eyes, beautiful brown hair and dark brown eyes. What you don't see is that Gracie had seven surgeries in seven years. I stopped counting after that. She had open heart surgery when she was eight months old. She has three autoimmune disorders, and sees seven physicians. She has PUVA therapy twice a week for a severe skin disorder. We must travel to Pennsylvania for one of her physicians, because we do not have the expertise in West Virginia. From where we live in West Virginia, this is a four-hour drive. Gracie receives special education services, which are covered by Medicaid. Gracie is a sixth-grade student at Milton Middle School in Milton, West Virginia. She is pulled out to a resource room for extra help in reading and math twice a day, and receives occupational therapy. Gracie receives the rest of her education in the general education environment, and she is on track to receive a general education diploma. Gracie loves to attend school dances and football games with her friends. She enjoys swimming and horseback riding. She rides saddle bred horses English style, and has even won a blue ribbon. Gracie has been the speaker at the WV Down Syndrome Buddy Walk. She was the keynote speaker at the WV Exceptional Children's Conference. Gracie would like to get a job, get married, and live on her own some day. You may ask why I am telling you this and what does this have to do with the Graham Cassidy Bill? The reason it is important is because my daughter wouldn't be where she or be able to attain her dreams without Medicaid. She may not be alive without Medicaid. My family including Gracie have insurance through Highmark WV. Gracie also has Medicaid as a secondary insurance. When Gracie was younger

she also received speech, physical therapy, and occupational therapy privately. I fought the insurance company on a regular basis for her healthcare and therapies. Do you know what it is like to be on the phone for hours during an appeal regarding a very expensive medication that your child needs to keep them alive, and being scared to death that you may not win the appeal and you don't know how you are going to afford it, but you know you must to save your child's life? No parent should know what that is like, but me and my husband does. My daughter receives Medicaid through the Title XIX Home and Community Based Intellectual and Developmental Disability Waiver. She has received habilitation services and person centered supports. Medicaid pays for her therapy and other school services, as well as all her Medical care. Without Medicaid, I would have to pay $157 twice a week for Gracie's PUVA therapy. That is $1,256 a month. I can't afford it. The Title XIX Home and Community Based Waiver programs are programs that are optional to the States. States will not be able to afford these optional programs with the detrimental cuts to Medicaid that the Graham-Cassidy bill would impose. I will be the first person to tell you that the Affordable Care Act needs fixed, and it will need a bipartisan approach to fix it. We cannot endanger our most vulnerable citizens lives because of a campaign promise to repeal Obamacare. West Virginia has one of the highest, if not the highest population of people with disabilities. West Virginia also has a high population of seniors. Per capita caps and block grants would be devastating to West Virginia, leading to major cuts in funding. The Center on Budget and Policy priorities predict that the impact of the per capita caps proposed in the bill would result in $39 billion in cuts by 2026. The Graham-Cassidy bill allows states to waiver protections for people with pre-existing conditions. Again, my 13-year-old daughter has a heart condition and three autoimmune disorders. My husband suffers from rheumatoid arthritis which would be considered a pre-existing condition. My family is an average hardworking taxpaying middle class family. This alone would bankrupt us. We already pay $1,900 a month for a silver plan policy with a $4,500 per person deductible. Therefore, the Affordable Care Act needs fixed, but the Graham-Cassidy bill does not make it worse. The Graham-Cassidy bill allows states to waive the requirement to provide essential health benefits like mental health and substance use services, rehabilitative and habilitative services such as therapies, and maternity care. It penalizes states that have invested in their Medicaid system. The economic impact of the bill is staggering. This bill would lead to a reduction of federal funding to states by $215 billion by 2026, and a reduction of more than $4 trillion over the next 20 years. The Graham-Cassidy bill would bankrupt states, like West Virginia, and families. I urge you to vote No on the Graham-Cassidy bill. My daughter, Gracie's life depends on it. Please protect Gracie's lifeline.

Sincerely,

Christy Black

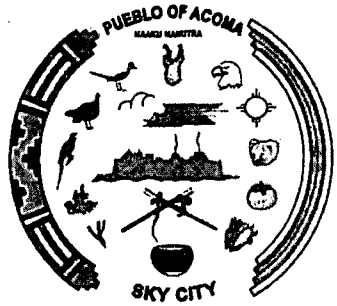
Kurt Riley, Governor

Raymond J. Concho, Jr., 1st Lt. Governor

Christopher J. Garcia, 2nd Lt. Governor

Marcus Leno, Tribal Secretary

Elliott Sanchez, Jr., Tribal Interpreter



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PUEBLO OF ACOMA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

September 21, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
S-230 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Tribal Opposition to Current Senate Healthcare Reform Legislation

Dear Senator McConnell:

On behalf of the Pueblo of Acoma, I write to convey and explain our strong and united opposition of the recently proposed "Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson" legislation to repeal and replace the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA).

This legislation is antithetical to the federal trust responsibility to Indian Tribes. As you know, the Federal Government has a trust responsibility, agreed to long ago and reaffirmed many times by all three branches of government, to provide healthcare to Tribes and their members. Reassigning control of the nation's health system to State Governments violates this sacred government-to-government relationship with the Federal Government.

Additionally, we cannot support legislation that would cut the Medicaid program or eliminate cost-sharing protections for American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs). Both Medicaid and IHS funding are part of the fulfillment of the trust responsibility. With severely underfunded discretionary IHS appropriations, Medicaid revenue is essential to help fill the gap.

In summary, our specific concerns are as follows:

1) The legislation eliminates cost-sharing protections and tax credits in the ACA with state-driven block grants which is contrary to the federal trust responsibility for health;
2) Elimination of Medicaid Expansion;
3) The conversion of Medicaid funding from a system based on need, to one that caps funding according to a complicated per capita allocation formula or through capped block grants. This redesign of the Medicaid system is not an issue relevant to the repeal of the ACA and should not be included in any such legislation;

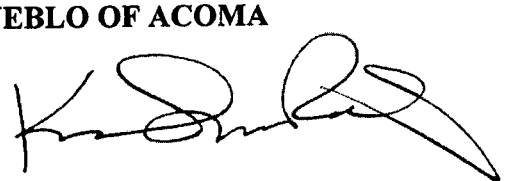
4) The bill fails to protect AI/ANs from barriers that are inconsistent with the federal trust responsibility, such as work requirements under Medicaid;
5) The legislation would expand 100% Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP) to any provider who sees an AI/AN patient which will undermine IHS and Tribal health programs; and
6) The legislation's elimination of the Prevention and Public Health Fund which helps to provide critical funding for Tribes' Public Health Infrastructure.

With so much at stake in our health system, it is critical that Congress take a thoughtful approach to healthcare reform that is inclusive of all stakeholders, including Tribal Nations. Tribes across the country are eager to attend table discussions and discuss how shortcomings in the current healthcare system can be addressed, without wreaking immeasurable harm on our health programs and the people we serve. Once again, we oppose the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal and encourage you to consider health care reform through a bipartisan committee process.

Detailed comments on the legislation are contained below in Attachment A. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (505) 552-6604.

Sincerely,

PUEBLO OF ACOMA



Kurt Riley
Governor

cc: Senator, John Cornyn, Majority Whip
Senator John Thune, Republican Conference Chairman
Senator Orrin Hatch, Chairman, Senate Finance Committee
Senator Mike Enzi, Chairman, Senate Budget Committee
Senator Lamar Alexander, Chairman, Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee
Senator John Hoeven, Chairman Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

Attachment A
Detailed Tribal Comments on "Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson" legislative proposal

The Pueblo of Acoma offers these detailed comments on the "Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson" legislative proposal to repeal and replace the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Medicaid Concerns

Medicaid is a crucial program for the federal government in honoring its trust responsibility to provide healthcare to AI/ANs. We continue to express serious concerns about the cuts to the Medicaid program outlined in the "Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson" proposal. Under a block grant per-capita system, States will experience a dramatic reduction in federal funding for their Medicaid programs. Most will have to either reduce eligibility for the program or reduce and eliminate benefits that are essential to many AI/ANs. Because health care services are guaranteed for AI/ANs, cuts in Medicaid only shift costs over to the IHS, which is already drastically underfunded. Simply put, without supplemental Medicaid resources, the Indian Health System will not survive.

Concerns Regarding the Medicaid Block Grant Program:

The cuts proposed by the "Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson" proposal would be devastating to Tribal and Urban Health Programs. We were encouraged to see that the legislation contains provisions that would prevent the cost of care provided to AI/ANs from counting against either a per capita cap or a block grant. However, faced with the cuts proposed in the legislation, most States will be forced to make cuts to eligibility and/or services in future years. This will affect all providers and recipients, including Tribal/Urban providers and AI/AN patients. Further, this will lead to significant cuts in Medicaid revenues for IHS/Tribal/Urban ("I/T/U") facilities and will threaten our ability to provide healthcare services to our people. The Indian Healthcare Delivery System will not succeed if faced with the cuts proposed in this legislation. As a result, we oppose the legislation in its current form.

Instead, we request that the Senate work with Tribes to develop a mechanism to exempt reimbursements for services received through I/T/U facilities from any State-imposed limitations on eligibility or services that may result from these caps. Such reimbursements would be covered by 100 percent FMAP and, therefore, will not affect State budgets.

We also request that the Senate develop language that requires States, with one or more Indian Tribes or Tribal health providers, to engage in Tribal consultation on a regular and ongoing basis, and *prior* to the submission of *any* Medicaid or CHIP State Plan Amendments, waiver applications, demonstration projects or extensions that may impact Tribes, as Medicaid providers, or their Tribal members, as Medicaid recipients.

Medicaid Expansion

Medicaid Expansion has increased access to care and provided critical third-party revenues to the Indian Health System. The uninsured rate for Native Americans has fallen nationally from 24.2% to 15.7%, since the enactment of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), due in large part to Medicaid Expansion. This has resulted in health care services to AI/AN people who normally might not have received care. It has also resulted in saved revenues to the Medicaid program through

preventing more complex and chronic health conditions. Medicaid Expansion has increased Medicaid revenues at I/T/U health programs that are being reinvested back into the Indian and the larger national health care system.

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson legislation would roll back federal funding for Medicaid Expansion. While we are encouraged by the provision in Section 119 that preserves Medicaid eligibility for AI/ANs in states that have expanded for those enrolled by December 31, 2019, we are concerned that the provision may not work as intended. Medicaid expansion remains optional for States under the current law, and the language proposed does not mandate that a State retain eligibility for the new expansion population for AI/ANs. It is also unclear as to how this provision would be reconciled with State implementation of the per capita cap or block granting options and the cuts to services and eligibility that would result. We are also concerned that the proposal could create an unequal situation for Medicaid eligibility throughout Indian Country.

In addition, we remain concerned that elimination of Medicaid expansion will have negative impacts on the services provided under state Medicaid programs, and, thereby, impact the I/T/U system as well. Instead, we encourage the Senate to pass legislation that would preserve Medicaid expansion in its entirety.

Medicaid Work Requirements

Like previous iterations of the legislation, this new proposal would allow the States to impose mandatory work requirements as a condition of Medicaid eligibility, and incentivize States that impose such requirements with a 5 percent increase in FMAP to reimburse them for the administrative costs of implementing such a requirement.

Mandatory work requirements will not work in Indian Country because the incentive structures are completely different. Unlike other Medicaid beneficiaries, AI/ANs have access to IHS services. If work requirements are imposed as a condition of eligibility, many AI/ANs will elect not to enroll in Medicaid, since they already have access to health care from the I/T/U system. As a result, rather than encouraging job seeking or saving program costs, mandatory work requirements will discourage AI/ANs from enrolling in Medicaid and simply shift costs from Medicaid to the already underfunded IHS. Further, jobs are scarce or non-existent in much of Indian Country, making work requirements impossible to meet and job training programs an exercise in futility.

Tribes fully support work programs and employment, but we believe such programs should be voluntary, as to not provide a barrier to access Medicaid for our members. Again, this is consistent with over 40 years of Medicaid policy for Indian Country. To the extent, it considers imposing work requirements, the Congress should exempt AI/ANs from any work requirements.

Section 128 – Expansion of 100% FMAP

As noted in our letter dated July 21, 2017, Tribes continue to oppose the provision outlined in Section 128 of this proposal that would expand 100% FMAP to all providers who provide services to AI/ANs. The current 100% FMAP provision was added to insulate the States from costs

associated with adding two new provider types to the Medicaid program – IHS and tribally operated facilities.

Section 128 would provide significant additional Medicaid funds to states with no guarantee that these resources would be used to support the Indian health system or provide better care to individual AI/ANs. This is not what Congress intended when they authorized IHS and Tribes to bill Medicaid to supplement chronic underfunding, providing 100% FMAP so that states would not bear this cost. This radical departure from over 40 years of federal policy should not be undertaken without nationwide Tribal consultation. Instead, we recommend only extending 100% FMAP to Urban Indian Health Programs (UIHPs or UIOs as defined by the Indian Healthcare Improvement Act), as they are an integral part of the IHS I/T/U system. These resources need to support and improve the lives of AI/ANs across the nation.

Marketplace Changes

The "Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson" legislation also replaces the health insurance marketplaces, premium tax credits and cost-sharing protections with a state-run block grant system. For example, Section 1402(d) of the ACA includes important and critical cost-sharing protections for AI/ANs, including those who are referred for care through the IHS Purchased/Referred Care (PRC) program. These cost-sharing protections incentivize AI/ANs to sign up for health insurance as they make accessing care affordable to the patient. And, the cost-sharing assistance removes a financial pressure from the severely under-funded PRC programs operated by Tribes and the IHS. Eliminating them would create a disincentive for AI/AN to sign-up for insurance, since they already have access to IHS services. This would result in less third-party reimbursement for the Indian Health System and have a destabilizing effect on the System's ability to provide health care to AI/AN people. Dollar-for-dollar, leveraging cost-sharing protections for AI/ANs and, thereby, encouraging insurance coverage is a very efficient means of moving the needle forward in meeting the federal trust responsibility for health care resources.

More broadly, the proposed State-run block grants would transfer all authority for health care decisions to state governments, which is contrary to the federal trust responsibility for health. By devolving these decisions to the states, Tribes will be at the mercy of State Governments, instead of working on a government-to-government basis with the federal government, as has been long established in treaty, statute, and case law.

Prevention Services

We are also deeply concerned by the proposed reduction of prevention services in the legislation. The elimination of the Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF) will cripple Tribes' efforts to support public health initiatives. Many Tribal health programs rely on PPHF directed funding to keep their public health systems operational. Unlike states, Tribes must piece together a patchwork of funds, some of which are derived from the PPHF, to administer basic prevention services. Additionally, the reduction in funding for women's health services around the country will have major impacts on Tribal members, especially those who do not have direct access to services on or near their respective reservations. The Senate should restore cuts to the preventative services in the legislation.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we could support the legislation only if needs-based funding for Medicaid is preserved, Medicaid Expansion is continued, and the other changes outlined above are made to the

bill before passage. In fulfillment of the trust responsibility, current exemptions for AI/ANs from health insurance premiums, co-pays, and cost sharing must be preserved, and Medicaid-eligible AI/ANs must be allowed access to the program without further requirements attached to ensure additional burden is not placed on very limited IHS appropriations.

Again, we strongly encourage the Senate to undertake consideration of this legislation through a bipartisan committee process. Tribes across the country are eager to come to the table to discuss how shortcomings in the current healthcare system can be addressed, without wreaking immeasurable harm on our health programs and the people we serve.

CWLA
Together, Making Children and Families a National Priority

Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal
Monday, September 25, 2017
United State Senate Committee on Finance
215 Dirksen Senate Office Building

FROM: Child Welfare League of America, 727 15th St NW, 12th Floor, Washington DC, 20005

The Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) urges the Senate Finance Committee and the Senate to reject the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal.

In short, this legislation will be devastating to the nation's child welfare system.

This legislation will undercut the past work of the Senate Finance Committee to reduce the number of children in foster care, to strengthen families that adopt, to support young people that exit foster care, and to reduce and prevent child abuse.

CWLA urges senators to think of the young men and young women with foster care experience that you have sponsored as interns, fellows, and temporary staff. They have told you their stories about the trauma they have experienced, about their multiple placements and the missed opportunities in their care and support.

Too often these young people have told you stories of parents or guardians who could not access the needed drug treatment, mental health, or health services that might have kept their families intact and all of their siblings together.

These young men and women represent the 10–20% who, for reasons we cannot fully explain, were resilient enough to make it all the way to college. These young adults were even more extraordinary in that they also made it to Capitol Hill. Not as visible to you are countless others, and their brothers and sisters (figuratively and literally), who did not make it to college or to Capitol Hill. Too many of them face a future of incarceration, trafficking, or a life of struggle.

This legislation will undercut the critical role that Medicaid plays in addressing child abuse, reducing foster care, and supporting kinship families and families that adopt.

This comes at a moment when the child welfare system is facing another drug crisis: opioid addiction. This crisis has the potential to add to the number of children who are at risk of harm, in foster care, or awaiting adoption.

As a country, we have taken significant strides in reducing the nation's foster care numbers in this century. Foster care caseloads stood at 568,000 in 1999. (House Ways and Means Committee, 2000, The Greenbook). By 2012, the number of children and youth in foster care had

decreased to 397,000 (Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families,2016, AFCARS Report Number 23).

Last fall, the Department of Health and Human Services released their latest official child welfare data. That data showed that in 2015, 427,910 children were in foster care, an 8% increase since 2012. New data suggests that drug abuse by the parent was the primary reason for the child's removal in 32% of cases, and a parent's inability to cope was a factor in a child's removal in 14% of cases (Ibid.).

To better understand this data, officials at the Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) interviewed child welfare directors in states experiencing the highest increase in foster care numbers. State officials informed ACYF on what the data suggest: "A rise in parental substance use is likely a major factor driving up the number of children in foster homes. Citing opioid and methamphetamine use as the most debilitating and prevalent substances used, some state officials expressed concern that the problem of substance use is straining their child welfare agencies."

At this critical time when the caseloads are increasing, decreasing access to health care generally and Medicaid specifically will add to the number of children in foster care.

The expanded access to health care through Medicaid and private health insurance resulting from the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has provided more than $5.5 billion in substance use and mental health services, according to research by Dr. Richard Frank and Dr. Sherry Glied of Harvard Medical School and the Wagner School of Public Service at New York University (Frank, R.G., & Glied, S.A., *The Hill*, January 11, 2017). According to Dr. Frank and Dr. Glied, a full repeal of the ACA would result in a loss of coverage for 2.8 million people with a substance use disorder, including 220,000 people who have an opioid addiction. Additionally, it would eliminate mental health coverage to 1.2 million people with a serious mental health disorder (Ibid).

Early in 2017, *USA Today* highlighted mental health programs developed by the Montefiore Health System in the Bronx. They quoted psychiatrist Henry Chung, chief medical officer of Montefiore's care management organization, as saying the success of these programs is contingent upon patients getting early treatment in primary care. He went on to say the new mental health provisions in the recently enacted 21st Century Cures Act that improve access to treatment need "...to be combined with strong, affordable insurance. You can't have one without the other or some of that progress will be taken away" (O'Donnell, J., & DeMio, T. Obamacare repeal jeopardizes mental health, addiction coverage. *USA Today*, January 9, 2017).

This conclusion is further supported by *Facing Addiction in America*, a 2016 comprehensive report by the U.S. Surgeon General. One of that reports recommendations states that "Full integration of the continuum of services for substance use disorders with the rest of health care could significantly improve the quality, effectiveness, and safety of all of health care."

Many Finance Committee members know firsthand the impact the recent opioid epidemic is having on families in your states. This legislation will add to the pressure already increasing on your states because of opioids and other substances. It will not help that some states will get a

temporary increase in funding by cutting funding to the rest of the states not benefiting from the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal.

CWLA supports the recent recommendations of the President's Commission on Combatting Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis when it called for efforts to enhance access to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT).

According to the National Center on Behavioral Health, many states with the highest opioid overdose death rates have used Medicaid to expand access to Medication-Assisted Treatment (MATs). This includes 49.5% of medication-assisted treatment in Ohio, 44.7% in West Virginia, 44% in Kentucky, 34.2% in Alaska, and 29% in Pennsylvania (Blue, S.C, & Rosenberg, L. (2017). *Americans with Mental Health and Substance Abuse Disorders: The Single Largest Beneficiaries of the Medicaid Expansion*, the National Counsel of Behavioral Health).

Imagine the impact on foster care caseloads, child maltreatment, and other areas of child welfare if the expanded behavioral health and substance use treatment is repealed, cut back due to state options, or cut out due to a state hitting their annual Medicaid per capita cap.

According to our colleagues at First Focus, the State Policy Advocacy Reform Center (SPARC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics, due to their experiences of abuse, neglect, loss, and trauma, youth who are in foster care face a range of health issues that make it vitally important for them to have access to health care:

- 35-60% experience a chronic medical condition
- 50-75% exhibit behavioral or social competency issues that may require mental health treatment
- nearly 50% suffer from chronic conditions such as asthma, cognitive abnormalities, visual, and auditory problems, dental decay and malnutrition

In 2013, the Center for Health Care Strategies analyzed behavioral health care use and expenses for children in Medicaid in all 50 states. They found common themes other researchers have documented:

- Children using behavioral health care represented under 10% of the overall Medicaid child population, but an estimated 38% of total spending for children in Medicaid.

- Children in foster care and those on SSI/disability together represented one-third of the Medicaid child population using behavioral health care, but 56% of total behavioral health service costs.

The research showed that for all children accessing behavioral health care services through Medicaid, the mean annual behavioral health services totaled $4,868, while physical health services totaled $3,652—a total combined Medicaid health cost of $8,520.

Compare that to the subcategory of children and youth in foster care: Annual behavioral health expenses of $8,094 and physical health services cost of $4,036, for a total of $12,130 for children and youth in foster care with at least one behavioral health cost.

These numbers are significant because of the per capita cap.

CWLA believes that this legislation will also have an adverse impact on some families that adopt from foster care. Medicaid is a vital source of support. We know that adoption, as cited by past HHS publications, is a *"lifelong experience for a child and a family. It is normal to face challenges; some challenges may even appear long after the adoption has been finalized."*

Post-adoption services are an increasing need as we have increased the number of adoptions from foster care over these past two decades. Much of this progress in increasing adoptions to more than 57,000 per year is because of past efforts of this Committee. These efforts include the de-linking of eligibility from the 1996 AFDC standard and the passage of the Adoption and Safe Families Act.

Medicaid and the behavioral health services it provides are a vital part of post-adoption services that may not be needed by these families until years later when this legislation will result in its biggest reductions.

Some will argue that the increased flexibility in funding that will be created by this legislation, will allow states to better address these new and ongoing demands. They will argue that flexibility in funding is all that is needed. *That is wrong.*

CWLA reminds you just how difficult it is for children and families involved with state child welfare systems and families that adopt from foster care to get to the top of the list of budget priorities.

Flexibility in Medicaid funding, along with future caps and reductions, will mean that these families, children and youth will be competing with future costs including the potential growth in demand for long term care and nursing home services. States will budget and choose according to top priorities and youth in foster care may not meet that priority.

Many of the members of the Finance Committee were present and vital to the enactment of 2008 Fostering Connections to Success Act. That historic law gave states the option to extend foster care to 21 and to expand federal funding to kin families. Nearly ten years later approximately 25 states have not extended care to age 21, and approximately 15 have not taken the subsidized guardianship option.

As health care and Medicaid funding becomes tighter, addressing the reduction of foster care placements, to support the adoption of children from foster care, to support those families with post-adoption services, and to provide the ongoing support to kinship families will inevitably slip down the list of budget and political priorities.

CWLA believes that the flexibility and the options this legislation will create will leave children and youth behind.

Senator Mary Landrieu and Senator Charles Grassley provided the inspiring leadership to create the Senate Caucus on Foster Youth. Senator Landrieu, during the original debate over the ACA, worked with some members of this Committee and other Senators to assure that every young person who aged out of foster care had access to Medicaid up to age 26. This was an attempt to assure that these young adults have the same protection all other young adults have to be on their parents' health insurance to age 26.

Unfortunately, because of the technical problem with the way that provision was written and interpreted, if that young person aged out in one state and moved to another state—if they, for example, move to go to college, have an internship, or move to a neighborhood just across state lines—they will not be covered unless the state takes the option to extend Medicaid.

According to our colleagues at First Focus, approximately 14 states have taken the option to extend Medicaid to youth formerly in foster care.

CWLA gives these examples to highlight that optional coverage does not always work to the benefit of families that encounter child welfare systems. These families, children, and youth often lose out due to competing pressures.

We join many of our colleague organizations in highlighting the fact that Medicaid is a critical children's health coverage program. A key, vulnerable population that Medicaid serves are children involved with the child welfare system. Children in or at risk for entering foster care experience disproportionate exposure to trauma, and often have complex medical needs. Medicaid covers all of children in foster care and is vital to meeting their health needs.

Changes to the Medicaid program that undermine its structure, including per capita caps and block grants, would harm vulnerable children and families in the child welfare system.

History has demonstrated the negative effects of converting funds into a flexible state block grant may not be felt next year but it will be felt in the very near future. That is not a comfort and it is not a solution.

Please vote to reject this Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal and work instead toward bipartisan solutions both in health care and in child welfare.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tom Engebretson[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:08 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health insurance claims

Several of my family members have the genetic disorder known as Lynch Syndrome.
It has been as asset to be aware of their predisposition to cancer in order to be proactive.
Unfortunately, it will allow insurance companies to use this information against my family and others like us.
Long term protection of pre exisiting conditions is essential to the well being of my family.

Sincerely,
Tom Engebretson
[redacted]St.
[redacted]1
[redacted]6

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Krystal Odell [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:08 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Medicaid

I beg you as a supporter of people with significant disabilities to not pass this disasterous bill which will have a devastating effect on the most vulnerable population. The Medicaid expansion allows people with significant disabilities to live productive lives in the community. It pays for an aide to assist the person, supplying the physical assistance they need to function (think stroke, veteran with loss of limbs). With this help they can work, own a home and contribute to the community.
Without this help they will lose their job, lose their home and end up in a nursing home which will cost the taxpayer over $200,000 a year.

It is unconsciousable that elected officials could be swayed to vote against the best interests of the people.

I work with a wonderful woman named Anita who after a stroke was relegated to a nursing home. She worked hard and improved. 2 years later she was able to move to her own apartment with the assistance of an aide supplied through Medicaid expansion. Today she is on a police task force on disability, an active member of her church and a contributing member of her community.
We ask that you vote with Anita-not against her and other vulnerable Americans.
Sincerely,
Krystal Odell
CEO
PennReach
PennReach is a nonprofit that serves people with special needs and their families

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sue McCarthy [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:07 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham - Cassidy Bill

I am in strong opposition to this proposed bill to overhaul the current ACA. Many individuals that I work with on a daily basis in the field of developmental disabilities and rely on Medicaid will go with out services or have limits imposed.
The loosely defined coverage of pre-existing conditions is concerning as many Americans are currently being treated for pre-existing conditions be it allergies, developmental disability or delay or chronic medical DX such as Mental Health, or MS - both of these dx affect people I know and love,
Please vote no!!!!!

We must ensure that any proposal is fair for all and not a way to appease the insurance lobbyists!!

thank you
Susan McCarthy
Woburn, MA
This email is confidential and may contain privileged information. If you are not the addressee it may be unlawful for you to read, copy, distribute, disclose or otherwise use the information in this email. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify us immediately.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Deb Weinstein [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:06 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

The proposal as written will cost more in the near and long term than it purports to trim from the budget. It has financial implications that jeopardize the financial health of loacalities, states, and the federal government.

The cuts are not savings. They are a negative investment, that erase health-maintaining and health-promoting benefits that have a very simple financial benefit: they keep people healthy, which means they can work, and this work funnels money to governments and the economy, and a strong economy means there is more money to spend, and that means more jobs.

Vote against this proposal. It is fiscally irresponsible with repercussions that will take decades to overcome. Responsible governing means legislating for an improved future. This bill is not this type of legislation.

Vote no.

Deborah Weinstein
Stamford, CT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Elias [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:06 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

Karen Elias

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marianna Sachse [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:06 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because my husband has a hereditary pre-existing condition. He is healthy on a daily basis, but requires daily prescriptions, expensive tests every 18 months, and is at high risk for cancer. If this terrible bill goes through, he'd be at risk of losing his insurance. Please do what you can to stop this bill!

Sincerely,
Marianna Sachse

Marianna Sachse

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: lex[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:03 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: #GrahamCassidy

I am against #GrahamCassidy bill that strips health care for millions to finance tax credits for the rich.

Pam

I support MA film credits

Do not rub the lamp unless you are ready for the genie.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julie Mader-Meersman [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:03 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no

Very disturbed at the dangers imposed on people if the GC proposal goes through, and equally disturbed at the lack of benefits the are name-able. The bad far outweighs the good on yet another dodgy repeal plan.

BI-PARTISAN REPAIR IS THE ANSWER!

Julie in Kentucky

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: William Albanese[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no on Graham-Cassidy

Please do not vote for this legislation.

It is horrible for healthcare. I'm a pharmacist in a hospital and I know! It puts a large burden of uninsured individuals back in the hospital and harms the budget of community care centers.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Please do NOT take our ACA away!My son has Autism , thyroid 2 cats in the brain and 1 in the thyroid.I have asthma, thyroid and damaged tissue in my foot.My husband since not having insurance for 12 years , now has high blood pressure.He is on 4 pills to control his high blood pressure.I learned in the 1990's what insurance caps were when my mom was in the hospital for 2 YEARS.When I had no insurance for 12 years I fell and damaged the tissue in my foot. I was DENIED being treated by a doctor due to having no insurance.ALL LIVES MATTER!you will never know what it feels like to be denied treatment from a doctor until you have no insurance.It is a horrible feeling. We are the only country where people have to worry about going to the doctor.Please I urge you to help the people who need the ACA! Thanks [redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Wendy Johnson [redacted]m>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Good morning, my name is Wendy Johnson. I am writing today as one of the millions of people who will be harmed if the Graham-Cassidy bill becomes law. I would like to tell you how this radical restructuring of America's healthcare market will affect me:

I vividly remember celebrating, the day the ACA took effect. I celebrated for two reasons: Number one, I have a son with Asperger's Syndrome and Muscular Dystrophy. He turned 18 a year before it took effect. We tried and tried, but we could get no private insurer to cover him, and I celebrated because finally my son would have reliable care to deal with his health challenges. Now, to see Republicans, planning to vote to take his care away... It's devastating.

I celebrated, second, for myself. Before the ACA, I saw my premiums rise every year after I turned 40, on a high-deductible plan that required me to pay out of pocket for most of the healthcare I received. There was a time when my routine mammogram showed a mass in one of my breasts. The doctor ordered a sonogram, and I paid out of pocket for that. Hundreds of dollars, and it took me months to pay it off. The doctor also wanted me to get a follow-up mammogram six months later, but I did not. I couldn't afford it, because I was still paying off the sonogram. I never went to the doctor to have my medications checked, or for any other form of visit, because it cost me almost $100 every time I saw the doctor. Now I get my health insurance through the Medicaid Expansion, and when I need to see my doctor, I can. This makes me healthier, so I can continue to work and pay taxes.

The Graham-Cassidy bill calls for an end to the Medicaid Expansion, which will take away my healthcare, and that of both my sons, who still in college. It changes the Medicaid program, so that others, even poorer than me, will also be denied healthcare. It allows states to waive restrictions on insurance companies, putting us back into the era before the ACA, when companies could raise rates on older Americans, sell policies like the one I had, where costs are so prohibitive that they're worthless, and deny coverage for pre-existing conditions. This does not mean turning away people like my older son, with his serious health concerns, but denying coverage even for minor things like the blood pressure medication I take, or the therapist that my younger son sees, to help him cope with OCD.

This is a bad bill, that will hurt millions of Americans like me. I am asking that you listen to people like me. What we need is bipartisan solutions to fix what needs to be fixed about the ACA, rather than this radical and hurtful restructuring of one sixth of America's economy.

Thank you for taking the time to read my message.

-- Wendy Johnson-Niblick

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anna Blacketer [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

Please file 13 this bill. Make a committee of people knowledgeable on healthcare and finance to come up with something that will work.Come up with something that is affordable.
Thank you!

P.S. And do something about the outrageous price of medicine!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karl Pala[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

Graham Cassidy is by any measure a detriment to American citizens. How dare congress even contemplate a vote without a full CBO analysis? The ACA, while imperfect, is at least a step in the right direction. Improve the ACA.
Karl Palan

Get Outlook for Android

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Ewer[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:27 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham Cassidy

I oppose Graham Cassidy. GOP effort to repeal the ACA is mean and heartless. The ACA would function better if Congress would work to strengthen it. I am a strong supporter of Planned Parenthood and oppose any cuts to PP funding. I am committed to supporting my fellow citizens through Medicaid, including those middle class seniors who spend their savings on care and then go on Medicaid. Finally, should Graham Cassidy pass, all cuts should be immediate so that the public can experience exactly what ACA repeal means. Cravenly kicking cuts to 2026 and beyond demonstrates just what a heartless sham Graham Cassidy is. Reject Graham Cassidy.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chris Kuz[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:27 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Trumpcare is not what we voted for and not what we want. It will be the death of our most vulnerable citizens. It is a democide and should not be allowed.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathy King [redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:26 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because ....
An immeasurable amount of folks will literally be thrown under the bus. Huge fallout medically, economically and in quality of life & likely for those most vulnerable. You were elected to serve the People, NOT the party. PLEASE vote against this selfish & poor piece of legislation. Thank you!!

Kathy King

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Louise Walsh [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:26 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it will cause millions of people to lose access to affordable health insurance and, thus, health care. People who now have insurance (some who previously did not) and are able to access the care they need will suffer.
In Pennsylvania, where the Medicaid expansion was accepted, we would lose the funding to help insure millions. How is it fair that states that care about healthcare access for its citizens would now be penalized under this heinous bill, but states who refused to do what they could to insure their citizens would benefit?
The rush to push something through just to.....push something through....is reprehensible and contrary to what, in my 66 years of life, I always thought elected officials were supposed to do: represent the people. When insurance companies, medical associations, and even now the Medicaid administrators of all 50 states oppose this awful bill, not to mention the overwhelming majority of constituents, perhaps it's time to listen. I think the political consequences will be far more serious when people start realizing that they can no longer afford to be insured, and thus unable to receive the care they need, than your "worry" that ACA must be repealed. You have tried for years without success. Does no one realize that the reason repeal has failed is that people WANT THE ACA?

I'm angry and scared for my family. I'm incredibly disappointed in my government. This is not the country I always believed it was. This is not the way to "represent" your constituents.

Louise Walsh

Louise Walsh

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anthony Vinciguerra [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:25 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham Cassidy healthcare bill

GCHcomments@finance.senate.gov

To whom it may concern:

Healthcare is a HUGE part is the American economy and it impacts everyone.

I oppose the Graham Cassidy healthcare bill.

Extend & fund ACA or move to a single-payer model please.

Thank you.

Anthony Vinciguerra

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pamela Dillett [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:25 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

Pamela Dillett

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Danielle LeBlanc [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:25 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO Graham-Cassidy

Graham-Cassidy would drastically deteriorate the health of people in my beautiful state of Maine. Many Mainers rely on the benefits of Medicaid, which would be gutted through this heartless bill. As an educator, I know that my students DEPEND on and DESERVE these life-changing and life-saving services provided through federal Medicaid funding. Maine is poised to be the MOST affected by this drastic bill, according to the head of our hospital association. Doctors oppose this. Teachers oppose this. It is wrong for Maine and wrong for the United States of America.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Ellen Pantaleo [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:24 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy NO healthcare bill

I urge you to do everything in your power to defeat this atrocious NO healthcare bill Not going to repeat all that is truly dangerous to the health of Americans- you all know it already Now the fact that Senators are being blackmailed by donors is sickening This is not my America I'm 68 yrs old and have never witnessed anything like this Fix the ACA. Need universal healthcare for all Do something about the 5% of self employed who are paying high premiums And stop the lies !!!

Mary Ellen Pantaleo

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eric Zrinsky [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:25 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it is not an improvement over the Repeal & Replace bills that have already failed in Congress. In fact, this bill would go even further to punish those who are most vulnerable in our country. Healthcare is not and should not be a vehicle for partisan politics. We should not gamble with the well-being and potential lives of millions of people across the country because this bill is seen as a last-ditch effort to pass partisan legislation through the reconciliation process instead of working on a bipartisan effort to improve the Affordable Care Act with 60 votes. Our president has turned his campaign promise to repeal the Affordable Care Act as a war drum for his ever diminishing base. His constant claims that the insurance markets are imploding have been damaged more by partisan attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act than any natural progression of premium increases. While it is politically expedient to stoke and exacerbate this instability, doing so cost American citizens their health and potentially their lives. Do the right thing for real, hardworking American people and not corporate donors or vested partisan interests. We're playing with people's lives. Choose the right side of history.

Sincerely,

Eric Zrinsky

Eric Zrinsky

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carly Catello [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:23 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it would take away health care for people I love.

Carly Catello

[redacted]

living in a hospital, a family working or being bankrupted, and a child living or dying. Please consider the actual children who will be most affected by Graham-Cassidy and how your decisions will profoundly impact their lives in a destructive manner.

All I can hope is that you will reject Graham-Cassidy and instead help build a robust bipartisan healthcare plan to help children like Cohen today..

Sincerely,

Jody Meyer
And the Meyer family.

programs allow children and adults like Cohen to live at home, go to school, work, and thrive in their communities by providing extra services such as in-home care. They allow kids to be kids, and adults to be independent. Medicaid is the only reason Cohen is able to live at home instead of spend his entire life in a hospital ICU. Our private insurance does not cover this type of care.

It is beyond cruel to force parents of medically complex children to spend all of their time negotiating with politicians and insurance corporations simply so their children can stay alive and live in the community like other children. We are begging politicians to let our children live. To let our kids be kids. To let our families not be bankrupted.

Our current system is by no means perfect and surely needs improvement.. But Graham-Cassidy provides absolutely no improvement. Instead it will:

• Cut total Medicaid dollars. These cuts force states to ration or eliminate care, especially for children like Cohen and adults with disabilities in optional programs.
• Eliminate annual and lifetime benefit caps. Like many families of children who are medically complex, Cohen went through his first million-dollar plan in less than a year. As he approached the cap on his second plan, our financial well-being was saved by the ACA's provision eliminating lifetime caps. Without this provision, our family would be bankrupt.
• Eliminate pre-existing condition protections by making essential health benefits optional. Children like my son, who happened to be born with a catastrophic medical condition through no fault of his own, would be forever denied insurance due to their conditions.

It's hard to even imagine what life would be like for children like my son under the type of healthcare system proposed by Graham-Cassidy. Most likely he would lose his Medicaid waiver, forcing him to live permanently in a hospital ICU at a much greater cost to taxpayers. More importantly, we would lose the chance to be a whole family under the same roof.

To those of us with children who are medically complex, healthcare reform is not just political maneuvering or a means to balance the budget. Your decisions as Senators will be the difference between a child living at home or

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shane Meyer [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:23 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Dear Senators

Dear Senators,

I am the parent of a child, Cohen, who was born with cerebral palsy and severe disabilities. Cohen is fortunate enough to be covered by both private insurance and Medicaid, and these programs allow him to live at home with his 3 brothers (including his twin) instead of a hospital intensive care unit. You see he has a trach and a gtube and is non verbal. He blinks for yes and turns his head for no. He can NEVER be left alone.

Unfortunately, for children like Cohen, the opportunity to live at home, and even to just remain alive, is severely threatened by the Graham-Cassidy Repeal and Replace Legislation.

I have grave concerns with Graham-Cassidy, particularly its conversion of the Medicaid program to per capita caps or a block grant system. While in theory these changes are intended to introduce flexibility for states, in reality they are simply a cut to Medicaid over the next decade. In my state, the projections suggest that in 2020, we are looking at an 11% cut to Medicaid reimbursements, and by 2030, a 34% cut.

Let me share exactly what these cuts mean to cash-strapped states, because I have already lived through the ramifications of cuts to Medicaid when my state was forced to significantly reduce its budget.
Cohen has in-home nursing services, that our primary insurance does not cover. With those cuts, our nurses had cuts to their income as well and we went several years without help.

My state attempted to do exactly what all states will be forced to do when they receive less money for Medicaid as in Graham-Cassidy: cut or ration the optional Medicaid programs for children and adults with disabilities. These

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elsa Marsden [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:23 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Save preexisting conditions! Vote NO to Graham Cassidy!!!

Dear Senators,
I'm a mother in Vienna, VA. I happen to be a widow. My daughter happens to have survived a terrible autoimmune disease which put her on chemotherapy for nearly 3 years.

These are conditions that allow the insurance companies to charge us more. Much more, even though she is at no greater chance of recidivism than the general public.

When Obamacare was passed I was able to cut my hours to part time. Remember-I'm a widow with a little girl. This was crucial for our little family. Before Obamacare my daughter was not doing well in the after school programs. She was crying every day and wanted more time from her mother. She was scared I might die just like her daddy. This was normal for a daughter who has previously lost a parent.

Thankfully, for these last years, I've been able to be there after school for her and help her deal with her anxiety. She is flourishing.

Now, however, I'm worried I'll have to start back full time for benefits. I don't get subsidies from Obamacare, just the peace of mind that our insurance is affordable. And it is still affordable.

I ask you, don't you think our little family has suffered enough already? She just turned 13. Please let me keep being with her at least until high school.

I'm at a point of begging now. Please stall, please resist, please DO ANYTHING YOU CAN to save my little girl from more pain.

Thank you,
Sonya Marsden

~~~~~~~

Forgive the typos, please. This was sent using my iPhone.
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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: marissa scott [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:22 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare concerns

Hello, my name is Marissa Scott. I am a registered voter in Orlando, FL. I am writing to ask you to not give states the ability to apply for waivers on preexisting conditions in the Graham-Cassidy amendment. I want to relay a clear message to you that it's critical that the provisions and benefits of the Affordable Care Act remain in place. Since its passage, 20 million Americans have gained health care coverage, and our country is enjoying a record low uninsured rate. While my family is fortunate to have employer sponsored insurance, our daughter was born with a congenital heart defect- a preexisting condition. Not only am I worried about her future health, if this bill passes the senate, I will now have to worry whether or not her valve replacement will be covered in 10-15 years. I have to worry about our insurance declining coverage and hit my family with hundreds of thousands in medical expenses that, quite frankly, we cannot afford.

All Americans should have access to affordable healthcare without stipulations there and caveats here. I know Obamacare isn't perfect, but this new amendment giving states the right to apply for waivers to make it difficult for Americans with preexisting conditions is not the answer.

Thank you for your time,
Marissa Scott

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jim Novak [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:22 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare Bill

I am writing to say you must not pass the Graham Cassidy bill.
There is no CBO score so you cannot have a good idea of how it will affect the economy or the public.
All 50 state Medicare administrators are against it and every professional medical group and interested party is against it. Even he insurance companies have called it a terrible bill.
The bill does nothing to improve health insurance for the public and I understand it will make matters much worse by increasing costs, reducing availability of insurance and greatly shifting the policy decisions to the states which would introduce inconsistencies and huge complications to administration of insurance and to where people who wish to buy insurance.
The bill has not followed the regular order rules of the Senate, which would allow time for bi-partisan debate and for the public to begin to understand what the bill would mean to them.
Approval of this bill under these circumstances amounts to dereliction of your duty to the people of America.

Sincerely
Jim Novak
IL 3rd district
Proudly represented by
Senators Richard Durbin and Tammy Duckworth

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Victoria Mihalski <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:22 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassity Bill

I am a senior and conscientious voter in the 18104 zip code area. I am writing to urge your committee not to pass the above bill. The CBO report should be a factor in the passing of this bill. As the president said Health Care is not easy. I had negotiated health care for my employor and know this first hand. You have to take into consideration the economic status and the health concerns of those affected.

Adding pork on to this important bill is not the way to get it passed. It should be a clean health bill with no compromises. As a Republican, I feel that you had 8 years to get this right, and pounding the bill though just to do it does not benefit your constituents or the country.

Victoria Mihalski

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kim <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:22 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My eyesight

> My eyesight was saved by Obamacare. I need regular intervention for the rest of my life. VOTE NO on GCH.
>
> Kim Markham
>
> Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Polly T Strife <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:22 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The ACA

I am a person who is not either dead or penniless due to a life threatening illness. This is true because of Massachusetts' healthcare program. My daughter lived 30 miles away in RI and was unable to afford even routine care. She has pre-existing conditions that, under Graham Cassidy , would either not be covered or coverage would be unaffordable. How would that be right?

The ACA is not perfect but it can be improved.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ray [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:22 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy

Members of the Senate Finance Committee --

I am so disappointed in the new bill presented by Senator Graham and Senator Cassidy. Despite their claims, there is no question that this bill would be devastating to people with serious illnesses like cancer and heart disease. The fact that no major health-related group has expressed its support for this legislation should be testimony enough for this committee to vote against this bill. Don't play politics with people's lives. There are better solutions to the health care crisis than providing states with the license to allow plans that do not cover ESSENTIAL health benefits. There is no question that the current health care law needs improving but this bill will not do it. Let's find a way to work together to come up with an approach that benefits all Americans. Other countries have done it. Why can't we?

Ray Carson
[redacted]
Tampa, F[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jean Steinke <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:21 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Concerns over bill

Please don't pass this bill without having it fully vetted by the CBO. I am also concerned that many health care companies and the AARP are not supporting it. What does tie mean for the economy and the aging population? Congress needs to know before they vote!

Sincerely,

Jean Steinke

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: THOMAS LATZGO[redacted]n>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:20 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because block grants to states implies a cap on Medicaid services. Because Planned Parenthood is defunded. Because seniors will be charged more for insurance. Because pre-existing conditions will be cause for higher premiums. Because over 30 million Americans will loose their health insurance. And this is only a short list of the un-American aspects of Graham-Cassity. The Republicans simply are looking for a political victory because they hate President Obama. This bill must not pass. Thank you.

THOMAS LATZGO

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:27 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Please vote no on Graham-Cassidy. This bill is a nightmare. It will take healthcare away from millions and make it impossible for people with pre-existing conditions to get affordable healthcare. Do the right thing and vote no.

Josh

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:20 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition GrahamCassidy

Dear United States Senators,
Thank you for your service. I would like to put on record **my opposition of the Graham Cassidy health care bill.** It is a political bill for headlines that does not actually deliver on the healthcare needs of the American people.

This bill is receiving strong opposition from major insurance companies, doctors, patients, hospitals and other patient-provider groups, including the AMA, Blue Cross Blue Shield and AARP. It will leave 15-32 million Americans uninsured over time. The fact that it doesn't protect those with pre-existing conditions is extremely unfair and concerning. Pregnancy should never be considered a pre-existing condition and women's health should always be protected.

Please **vote no** and thoughtfully not politically work toward the best healthcare solutions.

Sincerely,
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mike Sheldon [redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:20 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal

I think this bill is a terrible idea. Repair the Affordable Care act! Don't repeal it under the guise of this bill!

Regards,
H Sheldon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jim Novak [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:20 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

I am writing to say you must not pass the Graham Cassidy bill.
There is no CBO score so you cannot have a good idea of how it will affect the economy or the public.
All 50 state Medicare administrators are against it and every professional medical group and interested party is against it. Even he insurance companies have called it a terrible bill.
The bill does nothing to improve health insurance for the public and I understand it will make matters much worse by increasing costs, reducing availability of insurance and greatly shifting the policy decisions to the states which would introduce inconsistencies and huge complications to administration of insurance and to where people who wish to buy insurance.
The bill has not followed the regular order rules of the Senate, which would allow time for bi-partisan debate and for the public to begin to understand what the bill would mean to them.
Approval of this bill under these circumstances amounts to dereliction of your duty to the people of America.

Sincerely
Jim Novak
[redacted]
Proudly represented by
Senators Richard Durbin and Tammy Duckworth

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Richard Lynch [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:20 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Please stop this bill it will cause pain and suffering! Try to be people first and not money grabbing politicians. Reelection money should not cost you your soul! Be human stop this bill! Sincerely Richard Lynch
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lori Coleman[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:20 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

I am writing to oppose the gutting of the ACA. It is irresponsible to cut funding while simultaneously allowing the states to decide whether or not to cover essential health benefits and pre-existing conditions. You will leave the states with no choice to cut benefits to the most vulnerable people- children, elderly, poor, and chronically ill.

The way insurance works is that a large pool of healthy people offset the smaller pool of sick ones. Removing the individual mandate will mean only the sick will be insured. This will drive up costs and result in people having to choose from food/rent verses getting the meds they need to stay functional. Medical bankruptcy will one again be rampant. People will not be able to work because their illness won't be managed. People will die when they could have lived.

I'm a healthcare worker, helping to provide nursing home care to fragile elders. Medicaid cuts will devastate our ability to care for these people.

Please don't vote for this bill.

Lori Coleman

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Leah Lind [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:20 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because this will cause millions of Americans d to lose health insurance! This does nothing to improve coverage, in fact, quite the opposite. It will cost more for women, families, persons with chronic and pre-existing conditions. It will cost more to have a healthy baby, how is that a pro-life stance? All patient and medical professional groups oppose this bill. This will cut benefits for the neediest among us. I am grateful to be healthy and have a healthy family, but I know that at any moment that could change and we could need the benefits you seek to cut. And many persons and families in this country rely on these benefits to survive. It is unconscionable to cut these essential healthcare services, we should be expanding them!

Leah Lind

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: DALE MITCHELL [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:23 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Pearson, Beth (Warren); Hurt, Nikki (Markey)
Subject: Graham- Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am writing on behalf of Ethos, a Boston, MA based non-profit organization dedicated to keeping the elderly and disabled at home and out of institutions for as long as possible. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA). In particular, I am writing to express Ethos' strongest possible opposition to the bill's proposed restructuring – and gutting - of the state-federal Medicaid program.

Currently, Ethos serves over 4,000 lower-income, homebound elderly and disabled residents of Boston. Almost 1,000 of these are clinically eligible for nursing home care but are receiving less expensive, safer and more enriching care at home through the Medicaid program. The provision of their care at home, in an environment which is inherently nurturing and familiar, generates significant savings for both the state and federal governments. Taxpayers are among the most notable beneficiaries, as nursing home care is significantly more expensive than home care.

If federal support for Medicaid is gutted as proposed in the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill, the Medicaid funding currently available to keep the almost 1,000 extremely low-income, homebound elders and disabled people served by Ethos will be imperiled. Because of the extensive nature of their disabilities and the fragility of their caregiving networks, even small disruptions to their care can generate nursing home admissions. And yet, because Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposes a radical and far-reaching restructuring of Medicaid, it is entirely possible that disruptions to their care will not be small, but quite extensive.

If true, nursing home admissions will skyrocket and we will return to a scenario not seen since the 1950s, when institutional care was the only option for low and middle-income elders who, unlike the wealthy, cannot afford private, 24/7 in-home care.

Of course, taxpayers will be expected to foot the bill for such a penny-wise and pound-foolish shift. That is, unless nursing home care is also unavailable because of the extensiveness of the Medicaid cuts required by Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson. Over two-thirds of all nursing home care is funded by Medicaid. What will happen to nursing home care if Medicaid funding is sharply curtailed? If nursing home beds shrink at the same time home care supports are curtailed, where will disabled elders go for help? What if there is no family or, as is so often the case today, families live far away or are already working two jobs? Who will help? If you think charity, think again; philanthropic support for the elderly and disabled, at least in greater Boston, is shockingly slight.

Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson plays a dangerous game with the lives of the elderly and disabled. While no one can say for sure that its proposed Medicaid cuts will harm them, no one can say for sure they will be not. Indeed, it is quite likely that the impact on the elderly and disabled of such a radical restructuring of Medicaid will be great - and very hurtful. This is not a game we should play with of our most vulnerable - and deserving - citizens. On behalf of the 4,000 homebound elders and disabled people Ethos currently serves and the thousands and thousands who will turn to it for help in the coming years, I implore you to reject the reckless and mean-spirited Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal.

Sincerely,

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marye Harrison <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:23 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

To Whom it May Concern:

It is unconscionable that a bill that is even more punitive and damaging than its predecessors is being forced to a vote before any reasonable review or debate can take place and prior to an evaluation by the CBO.

Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Emily Duwel[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:23 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill...

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

As the saying goes, you cannot make a silk purse out of a sow's ear – or, in the case of the Graham-Cassidy bill, an edible mushroom out of a deadly toadstool.

The Senate Republicans insult the American people's intelligence by repeatedly trying to pass off a repeal of the American Healthcare Act whose aim is literally to imperil and in time destroy many millions of lives.

Senators Graham and Cassidy appear to have forgotten that government serves to advance the good of the people, not the good of a small coterie of robber barons in the insurance, pharmaceutical and for-profit medical-care industries. That they would attempt this chicanery in a time of increasing penury, as opportunities diminish and salaries for three decades now have lost real value, is inexcusable.

As Americans grow poorer, the United States today spends twice as much per capita on healthcare than any other advanced nation. And with increasing demand for ever-higher profits the care is increasingly shoddy and insufficient. Without ACA (or an in fact improved version), the care will not merely be shoddy and insufficient but non-existent for millions of Americans.

Adam Smith – the father of free market capitalism – did not believe healthcare and education should be subject to the drive for profit or the market's vagaries. He understood that there were exceptional cases in which the social good should take precedence. The decision by our leadership to abandon this advice parallels the weakening of our democracy.

If it is the Senate's intention to invalidate the social contract, to put extraordinary venal gain before the common good, then by all means go ahead and pass Graham-Cassidy. It is my sincere hope, instead, that a majority of senators will seek out that which is most decent in themselves and reject Graham-Cassidy.

Yours truly,
Emily Duwel

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:23 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham Cassidy Bill,

Dear Constituents,

Regarding The Graham Cassidy Bill,

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

Have a heart, be human, reject the bill !

xo
s.o.

--
s.o.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: HELEN KING VESPE[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:23 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HELEN KING VESPE
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elaine Romero [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:22 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care and Stroke Survivors

Dear Beloved Senators,

This happened at my home last night.

If you have Aphasia and you are watching the news and they are talking about taking away Medicaid and you are on Medicare, you might think that your Medicare is being taken away and there might not be anything your spouse can say to assure you that, at this moment, that is not what is being discussed. Let people who have had strokes focus on their recovery and not on their health care coverage.

Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness includes freedom from fear of having one's coverage revoked. My spouse who I describe above is a proud veteran, a man who is a brilliant engineer who has paid into the system, and someone who suffers every day over having his wife become the breadwinner after suffering a massive stroke. Please spare him the indignity.

Yours,

Elaine Romero

[redacted]e.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lynn Boyden [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:22 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repealing the ACA and replacing it with some shit

Dear Committee Members,
I write to ask that you work to defeat the Graham Cassidy healthcare bill. This bill will devastate families and economies. My brother, who relies on the ACA for his health insurance, suffers from PTSD and multiple dissociative mental illnesses. Under this proposed bill he would be unable to afford treatment (both therapeutic and medicine) for his pre-existing mental conditions. Furthermore, these mental conditions would have no impact on his ability to acquire the guns and other weapons that he has come to fancy, and I fear for the consequences of letting the mental treatments lapse in this case.

If this bill passes, you will have the blood of innocents on your hands.

Lynn Boyden
Los Angeles, California
[redacted]

--
"I'm not sure this web thing is all it's cracked up to be." --Templeton the Rat (Charlotte's Web, 2006)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Muriel Miressi [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:21 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GC Bill

Please go into the communities of the people whose services would be directly affected by so many cuts.
Walk – or roll – in their shoes!

Muriel Miressi
[redacted]

Everyone is a genius. But if you judge a fish on its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing it's stupid. (Einstein)

Independent Living, Inc., is a consumer directed, cross-disability organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for persons with disabilities. Our vision is a barrier-free society with opportunities for all persons to achieve their maximum potential.

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Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Heidi Nagel <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:22 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill because it will leave millions uninsured

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [redacted]edu>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:22 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: please do not pass Graham Cassidy

To Whom it May Concern:

I worked until the age of 70 to ensure a financially secure retirement. Two weeks ago I was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer that is treatable. My current insurance will cover the treatment, but Graham Cassidy would give them the legal right to raise my premiums beyond what I can afford *simply because I've gotten sick.*

Please do not pass this bill.

Sincerely,
Martha Woodroof

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dee Durham [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:21 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: PLEASE DO NOT REPEAL THE ACA

Leaving 30+ MILLIONS of Americans without coverage.

This bill being considered is SHAMEFUL.

The ACA needs improvement but not to be tossed out and replaced with a bill that devastates coverage for MILLIONS of Americans

Dee

Dee Durham
An American citizen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ginger Witmer [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:22 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate. It is opposed by all the major healthcare organizations, the AARP, many state governors, every state medicare director, and 87% of citizens. It takes away healthcare from millions to give tax breaks to millionaires. Vote no on this devastating bill.

Ginger Witmer

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judy Gieck [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:21 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

It's incredible, that this administration cares so little about its citizens.. Removing ACA is only about ego. Fix ACA.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Adina Myers [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:21 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill-no vote

Sirs,

The Graham-Cassidy will harm millions of people, and it will not even have the benefit of a Congressional Budget Office analysis. Passing this bill would be cruel and irresponsible."

Adina Myers

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: O'Connell, Coleen [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:21 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: health care bill

Dear Committee Members,
Do not approve or pass the Graham/Cassidy Health care debacle. This bill is cruel, unfair, and I am guessing in the end, unconstitutional. I strongly urge you to not support it.
Coleen O'Connell

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: K Westburg [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:21 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: CBO scores are necessary for informed discussion.

This looks like a repeal at all costs. And all costs will be borne by the most vulnerable of U.S. Citizens. Do not pass this bill to satisfy a vocal minority of the American people.

Kathy Westburg
Happiness is a choice, not a result.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ben Bromberg [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:20 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I strongly condemn this bill

Please leave this cruel, spiteful bill where it belongs - in the garbage. It is unimaginable and heartless. It brings shame upon this country. This congress is an embarrassment to our country and will long be remembered by history for its absurd callousness and supreme idiocy. If you have any respect for your fellow Americans, if you are interested in continuing your career in public service, you cannot in any imaginable conscience support this bill.

Please take Bernie Sanders' Medicare-For-All bill seriously. This is the sort of health care policy that is actually supported by a majority of Americans. Do what's best for your constituents, not your campaign donors. When the Koch brothers are long dead and gone, there will still be millions of Americans left to suffer and die if this bill passes.

With absolutely no respect,

Ben Bromberg

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chris Juergensen [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:20 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Regarding the new Insurance bill

If you approve something that hasn't been properly researched and debated, you should not be reelected. I suggest you do the right thing for the American people and rethink this. There is no rush.

-Chris Juergensen

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ellen Kozlowski [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:20 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because ..I I have a severe mental illness but am working now, which helps keep my illness at bay. I need Medical Assistance for Workers with Disabilities to afford my medication which is a life saving link. I also need it for my other healthcare. Without treatment for my Severe Mental Illness or SMI I would be hospitalized or dead by now, I'm sure I wouldn't still be around. I know many people with Medical Assistance with Severe Mental Illnesses that would also be in catastrophic states without treatment. Please consider this. I am what is considered a kind and generous person who helps out my family and friends but without the treatment I get through Medical Assitance for Workers with Disabilities I couldn't function and would need extra help. I hope you consider my comments. I've been working for a straight 12 years now and it would be devastating to me to leave the workforce and worse. Thank you,

Ellen Kozlowski.

Ellen Kozlowski

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rachel Wigell [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:19 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Hearings to examine the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal
[redacted]

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to express my concern about Graham-Cassidy-Heller.

This bill would make it unsafe to be a person such as myself who has a chronic health condition in America. This bill allows states to receive waivers to stop protecting us. In such states, the situation will actually become *worse* for us than it was even before the ACA was implemented. People with health conditions will have no recourse to protect ourselves against insurance companies, because this bill allows them to hike up our rates **even if we do not have a lapse in coverage.**

I am 25 years old and have been living with Crohn's disease since I was 14. I did nothing to bring this disease upon myself, and unfortunately it has turned me into a very expensive person. Crohn's disease medications often cost $50k or more per year. Estimates have shown that people with autoimmune diseases such as Crohn's may face rate hikes of over $26k per year. No normal person can afford these costs out of pocket. I live in utter terror of the day that my rates become unaffordable due to my high risk status, or I hit a cap and lose my protections completely.

Without treatment I will bleed internally until I die.

I do not feel safe in this country anymore. This is an unacceptable state of affairs in the wealthiest country on Earth. I deserve life. I don't deserve to be forced to flee my home country in order to stay alive, but I unfortunately have had to start considering it.

I am pleading with the Senate to do the right thing and reject this cruel bill.

Thank you,
Rachel Wigell

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julie Drover [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:19 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: healthcare bill

You cannot be serious. Your lies about robbing the American people of their healthcare are beyond the pale. You can suck up to the Koch's all you want, but you have to leave the American people out of it. If you are hell bent on passing this monstrosity, then you can kiss your free ride in the Senate good bye. How dare you! Your are despicable. Every time you turn around you are destroying our great nation. We have a Putin puppet in the White house bleeding us dry, and this is your solution?! You are all cowards and pathetic my God don't you have children? grandchildren? If you think this won't touch your families at some point you are wrong.

Why can't you do your job for a change after all you work for the people, not Trump. Stand up to that repulsive bully. He is such an embarrassment to our nation. His only mission is to undo anything Obama touched, because he is a racist.

The American people will not rest until you are put out to pasture never to return.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cynthia Sweet [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:19 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO !

I am a senior citizen vehemently opposed to the passage of ANY bill that reduces the number of persons who can afford health care, like this most recent iteration of trumpcare.

We need **MEDICARE FOR ALL** now! **Like every other civilized country in the world.** Please do not continue to let the for-profit insurance companies and Big Pharma control our lives! Stand up for US - YOUR constituents, your fellow Americans, and just say NO to big corporations!!

Finally, please do the right thing. Stop being controlled by money and do what's right. Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Barton [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:19 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Graham-Cassidy is an abomination. AMA, AARP, nurses, insurers and the public are against it. GOP once again proves it works to serve the Koch agenda.They are hell bent on getting those Koch campaign donations being withheld until ACA is repealed no matter what damage they do to the people they were elected to represent and serve. Many will die needlessly if this bill is passed.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ron Schmidt [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:18 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The new trump care

Dear Finance Committee,
As you now consider the new action to repeal and replace the ACA with trump care, I ask you, no demand you, to remember that you are representing the American people. The majority of Americans do not favor the repeal and replacement of the ACA.
You have seen and heard stories about the life saving effects of the ACA. My son is one who would not be insured or who could not afford health insurance if it weren't for the ACA. And there are so many in this nation in the same way.

As the Finance committee, you must ask yourselves and for the nation: how can we give the American the best insurance?
Will this really cost millions of people to lose their coverage, because of higher premiums, less coverage of pre-existing conditions, no coverage at all? And leave it up to the states? Really? We saw how that worked out for those denied the expansion of Medicaid.

Ask yourselves, why we are doing this after 8 fruitless years of trying to overturn the ACA? Why? and why are you not returning to regular order but doing this instead in a rush, just to you can say as Grassley said "but we promised in our campaigns". When did that ever matter?

Congress should be ashamed that you are in this position. Shame on you!!

Ron

Ron Schmidt
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lori & Terry [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:18 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Trump no care

You can't let the Koch bros. and the so called "health" ins. companies run the government. No to trump the republicans and yes to TheACA!
Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Matt Akin [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:18 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Please vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill.

> It offers no real protection for people with pre-existing conditions

> It would allow insurers to raise premiums at any time if an individual gets sick -- the exact time when you need coverage most

> It cuts massive amounts of money from Medicaid -- a program that millions of U.S. Military Veterans rely on for care

> This bill is opposed by essentially the entire healthcare industry and would the insurance market into chaos

Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Wetzel [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:17 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy is a cruel and misleading bill!

Please, please heed your conscience and your heart, as well as your intelligence, and vote against Graham-Cassidy. This bill not only does not improve upon the last Obamacare repeal bill that died, it is far worse. I am a resident of Arizona, and I dread the possibility that my state will be given as much control over a block grant intended for health care, as it has -- to disastrous effect -- on education spending.

There is no reason, no justification at all for this bill, other than to appease the selfish Donald Trump. He wants a "victory" badly, and such a health care bill represents the most Pyrrhic of potential "victories."

I'm begging you, please, to do the courageous and moral thing, and vote against Graham-Cassidy.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Caroline Levy [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:16 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: This is the face of Medicaid

It was my son's ill fortune to have a infinitesimal amount of genetic code deleted from his DNA. His brain did not develop as it should.
He has global developmental delay and epilepsy. He can not function independently in any way.
However, with a well-funded school district, top notch medical care, proper equipment and the help of a part-time caregiver, we have been witness to the remarkable success of a determined child.
For the first years of his life, we terrified of insurance caps and the threat of 'pre-existing conditions' and what that would meet to our son's health and development. We still struggle to imagine what his future will look like when he ages out school, and possibly, outlives us.
The Graham-Cassidy bill is an abomination. It represents the worst of political machination. I trust that the Senate will vote on the side of decency and humanity and vote NO next week.
History has its eyes on all of us.



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Apostolos [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:17 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: graham cassidy

"The Graham-Cassidy will harm millions of people, and it will not even have the benefit of a Congressional Budget Office analysis. Passing this bill would be cruel and irresponsible."

apostolos paraskevas

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sherra Zavitsanos <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:17 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senator;

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it reduces access to healthcare. The USA can do better than this!

You have a chance to be heroes and improving the ACA is the way to go.

Healthcare is not a Republican, Democrat, nor any party issue. It is an ALL AMERICAN issue. So don't drop the ball now. Vote no to the G-C-H-J cruel and unworkable proposal and WORK on real solutions.

THANK YOU.

Sherra Zavitsanos

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Victoria Heavey [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:16 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

Do not repeal the ACA... Graham Cassidy protects NO ONE...Please do your jobs or you won't have jobs come election time!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dianne Berlin [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:16 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

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

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joseph Mullock [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:16 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

It is a failure on its very premise, will do nothing to improve healthcare, and will not realize the cost savings touted by its advocates.

We need our representatives to stop trying to simply mow down the ACA, and instead work across the aisle to create something better.

Thank you.

Joseph Mullock

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:16 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not pass the Graham/-Cassidy Act

Dear
members of the Finance Committee,

I am asking you from the bottom of my heart, not to let this terrible bill pass. There must be some room in this political nest of vipers for some morality, and the fact of the matter is that this act will take away protection and help from millions. The job of the government is to give, not to take. Please do not take away our right to survive in our own country.

Sincerely,
Rae Binstock

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rebecca Scheer [redacted]n>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:16 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: TrumpCare

To Whom it May Concern:

I recently learned that the push to get this bill through in a huge hurry has come from donors of Republican legislators to get it done. "I want my tax cut!" they are saying. How revolting!

Legislators, you need to do your jobs and get the American people a health care bill that works for all! Stop representing the American rich, you sorry cowards, and DO YOUR JOB! Work together on the ACA, send it to committee, consult with the CBO, and get the bill corrected so it works well. Shame on your for being so incompetent on this score.

The bill you have presented stinks and everyone knows it. Block grants at the state level under the jurisdiction of state politicians without federal regulations. I can see it all now, whose backs are scratched and whose deeply needy friends, neighbors, and relatives are SCRATCHED!

I have a mentally ill relative who relies on Medicaid. He needs to be in a group home. He was a wonderful young person and his illness is not his fault. He has never done drugs. I hate to even think what will happen to our mentally ill folks and our folks in nursing homes!

This bill is atrocious; even worse, it is ignorance, incompetence, and escapism. Do your jobs!

Yours truly,

Rebecca M. Scheer
Marion, Indiana

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: contrary mary [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:16 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The demise of the ACA

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill on the following grounds:

Fewer people will have actual care.

Costs will rise to make insurance and or care completely unaffordable for millions of people.

Basic coverage will be eliminated such as for maternal and pre-and post-natal, mental health, and addictions.

Medicare and Medicaid is adversely affected, meaning more costly and or less coverage, including for people who are completely disabled and would die.

Those who live and work near state lines don't know how different rules for various states will influence their access to care, particularly in an emergency. Will one state offer complete coverage but the closer provider expose one to greater costs? Will emergency responders have to decide?

When the healthcare segment of the economy ought be rising because of aging boomers, instead it will fall off due to no infusion of cash, declining our GDP.

Insurance costs are predicted to rise above the entire annual earning of many people.

Healthcare provides for people to work or return to employment status that would otherwise either die or become lifetime disabled.

Our Constitution and other legal documents require government to ensure the welfare of the people as a responsibility of government, whether that is from cancer, cybercrimes, natural disasters, or foreign invasions. And it goes to our moral compass of the Golden Rule, compassion, and mercy.

The actual treatment of patients does not vary from state to state. Why would governors presume to know more than doctors?

Those who are healthy would rather pay a little more for the assurance that care is actually available when needed. This is the principle behind all kinds of insurance, pay a little and hope you don't need it.

Why would someone pay all their life for premiums that are unaffordable when they actually need care? Or, that excludes pre-existing conditions by denying coverage.

Rich people don't need a tax cut.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Claire Maxfield [redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:16 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject healthcare bill

To the committee:

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

Sincerely,
Claire Maxfield
Berkeley, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kristin Mattheson [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:16 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kristin Mattheson
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ashley [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:16 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: ashley@butaphalt.com
Subject: Statement for ACA Repeal

I woke up and I couldn't move without pain. Psoriatic arthritis literally changed my life overnight. One evening I went to bed and the next morning, I couldnt move. What followed was months of medical testing, medications that rendered me bedriden, I lost twenty pounds in four weeks (step-therapy meds that made me sick) and couldn't work. I had no relief from the unrelenting pain, stiffness and swelling. I became a shell of my former self. This isn't a life I expected for myself at thirty.

My parents are self-employed and have had individual insurance for almost twenty-five years. It was a financial hardship to carry expensive health insurance when you are self employed. However, my parents did it and they reinforced to me that healthcare is so important because you never know when you will need it.

When I was in my mid to late twenties, I quit working full-time to finish my graduate degree. I worked part-time and obtained individual insurance, years before ACA was passed. I went through a difficult application process and paid a high premium every month, even though I wasn't in need of a healthcare plan.

Finally, the ACA was passed and I continued to pay my healthcare premium. When I was diagnosed with polycystic ovary syndrome in 2013 and then psoriatic arthritis in 2014, my health insurance became my life line. I was relieved that I would be able to obtain insurance, as a responsible adult, work part time and still be a contributing member of society. I didn't worry.

Now, the GOP would like to make me and every other chronically ill person a non functioning person and erase us from the narrative. I do not support the repeal of the ACA because without it, I am looking at a life of pain, disfigurement and long term care from others. Not to mention a painful and prolonged death.

I urge every member of the senate to read the stories and outpouring of concern from fellow warriors. We want to be a contributing member of society and can only be that if we have health insurance. Please do not repeal the ACA. Find a bipartisan plan to accomplish ACA reform.

Thank you for attention.

Ashley Krivohlavek, Oklahoma

Sent via the Samsung GALAXY S® 5, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stine, Laure[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:14 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Debbie Plotnick; Angela Kimball; 'Chuck Ingoglia'
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Hearing: Submission
Attachments: MHLG statement to SFC on Graham-Cassidy.docx; MHLG statement to SFC on Graham-Cassidy.pdf

Greetings, Senate Finance Committee:

Please accept the attached statement from the **Mental Health Liaison Group** - a national coalition of organizations representing consumers, family members, mental health and addiction providers, advocates, payers and other stakeholders committed to strengthening Americans' access to mental health and addiction care.

Best regards,

Laurel
Co-chair, Health Policy Committee
Mental Health Liaison Group

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:15 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: FW: ACA and how it affects our family.

Hello,

We support our 2 adult sons with disabilities to live in the community. We rely on Medicaid and private insurance heavily to help with this daunting life. They have been disabled since birth, so pre-existing conditions??

Caps and block grants are CUTS. We continue to age as caregivers, and the needs of our 2 men with disabilities doesn't get easier. We have saved the government millions of dollars by providing quality care for these guys in home.

Please reconsider the devastating implications that Cassidy-Graham would impose on our family.

We cannot do more with less. We both work outside the home, employ workers who pay taxes, and do our best to support these men.

Roseann Slaght

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Matthew Kaufman[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:15 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

I am a pediatrician, and the majority of my practice is made up of children who would be adversely affected by the implementation of this bill and the reductions in Medicaid funding that it contains. These are children that absolutley depend on Medicaid for their health care, either due to their families' income restraints or the severity/complexity of their illnesses, and the loss of this fundamental support system would be devastating to their health and quality of life, both now and well into the future.

Matthew Kaufman

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: kyle hutmaker [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:15 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

There should not be a vote without a CBO score. Trying to ram something so consequential through the Congress without meaningful debate is unconscionable. It's time to return to the normal rule of order in the Senate.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Terry Town[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:15 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Doctors, insurance companies, the AARP, and all fifty members of the Medicaid directors have come out agains this latest incarnation of "Obamacare" repeal, which is worse than all of its predecessors. What more do you need to know? Oh, a report from the CBO? Not waiting for that, though. Aside from trashing protections for pre-existing conditions, costing seniors way more in premiums, it punishes blue states and those which adopted Medicaid expansion. Please don't do this to the American people!

Respectfully,
[redacted]e
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kay Lewandowski [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:34 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to Graham-Cassidy Bill

By this e-mail I would like to express my **disapproval** of the current **Graham-Cassidy** bill and its effort to repeal and "replace" the Affordable Care Act.

As is made clear by the bill as it stands, it would force large funding cuts for most states which will lead to large increases in the number of those who would become uninsured. The proposed system of block grants would reduce much needed funding and with the introduction of what is referred to as "flexibility" in the use of the funds, moneys designated for Medicaid could be used instead to address non-health care related state budget issues.

The bill as written would also eliminate the Marketplaces, the premium tax credits and cost-sharing protection, the individual and large employer mandate and will lead to the destabilization of the insurance market which will in turn lead to large premium increases. This will, in turn, introduce instability to the health care market that will impact coverage and cost for everyone with commercial health insurance.

The bill also allows states to waive important consumer protections that currently exist under the Affordable Care Act like designation of essential health benefits, and will allow insurers to vary premium based on age, pre-existing conditions, and health status. It also "adjusts" the medical loss requirement so that a larger percentage of premium payments can go to profit and administration instead of health care.

Despite strong opposition by the AARP, the health insurance industry, the AMA, American Cancer Society and other key stakeholders, this initiative is still being pursued—even without a full CBO score.

Please do not allow this travesty to become the law of the land. People's lives literally depend upon improvement of the existing Affordable Care Act, not the passage of this insult to American citizens and the health care system upon which they depend.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Greg MacDougall [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:34 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments to please consider for the Graham Cassidy bill up for vote

Hello,

I would respectfully ask you to consider the impact of the bill on constituents who have pre-existing conditions. Most families in the US have a family member who has a pre-existing condition and the financial impact of not being covered could break most family's finances and force them into a decision of either paying for medication or other necessities such as mortgages or food. Please don't allow that situation to happen.

I hope and pray you do not have a family member who has a pre-existing condition such as cancer; can you imagine the families who have a spouse, son or daughter who have cancer and the added stress for the cost burden to them if insurance doesn't cover the chemo therapy?

Please ensure that the bill does cover pre-existing conditions and is not merely a "pass the buck" approach.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Greg MacDougall

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Emily Vaughan [redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy

To Whom it May Concern:

I'm writing today to express my deep disappointment and dismay that the Senate is considering for even one second a bill that would strip health coverage from millions of Americans. **This latest act in the GOP's cruel, misguided and morally bankrupt political ploy to repeal the Affordable Care Act is despicable.** The only thing you have going for you is that at least in this case you're holding one hearing on your absolutely horrific bill. But this doesn't abdicate your responsibility for playing politics with the lives of every American who has ever and will ever need medical care.

I have personally benefitted from Obamacare in several ways. As a 25-year-old graduate student, I was able to save thousands of dollars by staying on my parents' health insurance plan. When I graduated in 2014, I was able to use the exchanges to find an affordable policy while I did a year-long fellowship for very meager pay. The policy was not only affordable, but generous. If I had become pregnant, I would have had access to maternity care. If I had developed cancer, I would have had access to chemotherapy. It's exactly these types of basic medical care that you're willing to let insurance companies deny coverage for for no other explicable reason other than that you'd rather see their profits rise (and, I assume your campaign contributions) than see your constituents live.

I'm a resident of Washington D.C., so the GOP has never seen fit to grant me with Senate representation. In lieu of my own Senators, and recognizing the Senate's tendency to meddle with my city and my rights without granting me or my neighbors any say, I believe every single one of you has the responsibility to represent my interests. **My interests are that you lay off Obamacare and shelve Graham-Cassidy and any other bill that would deny any American health coverage.**

Access to health care is a human right. You have it through a generous health care plan I pay for with my unrepresented tax dollars. I expect you, as a public servant, to ensure I and every American has similar access today and every day moving forward.

Sincerely,

Emily Vaughan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Zack Katowitz [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

My name is Zack Katowitz from Montclair, NJ. the very fact that this single hearing is being held in the FINANCE committee and not the HEALTH committee is a real scandal. You have heard from no expert witnesses, besides the authors of the bill, and have not returned to regular order to actually pass a bipartisan fix to the current issues in our health system. Instead of a scalpel, you use a sledgehammer.

Millions of people's lives are literally at stake here, and you all don't give them the respect to hear from doctors, nurses, and other healthcare experts to see if this bill will actually do them good, or what solutions they might have that you haven't thought of.

This process is undemocratic and more importantly UNAMERICAN, as you only look to take away healthcare from millions as you look for a political win.

THERE IS NO RUSH! There is no urgency to pass a bill without requisite hearings and debate with so much at stake.

Think about your own parents and grandparents and more importantly your own children. Your one and only job is to protect your constituents, your own people. STOP THIS MADNESS AND RETURN TO REGULAR ORDER.

No one will ever call the senate the "World's most deliberative body" ever again as long as you continue down this shameful path.

The American people want both parties to work together to fix this issue, not make a bigger problem.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No

The Graham Cassidy Bill is an attempt to pander to a minority voting block in this country, who were promised by Republicans that Obamacare would be repealed (against their constituent's own best interests). The impact of this bill on the lives of people with disabilities will be particularly devastating. Non-mandatory long term supports and services would likely be eliminated if medicaid is capitated, and people with pre-existing conditions due to a disability will be doomed to poverty, institutionalization or death as a result. Please don't undo the progress that has been made by disabled members of our society, who simply want to be productive citizens living independent lives.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Molly Tanzer [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement on Graham-Cassidy

While I am lucky to be privately insured, as a working artist many of my friends would not be able to follow their American dreams of being independent artists were it not for the ACA. America is supposed to be the land of opportunity, and that means opportunity for all. Working artists are small businesses, and small businesses make America great. The ACA is crucial for them.

The ACA also helped me. Last year I decided to get an IUD to protect myself against an unwanted pregnancy. While I was prepared to pay whatever I needed to pay, the ACA covered what my insurance would not, as it was "preventative care." So, even Americans like me, who rely on private insurance, have been helped by it.

Others are not so lucky. The ACA, whether it's Medicaid, or just the stipulation that insurers cannot reject patients due to pre-existing conditions, helps Americans. It helps America. My good friend's wife just gave birth to a baby boy at a rural Ohio hospital that will go out of business if Graham-Cassidy passes. He is a full-time dad (and working artist) and his wife is an Episcopal priest. They are faithful, generous, hard-working Americans, and they deserve the best as they welcome their new child into this country.

We all need the ACA, no matter who we are. Please don't harm America by passing this cruel bill that will harm so many.

Molly Tanzer
[redacted]

to differ. At some point, someone you love will become sick. It could be your child, your parent, your friend. What if it cost them tens of thousands of dollars per year, or more, in order to get the healthcare they needed to survive? That's what will happen if the Graham-Cassidy bill passes.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: heather candon [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My health story

An otherwise healthy and fit 34 year old, I needed to have both of my hips replaced in 2011. But after the surgeries, the pain never went away. I know now that that was because I had an infection at the site of one of my implants. But at the time, each doctor I saw waved away my concerns and told me I was fine.

The pain interfered with my ability to do my work to the best of my ability, and it wasn't fair to the students I was tasked with serving. The pain was so bad that I had to leave my job practicing mental health. To this day, I have not yet been able to return to full time professional work.

When I left my job, I COBRAed my health insurance for several months so I could continue to afford medical care. It cost me over a $1,000 a month. Soon I could no longer afford to do this, and simply went without insurance. The pain persisted. I tried all kinds of alternative therapies which were all amazing, but the pain would not relent.

I moved to Spain at the invite of a friend. I hoped that sunshine and a warmer climate would relieve my pain. Although the sun felt good on my body, the pain never went away. Some days, walking was excruciating, but walking was my only form of transportation.

Fortunately for me, Spain has socialized medicine. And even though I was earning a pittance teaching English, I was also able to afford private health insurance, which only cost me 90 euros a month. With the help of Spanish doctors, I began to get some cursory answers about my health.

In 2014, I left Spain and came home to NY. I had to wait several months before I was eligible for health insurance, and signed up for enrollment with the Affordable Care Act as soon as possible.

Since coming home in 2014, I've had almost weekly doctor's appointments for the better part of the past three years. It took doctors three years to find the source of my pain, and during that time, the infection destroyed bone and muscle in my hip and thigh.

Throughout all of this, I have worked. I have taken whatever jobs I could, just to get by. I've propped myself up in a hospital bed with my laptop in front of me. I've done whatever I could to earn a living. And I proudly pay a monthly premium for access to health insurance.

Earlier this year, I had to have several major surgeries to eradicate the infection before it spread to my blood and became fatal. I had to spend several months in a wheelchair. I am slowly returning to normal life. But throughout my surgeries and recovery, I've been worried sick that the GOP would be successful in its attempts at repealing the Affordable Care Act. Because without affordable access to health care, I would be bankrupt in the blink of an eye. And ultimately, I would not survive.

Being ill, being disabled, has been a profound challenge to my sense of self. It's certainly an opportunity for growth. And it's also given me an interesting perspective of how some "healthy" people regard those who are not. My infection was not some sort of moral failure on my part. My orthopedic issues were not because I did something wrong. My desire for all of us to have affordable access to health insurance is not a blanket request for handouts.

Before my first surgeries, I was a bit of a health fanatic. Running, hiking, biking, swimming-- daily exercise was a big part of my life. Eating well was also key for me. But the fact of the matter is that there's only so much that's within our control. Everyone is healthy until they're not. At some point in each of our lives, we will cross the threshold from healthy to sick. And when we do, I fervently believe that we should all have access to affordable health care.

You may be healthy. You may think that advocating against the ACA repeal is not something that concerns you. I beg

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Sigman [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:08 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments for the hearing to consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

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

[redacted]

Dear Senators,

I humbly respectfully submit the following comments in opposition of the aforementioned proposal, for your consideration:

I am a single mother of two healthy children. I am not a religious woman, but if I were, I would pray to GOD, ALLAH, YAWEH or any other god who would listen to make sure they stay healthy. Because if this bill passes, god-forbid they get sick, I don't know if I will be able to pay for their care. I am not even concerned about myself, which I should be. What if I get cancer? How will I pay for that? What will happen to my kids if I can't get treated? But as a mother, my first concern is always for the lives I am privileged to care for and protect. Perhaps you might want to think of how a mother prioritizes her children, when you consider a bill that will burden and harm your constituents, especially the most vulnerable.

My law partner is wonderful woman with a beautiful family. Her daughter, Maddie is a precocious second grader who wants to grow up to be a doctor. She wants to be a doctor because she spends so much time around them and because they help keep her alive, so she can be an energetic, intelligent, curious little girl. Maddie has pulmonary hypertension. She was born this way, through no fault of Maddie, Erin or her husband, Bill. It is not preventable, it is not curable. The cause is unknown. The cost for Maddie's medicine each month? $26,000. That is the same as buying a new car every single month. Bill has a job with excellent health insurance. But Bill and Erin made the conscious decision to leave their home state of Florida out of concern of the decimation or compete eradication of the ACA. For now, they are confident that the laws in Massachusetts (aka "Romney Care" - which, might I remind you is what the ACA was based upon) will keep Maddie safely covered by the insurance which pays for the medicine that keeps her alive and thriving.

If this bill passes, if they stayed in Florida, you wrote a death sentence for Maddie and hundreds of thousand of children like her. This is not hyperbole. This is FACT.

I ADAMANTLY, WHOLE HEARTEDLY, AND WITHOUT RESERVATION OPPOSE this bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Paula Jones [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:08 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Paula Jones
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Vickie Bacon [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:08 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Title Of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

- [redacted]
- [redacted]

[redacted] 8

The Graham-Cassidy Bill would be incredibly detrimental to all Americans. Access to health care that is unaffordable is not really access at all, and this bill would block millions from the care they need. We cannot put the wealth of the few above the health of our citizens.
This bill does not promote a "pro-life" stance. This bill does not promote access or equity. This bill is immoral and dangerous. We need to listen to the experts, who have overwhelmingly come out in opposition to this bill.
I have known the people who would die if this bill were law. People whose only crime was being born poor. Think of the 3 year old going through chemo whose family wouldn't be able to afford treatment if this passed. Think of the veterans, millions of whom are on Medicaid, who wouldn't get the treatments for health conditions that are a result of their service to our country. Think of how you would explain to your child that you can't afford the surgery their parent needs to live.
Be a decent human being, show some compassion, and vote no.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: maxie dubose [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:07 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCHBill

I am a disabled veteran without benefits and cannot afford or even qualify for ACA, If you take what healthcare I can get what am I to do and how will I get my medications?..I like Bernie's plan of expanding medicaid better than any of these other options..Sincerely Maxie K. DuBose

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Shurmantine[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:07 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Brad Shurmantine
Subject: Graham-Cassidy health care bill and negative impact on my family

Committee members,

I have an adult daughter with depression and a younger sister with a history of non-traumatic brain injury. Both family members require ongoing mental health therapy and medical management, including medications for seizures. I know that this bill will not guarantee ongoing, uninterrupted care. It will not guarantee any care at all!!!!!!!!!!

Under the ACA, my family members have been guaranteed services with no lifetime caps. Co-pays are a burden but they work hard and they manage to get the care that they need. No one says that the ACA doesn't have major flaws. BUT, the uncertainty that this new bill creates, both in the market and to their mental/physical health, is unconscionable.

This attempt to repeal is just what it is: an attempt to repeal and say that you did, then move on. That is so self-serving. Meanwhile, WE TAXPAYERS pay for you to have the cadillac of medical care. You do not give it a second thought. WE THINK ABOUT IT EVERY DAY.
There is absolutely no real plan in this 'plan'. States are not set up to handle this uncertainty. The first website set up enrollment in the ACA took 4 years at the federal level, and was still a mess. How do you think states are going to accomplish it?

Don't throw the foundation of a merciful and inclusive system (ACA) out. Build it and work on it to fix it. STOP being so self-serving. You are playing with my daughter's life. You are playing with my sister's life. You are playing with all of our lives and you don't seem to get it, do you? You work for us; we do not work for you. We voted you in to work FOR US. Instead, you are trying to slip this shoddy bill in just so you can say that you did it.

Shame on you.
Mary Shurmantine

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jean Weihert[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:07 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy bill

Millions of Americans will lose their insurance and those of us with pre existing conditions will see our premiums sky rocket all so the wealthy can get big tax cuts and congressmen can get big campaign contributions. It's a sad day in America when money trumps constituents and determines policy. NO on Graham / Cassidy which is even worse than all the other attempts to ramrod repeal of the ACA through. Jean

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alix Sobler [redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:07 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

To the Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to work against allowing the new attack on Obamacare. I do not appreciate the attempt to take away my healthcare to give tax breaks to the richest people in this country. I am a 38 year old woman with a Master in Fine Arts. The work I contribute to in the the theatre is part of an industry that generates billions of dollars for the US economy. I do not make a lot of money, and I am fine with that. I accept that I have chosen a path that will bring entertainment and joy and prosperity and will never make me rich personally. Nor do I begrudge anyone else's right to be rich. But I do expect that my contributions to the world as a person entitle me to some form of affordable health care. Do not foster a world where people have to to give up their dreams, passions and talents to work a dead end job in something that doesn't matter just so they can have access to health care. Those jobs aren't so easy to find anyway.

Please vote against this bill, and instead put your energy into improving Obamacare. If not, I will look for one of those dead end jobs in Florida, or Pennsylvania or Wisconsin and vote you all right out of office.

Alix
[redacted]4

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jaspreet Chowdhar[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:04 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: statement for the record on Graham Cassidy Hearing
Attachments: SIECUSGrahamCassidyOppositionStatementLetterhead.pdf

Good Morning:

The Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS) appreciates the opportunity to offer a statement for the record on the Graham-Cassidy bill.
Our statement is attached.
Please let me know if you need additional information.

Best,

Jaspreet Chowdhary
Federal Policy Director
(*she, her, hers*)

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shelley Irvin-Kent [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:06 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy comments

To Members of the Finance Committee:

It is ridiculous to rush this bill through without the appropriate time for comments and to receive a CBO score. That is NOT due diligence. It is unconscionable to pass a "health care" bill that weakens protections for people with pre-existing conditions and reverse policies that stabilize health insurance markets. States will lose a huge amount of funding. I would like all our senators to stop using health care as a political tool, and rather pass laws that PROTECT THE HEALTH OF YOUR CONSTITUENTS. Red or blue, everyone gets sick.

Pass a health care provision that gives the same healthcare to Congress as to the people.

Respectfully,

Shelley Irvin-Kent
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lara Little [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:06 AM
To: gchcomments

My husband suffers from early-onset Parkinson's, among other things. If the Graham-Cassidy bill passes, he will soon lose his health insurance. Without insurance, we cannot afford the $150,000 brain surgery he will soon need. Without that surgery, he will be unable to work within the next couple of years. We cannot afford to support ourselves, including our child, on my income alone. Is this really what you want for my husband and others like us? Health care does still need reform. But this bill is not the answer.

Lara Little

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Deborah Gaffaney [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:06 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Bill

One of my best friends just lost her job and insurance.
She was also diagnosed with breast cancer. This bill
will lead to wiping out her life savings.

I have three nephews in N. Dak. who have had diabetes since they were children. They are now in their 20's and only got insurance via ACA because they could never get insurance with the pre-condition. They have a young thriving business. The Graham/Cassidy bill risks ruining their business and they will not be able to get insurance again if this bill passes. They are Trump Supporters

Deborah Gaffaney
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Paul Farrell [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:05 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I urge the committee to vote on the bill and not allow it to proceed to the Senate. I find it almost impossible to believe how so many Senators are willing to support the bill despite overwhelming opposition from State Medicaid directors, insurance companies and almost every national healthcare organization. If the ACA needs changing, change it but to vote for Graham-Cassidy will hurt millions who need healthcare. How would feel is someone else wanted to take your healthcare insurance coverage from you. Look at the data on this bill and vote what is best for Americans, not your political party. Why does the Republican party almost always seem to support legislation which hurts so many of us- where is your heart?

Paul Farrell

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beth Andersen [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:05 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stop repeal/replace

Your cruel and senseless terrorizing of American families desperate to keep their loved ones alive is beyond comprehension.

NO ONE of reasonable mind or expertise wants this to pass.You cannot really believe that Koch money is worth a political legacy of being responsible for killing thousands of Americans.

Jimmy Kimmel is right.

Stop. This. MADNESS! Once and for all.

Fix the ACA. The Dems have been begging to work with you in a bipartisan fashion.

Take them up on it and try to save what's left of your party which is already synonymous with 'consorting with the enemy' and 'treason'.

--
"The best things in life are rescued."

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: jenn reed [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:05 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GrahamCassidy "Kill Bill"

The ACA has helped millions of people since it's inception. That the GOP hates Obama and the American people so much they will do anything and everything to erase his legacy, is abhorrent.

This "Kill Bill" will put many out of reach of affordable healthcare, those of us with pre-existing conditions won't be able to get the care we need, and people will die.

Please, do not pass this bill. It is mean, hateful, vile, and despicable.

Respectfully,
Jennifer Reed

"No matter what, nobody can take away the dances you've already had."~Gabriel Garcia Marquez

"I'm restless. Things are calling me away. My hair is being pulled by the stars again."~Anais Nin



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patricia Spellman [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:05 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please STOP TrumpCare, PLEASE

Hello,

As someone who has had two $40,000 lung surgeries, I am asking you NOT to pass the TrumpCare bill — the majority of Americans do not want this and we need to come up with a better solution. The way the GOP is shoving this through congress is evil and NOT how our government should be working. We will not put up with this and the 2018 elections are right around the corner!

Do what you can and let's make the healthcare system better, not worse, and it needs to have the right people at the table not just a bunch of white men that KNOW NOTHING about healthcare.

Thank you!

Tricia Spellman
MIOD, LLC
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Herb[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:05 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Finance Committee,

As a tax-paying, fully employed, productive American with a preexisting medical condition, I am writing to share my strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill. With current federal health care protections in place to ensure that insurance companies cannot charge me exorbitant premiums for coverage, or deny me coverage altogether, I am able to obtain the medical coverage I need to keep my preexisting condition fully in remission, which allows me to be fully employed and to contribute financially and otherwise to my community and country. By passing a bill that will not ensure such protections, there is a strong chance that I would not be able to afford the higher premiums that insurance companies would inevitably charge given my preexisting condition. Without basic medical care, my condition could return, which would interfere with my ability to be a productive tax-paying citizen.

It is abundantly clear to me that the Republican party cares not a whit for whether people suffer, or even whether people have medical coverage. The Graham-Cassidy bill is obviously not drafted with the intent to help anyone obtain medical coverage but instead is only intended to score political points for the Republican party. But even from a purely financial standpoint, the Finance Committee should keep in mind that the country will be more prosperous if people like me remain healthy and able to work. For the sake of the financial health of our country, I thus strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Sincerely,

Lisa Herb

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kimber Heiling [redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:04 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kimber Heiling
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kimber Heiling
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Raymond-Tolan <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:04 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy comments

I don't have the words to properly express the terror I feel for our country at the prospect of Graham-Cassidy. This bill has not been fully debated, has not been fully scored by the CBO, and is being hammered through the Senate for one purpose only, and that purpose is NOT protecting the healthcare of millions of Americans. It is quite simply to have the GOP say they finally repealed Obamacare, and to take billions of dollars away from Blue states -- its a revenge scheme. Except they only people who suffer are our citizens (certainly not Congress, who has solid health insurance!).

If the Senate thinks this bill is in the best interest of Americans, then put it through the regular Senate process -- do the due diligence such an important bill requires. However, since this bill is garbage, it wouldn't survive the real process -- and hopefully it wont survive this shady, sneaky rush job that is trying to pull the wool over our eyes, either.

America will remember how their Senators vote on this one. Country over party please.

Lisa Raymond-Tolan
Brooklyn, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Shirer [redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:04 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because this will most certainly negatively impact the millions of Americans with pre-existing conditions, the millions of children with disabilities that rely on medicaid funding, and the millions of seniors that aren't yet 65 years old, to name some. This has the potential to bankrupt many middle-class families. One should not have to choose between treatments for their child or food on their table. If medicaid funding for children with disabilities is cut, this is a choice many will have to make and it is not only the children who will suffer, but in the long run when the children did not receive treatment and therapy that could one day make them productive members of society, who will then care for them? This bill is a lose lose for all but the wealthy corporations and those who have stake in them. Do CEOs really need to make even more while the middle-class continues to struggle? Your vote is your answer.

Susan Shirer

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Einhorn [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:03 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Heller Bill

I oppose the bill because over 30 million will lose coverage. The mandatory portion is necessary to keep people covered AND to make insurance work (think car insurance-not optional if you own a car and everyone has their health which will eventually end with an illness/injury). I have worked 20 years in Benefits in corporate America so I know how claims experience affects premiums. PREEXISTING CONDITIONS MUST BE COVERED. WOMEN'S HEALTH (Planned Parenthood) MUST BE COVERED. NO LIFETIME MAXS. Both these items cause bankruptcies. We do not want MEDICARE OR MEDICAID gutted. My father-in-law will have no where to go if you do this! ALL THE MEDICAL ADVISERS SAY NO TO THIS PLAN. DO NOT APPROVE. WE WANT BIPARTISAN REGULAR ORDER DISCUSSIONS!

[redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]horn
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Megan Monaghan Rivas [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:25 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill is a disaster trying to happen

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Hundreds of thousands of Americans have been driven into bankruptcy by the untrammeled profit drive of the health care insurance industry.

The Graham-Cassidy measure will easily add an order of magnitude to that number. The existing statutes, imperfect though the Affordable Care Act is, are VASTLY preferable to Graham-Cassidy.

Every human being is going to get sick at some point. Even if we enjoy good health ourselves, it is certain that our loved ones will develop illnesses or incur injuries that require life-saving and life-supporting medical care.

No patient, and no patient's family, should have to be distracted by the financial ramifications of care decisions for ourselves or our loved ones. Graham-Cassidy would force such impossible choices onto every ordinary American.

As an American citizen and voter in the state of Pennsylvania, I call on you to OPPOSE the Graham-Cassidy bill.

The Senate MUST not dismantle any part of ACA until it has crafted a VIABLE replacement. American lives literally depend on this.

Yours truly,
Megan M. Rivas
Pittsburgh, PA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Andrew Coate [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:25 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Frederick, Julia (Warren); Pearson, Beth (Warren)

I'm a Massachusetts resident; I moved here after finishing my bachelors degree in at College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Maine. I received my masters degree in divinity from Boston University School of Theology in 2015 and I serve as the director of religious education at First Church Jamaica Plain in Boston. I live with my partner and our toddler in North Reading.

Two years ago, at a routine doctor's appointment, my physician heard a heart murmur. Multiple appointments later it was determined I had multiple congenital heart conditions (atrial septal defect sinus venosus type, partial anomalous pulmonary venous connection, and persistent left superior vena cava) that would require open heart surgery. My surgery was successfully performed at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center on June 28th of last year by an expert team led by chief of cardiac surgery Kamal Khabbaz. The surgery was paid for nearly in full by subsidized health insurance I purchased through the insurance marketplace.

Prior to moving to Massachusetts I had simply been living without health insurance; I had been relatively healthy and had no conditions requiring ongoing care. I could not then, and can not today, afford health insurance without subsidies. And now, having been diagnosed with a congenital heart condition, it will be impossible for me to find health coverage I can afford if insurance companies are permitted to exempt those with preexisting conditions.

Today I am back to most of my normal routines, but I will require lifelong monitoring. I will never make a lot of money. I am in training to be a minister which is not a career most people go in to expecting to bring home a large paycheck. Without subsidized health insurance I will not be able to see my cardiac specialists for ongoing care.

Sincerely,
Andrew Coate
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pamela [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:25 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: An urgent plea

To the Senate Finance Committee to Consider:

I write to you as a cancer survivor, wife of a cancer survivor, mother of a boy whose body needed rebuilding after a terrible ski accident and two girls who were both born by emergency c-section, and neighbor of a 14-year cystic fibrosis sufferer.

None of this treatment would be affordable without the Affordable Care Act. But if the ACA is repealed under the GrahamCassidy Repeal and Replace Act, we will no longer be able to afford health insurance due to our cancer histories.

And what then? Should we sell everything we own, the roof over our heads? Should we seek treatment and default on payment? Or should we just lay down and die because we don't happen to be billionaires?

Believe me, we are far from billionaires: we write children's books, teach in schools, volunteer for a literacy foundation. We try to be good citizens and contribute everything we can to society. But if our health insurance is taken away, I don't understand how you expect our family or any ordinary person's family to function. Before the ACA, I would hesitate to go to the doctor because of the cost. Without the ACA, I would literally be dead because I would not have gone for the tests that saved my life.

How can you even consider this vote without a CBO score? The bare minimum required for beginning consideration on this bill should be a full Congressional Budget Office (CBO) score. Why the unseemly rush to push through a destructive, ill thought out policy that Medicaid directors, insurance companies, medical experts and a majority of state governors do not support?

Please use a bipartisan approach to improve and mend the ACA. It has literally been a lifeline for my family. Please don't take it away.

Thank you for reading,

Pamela Voelkel
Norwich, VT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Brian Gilbert [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:25 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony regarding Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I hope that you will take the time to review the feedback I have regarding the proposed legislation that you are currently reviewing. I will be speaking from two different contexts here, although my concerns with this legislation are similar from both.

I have worked in the field of social services for nearly 15 years. Most of that time has been providing support for individuals who have a serious mental illness. Many of the people who I work with depend on Medicaid not just for medical insurance, but to help provide services that keep them integrated into the community. Without these services, many of the individuals I help would be forced to live in residential facilities as opposed to having to opportunity to live more independently. Many also rely on Medicaid services to assist them with obtaining and maintaining community employment, which allows them to be productive, contributing community members. Under the proposed bill however, Medicaid funding overall would be cut significantly, especially in Indiana (where I live and work). The people who will feel the biggest impact in these cuts are the elderly, and people with disabilities. These are also the people who can least afford to lose these supports. This bill will harm people. This bill will impact recovery by eliminating needed services. This bill will in no way benefit the disability community and will strain our already overworked social service system.

I also speak to you as a person with a pre-existing condition. My biggest personal fear with this proposed bill is that my premium will likely increase due to the fact that I have a pre-existing condition. This may very well put me in a position where I cannot afford the healthcare I need. How are people supposed to choose between receiving necessary care, and putting food on the table and a roof overhead? How is this a bill that will actually benefit the American people? What will the impact be when millions of Americans can no longer receive the healthcare they need. How will that impact the workforce. How can the economy grow if all of our money is spent trying to stay health enough just to function? I ask the committee to seriously look at these questions to determine if this bill is really right for us at this time.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Brian Gilbert

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hal Shub[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:25 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: senator@markey.senate.gov; Elizabeth Warren
Subject: Comments on the Graham-Cassidy bill

Finance Committee (with CC to Senators Warren and Markey):

I am opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill. The best idea is to fix the ACA, not undermine it. Don't replace ACA with something that reduces healthcare coverage.

We ALL have pre-existing conditions, or soon will. They must be covered.

The individual mandate is necessary to make healthcare work.

You MUST wait for the CBO to score this bill. It's unconscionable to do otherwise.

Pushing healthcare coverage to the states will result in a patchwork of plans that will make it harder for insurance companies to work and for people to get and keep coverage. Allowing them to exclude aspects of healthcare that ACA covers is unfair and will cause suffering for American families.

Hal Shubin
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michael Guerra [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:25 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Medicare for All

Cancer should not be part of GDP. No one should profit from another person's illness.

Fix the ACA by offering Medicare single payer health insurance for all like most civilized countries currently do.

Will it be free? No. You pay for it by taxing the top 1% at the rates under Eisenhower. You remove all income caps on social security. The rest is tiered down in percentages in ability to pay with the bottom 20% paying nothing. The CBO is smart, let them figure out how to structure it. Republicans are fond of saying government shouldn't stand between you and your doctor, but have no problem with the insurance companies acting as middlemen. This is wrong. No one should stand between you and your health.

How do we pay for it? We reduce military spending. We reduce incarceration for minor drug offenses. We get rid of private for-profit prisons, charter schools, and other boondoggles. You cut all subsidies to oil, gas, coal, mining, logging, and grazing. In other words, people should come before profits.

Again, my mother's cancer should not be tied to GDP. Single payer now!
Michael Guerra

Sent from an old Underwood typewriter.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:24 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Cassidy-Graham

1. No CBO score
2. Estimate of 32M losing health care
3. Will cause bankruptcies
4. Doesn't cover preconditions
5. 1 in 10 will lose Healthcare
6. Kills Medicaid support for families with special needs children, thus killing their potential

Kills people = bad = no

Stop this madness

Sheila Utz
A voter
Ramona, CA

[redacted]

Sent from my Verizon LG Smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sue Griffey [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:25 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repealing the ACA makes NO fiscal sense

Dear Senate Finance Committee members,

We are APPALLED by the latest attempt by Republican Senators to repeal the ACA. A majority of American citizens are IN FAVOR OF retaining the ACA yet Senate Republicans want yet again to try repeal the ACA with NO plan in place and with no bipartisan representation.

The GCH proposal will cause HUGE fiscal burden on states - and many states will not receive the equivalent in funding that presently covers their constituents with federal funding. It will also costs American citizens MUCH MORE of their incomes especially for catastrophic illnesses, if they can even get coverage.

Health status can never be predicted. We are all 1 event away from poor health. Take me, for example. I am in excellent health, have worked and happily paid taxes until a couple years ago, and will I likely live a long time. But, since I inherited my mother's arthritis, under this new proposal (not a plan), I would be "branded" with several pre-existing conditions and would a be reaching a treatment $$ cap pretty quickly. I had my first hip replacement (right) 10 years ago at age 56, the second one done in 2011, and the right hip redone 6 months ago after 4 surgeries and treatments for a chronic hip infection.

Imagine that this is your situation - and multiply it by the majority of Americans - and maybe you can begin to understand why we feel that Republican senators agreeing to this proposal are vile and soulless.

And now note that some Republicans have already admitted that is all about them getting a legislative victory and tax cuts.

Is this how the Senate protects and fights for all American citizens?? Really?

We beseech your committee on both financial/fiscal as well as compassion perspectives to STOP this proposal from moving forward.

Many thanks for your consideration and help.

Best regards,

Sue

Sue Griffey
[redacted]
[redacted]4
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Annastasia Goldberg [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:25 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please don't pass this bill

Destroying healthcare for millions of Americans is not the way to go. I know you want the big bucks from the Koch Brothers but you will be literally ending the lives of your most vulnerable citizens. Ultimately, if you pass this bill it will lead to the ousting of the people who voted for it but in the short term people will die and have their lives ruined. Do the right thing. It will pay off in the long run.
Annastasia Goldberg
American Citizen

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Lee [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:25 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Kennedy Plan

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

Respectfully,

Lisa Lee

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sue Krenek [redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:24 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose Graham-Cassidy

For many reasons, including:

- it fails to guarantee a sufficient floor with regard to the coverage states must offer;

- it will cause disastrous results anytime there's a public health crisis (e.g., Zika) that disproportionately affects only certain states); and

- it doesn't have a full CBO score so its impact can't accurately determined.

Americans deserve not to have games played with their health and lives. Obamacare repeal efforts have resulted in intense public opposition, and for good reason. Please don't pass this horrendous bill.

Thank you,
Sue Krenek

helped to pay for their services. All of them have required anticonvulsant medication (anti-seizure medication) for most of their lives. All of them have had myriad diagnostic tests. Maya and Michael use a variety of assistive devices, such as wheelchairs, orthotics, etc. Mental health services have been (and for the moment, still are) covered for them by MA. These are just a few of the needs they have that are covered by MA. And, of course, they've also had the normal illness, vaccinations, etc., that all kids experience.

Additionally, MA covers personal care for Maya and Michael, allowing them to live at home, rather than in institutions (which, incidentally would cost tax-payers a LOT more than living at home, in their community, does).

I took a few minutes to tally what our out-of-pocket costs would be for just a couple of MA-covered items that our kids need on a regular basis. The first is their prescription medications (this does not count the various over-the-counter meds they need). Without MA, our monthly out-of-pocket cost for their medication would be $1926.04 or $23,112.48 per year.

Our two youngest kids use incontinence supplies. Without MA, our monthly out-of-pocket costs for basic hygiene supplies (briefs and wipes) would be $625.48 or $7505.76 per year. For just medications and briefs/wipes, we would be paying over $30,000 out-of-pocket. Again, these are just a few of the items that MA covers. I'm fairly confident that without the ACA (Obamacare), we would have reached lifetime limits several years ago. Additionally, they obviously have pre-existing conditions (they were *born* with pre-existing conditions). Despite spin to the contrary, the Graham-Cassidy bill does not guarantee that people with pre-existing conditions will have access to affordable, quality healthcare.

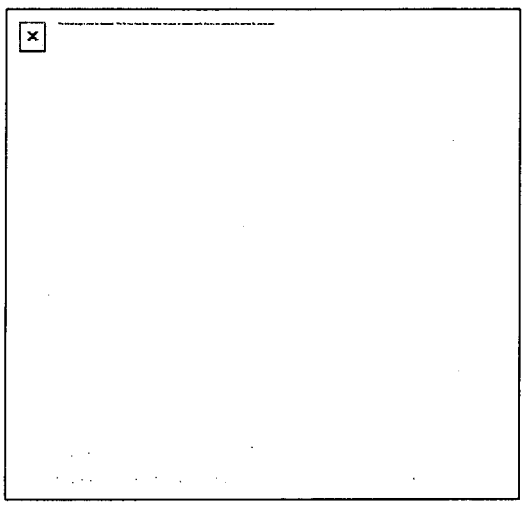
Passing this bill that will cause grave harm to millions of Americans, so that you can keep a campaign promise that most people don't want you to keep anymore, is cruel and irresponsible. I ask that you follow regular order, go back to the drawing board and come up with something that actually helps people.

Sincerely,

Deb Ramacher

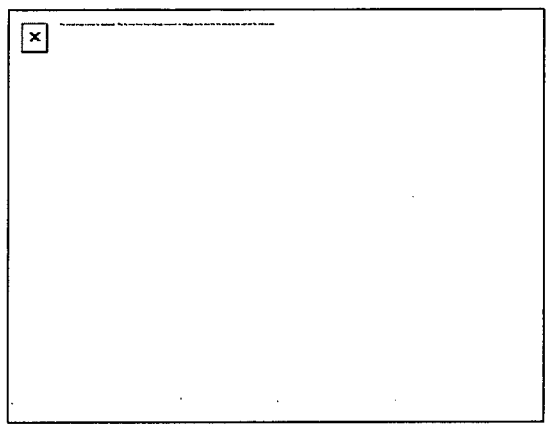
Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: DEB RAMACHER [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:24 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal

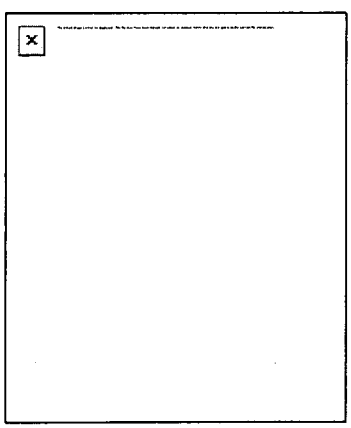


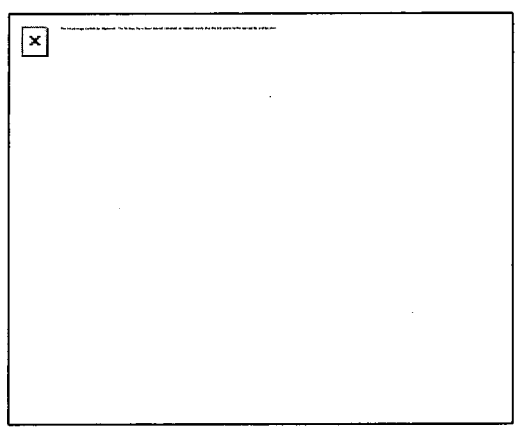
This is my beautiful daughter, Chelsea.

down



This is my beautiful daughter, Chelsea, two days after she had a seizure and went face-first onto a ceramic tile floor (some variation of this occurred 5 times in less than a year, while her meds were being adjusted).





These are my two beautiful younger children, Maya and Michael. As you can see, Maya and Michael both use wheelchairs.

All three of my children have epilepsy and a variety of other disabilities. Medicaid (MA) has been critical to our family. Following are just a few of a multitude of examples. Both Maya and Michael have had major orthopedic surgeries, and multiple eye surgeries. All three of them have been in special education, where MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Heather Spaetzel[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:24 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: disgraceful

I cannot believe that the Republican party is again trying to take away health care. This bill shows just how out of touch this party is with the public. I expect better from our lawmakers. Do they even know what health care is? I have a daughter who receives medicaid due to her disabilities. I guess that's who they want to bully and push into poverty.

--
"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere" - Martin Luther King Jr.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:24 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

The ACA was enacted to law because we needed it. The private insurance companies would sell worthless policies that we would pay for only to find out when we needed them, that they didn't cover what need to be covered or they would say that the illness was due to a pre-existing condition and deny coverage altogether. It was a scam.

The only way an average person could afford insurance was if they got it through their job and even then, insurance would have caps on spending that could leave a person bankrupt from a serious illness.

We would have to stay at jobs we hated just to keep the insurance.

Medicaid expansion brought health insurance to the working poor in my community. People who were hobbling around on worn out joints suddenly were able to get knee and hip replacements and that improved their lives so much. It supported local rural hospitals who were struggling under the burden of indigent patients. Now with the ACA our hospitals can afford to stay open and they create good jobs for medical staff.

I also understand, that under this bill Medicaid will be cut--not just Medicaid expansion. In my community 90% of all nursing home residents are paid for by Medicaid.

We have an Opioid crisis in this country, under the ACA addiction treatment is covered. This will save us money in the long run because instead of locking up addicts and paying for them to be housed in jails, they can get treatment and go on to lead productive lives.

No one wants the Graham-Cassidy, every medical group in the country has come out against it. The only people who support it are people who don't understand it.

Thank you for listening.
Pat Pieper

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: kathy mcintosh [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:24 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy proposal

The Graham-Cassidy will harm millions of Americans and will not even have the benefit of of a Congressional Budget Office analysis. This is cruel, irresponsible and unworthy of congressional attention. Stop this bill now and reconsider.

Kathleen Adams
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Brower [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Please kill this bill. Dumping this onto the states, while cutting funding, will take away what little progress we've made toward providing good healthcare for everyone in this country. My brother has a brain injury and my father, a WWII veteran, is in a nursing home. Their lives depend on medicaid funding. I know you want to fulfill a campaign promise, but voters won't give you credit for this! MBrower

This bill will cause an estimated 32 million people to lose insurance (many because they are priced out.) Premiums will spike. Moreover, people like myself will be left to the whims of our state, who will be facing massive funding cuts.

On September 20, 2017, I will anxiously wait to find out if I will still be insurable. Please vote no and work together to fix the ACA. Thank you for your time.

Yours,

Rachael Stanford

P.S. I have attached three photos as I realize anyone can claim a story. The first was taken the day of the surgery. The second on my way home from taking a radioactive pill (The armband prohibits pregnant women from working on me) and the last of my daughter who is now 3.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rachael Stanford [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill
Attachments: 252191_10100247028494940_7274967_n.jpg; 316052_10100303264193150_310632580_n.jpg; 10929911_10102582169887870_9095905993795728845_n.jpg

Rachael Stanford

[redacted]

To Whom It May Concern.

On September 30, 2011, I anxiously awaited what the next day would bring: radiation. It was odd to think how quickly your life can change. Five months earlier, I was planning to move across the country to start a new life. One bad car accident and a suspicious x-ray later, a bit of cancer the size of a pea had rearranged my plans. It is not something you expect at 25.

But I was lucky: a very curable, slow growing cancer. "The cancer to get if you have to get one," or so my doctor told me. "You'll most likely have a long and healthy life ahead of you…" However, I will for that life bear the scars a serious illness causes you. I will remember the fear of a phone call, the pain of being cut open and what it is like to be radioactive. Would you like to know? Your hold body hurts as if you think you will explode from the inside out. It hurts in a way that you wish for death. But you don't because all you want is to desperately life.

These scars are things I can live with. Six years later, a daughter later, it all seems like a bad dream.

It was not.

If the Graham-Cassidy bill is passed, I will have on my body for the rest of my life the scarlet letter that I dared to cost insurance too much. I will be a second-class citizen for having the audacity to survive. This I cannot live with.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kate Harrington[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Registering opposition to the Graham Cassidy bill

I'd like to register my strong opposition to the Graham Cassidy bill. I have read through the text of the bill carefully and am dismayed that the only protection for people with pre existing conditions is simply a statement from states that they will provide them. After stating their intent, they're then free to waive away all the protections that have enabled people with pre existing conditions to buy affordable health coverage.

I am the parent of a child with autism. Thanks to the ACA, we were able to purchase affordable insurance for our son that covered the very expensive, and very necessary, therapies he needed. I'm happy to say that because of that access to early, intense therapy he is now in a classroom with peers and socially blossoming.

I can't even imagine what we - or families with medically fragile children - would have done if higher premiums or caps were in place. Please don't make this a reality. This bill is alarmingly cruel and fiscally irresponsible. I urge you to kill it, and work on a real solution for improving the ACA instead of continually trying to dismantle the healthcare that people rely on.

Sincerely,
Kate Harrington

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mira Vasiljevic [redacted]n>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No on Graham-Cassidy

The ACA saved my family.

The Graham-Cassidy bill is an insult to the American people. The ACA has helped so many and any attempt to defang it is reprehensible. We expect the senate to make the right choice for the American public and not for the Koch brothers or their own personal financial/political interests.

Living in Alaska in the 90's and early 00's, I had two friend in their 20's who were diagnosed with cancer. One married a man for his insurance. The other got her new employer to commit fraud and say she'd been working with them longer than she had so she qualified for insurance. Both hid the fact that they had cancer from the insurers in order to gain coverage. This is the nightmare we used to live in. I do not want to go back.

Now I live in Los Angeles, CA and was laid off from two different jobs in one year. It took me a year and half to find a new job after the second lay off. The ACA began about 3 months after I lost that second job and my health insurance. My husband is a type-1 diabetic and is insulin dependent. Without his insurance, his medicine costs thousands of dollars a month.

Luckily he had his own insurance until the new year. I, on the other hand, had to go without insurance for 3 months (in my mid-thirties) before the ACA insurance kicked in. I tried to purchase insurance as a filler before my ACA insurance began coverage. I was denied insurance for having a preexisting condition. The condition? Acne.

If it weren't for the ACA's creation my husband may have died without medication or we would still be deeply in debt, paying off enormous credit card bills.

I work in the startup industry and received health insurance through my job. In fact my whole family does: my husband, my son, and myself. But that doesn't mean that repealing the ACA wouldn't effect me.I currently work for a startup and live in fear that the company may go under or that they may be forced to make major cuts to staff. Without the ACA, I would not have any insurance to fall back on.

I am a hard-working, middle-class American with 2 degrees and I deserve **access to affordable healthcare**. Without the ACA safety net, millions of Americans like those in my family will suffer devastating consequences.

Mira

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

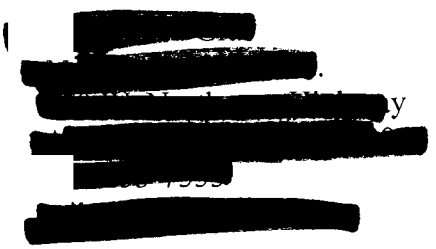
From: Mike Graf <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Senators:

I urge you not to pass this devastating bill. It will devastate people in all states and all walks of life. It will devastate the cancer survivor and the person who suffers from Type II diabetes and everyone in between. Those people were afforded the lifeline of ObamaCare, and we owe it to them to allow them to continue with affordable coverage.

Michael R. Graf

--



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: MELANIE BISHOP [redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Please DO NOT pass this bill! I am a 2 time breast cancer survivor and under this new bill, will lose my health care and I am still in treatment. Please do NOT take healthcare away from all of us with pre-existing conditions. It is inhumane, cruel and unnecessary!

Melanie Bishop

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robin Bolduc [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Colorado Opposition to Graham-Cassidy ACA Repeal/Replace
Attachments: Photo 10155767318498968.jpg

For the record - we firmly believe that the Affordable Care Act needs amending in order to stabilize the health insurance market and provide affordable health insurance to all Americans.

HOWEVER, THIS BILL DOES NOT MEET THAT GOAL AND WILL HARM MILLIONS OF AMERICANS - LET US TELL YOU OUR STORY.

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.

Cutting funds and creating block grants for Medicaid will 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 the Graham-Cassidy proposal as well as any future 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

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Simon [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Health Care Bill

All senators who have ethics and morals should oppose this bill! This is an underhanded attempt to protect Republican votes in the next election. It passes the buck for defunding health care back to the state level so that Trump/Pence and the Republicans look like they have done something good for health care for every citizen. This bill leaves health care coverage at the mercy of each state and their financial ability to help their residents.

All senators need to vote AGAINST this deceptive bill!

Nancy Simon
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julie Carrico [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on GCH Healthcare bill

I was informed that all comments that are sent to this email address will be entered into public record during the hearing on Monday 25 SEP 2017.

After reading over the GCH Healthcare bill I am extremely concerned about the rollback on preexisting condition protections. As you know, health insurance companies are currently not allowed to charge more for enrollees with preexisting conditions. Why is this not an important protection that must be kept? I understand the argument that if a state were to request a waiver they have to explain how they are going to ensure "adequate and affordable" coverage to patients with preexisting conditions. Correct me if I am wrong but there is no detonation of adequate and affordable in this bill. Who is going to be the decider of what people can afford. I know one thing for certain, if the insurance companies were not allowed to charge more because of a preexisting conditions I would know that my 11 year old daughter is not getting priced out of the market due to her preexisting condition.

My daughter was born with a condition known as Osteogenesis Imperfecta, which is more commonly known as brittle bhines disease. It presents itself with countless fractures with little or no trauma. I can't tell you how many broken bones she has had or rodding surgeries. What I can tell you is that she needs CONSTANT medical care and we are not rich. We go to children's national on 09 OCT 2017 to get her Pamidronate infusion and the drug alone costs $15k. She gets this infusion every 3 months. Without insurance we would have to file bankruptcy before next year. Then none of the doctors bills will be paid. Hospitals, insurers, doctors, etc. Will lose money due to so many people having to file for bankruptcy.

Additionally the uncertainty in the current market is what is raising costs. Please!! Please work in a bipartisan way to stabilize the market. You are going to disrupt the insurance market with this bill and costs will continue to rise.

If yoiu really want a helpful idea, try to work on exorbitant drug costs. This will also help the market. There are so many more productive things that you could do than spending MONTHS trying to repeal a bill that has literally saved millions of lives. Why would you want to do that people?

I also realize some states are different, but no senator who cares about this country should be supporting this awful bill. Listen to the experts! Just because Cassidy is a doctor doesn't mean he knows all there is to know about insurance, care, etc. Listen to the countless groups and individuals that are telling you why this is a terrible bill.

It will hurt the GOP I can promise you. There are millions of people with preexisting conditions and when they see what is being done to them they will blame GOP for it.

Thank you,
Julie Carrico

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Suzan Hyssen <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: aslavitt@gmail.com
Subject: Repeal Stories

My father had lung cancer - twice - and my mother broke her hip and ankle. I've had multiple surgeries. My daughter had knee surgery.

We're all *living* with preexisting conditions thanks to the ACA. Obamacare has helped people with private and employer health insurance by removing lifetime limits and exclusions for preexisting conditions.

Don't take any of this away.

Suzan Hyssen
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [redacted]om
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA repeal

My name is Avril Wood-McGrath. I live in Florida. Here are my concerns about ACA repeal.

The employer mandate allows my husband and I to have great insurance. I work as a contractor for state laboratory. I keep the same hours as my co-workers, I preform the same work but before the ACA my position did not offer health insurance.

Now they do. Great for me and my family.

Before I had this position, I was on my husband's plan. I addition to paying close to 20% of our take home pay for insurance, I had to sign a pregnancy waiver. That meant that if I got pregnant , my husband and I would have been wholly responsible for the cost. That's illegal now thanks to the ACA.

My mother was made "redundant" at her job at the age of 59 during the financial crisis. All the stress and worry that comes with losing a job at the prime of a career is cruel. Thank god she was able to buy an insurance plan on the marketplace. The Consumer protections of the ACA meant she could not be denied of coverage because of pre-existing conditions and age.

I can talk about concerns I have for relatively healthy members of my family pretty easily, but I start to break down when I think about the person in my life who will most affected by ACA repeal. My little sister.

She has an auto immune disorder. She will die without healthcare. I can't think about a future where my parents will spend every dime they saved for retirement to keep my sister alive.

I can't.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bronwyn Harris <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no on Graham Cassidy!!

Hi,

This will be life or death for many of my family members. Please, please don't let this pass.



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Presson [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable Care Act Repeal

I am a single woman aged 59 who works for an employer who refuses to pay for medical insurance. I am not old enough yet for Medicare but at my age I need healthcare! And at my age it is way to expensive for my $34,000.00 a year income to pay for it without help. If you take my healthcare what am I supposed to do? I cannot afford Emergency room bills as those send you into bankruptcy! How is it that this country would deny sick people healthcare but spend billions for a military to kill people? There are many countries poorer than this one that take care of their citizens. This administration along with republicans in the house and senate are going to regret taking healthcare from millions who can't afford it just to appease their rich donors. This country is about ALL people not just the rich and powerful. We will not accept your Oligarchy. Do the work of ALL people, not just your RICH Donors. HEALTHCARE is a RIGHT not a PRIVILEGE!! DO THE RIGHT THING

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Thomas Pretlow [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GRAHAM CASSIDY BILL

I am writing to urge that the Graham Cassidy bill be defeated. As a retired physician and medical school professor, I have seen many deaths that have resulted from the lack of insurance. For example, during the summer before the passage of Obamacare, two people died in their early twenties that would not have died after the passage of Obamacare. One was a 21-year-old roommate of my wife's niece. As a college senior she was practice teaching in a high school. On a Monday morning, she was told by the high school administration that she was too sick to be exposed to students; therefore, she did not teach that week. She had a fever and a cough. When asked by my wife's niece why she did not see a doctor, her roommate said that she had no health insurance and could not afford to go to a doctor. On Friday night, she coughed up a large amount of blood, was hospitalized in an intensive care unit for her pneumonia (that could have been cured earlier with antibiotics), and died less than a day after being admitted to the hospital.

The other death that summer that resulted from a lack of insurance was a 22-year-old boy who was diagnosed in a remote facility of University Hospitals of Cleveland (UH) as having acute leukemia. He could have been driven to the central UH facility in less than an hour; however, he was told that he should use an ambulance since it was urgent that he be started immediately on intravenous chemotherapy. He arrived at the UH Emergency Room. There, he was told something like: "Oh, you don't have insurance; go home and we'll call you in a couple of days and tell you what to do." When UH called, they started him on outpatient oral chemotherapy. His leukemia did not respond. He had a bone marrow transplant in November, developed graft-vs-host disease, and spent most of the rest of his life in an intensive care unit until he died in April.

How could we pay to be certain that these two young people could have received life-saving therapy. Firstly, we could have saved money by treating the leukemic with the best available chemotherapy. This would have cured more than half of people with his disease. If we had treated the leukemic correctly, we could have avoided hospital charges that probably exceeded one million dollars, may have exceeded two million dollars. Secondly, we could tax the wealthy. Warren Buffett recently stated that between 1982 and 2017, the net worth of the Forbes 400 went from $92 BILLION to $2.4 TRILLION. Buffett went on to say: "Most have been left behind. It is up to the government to do something about it!" Personally, the retirement income that my wife and I receive is not in the "upper 1%," however, we would be caused no inconvenience if we paid twice the federal taxes that we have paid since our retirement eight years ago. Two of our three children (sons) could also pay twice the federal taxes that they are currently paying. One of them is easily in the "upper 1%. It is time for Congress to correct the U.S. tax system that taxes the wealthiest individuals in our country at a very low rate after deductions. It is time for all citizens to receive the best possible healthcare.

Tom

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laurie Scudder [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH Bill
Attachments: GrahamCasidy.jpg

Senators:
As a nurse of 40 years I am writing to voice my strongest opposition to this bill. The many ways in which it will hurt patients should give you all pause. But the attached graphic listing the literally dozens of patient advocacy organizations, physician groups, nurses, hospitals, payers who all oppose should be sufficient to convince you that a no vote is required. When virtually every organization that knows something about healthcare opposes a bill -- the conclusion that this is a very bad piece of legislation is unavoidable.
Thank you,
Laurie Scudder

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Vladimir Barash [redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: comment on Graham Cassidy Bill

Hi,

This is my official comment on the Graham Cassidy healthcare bill. My grandmother, who just passed away, has lived a long and difficult life. She moved to the US in her late seventies after growing up in the Soviet Union, surviving repressions, World War 2, tuberculosis in the family. She was able to become a US citizen and thus received Medicare; thanks to those programs, she was able to improve her health and enjoy her final years. Without Medicare, she would have died of cancer years ago. With Medicare, she was able to get a mastectomy and live. Without Medicare, she would have died in pain and alone. With Medicare, she died at peace, in hospice, surrounded by family. I want seniors in the future to receive the same care as my grandmother did. The Graham Cassidy bill would take that care away, and stick these seniors -- and disabled folks, and millions of other people on Medicare -- with unsustainable healthcare bills, driving many further into debt. It's the opposite of a health care bill. I strongly urge the Senators on the Committee to not support this bill, and to instead work on a bipartisan solution for fixing our health care system.

Sincerely,

Vladimir Barash, Ph.D.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [redacted]der

Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill
Attachments: GrahamCasidy.jpg

Senators:
As a nurse of 40 years I am writing to voice my strongest opposition to this bill. The many ways in which it will hurt patients should give you all pause. But the attached graphic listing the literally dozens of patient advocacy organizations, physician groups, nurses, hospitals, payers who all oppose should be sufficient to convince you that a no vote is required. When virtually every organization that knows something about healthcare opposes a bill -- the conclusion that this is a very bad piece of legislation is unavoidable.
Thank you,
Laurie Scudder

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christine Daulton [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH

When my son could no longer find work in his field he was reduced to a part-time job without benefits. He made so little that he qualified for Medicaid. At 32 he never thought he's use it. But a month ago he passed out and was taken to the hospital. A CT scan showed multiple tumors. He has undifferentiated carcinoma and without Medicaid to pay for his treatment he will surely die. If GCH passes many people like my son will be condemned to death because senators are too afraid of their donors to care for the people who elected them. Please stop this NOW.

Christine Daulton
Greensburg, Pennsylvania

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Juliet Langley [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy - Statement for the Record

Hello,

I am writing as a concerned citizen regarding this bill, and the fact that somehow, our representatives have decided it is ok to vote on this bill without a CBO score.

This is fiscally irresponsible and dangerous as it will affect approximately 1/6th of our economy. And, that is just the financial irresponsibility.

But even without a CBO score, it doesn't take much to understand that this could negatively affect tens of millions of Americans, both financially and physically.

If people get sick and they can't afford care, we are poorer as a nation. It is really that simple.

Regards,

Juliet Langley
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tanny Martin [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Repeal

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Tanny Martin and I'm a resident of Rockport, MA.
I'm writing you from two perspectives: that of a mom and also of a nurse. I have been an RN in various settings since the late 70's. I've worked in hospitals and as a home care nurse. In the late 80's I was the first AIDS coordinator for a large VNA north of Boston and later spent 5 years working in community outreach and education regarding Breast and Cervical Cancer screening and early detection. The last 10 years of my career were spent in hospice nursing, In all these roles, my commitment was to my patients and their families to ensure they felt secure whatever the outcome.

With the Graham Cassidy Repeal, patients' security is ignored in favor of time and political expediency. Without protection for preexisting conditions, our ALS patients could have no coverage for thier hospice care. Patients with Glioblastoma or breast cancer may not be able to access coverage because of prohibitive premiums.

This brings me to my son. He was uninsured, working in a convenience store. On New Year's Eve he went to the ER with back pain. By the next morning we were in Boston at Beth Israel knowing he had a large liver tumor. He was diagnosed with metastatic colon cancer. Unsuccessful surgery and two rounds of chemotherapy later he transitioned to hospice. He died on March 23, 2012. Because we were blessed to live in MA, the extent of his enrollment for care was one signature. No one ever asked us again about coverage or co-payments. That is the kind of health care everyone should have.

I am now disabled with three chronic illnesses. I have Medicare but shudder to think what comes next for me given the lack of concern this Republican majority has shown for elders specifically and Americans' health care in general. The Graham Cassidy Repeal has nothing to do with ensuring Americans have quality health care. It is clearly not about health care at all.

Please vote no as every health care and advocacy group has urged. Please vote no.

With Respect,
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Allison Tanner <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I have a comment I would like entered into the record.
My daughter has been diagnosed with depression, anxiety, an eating disorder and has also had problems with heroin addiction. She has been able to get the mental health treatment she needs as well as rehab for the heroin addiction through our insurance. However, she is 25 and 1/2. She will age out of being on our insurance in February. She is working part-time but doesn't have insurance through her employer. If the ACA is repealed, how will she get insurance? She has FOUR pre-existing conditions. You have no idea the battles she fights, just to be able to get out of bed in the morning. How can you consider taking health-care away from people who desperately need it?

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Lee [redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Bill

I am a new small business owner. After 6 months of working a regular job in order to keep my health insurance, it became clear that my business would fail if I did not take control, so I quit my job thinking I could always get health care on the exchange. WRONG. What are you (GOP) thinking? How can we build this country's economy if people don't have access to basic health care??? Please do NOT vote for this. Strengthen the ACA instead!

Thank you,

Mary Lee

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tom Brennan [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy comments

Dear Finance Committee,

When my sister-in-law found out as a child that she had a kidney disorder, she asked her mother, "do you need your kidneys to live?"

I can't imagine what my mother-in-law felt that day.

A decade later, my father-in-law donated his kidney to his daughter. A decade later, my wife, through a paired donation program, donated her kidney and, in the process, saved both my sister-in-law's life and the life of a mother who lives outside Asheville, North Carolina.

Through out her surgery prep, my wife was reminded that donating a kidney would, for some insurers, constitute a pre-existing condition and, if not for the ACA, could risk her coverage or spike her premiums. My wife was undeterred. She risked her own healthcare to save two lives.

Independent advocacy groups have confirmed Graham Cassidy will risk the healthcare of people with pre-existing conditions. It means my father-in-law and wife could lose coverage because they wanted to save the life of someone they love. it means my sister-in-law could lose her coverage because of an illness that she was born with.

Risking their health care would be unconscionable enough - doing so in a rushed process that defies regular order, can't get bipartisan support and isn't properly evaluated by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Order is infuriating.

Reject this bill. It's the right thing to do.

Thank you for your time,
Tom Brennan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Allan & Judy Morotti [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Dear Sir or Madam,
Everyone has a body and mind which requires care. As a country, we provide many services individuals cannot manage on their own. We share mail services, roads, police, libraries, schools and collect taxes to distribute for the greater good. The same can be found for healthcare. All other strong countries provide healthcare. Without the ACA (which everyone agrees need improving), my children will die. Most people cannot afford the new costs, the pre-existing conditions clause, the lack of hospitals in rural places. We need a good, overall, simple system of providing healthcare to everyone.
Sincerely,
Judy Morotti
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Allison Nack [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please don't pass this bill

It will hurt millions of people, including me. We have to care, You have to care. Please do the right thing. Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Ladies and Gentleman,

I went to the emergency room with a heart issue. I had insurance, I had surgery. I was denied coverage because of a pre existing condition. Why did I pay for insurance then?

I had to go BANKRUPT after being denied coverage on a $70,000 hospital bill.

Why did I pay for insurance again?

This bill helps no one.

Medicare for all, as HEALTH CARE IS A HUMAN RIGHT! We don't live in the dark ages.

NO to GRAHAM CASSIDY

Sincerely,

Steve Tripp

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Estelle Fosella <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: EFosella- oppose GCHJ

I am a 47 year old woman that grew up with congenital birth defects. I will not list all the details, but I can say," I would not be able to work without the medical care I receive".

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson (GCHJ) proposal would:

- Allow insurers to charge individuals with pre-existing conditions more money for health coverage- **which would prevent me from having access to work, which financially helps everyone involved**
- Cap and block grant Medicaid (the equivalent of Medicaid cuts)**- I pay a spend down, which is like paying insurance. A cap would leave me without proper care.**
- Cut funding for Medicaid expansion- many people need insurance. **Not all of the people in the U.S. can afford the high rates of insurance companies.**
- Cut funding for financial assistance that helps low-wage workers and moderate-income families buy private insurance- **I fall in this category, and as much as I would like to change this, sometimes, it is what it is. Without assistance, where would I and many others end up?**
- Repeal the ACA individual and employer mandates- **It is not logical.**

My arguments may not seem like much, but thousands, if not billions of people fall into this situation.
Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Estelle

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: b l [redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Robert Lindley
[redacted]

Re: Hearing on Graham Cassidy Healthcare bill.

Senators.
I am a 58 year old man with Type 2 Diabetes, Asthma, degenerative arthritis in my hands, wrists, elbows, shoulders and knees, and a high clotting factor in my blood which requires that I take a high dose of Warfarin daily. My healthcare expenses are not insubstantial, due to the number and type of prescriptions I take daily. My wife and I have insurance currently through her work, but that will no longer be the case very soon as she is looking closely at retirement. In any case removing the protections put in place by the ACA will affect us, because the insurance companies will be able to re-write the rules on pre-existing conditions and lifetime caps. Any changes to ACA coverage will impact us going forward and I pray you will hear me when I say, PLEASE do not pass Graham-Cassidy, this life threatening, financially draining bill.

We are already forced to make difficult decisions regarding types of care we can afford, and what medications we can afford on a month to month basis. Increasing costs, or worse, removing the ability to get coverage will end my life, and right now I am still enjoying my life, I'd rather not have to give it up. Save Americans. Fix the problems with the ACA, or better yet go to a single payer system.

Please do not kill me and others.

We've worked for 20 years to help her become a contributing and independent member of our community but she'll always need some supports. This bill will effectively eliminate those supports. Congress can do better. You must do better than this harmful bill. Please vote No on Graham-Cassidy.

Thank you.

Jane Gerhardt

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jane Gerhardt [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fwd: Please vote NO on Graham-Cassidy

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: Please vote NO on Graham-Cassidy

Anne, our 20 year old daughter with Down syndrome, received various school-based therapies from preschool through high school. We believe these therapies are, in part, the reason why she is living a happy, successful, integrated life. She attends a school-based employment training program, has worked a minimum wage part-time job at Kroger's 12 hours a week for almost a year now, has friends, hobbies, and is an active and valued tax paying member of our community. Those therapies – so important for helping her learn to communicate, read, write and complete activities of daily living- were Medicaid funded. They mattered. She matters. She is one of the millions of faces of Medicaid.



Graham-Cassidy will result in deep cuts to states' federal Medicaid funding now and even deeper cuts in the future. The Home and Community based Services that will help Anne live and work in the community are optional and as you all well know, will be some of the first states will cut.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Poling [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:45 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Grahm-cassidy Bill

To Whom it may Concern,

I am a mother writing on behalf of my son's and several others that we have met along this journey....

At the age of 9 my energetic, lover of all sports son was diagnosed with Crohns disease. I will shorten the version of what we went through for 6 LONG years. First of all he went through all the Insurance regimens of meds. All failing after a year. The summer he turned 12 he became very ill and spent 47 days in the hospital. He had 2 surgeries that year, and the old saying anything that can go wrong did. He has had reactions to meds, infections and pain. He also had a summer of being denied because he would be the first pediatric using it on our insurance, and it being the only drug left that was FDA approved for him. He lived on steroids for three months,that have left his bones weak. Finally after 3 months of fighting insurance companies he was approved. He has now been on this medicine for three years. It's the only medicine that has worked. He is now in college at the University of Iowa learning to be a Child Life Specialist so he can be there for the kids that are sick like he was.

At the age of 14 my other son was diagnosed with Ulcerative colitis. He to has had a couple of hospital stays and went through a few different meds. We were lucky enough to have Remicade work now for seven years. He has migraines caused by some of his meds he needs to be on, and has skin issues because of meds also. He too attends the University of Iowa and will be a history teacher in a year.

My son's were dealt very painful diseases that they have not allowed to define them. It took away their childhood so please don't allow them to take away their lives because they can't afford the medicines and procedures that keep them alive They are strong and caring individuals that have their whole lives ahead of them so please oppose this bill so our Nations future can live the life they deserve.

Thank You,
Lisa Poling

Get Outlook for Android

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marilyn Cunningham [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:45 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

In a few words. Why do the Republicans want us (we the people) to get sick and die? Stop being mean and heartless! Improve Obamacare!

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anne Ades [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:46 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it will have a terrible impact on the people who need healthcare the most especially children.

Anne Ades

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Leah Grenier <[redacted]m>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:46 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not pass the Graham-Cassidy bill

This bill is dangerous to millions of US citizens and especially to women and babies. For those who purport to be "pro-life" these policies are anything but. They will endanger the health of pregnant women and babies and exacerbate the cyclical pattern of poverty.
Do not pass this bill and in the future make the process more inclusive (not just two middle aged white men drafting major policy) and transparent, gathering buy in and ideas from experts in health care and constituents.
Thank you,
Leah Grenier
Naugatuck, CT

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Mann [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because I am an insulin-dependent diabetic, not yet eligible for Medicare. I have remained relatively healthy because I currently have access to the care and products I need. I will be unable to afford these if you pass this horrendous bill, and my children's care will also be at risk. Please DO NOT appease your wealthy-donors by passing this bill that only 12% of the population thinks is a good idea. Please serve the people who elected you and reject this terrible bill. Thank you.

Jennifer Mann

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From:	Will Holshouser [redacted]
Sent:	Friday, September 22, 2017 10:44 AM
To:	gchcomments
Cc:	Gillibrand, Kirsten (Gillibrand); schumer, scheduling (Schumer)
Subject:	comments on Graham-Cassidy
Attachments:	Comments on Graham Cassidy.docx; ATT00001.htm

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

To Whom it May Concern,

Attached are comments submitted on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal, from:
William Holshouser
185 Prospect Park Southwest #407
Brooklyn NY 11218

best,
William Holshouser
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patty [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: "Heath Care" bill

Please expose this new "Health Care" bill for what it is.....an effort to free up money for the top 1% tax "relief" at the expense of the lives of many many Americans. Could NOT be cost effective!

Patty Downing
voter

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Andrew Rosla[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham - Cassidy healthcare bill

Good Morning

And here we go again...
The need to destroy Obama Care or the Affordable Care Act.

The Affordable Care Act had problems that were not addressed.
When passed this was mentioned. Instead of trying to repair it
the Republicans have scrambled together another one of their versions to replace it.

But they are replacing it with something that 99% of the people who have looked at it have said is worse then ACA

Why are we doing this..
To please Trump because of his incredible hatred of former President Obama.

Please think of the many Americans who will be severely hurt by this...

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: John Freeman[redacted]m>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: John Freeman
Subject: NO on Graham-Cassidy

Good morning Senate Finance Committee Members,

I'm writing to you because the Graham-Cassidy Bill will cause great pain to people with chronic on going medical conditions. Without lab monitoring and medications, I will die! American's, like me, are pleading with you to vote NO on Graham-Cassidy Bill, so that people with preexsisting conditions will have access to quality affordable healthcare. Many American's will die without access to medical care. Please vote NO on Graham-Cassidy and keep Patient Protection Affordable Care Act in place and work towards making it better. I thank you for your time in this important matter.

John T Freeman
Sacramento, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nicole Mabr[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Hello,
Please kill this bill immediately, it is not health coverage, it is a death sentence to millions of Americans.
If you pass this bill, you've failed miserably in your job and the American people will respond in the elections.

Sincerely,
Nicole Mabry

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Danielle Hill [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham-Cassidy bill

Hello. I am a concerned American. The recent healthcare bill is heinous and cruel. It's completely destructive for our healthcare system and economy. Passing a law that will takes healthcare from 32 million is sadistic and thoughtless. The ACA is working, despite the deliberate sabotage that is being done to undermine it. Americans are almost all against this bill, and medical groups and professionals have made it clear how deleterious its impact will be. I urge you to work together to strengthen our healthcare system via the ACA. Build on its solid foundation. Remember the high calling elected lawmakers have to work for and protect Americans.

Thanks.

Danielle

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Natalie Bencini [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham Cassidy

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing today in opposition to the Graham Cassidy "healthcare" bill, and any and all efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act. The American people want Congress to work in a bipartisan manner to improve the ACA, not repeal it and strip healthcare away from millions of Americans! I am a 34-year-old breast cancer survivor who will desperately need pre-existing conditions to continue to be covered. We CANNOT go back to the days when newborn babies met their lifetime caps in one day, or when people filed for bankruptcy to cover medical costs! I urge every Senator to listen to the experts who have come out against this terrible bill. DO NOT sell the American people out to give the Koch brothers a tax break! SHAME!

Best regards,
Natalie Sheridan
[redacted]
[redacted]
--
Natalie Bencini, M.A.
Reading Specialist

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: John Comella [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE NO on Graham-Cassidy bill

The Graham-Cassidy Bill is WORSE than its predecessors. Vote NO on it. When a BETTER bill has been developed through BIPARTISAN negotiation, then replace Obamacare with the new bill. UNTIL that time, leave OBAMACARE as it is.

Thank you.

John

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Peppy Dubno [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA bill

Please don't pass the Graham Cassidy bill to replace the ACA. This will be a disaster for our country's healthcare. Please instead take measures to improve the ACA, not destroy it!

Peppy

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: The Kerners [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA Reform

We know this is all about $400M in Koch money being withheld from the Republicans.

How many citizens are they willing to kill for that money is the question!

Gary Kerner
[redacted]

"Notary sojac"

Sent from my mobile cellular telephone machine

Nie mój cyrk, nie moje małpy .

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kate Ellet [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote no

Please vote NO on Graham-Cassidy bill and instead focus on making "Medicare for all" available.....thank you!

Kate Ellet
Herrin, IL

we would have to find this extra money somewhere, most likely from our retirement savings. Depleting retirement savings is not good public policy for American families!

Please consider that the American Diabetes Association (ADA) and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) stand in opposition to Graham-Cassidy. The ADA has issued a statement in strong support of the bipartisan hearings spearheaded by Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray in the Senate HELP Committee, and by Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden in your Committee. These hearings, focused on market stabilization and other critical issues, represent a promising first step towards addressing our country's health care challenges. I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy and instead, continue on the bipartisan path to addressing ACA reform. This is what the majority of Americans hope you will do!

Valerie Eastwood

Granby, CT

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From:	Valerie Eastwood [redacted]
Sent:	Friday, September 22, 2017 11:49 AM
To:	gchcomments
Subject:	Statement for the Record - Graham-Cassidy

To the Members of the Senate Finance Committee re Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill hearing:

I am telling you my family's healthcare insurance story because I want you to know just what the proposed changes will do to us. **Please include my statement in the Committee's record for this hearing.**

Although there are many things wrong with Graham-Cassidy, the worst for us (for now) is that it will allow states to discard the ACA's requirements that all insurers cover certain benefits -- such as maternity or mental health services -- and abandon its prohibition against insurers charging higher premiums to people with pre-existing conditions.

The bill says that states will have to claim that they will maintain access to "adequate and affordable" health care for people with pre-existing conditions, but it is hard to imagine how they will do this if they allow insurers to drop benefits that people with pre-existing conditions need or allow insurers to charge them *unaffordable rates*. And there is no enforcement mechanism for states that do not live up to their claims. This is a far cry from the simple, basic rights that we all gained under the ACA.

I was a generally healthy professional woman and mom of two sons, now in college, until two years ago when I was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes. With the care that I receive from my PCP, I'm able to maintain control with prescription medication and dietary restrictions. But, I will have this condition until I die. Because I, and millions of Americans like me, carry this diagnosis and are at risk for severe complications, we are also at risk for much higher health insurance premiums in the future.

If insurers are allowed once again to consider "pre-existing conditions" for their rates, my understanding is that a diagnosis of uncomplicated non-insulin treated type 2 diabetes could raise my private insurance rates by about $6,000 per year (in addition to the $13,000 that my family already pays). Since we continue to support our children while they are in college,

Before the Affordable Care Act became law, my family struggled to qualify for comprehensive coverage on the private individual market due to pre-existing conditions. Once the Affordable Care Act became law, I was able to purchase a comprehensive plan on the private individual market. I do not receive a subsidy; I pay the full cost of the premium. It's not cheap, but before the Affordable Care Act, this type of comprehensive coverage wasn't available to me on the private individual market at all; the premiums for what was available were astronomical because people with pre-existing conditions were charged more.

I am very concerned that if Graham-Cassidy passes, comprehensive coverage will become either unavailable or unaffordable for me. Graham-Cassidy would let states decide whether or not they keep various rules that are currently required at the federal level under the Affordable Care Act, such those that prevent insurance companies from charging more for pre-existing conditions, implementing lifetime caps on coverage, or offering non-comprehensive plans that don't cover essential health benefits. If my state did not keep those requirements, my premium would likely go up substantially because of pre-existing conditions – and my plan might no longer offer such comprehensive coverage.

I am also concerned that premiums are likely to go up in general if the individual mandate is repealed, because that would change the risk pool.

Please reject any bill, including Graham-Cassidy, that could allow insurers to charge more for pre-existing conditions, implement lifetime or annual caps, or charge extra for things that are currently considered essential health benefits (such as prenatal and maternity care, checkups, lab tests, prescription medication, substance abuse treatment, etc).

Best regards,

Laura Wallace

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lo Wa[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for the Record for Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing scheduled for September 25, 2017 at 1:00 PM

From: Laura Wallace

[redacted]

To: Senate Committee on Finance

Attn: Editorial and Document Section

Rm. SD-219

Dirksen Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510-6200

GCHcomments@finance.senate.gov

Re: Statement for the Record for Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing, which is scheduled for September 25, 2017 at 1:00 PM.

Date: September 22, 2017

Dear Senators:

I am concerned that the Graham-Cassidy bill, if passed, would imperil access to healthcare for millions of Americans, including myself and my family. I am particularly concerned about how the bill would affect premium prices for people with pre-existing conditions. I urge the Senate to reject any bill that could lead to price discrimination based on pre-existing conditions.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lauren Boegen <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal hearing comment

Dear Finance Committee–

Chairman Hatch said regarding the hearing on Monday "A hearing will allow members on both sides of the aisle to delve deeper into its policy and gain a better understanding of what the authors hope to achieve."Please do. Please do delve into what the authors wish to achieve. To the public, it's very unclear what they wish to achieve. Hurting the most vulnerable populations? Continuing to make health care a privilege rather than a right? Unless the goal is to stubbornly pass a bill on partisan lines without a CBO review.

When the American Caner Society, the American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Arthritis Foundation, ALS Association, March of Dimes, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, AART, AMA, AHA, JDRF and even BCBS and Kaiser Permanente do not support this bill, along with what appears to be less than 1/3 of Americans, we all deserve to understand what this bill will achieve except for strictly partisan goals.

Sincerely,
Lauren Boegen
Chicago, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Spencer Finch [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:50 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Why I Oppose Graham Cassidy

Dear Committee

My Obamacare experience, while not without some bumps in the beginning, has been generally excellent. My premiums went down from what I was paying before (I am self-employed) and I feel the quality of my healthcare has been the same or better than it was before Obamacare. And I have not experienced problems with the bureaucracy and paperwork.

As a 55 year-old, it is clear that under Graham-Cassidy my premiums will go up and my options will go down. I strongly urge you to oppose this new bill.

I would also like to know why members of Congress will not be required to get insurance under this same program that taxpayers like me, who pay their salary, would be forced into.

Thank you for your consideration and I again urge you to do the right thing and oppose Graham-Cassidy.

Sincerely,

Spencer Finch
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ruth Martelli [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:50 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because ....
States that expanded medicaid are being hit hardest in the Graham-Cassidy bill. Those states happen to be blue and seem to put the welfare of their citizens above that of special interest groups. I called both my senators, but learned recently that both have taken contributions from big pharma and insurance companies; the republican senator has received much more than the dem. I hold out hope for a no vote from the dem, but little from the republican who claims to be a devout catholic. One would think he might have read the beatitudes or Christ's commandment to love one another. I heard that while the Rs were home over labor day they were contacted by donors who demanded repeal and replace so they could get their anticipated tax cuts when tax reform is crafted. The "savings" from gutting Obamacare will fund massive tax cuts for the wealthiest among us. Mind you, those donors will never have to file for medical bankruptcy, nor will they have to choose between food and meds. Given Graham-Cassidy, we know who the Republicans care about. Let this be a call (literally, pick up the phone) to action!!!

Ruth Martelli

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cathy Mc [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:50 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Cathy McGraw
Subject: Please do NOT move forward on Graham-Cassidy-Heller!

Please do NOT move forward on Graham-Cassidy-Heller! I have worked for 30 years and have maintained health insurance for my family and me for the majority of those years. I am still 10 years from retirement. During the last four years, after layoffs by IBM and EMC, I have had to work as a temp or subcontractor, W2, on short-term contracts. There seem to be very few direct hire jobs these days. Half of the staffing agencies have no healthcare plan or non-compliant plans. Others require 1-4 months waiting period. Without my affordable ACA plan, I would not have healthcare right now. I had not had a major illness since 1991. However, last spring I had two unexpected in-hospital procedures, three over-night stays total, the combined cost was over $75,000. The cost of this temporary illness would have financially ruined my husband and me as I have been unemployed since January.
Under-employed citizens over 50, until retirement and Medicare-eligible, must have affordable insurance options. It is very difficult to find suitable, comparable employment if one becomes unemployed after the age of 50. Even with my ACA plan, our financial future has been severely destabilized by my unemployment. I hope to be working soon. ACA literally save my life. I know for a fact that before ACA, the private insurance quotes from the SC Alliance were double the premium and deductible for a much lesser quality plan.

Please work together on a bipartisan plan to tweak ACA. And, understand that the astronomically high and growing costs of medical care and medicine is the root of the problem. And, patients without any insurance make it worse for everyone. I believe that growing the ACA pool of insured will help as well as emphasizing preventative and well managed care.

Please keep my name private as I am still looking for a job and don't want my personal and healthcare information exposed. However, feel free to contact me if you would like more information.

Sincerely,
Cathy McGraw
[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ruth Eddy [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:50 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Ruth Eddy
Subject: Graham Cassidy Hearing

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I write to you today regarding the proposed bill by Senators Graham and Cassidy.
This bill should not be brought to a vote without a CBO score. How can something be voted on without fully understanding the impact on most Americans?

This bill eliminates protections for pre-existing conditions, allows insurance companies to charge older Americans more, lets state reinstate lifetime caps on coverage and raises premiums for working families. It is terribly distressing to know that monies cut from Medicaid, would hurt seniors and the disabled. This bill is an assault of the most vulnerable of our population.

Healthcare should be something made accessible to all who need it. This bill does exactly the opposite.
From what I understand, this bill would not bring healthcare to more Americans rather, upwards of 30 million people would loose their coverage.

There is something horribly wrong when one of the richest nations on the planet cannot make sure that a person who needs medical care can get it.
This bill is beyond mean spirited. It seems to be a way for the GOP to pay for their tax cuts.

Please, let's return to regular voting procedure rather than this rush vote by reconciliation. I want to live in a country where bipartisanship is at play and a vote by all members of Congress determines the outcome.

Respectfully yours,
Ruth Eddy Minot

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Frances Bennett[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no on Graham Cassidy Bill!

To the senators and congressmen who have promised in their Candidacies to represent us, The time has come for you to keep your promise! All 50 state Medicaid associations have said that this Graham Cassidy bill you propose is a bad bill for your people, your constituents! Yet you turn a deaf ear!
I am a senior citizen. I am a voter. I am your constituent. I am 70 years old and my mother is 96 and we are both on social security. As you know Social Security is a fixed income. We cannot afford to be denied coverage for conditions which have now as old age befalls us, become pre-existing. Nor can we afford higher premiums because we fall into the category of "Older, high risk", senior citizens.
Without Medicare and Medicaid, my mother who worked until she was 82, would not get a walker, or wheelchair, and healthcare she now needs. Soon we will all become old and feeble, including you! How will we survive without the funds to take care of us or health care we can afford after we have been productive tax paying citizens all our lives and are now too weak to care for ourselves.
You can lie to the American public now about how great your Healthcare bill is. However, when it becomes law, the truth will be revealed, and we will blame you! We will blame you for not caring about us, The people who elected you to represent us! If our elected officials do not represent the will of the people, then they should not be in positions of government.
If you truly represent the people, you will vote no on this terrible Graham-Cassidy bill. Thank you, Mary Frances Bennett, a senior citizen, and a voter.
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elaine Yapelli [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham Cassidy Bill

Say no to the Graham Cassidy bill. As a teacher, I am distraught that students across the country will lose needed health care coverage because of politics.
Dr. Elaine Yapelli

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: A Longenbaugh [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:50 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: AmericanVoices@mail.house.gov
Subject: Trumpcare- Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senators of the Senate Finance Committee,
I am concerned about the new Cassidy-Graham Trumpcare bill that is being so quickly forced through the Senate. While I know that the ACA has its share of issues, I was happy to see that bipartisan work started after the last vote. That this new bill is being forced through without Americans being able to see the details and without knowing how this is going to affect the economy is very disturbing to me. I've been in PTA meetings where it's taken 30 minutes to vote on whether or not to pay for $100 worth of t-shirts. That they are asking you to vote on a bill that affects 1/6 of the economy without knowing how much it costs is irresponsible.

Here is the bill text to which I've referred. https://www.lgraham.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/06822f49-b801-4d9f-95f5-d7b5406e9aa9/lyn17709.pdf

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—115th Cong., 1st Sess.

[redacted]

LYN17709 S.L.C. AMENDMENT NO. IIII Calendar No.III Purpose: In the nature of a substitute. IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—115th Cong., 1st Sess.

I've done some of my own research into the details of the bill. Here is one specific example which has me deeply concerned:
Section 118- Federal Payments to States (see page 54-55, Section 118(b)(1)(A)(ii)). It denies Federal funds from essential community providers if they also provide abortion services. Planned Parenthood is an example of an essential community provider of preventative services and it currently does not receive any Federal funding for abortions. Adding this clause means funding would be cut off from them entirely simply because they provide the service.

Defunding Planned Parenthood would be devastating to Americans who rely on it for preventative care.

The country is in a bad place right now, and pushing this bill through without giving it the time and debate it deserves will just widen the divides between both sides. We need to work together. We need to close the divide. We need there to be regular order in the government. This chaos is scary. Please vote no on this new bill so that it will allow bi-partisan efforts to continue.
Sincerely,
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Brook McHugh [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because I'm a pediatrician and a mom of two boys on the autism spectrum. This proposal will jeopardize the care and therapy my children and others receive, which is crucial to developmental progress.

Brook McHugh, MD FAAP

Brook McHugh

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Patel [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy/Graham Bill

Basically every health advocacy group in the country, and Cassidy's position is shared by...none of them.

We should listen to the experts. And the experts — from all 50 Medicaid directors to the American Cancer Society to the American Medical Association to the American Diabetes Association to the AARP all say the same thing: this is a bad bill being jammed through a bad process, and the Senate needs to take a breath and start over.

If Congress had spent any bit of the previous 7 years coming up with viable solutions or fixes to the ACA, we would be off this roller coaster & focused on improving healthcare delivery and cost. This bill is NOT the answer.

Please vote in the best interest of the country, rather than risking OUR stability so that you can say you "repealed Obamacare". The next step matters even more than the first & this bill is not that step.
--
Jenn

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Juanita Norman [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

'Please' scrap the Graham-Cassidy Bill, it's 'NOT' what the American people need in healthcare. The Graham-Cassidy bill is far worst than 'ALL' the previous bills put together, voted on and failed.
Let's introduce a bipartisan bill to 'IMPROVE' the lives of others, instead of destroying them in years to come.

Juanita Norman
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carla Haugan [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy

Hi!

Although I don't have a personal story, I am very worried about this bill.

First,

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Edla Karr [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:51 AM
To: gchcomments

People with disabilities rely on Medicaid, and the per capita caps and cuts included in Graham-Cassidy will jeopardize their health, threaten their independence, and put lives at risk.
The Medicaid cuts in Graham-Cassidy will limit access to home and community-based services, which will result in more disabled people and older adults being forced into costly institutions.
Allowing states to waive protections for people with pre-existing conditions will make coverage unaffordable for many - and many of those are people with disabilities.

Instead of cutting Medicaid why not look into the medical transportation system that Medicaid is paying for. The price per ride is ridiculous, some $500 per trip or more. Not to mention you are paying to transport people to other communities for services when they could get the same service in their own community. Why not start here with a over-priced broken down system that is bleeding Medicaid.

CIL Western Wisconsin
[redacted]
EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS with disabilities

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stephanie Hilburn [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:52 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because ....of the negative impact it will have on millions of Americans. Healthcare is a right and not a luxury. We have a moral obligation as a civilized society to care for all our citizens particularly the poor and disadvantaged. Please listen to your constituents and do not support this bill.

Stephanie Hilburn

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Leslie Englehart [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:52 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy health care bill

This bill is a travesty! I cannot say it better than Amy Siskind, "What kind of cruel, vile soulless people want to misinform American citizens about their healthcare for a legislative victory and tax cuts?" and a president that wants nothing (and understands nothing) but getting anything with Obama's name erased from history, no matter the cost to Aericans and the loss of American lives.

This bill does not protect those with pre-existing conditions (almost everyone!)
This bill discriminates against women.
This bill is pro-death, not pro-life.
This bill will allow the greedy to price insurance so high millions will not be able to afford it.
This bill wants to shlep responsibility for healthcare to the states, so will be 50 times as expensive as a centralized Medicare for all would be.

And on and on and on....

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nate Ginsberg <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please stop the Bill

Hello Senator Blumenthal -

Please vote against the Graham Cassidy health care bill. It's not bipartisan and will leave out many American people from coverage.

thank you

Nathan Ginsberg

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Richard Potter [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Grahm-Cassidy

This bill is a disaster! I've been following it and reading about it, and reading as much of it as I can get my hands on. There is is no way this should be allowed to pass. Insurance is going to get insanely expensive as people get sick and the companies are allowed to raise their rates. The cost of pregnancy and maternity care will keep going up, and if you have a pre-existing condition it will become so expensive to keep your coverage that it is there is really no difference between this plan and just and just not providing the coverage.

There is a reason why every well known medical organization is against it. That alone says everything we need to know about the bill.

It must not be allowed to pass.

--Richard Potter

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anne Burns [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Nightmare

Senators,

I'll make this brief. I have severe depression and anxiety. I worked for 10 years for a health insurance company. I know first hand the flaws and also the overwhelming benefits of the ACA.

It cannot be understated how critical the pre-existing condition provision is to the well being of average people.

This ACA repeal bill is nothing more than an effort to satisfy the billionaires. Never in my entire life could I have imagined that this is where we would be, absolutely begging the Congress to let us keep our healthcare.

Thank you,

Anne Burns

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Natalie Bencini [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham Cassidy

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing today in opposition to the Graham Cassidy "healthcare" bill, and any and all efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act. The American people want Congress to work in a bipartisan manner to improve the ACA, not repeal it and strip healthcare away from millions of Americans! I am a 34-year-old breast cancer survivor who will desperately need pre-existing conditions to continue to be covered. We CANNOT go back to the days when newborn babies met their lifetime caps in one day, or when people filed for bankruptcy to cover medical costs! I urge every Senator to listen to the experts who have come out against this terrible bill. DO NOT sell the American people out to give the Koch brothers a tax break! SHAME!

Best regards,

[redacted]

--

Natalie Bencini, M.A.
Reading Specialist

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: John Comella[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE NO on Graham-Cassidy bill

The Graham-Cassidy Bill is WORSE than its predecessors. Vote NO on it. When a BETTER bill has been developed through BIPARTISAN negotiation, then replace Obamacare with the new bill. UNTIL that time, leave OBAMACARE as it is.

Thank you.

John

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Peppy Dubno [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA bill

Please don't pass the Graham Cassidy bill to replace the ACA. This will be a disaster for our country's healthcare. Please instead take measures to improve the ACA, not destroy it!

Peppy

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: The Kerners [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA Reform

We know this is all about $400M in Koch money being withheld from the Republicans.

How many citizens are they willing to kill for that money is the question!

Gary Kerner
[redacted]

"Notary sojac"

Sent from my mobile cellular telephone machine

Nie mój cyrk, nie moje małpy .

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kate Ellet [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote no

Please vote NO on Graham-Cassidy bill and instead focus on making "Medicare for all" available.....thank you!

Kate Ellet
Herrin, IL

we would have to find this extra money somewhere, most likely from our retirement savings. Depleting retirement savings is not good public policy for American families!

Please consider that the American Diabetes Association (ADA) and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) stand in opposition to Graham-Cassidy. The ADA has issued a statement in strong support of the bipartisan hearings spearheaded by Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray in the Senate HELP Committee, and by Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden in your Committee. These hearings, focused on market stabilization and other critical issues, represent a promising first step towards addressing our country's health care challenges. I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy and instead, continue on the bipartisan path to addressing ACA reform. This is what the majority of Americans hope you will do!

Valerie Eastwood

Granby, CT

9/22/2017

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Valerie Eastwood [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for the Record - Graham-Cassidy

To the Members of the Senate Finance Committee re Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill hearing:

I am telling you my family's healthcare insurance story because I want you to know just what the proposed changes will do to us. **Please include my statement in the Committee's record for this hearing.**

Although there are many things wrong with Graham-Cassidy, the worst for us (for now) is that it will allow states to discard the ACA's requirements that all insurers cover certain benefits -- such as maternity or mental health services -- and abandon its prohibition against insurers charging higher premiums to people with pre-existing conditions.

The bill says that states will have to claim that they will maintain access to "adequate and affordable" health care for people with pre-existing conditions, but it is hard to imagine how they will do this if they allow insurers to drop benefits that people with pre-existing conditions need or allow insurers to charge them *unaffordable rates*. And there is no enforcement mechanism for states that do not live up to their claims. This is a far cry from the simple, basic rights that we all gained under the ACA.

I was a generally healthy professional woman and mom of two sons, now in college, until two years ago when I was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes. With the care that I receive from my PCP, I'm able to maintain control with prescription medication and dietary restrictions. But, I will have this condition until I die. Because I, and millions of Americans like me, carry this diagnosis and are at risk for severe complications, we are also at risk for much higher health insurance premiums in the future.

If insurers are allowed once again to consider "pre-existing conditions" for their rates, my understanding is that a diagnosis of uncomplicated non-insulin treated type 2 diabetes could raise my private insurance rates by about $6,000 per year (in addition to the $13,000 that my family already pays). Since we continue to support our children while they are in college,

Before the Affordable Care Act became law, my family struggled to qualify for comprehensive coverage on the private individual market due to pre-existing conditions. Once the Affordable Care Act became law, I was able to purchase a comprehensive plan on the private individual market. I do not receive a subsidy; I pay the full cost of the premium. It's not cheap, but before the Affordable Care Act, this type of comprehensive coverage wasn't available to me on the private individual market at all; the premiums for what was available were astronomical because people with pre-existing conditions were charged more.

I am very concerned that if Graham-Cassidy passes, comprehensive coverage will become either unavailable or unaffordable for me. Graham-Cassidy would let states decide whether or not they keep various rules that are currently required at the federal level under the Affordable Care Act, such those that prevent insurance companies from charging more for pre-existing conditions, implementing lifetime caps on coverage, or offering non-comprehensive plans that don't cover essential health benefits. If my state did not keep those requirements, my premium would likely go up substantially because of pre-existing conditions – and my plan might no longer offer such comprehensive coverage.

I am also concerned that premiums are likely to go up in general if the individual mandate is repealed, because that would change the risk pool.

Please reject any bill, including Graham-Cassidy, that could allow insurers to charge more for pre-existing conditions, implement lifetime or annual caps, or charge extra for things that are currently considered essential health benefits (such as prenatal and maternity care, checkups, lab tests, prescription medication, substance abuse treatment, etc).

Best regards,

Laura Wallace

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lo Wa [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for the Record for Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing scheduled for September 25, 2017 at 1:00 PM

From: Laura Wallace

[redacted]

To: Senate Committee on Finance

Attn: Editorial and Document Section

Rm. SD-219

Dirksen Senate Office Building

[redacted]

Re: Statement for the Record for Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing, which is scheduled for September 25, 2017 at 1:00 PM.

Date: September 22, 2017

Dear Senators:

I am concerned that the Graham-Cassidy bill, if passed, would imperil access to healthcare for millions of Americans, including myself and my family. I am particularly concerned about how the bill would affect premium prices for people with pre-existing conditions. I urge the Senate to reject any bill that could lead to price discrimination based on pre-existing conditions.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lauren Boegen[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal hearing comment

Dear Finance Committee–

Chairman Hatch said regarding the hearing on Monday "A hearing will allow members on both sides of the aisle to delve deeper into its policy and gain a better understanding of what the authors hope to achieve."Please do. Please do delve into what the authors wish to achieve. To the public, it's very unclear what they wish to achieve. Hurting the most vulnerable populations? Continuing to make health care a privilege rather than a right? Unless the goal is to stubbornly pass a bill on partisan lines without a CBO review.

When the American Caner Society, the American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Arthritis Foundation, ALS Association, March of Dimes, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, AART, AMA, AHA, JDRF and even BCBS and Kaiser Permanente do not support this bill, along with what appears to be less than 1/3 of Americans, we all deserve to understand what this bill will achieve except for strictly partisan goals.

Sincerely,
Lauren Boegen
Chicago, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Spencer Finch[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:50 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Why I Oppose Graham Cassidy

Dear Committee

My Obamacare experience, while not without some bumps in the beginning, has been generally excellent. My premiums went down from what I was paying before (I am self-employed) and I feel the quality of my healthcare has been the same or better than it was before Obamacare. And I have not experienced problems with the bureaucracy and paperwork.

As a 55 year-old, it is clear that under Graham-Cassidy my premiums will go up and my options will go down. I strongly urge you to oppose this new bill.

I would also like to know why members of Congress will not be required to get insurance under this same program that taxpayers like me, who pay their salary, would be forced into.

Thank you for your consideration and I again urge you to do the right thing and oppose Graham-Cassidy.

Sincerely,

Spencer Finch
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maria Cochran [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

To vote without a CBO score and analysis of what the Graham-Cassidy legislation does to health insurance coverage and premiums is irresponsible and inexcusable. The Republicans have known about the September 30th deadline since January 20th, when the change in administration allowed ACA repeal to have a chance of succeeding, and yet here they are at the last minute trying to force through this abomination. What an embarrassment! Leaders of the Free World no more, sadly.
This legislation would completely restructure the Medicaid Program funding, it would be the largest intergovernmental transfer of financial risk from the federal government to the states in United States history. It involves 1/6th of the US economy, 3% of the GDP, 25% of state budgets. It will provide "Block Grants" to States to fund Medicaid, these monies will not be required to be used for healthcare specifically, allowing states who need to balance their budgets the ability to transfer funds away from Medicaid. Eventually it is likely that Medicaid would be abolished.
Another problem with the proposed legislation is that HHS Secretary Tom Price would be the person who would determine if state plans are adequate and affordable for people with pre-existing conditions. Based on how Secretary Price has thus far performed in his office, I have great concern about how he would make this determination and foresee huge increases in premiums.
Please, please, please think about the millions of Americans who will be affected by this legislation and not just about the minority of campaign donors and lobbyists who want this passed for idealogical reasons or personal benefit.

Sincerely,
[redacted]

Finally, to push a bill through that HAS NOT EVEN BEEN EVALUATED FULLY BY THE CBO and that virtually no one supports -- not the Medicaid Directors from all 50 states, not doctors, not hospitals, not disability groups, not the majority of state Governors (including GOP ones), not 64% of the population -- shows how the bill is solely politically motivated to fulfill some campaign promise at all costs. The people of the United States want and deserve a BIPARTISAN FIX to the ACA.

Sincerely,

Diana Honig

[redacted]63

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: DIANA HONIG [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:52 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: comments on Graham-Cassidy -- OPPOSE

As a Californian with asthma and anxiety, a mom a child who had two surgeries before the age of 2, a daughter of a man with Alzheimer's and a long-time disabilities rights attorney, I request a NO vote on the current Graham-Cassidy repeal bill. This bill would effectively eliminate protections against pre-existing conditions, which would result in skyrocketing costs at best, and a death sentence at worst. I can't imagine what we would have done if we did not have or could not afford the insurance that saved my infants life. As for the effect on people with disabilities, it would be disastrous. Establishing life-time caps and block granting Medicaid will result not only in our most vulnerable populations not receiving healthcare, but also losing funding to move out of institutional settings and into the community. People who do not need to be in Nursing Homes will be effectively imprisoned there.

According the non-partisan Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, the bill would do the following:

1. Eliminate the ACA's marketplace subsidies and enhanced matching rate for the Medicaid expansion and replace them with an inadequate block grant. Block grant funding would be well below current law federal funding for coverage, would not adjust based on need, would disappear altogether after 2026, and could be spent on virtually any health care purpose, with no requirement to offer low- and moderate-income people coverage or financial assistance.

2. Convert Medicaid's current federal-state financial partnership to a per capita cap, which would cap and cut federal Medicaid per-beneficiary funding for seniors, people with disabilities, and families with children.
Eliminate or weaken protections for people with pre-existing conditions by allowing states to waive the ACA's prohibition against charging higher premiums based on health status and the requirement that insurers cover essential health benefits including mental health, substance abuse treatment, and maternity care.

3. Destabilize the individual insurance market in the short run — by eliminating the ACA's federal subsidies to purchase individual market coverage and eliminating the ACA's individual mandate to have insurance or pay a penalty —and risk collapse of the individual market in the long run.

$. Eventually result in larger coverage losses than under proposals to repeal ACA's major coverage provisions without replacement. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has previously estimated that repeal-without-replace would cause 32 million people to lose coverage. The Cassidy-Graham bill would likely lead to greater numbers of uninsured after 2026, however, because it would not only entirely eliminate its block grant funding — effectively repealing the ACA's major coverage expansions — but also make increasingly severe federal funding cuts to the rest of the Medicaid program (outside of the expansion) under its per capita cap.

As the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities put it:

GCHJ makes health insurance less affordable for millions of people, particularly people with disabilities, older adults, and those with chronic health conditions. The cumulative effect of the private insurance and Medicaid proposals will leave people with disabilities without care and without choices, caught between Medicaid cuts, unaffordable private insurance, and limited highrisk pools. The CBO estimated that ACA repeal without a replacement would cause 32 million people to lose insurance. GCHJ would be even worse, as it effectively repeals all the ACA coverage expansions after 2026, and also implements per capita caps on the rest of Medicaid that will lead to additional enrollment cuts.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rachel Byrne <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:56 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

To Whom It May Concern:

I strongly oppose this irresponsible bill, and have repeatedly urged my senators to reject it. Any bill that will deprive 30 million Americans of healthcare, which is also opposed by the AMA, AARP, and the Medicaid directors of ALL 50 STATES, is obviously a poor choice for our country.

Sincerely,

Rachel Byrne

[redacted]

I care what happens to Taylor and other individuals with disabilities, children and the elderly that cannot afford medications, supplemental insurance, and out-of-pocket after Medicare.

I'm asking you to please vote no for this bill.

Here is a picture of my Taylor.

On Wed, Sep 20, 2017 at 10:08 PM, Tara Rochleau [redacted] wrote:

This is Taylor (see attached pic). He just turned 20, and he has Down Syndrome. Taylor lives in an ICF setting in Clear Lake, Iowa.

My name is Tara and I am his mom. Other than being his mom, I am an Ambassador for the National Down Syndrome Society, President of the Northwest Iowa Down Syndrome Society and a nurse.

Taylor has been on Medicaid since age 2. When he lived at home he received Home and community-based Services which allowed him to reach goals, be out in the community more and also respite services for me to get groceries, go to doctors appointments and have a break. Taylor had always had some behaviors which made it tough sometimes..Respite & SCL were a life saver.

I worry very much about how the Medicaid Cuts and caps would impact his quality of life. Agencies such as Opportunity Village in Clear Lake Iowa already struggle financially to provide quality services with the money they have. Staffing is a huge issue as well. The challenge I see is if Medicaid cuts are passed, his quality of care at this agency would be greatly diminished. Because there are very limited services in North Iowa, I don't have a lot of options for placement and work programming for him anyway. If we have Medicaid Cuts all those optional programs including work programs would be greatly diminished or disappear. As you can imagine this is very frightening to me as a parent. These optional programs are what support Independence and inclusion in the community. Hearing aids, speech therapy will also go away.

I care what happens to Taylor and other individuals with disabilities, children and the elderly that cannot afford medications, supplemental insurance, and out-of-pocket after Medicare.

I'm asking you to please vote no for this bill.



My name is Tara and I am his mom. Other than being his mom, I am an Ambassador for the National Down Syndrome Society, President of the Northwest Iowa Down Syndrome Society and a nurse.

Taylor has been on Medicaid since age 2. When he lived at home he received Home and community-based Services which allowed him to reach goals, be out in the community more and also respite services for me to get groceries, go to doctors appointments and have a break. Taylor had always had some behaviors which made it tough sometimes..Respite & SCL were a life saver.

I worry very much about how the Medicaid Cuts and caps would impact his quality of life. Agencies such as Opportunity Village in Clear Lake Iowa already struggle financially to provide quality services with the money they have. Staffing is a huge issue as well. The challenge I see is if Medicaid cuts are passed, his quality of care at this agency would be greatly diminished. Because there are very limited services in North Iowa, I don't have a lot of options for placement and work programming for him anyway. If we have Medicaid Cuts all those optional programs including work programs would be greatly diminished or disappear. As you can imagine this is very frightening to me as a parent. These optional programs are what support Independence and inclusion in the community. Hearing aids, speech therapy will also go away.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tara Rochleau [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:56 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re: Taylor's story- Vote No on Graham Cassidy Bill

This is Taylor (see attached pic). He just turned 20, and he has Down Syndrome. Taylor lives in an ICF setting in Clear Lake, Iowa.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeffrey Dreiblatt [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:57 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Strongly oppose graham cassidy

Please do not vote to remove healthcare from millions of Americans. The Graham Cassidy bill is a cruel and heartless. Not only is it opposed by insurers, but all major healthcare organizations.

Our lives depend on it.

Jeffrey Dreiblatt
Brooklyn, Y

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:57 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Finance Committee -

What are you folks thinking? This is the worst bill proposed so far!

Americans deserve healthcare for all and your proposed bill takes healthcare away from US citizens!

Here's what it can eliminate:

* It brings back pre-existing conditions clauses.
* It allows insurers to raise rates when a patient receives a new diagnosis.
* It allows states to cut funding for, or let insurers exclude:
* maternity services
* hospitalizations
* laboratory tests
* dental benefits for children
* mental health
* substance abuse programs
* Individual states will be allowed to prevent women's clinics from charging Medicaid for services like cancer screenings and birth control.
* It shifts billions of dollars of costs onto states, giving them incentive to cut the above items.
* It lets states spend block grants on non-healthcare spending.
* Federal aid for Medicaid would plummet.
* Insurers would be able to double their surcharge on elderly customers.
* It kills the ACA's insurance subsidies.

Biggest losers - will be WOMEN, children, seniors and those with life altering diseases!

Show some compassion and don't allow this bill to be voted on!!

Thanks!
Jim Collins
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Katie Lucaites [redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:57 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Hello,

I am writing as a concerned citizen regarding the proposed Graham-Cassidy "healthcare" bill. I do not support this bill, or what is stands for. I believe any legislation of this magnitude should be as transparent and readily available for public knowledge as possible. Further, holding a vote on this bill before an official CBO score is released is completely unacceptable.

I strongly encourage the current company to keep these points in mind during the upcoming meeting on Monday. While all citizens should be afforded freedom, we must not forget the other core value of what it means to be an American - the common good of *all*.

Both freedom *and* equality are cherished American values. I do not believe this bill affords equal access to equal healthcare for all American citizens.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Katie Lucaites

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jessica Hughes [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:57 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy NO

The American people ask for bi-partisan improvements to the ACA. FIx what is broken. Don't destroy the system we have in place already just for the thrill of actually passing something.

MILLIONS WILL BE HURT IF THIS BILL PASSES.

Trump promised no cuts to medicad. THIS CUTS MEDICAD.

Jessica Hughes
Los Angeles, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Cades [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:57 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy/Graham

My son's chance at a normal life was destroyed by a massive seizure disorder when he was 5 months old. Aaron is now 39 years old, and he lives with us. He still has occasional seizures, and he cannot be left alone. It has been 39 years since I have been able to leave my home for any purpose, work or leisure, without making childcare arrangements.

When my son aged out of the school system at 21, he began attending a day program that offers him the opportunity to do simple work and socialize with others. It also offers those who are able to do so opportunities to work in the community and participate in community life. 66 other people benefit from that program; Medicaid pays half of the cost to run it. It also covers the cost of the 6 medications my son takes daily to prevent seizures. In addition, it funds group homes for people with disabilities many of whom are older and no longer have families. 31 people live in those homes. If Medicaid funds are slashed, those people will lose their homes. Where will they go? Who will take care of them? Our small center in rural Maryland is replicated a thousand times over all over the country serving families just like mine with the same worries about the future.

I am 70 years old; my husband is 75. We are one of about 4000 families in my state hoping to get a group home placement for our son before we die. The massive cut in Medicaid proposed by the Cassidy/Graham bill will only add thousands more families to that endless waiting list. We have no assurance from anyone that someone will take care of our son when we are gone. Millions of other people with disabilities and their families face the same challenges. We literally do not dare die. I hope that wiser, more compassionate people will prevail and defeat the inhumane and cruel Cassidy/Graham bill and devise a budget that takes into account the legitimate needs of our most vulnerable citizens. Please help us.

Linda Cades
Kennedyville, Maryland
Vassalboro, Maine

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lucy McMurrer [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:57 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy health bill

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please do not allow the Graham Cassidy bill to pass. It would be horrible for my school-age children. It would break my heart. Please vote for kindness, empathy, and humanity.

Sincerely,
Lucy McMurrer

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: abraham schneider <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:58 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: about witnesses

To the finance committee

I wish I could just beg you to stop with this madness of ramming through a bill without a full CBO score, but that ship appears to have sailed.

AT THE VERY LEAST
you should bring in some of the independent analysts who have responded
http://medicaiddirectors.org/namd-statement-on-graham-cassidy/

http://avalere.com/expertise/managed-care/insights/graham-cassidy-heller-johnson-bill-would-reduce-medicaid-funds-to-states-by?utm_source=pressRelease&utm_medium=Twitter&utm_campaign=09-22-2017

This is one sixth of the populations healthcare, now is not the time to ram through bill just to say we did.
regards
Abraham schneider

Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Bill Would Reduce Medicaid Funds to States by $713B Over the Next 10 Years

[redacted]

Avalere Health is a DC-based healthcare consulting firm, specializing in strategy, policy, and data analysis for life sciences, health plans and providers.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alexa Mavroidis [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:59 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH Comment

I am an American with a disability and I am deeply alarmed by the Graham-Cassidy health care bill. Before the ACA was passed it was nearly impossible for me to obtain health insurance, even though I have had my disability from birth, so it didn't happen to me as a result of laziness or negligence or poor ability to take care of myself. When the ACA passed, I felt great relief--I was finally being treated as a full citizen with rights, rather than a burdensome mistake. I am now employed as a peer mentor for other people with disabilities, where I and others help them find housing and work and otherwise become more independent.

While I now get health insurance through my employer, many of them rely on Medicaid. The per capita caps and cuts included in Graham-Cassidy will jeopardize their health, threaten their hard-won independence, and put lives at risk. I am especially alarmed because the Medicaid cuts in Graham-Cassidy will limit access to home and community-based services, which will result in more disabled people and older adults being forced into costly institutions. Whether we want to save the government or the states money or help people become contributing members of the community, either way limiting people's access to these services will take our country backwards rather than forwards.

Allowing states to waive protections for people with pre-existing conditions will make coverage unaffordable for many - and many of those are people with disabilities. While the ACA is not perfect, I exhort you to work on making it better rather than curtailing the rights of citizens with disabilities.

Thank you,
Alexa Mavroidis

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: daniel smith [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:59 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill

I urge all senators to stop working to take rights and assistance away from vulnerable Americans while providing tax breaks to the most wealthy among us. Start doing something right for your constituents in the arena of healthcare by returning to the bipartisan effort to strengthen Obamacare.
Daniel Smith

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tara McTague [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:59 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GC Healthcare Bill

I urge the Senators to reject the GC Healthcare Bill and preserve insurance coverage for millions of Americans. Without the ACA and it's Medicaid expansion, my father would have never been able to afford the treatment he required after he was diagnosed with Melanoma in December 2013. Although he ultimately lost his battle, we had the benefit of having him in our lives for an additional 2 1/2 years, which we would not have had if the ACA did not exist. Please put politics aside and feel the weight of what voting yes truly means - putting the lives of millions of Americans (many of your own constituents) in danger (potentially fatal danger) if you vote yes on the GC Healthcare Bill. It's time to work for the good of the American people and not your political lives.

Very truly yours,

Tara McTague

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joan Lightfoot <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:00 PM
To: ghscomments@finance.senate.gov
Subject: gch bill

Dear Senators,

Do not deprive millions of health care just so you can "win" and get the maniac in the White House to like you.

Work for the American people and don't let your pettiness (and racism) get in the way.

Defeat this horrible bill.

Joan Lightfoot

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Suzanne Adelman/ Keith Walsh [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:54 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA and my story

Here's my story:

I had abdominal surgery in late August. I paid a total of $2000. The ACA covered the rest. This is my Affordable Care success story. I'm grateful to have been so well covered and to have had access to excellent doctors. Please do not repeal and replace my healthcare coverage!

Thank you!
Suzanne Adelman

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kaitlin Splett Newhouse [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:54 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH A DISGRACE

The Graham Cassidy Heller healthcare plan is the worst I have reviewed yet. The sky high costs for preexisiting conditions and for coverage of almost all women's healthcare needs will put families, children, the elderly, and many others in financial ruin. FURTHER, the transfer of wealth from states that expanded Medicaid to states that chose not to is not only a federalist nightmare, its bad policy. Why do states like CA or KY need to subsidize Alabama now when they refused free federal money for the benefit of their citizens? Last, the phasing out of Medicaid over 7 years is cruel--Medicaid covers an overwhelming majority of elder care and nursing homes, and the majority of adult Medicaid beneficiaries are women. To "phase out" their coverage with no viable solution or alternative is cruel.

Sincerely,
Kaitlin Newhouse
Los Angeles, CA
[redacted]
--
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Charles Sandmel [redacted]net>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:55 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I urge whatever effort it takes to derail this mean-spirited and stupid piece of legislation. The process is inappropriate, abusing procedure and short-circuiting CBO review; the results are likely to devastate the most vulnerable of us.
It isn't about "Me paying for his or her care," it's about everybody paying for the care that each of us will ultimately need.
Charles Sandmel
Brookline, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Holley Atkinson [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:55 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please, do NOT repeal the ACA, fix it!

Dear GOP Senators,

Please, please, please don't do this horrible thing to the American people, your constituents and your fellow citizens. People will die - including untold disabled people and children. You claim to be pro-life, you are not.

Graham Cassidy is a horrible horrible non-plan that ALL health care experts, medical personnel, insurance companies and majorities of US OPPOSE.

You know full well that 1) the ACA is NOT failing, 22 million more of us have coverage than 8 years ago, thank God, and 2) that while it has some problems that need addressing, it's your own sabotage (Rubio messing up risk corridors, SCOTUS blocking Medicaid expansion, etc) that are the real problem.

You also know that vast majorities of US support affordable health care and patient protection and you are deliberately doing the opposite. We want a bipartisan FIX yet you spike Sens Alexander and Murray from their good faith work.

Your mendacious substitution of the word "access" for the word "care" is sickening.

How do you look at yourselves in the mirror each morning knowing the Kochs and Mercers are calling the shots for you? Stand up for US instead and what's right!

Please. Please.

Holley Atkinson
American Citizen
Brooklyn, NY

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ken Capone [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:57 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: ken@pogmd.org; tami@pogmd.org
Subject: Testimony for Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

My.name is Ken Capone. As a person with a disability who relies on Medicaid long term supports and services, I am deeply concerned about the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill in efforts to cut or cap Medicaid. Medicaid provides home and community supports such as residential supports, day programs, supported employment, respite care and other critical services to keep people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in their community.
I want to tell you what Medicaid services mean to me. Do you believe in the right of a person to be able to live in their community, pursue meaningful relationships with friends and family, have a meaningful career, I hope you answered yes to all of these questions because the Medicaid long term supports and services that I receive have allowed me to live a productive and fulfilling life in the community. Without these critical services I would not be able to live an inclusive life. I would not be able to work, volunteer, socialize or attend important meetings without paid supports and services. I rely on my staff to assist me with all my daily living activities.
I am not just advocating for myself, I'm advocating for the thousands of people with disabilities who need Medicaid to live a life of their choosing.

We strongly oppose The Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill.

Ken Capone,
Director
People On the Go of Maryland

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alex Ramirez [redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:55 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: To Senate Finance Committee

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

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Haley Bas[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:55 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to Graham-Cassidy

Graham-Cassidy contains all the harmful cuts of previous GOP health bills, and will kick millions of people off of health insurance.

Best,
Haley

--
Haley Bash
she / her

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Meredith Wheeler [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the new Republican healthcare reform

I am an American living in France, where I have had the luxury of experiencing both French and previously British health care (as my husband is British).

These horrible new plans of the Republicans will cut off health care to women and others who really need it.

I want to go on the record as OPPOSING this awful legislation.

Sincerely,

Meredith Wheeler
U.S. Citizen

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gary NLa [redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill: Vote NO

The ill-conceived Graham-Cassidy bill will harm millions of people, and it will not even have the benefit of a Congressional Budget Office analysis. Passing this bill would be cruel and irresponsible. Vote no.

Gary Nla
--
GarynLA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nicole Reed [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Gillibrand, Kirsten (Gillibrand); schumer, scheduling (Schumer)
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Good morning,

My name is Nicole Reed, and I'm a 45 year old woman living in Brooklyn, NY.

In April of 2016, I was laid off from a full-time job that provided me with health insurance. Thankfully, I was able to afford insurance through Obamacare. From May-December 2016, I paid $321.34 for MetroPlus Healthcare.

Starting in January 2017 to present, I have qualified for Medicaid. This service has been invaluable to me.

During this time, I've been building my own business. It has good days and bad days. Through it all, I sleep soundly at night knowing that I am covered in case of emergency.

I spent much of my 30s as a freelancer without health insurance. I'm old enough now to realize how reckless this was; but then again, I could not afford health coverage until Obamacare.

The Graham-Cassidy Bill is a sham. I'm proud that my U.S. Senators, Mr. Schumer and Ms. Gillibrand, plan to vote NO on this bill. My U.S. Representative, Jerrold Nadler, has declared this "the cruelest plan yet."

I thank the members of Congress who represent me and my community for their clear-headed opposition to this bill.

Lastly, I am open to reforming Obamacare through bipartisan efforts. If there is room for improvement, let's talk about it. For instance, I do not want future generations to be saddled with debt from current health needs. I want the United States to be a solvent nation. I believe we can both live solvently and guarantee healthcare for all our citizens.

Thank you for reading.

In the spirit of love for my country,
Nicole R. Reed

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tobi Ojo [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care bill

My Name is Tobi Ojo from Edgewood Maryland and I would like to give my opinion on the Proposed Health Care bill

As a person who has a preexisting condition, I am worried that the Health Care bill will deny people coverage due to having a preexisting condition.

The health care bill will drastically cut medicare and medicaid funding and allow the states to decide if they want their citizens to have health insurance or not.

I'm pleading and urging every Republican member of congress: Don't pass the Graham-Cassidy bill, It will hurt people like me who have preexisting conditions and I and many people may be denied coverage.

Don't pass this bill: Think of people in your family who may have a preexisting condition, think of your friends and other people you love.

Thanks,

Tobi Ojo

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stephanie Thorson [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: comments on the Graham-Cassidy bill

I am writing to express my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy "health care" bill.

First, to push a vote on a bill that would affect 1/6 of the U.S. economy without a complete CBO analysis is unconscionable.

Second, if the regular order of the Senate is something you care about, then know that pushing a vote on this bill without hearings and debate makes a mockery of that order.

Third, this bill is cruel. It is heartless. It strips coverage from those who can least afford to pay for care, from innocent children, from the elderly. It's not merely a question of people "who should just get a job" -- can you expect a baby with a congenital heart defect, a person with stage IV cancer, or an elderly person with dementia who relies on Medicaid for their nursing care to go out and "just get a job"?

Its potential impact on women, even young healthy women, is especially appalling. It rolls back reproductive rights, and considers pregnancy a pre-existing condition. It allows insurers to charge women more than men. It forces new mothers to choose between spending time with their newborn or keeping their Medicaid coverage.

It disproportionately affects women of color -- 30 percent of black women and 24 percent of Hispanic women are on Medicaid. It hurts white women too -- 14% of white women are on Medicaid.

This bill is morally wrong. Do not allow it to the floor of the Senate for a vote.

Sincerely,
Stephanie M Thorson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patrick MacBeath [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:52 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

I don't know how this bill could possibly help the American public based on this data.

Please enter this statement into the record:

Graham-Cassidy-Heller (ACA Repeal) Simple Summary

Repeal and replace is back. Take it seriously. Here's what it does

- ✗ Estimated 32 million will lose coverage within 10 years (not yet scored)
- ✗ Ends Medicaid expansion. Health care for 11 million low-income adults.
- ✗ Ends all subsidies for the exchange, replaced by a smaller and declining "block "grant"
- ✗ Block grant doesn't have to be spent on same population
- ✗ Cuts coverage for low income seniors, children and people w disabilities by 7% by 2026 with a "per capita cap"

(Yes, that's right-- a block grant **AND** a Lee capita cap)

- ✗ Ends Federal protections on pre-existing conditions, life time caps and essential benefits. 50% of states expected to do so.
- ✗ Ends all cost sharing payments to low income Americans
- ✗ Ends all funding for coverage by 2026; cuts $250 billion between now and 2026
- ✗ Average state cut of 17% through 2026, 100% afterwards
- ✗ Averages would be dramatically different: 20 states estimated to lose 35-60% of funding to move money to rural, red states
- ✗ CBO has not estimated impact on premiums, but likely 20% spike next year
- ✗ Would likely be presented to the House as "take it or leave it" if passes Senate
- ✗ Provide no funding for recessions, natural disasters, public health emergencies, or price spikes
- ✗ Targets women's health/family planning
- ✗ Uses the same "50 votes" only partisan technique to pass; upends all bipartisan progress of the last 2 weeks

Source: Centers for Budget and Policy, CBO prior estimates

Thank you,
Patrick MacBeath

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Suzanne Adelman/ Keith Walsh[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:54 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA and my story

Here's my story:

I had abdominal surgery in late August. I paid a total of $2000. The ACA covered the rest. This is my Affordable Care success story. I'm grateful to have been so well covered and to have had access to excellent doctors. Please do not repeal and replace my healthcare coverage!

Thank you!
Suzanne Adelman

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kaitlin Splett Newhouse[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:54 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH A DISGRACE

The Graham Cassidy Heller healthcare plan is the worst I have reviewed yet. The sky high costs for preexisiting conditions and for coverage of almost all women's healthcare needs will put families, children, the elderly, and many others in financial ruin. FURTHER, the transfer of wealth from states that expanded Medicaid to states that chose not to is not only a federalist nightmare, its bad policy. Why do states like CA or KY need to subsidize Alabama now when they refused free federal money for the benefit of their citizens? Last, the phasing out of Medicaid over 7 years is cruel--Medicaid covers an overwhelming majority of elder care and nursing homes, and the majority of adult Medicaid beneficiaries are women. To "phase out" their coverage with no viable solution or alternative is cruel.

Sincerely,
Kaitlin Newhouse
[redacted]

--
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: People, not party

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

In your politically driven efforts to repeal and replace simply to pander to your base (and base they are indeed, so base they don't realize it is actually them you will hurt the most) and destroy the legacy of a black President who carefully established a healthcare plan for ALL Americans, knowing it wouldn't be perfect but was a start, you are a disgrace if you let an even crueler bill go through. Pretending that you think this is better just makes you look dumb, dumber than DT who thinks it protects preexisting conditions.

I'm sure somewhere deep in your recesses there is a heart, not a "bleeding heart" as you refer to liberals, but a true heart that cares for someone other than your own pockets and political reputation. Be assured that history will regard your reputation as traitors to democracy and toadies to the most corrupt President in American history.

Be human, humane... REAL. Create a bill that fixes the current plan and enriches this country's citizens and treats all people with dignity, not your own wealth. It is clear that many in your party have not even READ the bill. You are hellbent on destroying, not on building. DO YOUR JOB. Let your legacy be putting people first, not your corrupt and pathetic party.

Sincerely,

Dee Grimm (a disgusted constituent of the evil and callous Bob Goodlatte).

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Renee Aubuchon [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote no.

Dear Senators

Please vote no on the Graham Cassidy Bill. The health of millions depends on your vote, and for some it may even be a life or death matter.

I understand that this is a rushed vote to meet a deadline at the end of the month for how many senators it will take to pass healthcare legislation. The American people deserve better than for you to rush passage of a bill just to say you passed something.

Please think about low income and middle income people who will suffer with the changes this bill makes. The rich do not need more money, especially at the cost of taking healthcare away from the working people.

Sincerely,

Renee Aubuchon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reconsider Graham Cassidy

To whom it may concern,
Among other horrific reasons, this is no way to run any business let alone the most Powerful democracies on the planet. This restructures 1/6 of the economy, rips Healthcare from 32 million souls, DOES NOT cover those with pre existing conditions And will kill the most vulnerable in the country, the elderly the sick and children.
It is no secret that this is being designed by billionaire donors, but that is not how are Country is supposed to work and in your hearts you know this to be true.
Every medical group has come out against this as well as bi partisan governors.
There is no reason to not return to order, work together and fix the existing plans, unless your goal is unimaginable cruelty, pain and suffering. HOW MUCH MONEY IS THIS WORTH? What if this affected you? Your children? Wives? Parents? What would You say to this? I ask that you remember your oath to protect and defend, your commitment to being "pro life" WE SEE YOU and understand this is an attempt to give tax cuts to the rich instead of doing your job to help Americans. ALL OF THEM NOT THE 24 % that think this is ok.
HISTORY WILL NOT REMEMBER YOU FONDLY FOR CAUSING PAIN, SUFFERING AND DEATH TO YOUR OWN CITIZENS.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carla Haugan [redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy

Hi!

Although I don't have a personal story, I am very worried about this bill.

First,

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Edla Karr [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:51 AM
To: gchcomments

People with disabilities rely on Medicaid, and the per capita caps and cuts included in Graham-Cassidy will jeopardize their health, threaten their independence, and put lives at risk.
The Medicaid cuts in Graham-Cassidy will limit access to home and community-based services, which will result in more disabled people and older adults being forced into costly institutions.
Allowing states to waive protections for people with pre-existing conditions will make coverage unaffordable for many - and many of those are people with disabilities.

Instead of cutting Medicaid why not look into the medical transportation system that Medicaid is paying for. The price per ride is ridiculous, some $500 per trip or more. Not to mention you are paying to transport people to other communities for services when they could get the same service in their own community. Why not start here with a over-priced broken down system that is bleeding Medicaid.

CIL Western Wisconsin
[redacted]H
EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS with disabilities

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stephanie Hilburn [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:52 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because ....of the negative impact it will have on millions of Americans. Healthcare is a right and not a luxury. We have a moral obligation as a civilized society to care for all our citizens particularly the poor and disadvantaged. Please listen to your constituents and do not support this bill.

Stephanie Hilburn

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Leslie Englehart [redacted]et>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:52 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy health care bill

This bill is a travesty! I cannot say it better than Amy Siskind, "What kind of cruel, vile soulless people want to misinform American citizens about their healthcare for a legislative victory and tax cuts?" and a president that wants nothing (and understands nothing) but getting anything with Obama's name erased from history, no matter the cost to Aericans and the loss of American lives.

This bill does not protect those with pre-existing conditions (almost everyone!)
This bill discriminates against women.
This bill is pro-death, not pro-life.
This bill will allow the greedy to price insurance so high millions will not be able to afford it.
This bill wants to shlep responsibility for healthcare to the states, so will be 50 times as expensive as a centralized Medicare for all would be.

And on and on and on....

Leslie Englehart
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dan Wolf [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:52 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repeal replace

I understand why you want to make good on your pledge to repeal and replace Obamacare. But you can't do it with something you slap together that's only going to destroy the Republican Party worse than Obamacare destroyed the Dems! Follow John McCain's advice and do it right!

Dan Wolf

Sent from myPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Janet Takehara <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to Graham-Cassidy!

Graham-Cassidy is a cruel, short-sighted bill, built for political expedience on the backs of the disabled, chronically ill and the working poor. I demand that you put what is right ahead of electoral considerations and block this travesty!

Janet Takehara, M.Ed.
Chicago, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: J Masterman <[redacted]m>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:52 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Trumpcare

To Whom It May Concern:

This bill is a horrible idea and it should be stopped!

Remember your constituents and remember we vote!

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Julayne Masterman-Thomas

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Geneva Saint-Amour [redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not pass Graham Cassidy bill

I can take a lot of space and say a lot of stuff. But we are both busy people, just trying to get by. Each doing what we do.

Please keep working on this until a solution is found which does NOT penalize the American people but instead gets us closer to offering reasonable, comprehensive, non-discriminatory medical care. You know, something similar to what every other leading nation does!?

Thanks for taking the time to count this email.

Geneva Saint-Amour
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Steven Cheek <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No

Regular Order!
The abysmal popularity of the Congress damages our democracy. Congress is despised because of the despicable tactics used by GOP leadership.
The process used by GOP leadership to keep this healthcare bill away from the CBO, public hearings and real-life professional testimony of the healthcare community.
* Fear of retribution from the Donor class is a disgusting reason for breaking healthcare for hundreds of millions of USA citizens
* A ridiculous campaign promise is a ridiculous reason to pass a bill outside of regular order.
* Let this bill stand the test of scrutiny; what is the GOP leadership afraid of?
I would say shame, shame, shame on the entire GOP caucus, but, it is a horrible reality that Mitch McConnell has demonstrated he has no shame.
Regular Order!
John McCain admonished the Senate that departure from Regular Order diminishes the effectiveness and dignity of the esteemed legislative and deliberative body.
Regular Order first!

Vote No.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anita Muonio [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Anita Muonio
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:45 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: nancy.jncbooks@gmail.com
Subject: We the people want regular order!

Please stop this illegal, non transparent not CBO scored, no public forums, no medical professional input and no bipartisanship sham of a so called health care bill. The Graham/Cassidy health care bill is truly an abomination. It rips health care away from millions of people. It is being used essentially as a wealth transfer from productive blue states to falling red states. The biggest illegality is that is is being used as a bribe to some states to vote yes and then be exempt from it! They get to keep the ACA? This is staggering and a flagrant abuse of power and illegal in our constitution and the ACA law in in it self. Please stop this sham now and get back to regular order! Keep the law of the land ACA and work to make it better. I am from Arizona and our state alone will be decimated financially by this horrible bill. Can trump even speak about it with intelligence? I haven't heard. Please return to regular order and do not even let this bill advance to a vote. Thanks you from a concerned voting citizen.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Valerie [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:44 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: RE: Stop this bill!

It is not fair to the nation to pass a terribly designed bill JUST to 'fulfill a campaign promise'. Ask all who voted for Republican congress members if they want their health care slashed. STOP the madness for a political point and start governing.
DO NOT PASS THIS BILL.

Valerie Peck
[redacted]
Professional CX Software

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Colleen Webb [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:46 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because I'm an insurance broker in Washington and this proposal will devastate so many people. I'm also over 55 and am VERY concerned with what this will do to my rates. I'm looking on 2018 plans right now for my clients and the market has become so unstable that people are exasperated! Major insurers are leaving the market due to the instability and they are asking for very high rates due to the unknown future of enrollment. This back and forth has completely destabilized coverage and rates. I talk to people daily who have no idea what to do about coverage. Please, please, please do not pass this bill. Leave ACA in place and make needed adjustments, but please don't do this to the American people!!!

Colleen Webb

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [redacted]net
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:46 AM
To: gchcomments

This bill is beyond cruel..It's not human!!
That is just about the best way to describe the Republicans and their bill.

- Early and affordable behavioral health diagnosis and treatment for children and youth from early childhood through adolescence
- Early and appropriate diagnosis and treatment for children and adolescents that is family-focused and community-based
- Access to safe and stable housing for people with behavioral health challenges, including those who are chronically homeless
- Effective re-entry planning and follow-up for people released from both behavioral health hospitalization and the criminal justice system
- Problem solving or specialty courts, including mental health and drug courts, in all judicial districts to provide needed treatment and avoid inappropriate entry into the criminal justice system
- Health education from early childhood throughout life that integrates all aspects of social, emotional and physical health and wellness
- Efforts to decrease the stigmatization of, and normalize, behavioral health problems and care

Statement of Position on Health Care, as Announced by National Board, April 1993 and supplemented by concurrence, June 2016.

‹ Fiscal Policyup

Immigration ›

the League. The League supports administration of the U.S. health care system either by a combination of the private and public sectors or by a combination of federal, state and/or regional government agencies.

The League is opposed to a strictly private market-based model of financing the health care system. The League also is opposed to the administration of the health care system solely by the private sector or the states.

TAXES: The League supports increased taxes to finance a basic level of health care for all U.S. residents, provided health care reforms contain effective cost control strategies.

COST CONTROL: The League believes that efficient and economical delivery of care can be enhanced by such cost control methods as:

- The reduction of administrative costs,
- Regional planning for the allocation of personnel, facilities and equipment,
- The establishment of maximum levels of public reimbursement to providers,
- Malpractice reform,
- The use of managed care,
- Utilization review of treatment,
- Mandatory second opinions before surgery or extensive treatment,
- Consumer accountability through deductibles and copayments.

EQUITY ISSUES: The League believes that health care services could be more equitably distributed by:

- Allocating medical resources to underserved areas,
- Providing for training health care professionals in needed fields of care,
- Standardizing basic levels of service for publicly funded health care programs,
- Requiring insurance plans to use community rating instead of experience rating,
- Establishing insurance pools for small businesses and organizations.

ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TO INDIVIDUALS: The League believes that the ability of a patient to pay for services should not be a consideration in the allocation of health care resources. Limited resources should be allocated based on the following criteria considered together:

- The urgency of the medical condition
- The life expectancy of the patient
- The expected outcome of the treatment
- The cost of the procedure
- The duration of care
- The wishes of the patient and the family

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: The League of Women Voters supports:

- Behavioral Health as the nationally accepted term that includes both mental illness and substance use disorder
- Access for all people to affordable, quality in- and out-patient behavioral health care, including needed medications and supportive services
- Behavioral Health care that is integrated with, and achieves parity with, physical health care

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beverly Wiemer[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:46 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: League of Women Voters Stance on Healthcare

League of Women Voters

Of Elkhart County

The League's Position

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that a basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost should be available to all U.S. residents. Other U.S. health care policy goals should include the equitable distribution of services, efficient and economical delivery of care, advancement of medical research and technology, and a reasonable total national expenditure level for health care.

BASIC LEVEL OF QUALITY CARE: Every U.S. resident should have access to a basic level of care that includes

- The prevention of disease
- Health promotion and education
- Primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health)
- Acute care
- Long-term care
- Mental health care

Every U.S. resident should have access to affordable, quality in- and out-patient behavioral health care, including needed medications and supportive service that is integrated with, and achieves parity with, physical health care.

Dental, vision and hearing care also are important but lower in priority. The League believes that under any system of health care reform, consumers/patients should be permitted to purchase services or insurance coverage beyond the basic level.

FINANCING AND ADMINISTRATION: The League favors a national health insurance plan financed through general taxes in place of individual insurance premiums. As the United States moves toward a national health insurance plan, an employer-based system of health care reform that provides universal access is acceptable to

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Deborah Klein [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am urging the Senate to vote "No" on this latest healthcare bill. The medical community knows how devastating this would be to millions of Americans. Please fix what needs to no fixed in the current healthcare law, and stop trying to repeal and replace it, or replace the ACA with universal healthcare.

Coalitions of health professionals that have spoken publicly against the measure so far include the American Medical Association ("Provisions violate longstanding AMA policy"), the American Psychiatric Association ("This bill harms our most vulnerable patients"), the American Public Health Association ("Graham-Cassidy would devastate the Medicaid program, increase out-of-pocket costs, and weaken or eliminate protections for people living with preexisting conditions"), the National Institute for Reproductive Health ("the Graham-Cassidy bill preys on underserved communities ... a clear and present danger"), and Federation of American Hospitals ("It could disrupt access to health care for millions of the more than 70 million Americans").

Sincerely,
Deborah Klein

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margaret Welsh [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because ....
The Current health care system has provided much needed care for MANY Americans who have not had care in the past- that is a good thing! My family receives a subsidy so that we can have better care then we could afford in the past. Taking this away leaves us and many other Americans-your constituents!- without basic healthcare which should be a right not a privilege. I ask you to vote NO on this bill.

Margaret Welsh

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ruth Martelli [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:50 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because ....
States that expanded medicaid are being hit hardest in the Graham-Cassidy bill. Those states happen to be blue and seem to put the welfare of their citizens above that of special interest groups. I called both my senators, but learned recently that both have taken contributions from big pharma and insurance companies; the republican senator has received much more than the dem. I hold out hope for a no vote from the dem, but little from the republican who claims to be a devout catholic. One would think he might have read the beatitudes or Christ's commandment to love one another. I heard that while the Rs were home over labor day they were contacted by donors who demanded repeal and replace so they could get their anticipated tax cuts when tax reform is crafted. The "savings" from gutting Obamacare will fund massive tax cuts for the wealthiest among us. Mind you, those donors will never have to file for medical bankruptcy, nor will they have to choose between food and meds. Given Graham-Cassidy, we know who the Republicans care about. Let this be a call (literally, pick up the phone) to action!!!

Ruth Martelli

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cathy Mc [redacted]m>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:50 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Cathy McGraw
Subject: Please do NOT move forward on Graham-Cassidy-Heller!

Please do NOT move forward on Graham-Cassidy-Heller! I have worked for 30 years and have maintained health insurance for my family and me for the majority of those years. I am still 10 years from retirement. During the last four years, after layoffs by IBM and EMC, I have had to work as a temp or subcontractor, W2, on short-term contracts. There seem to be very few direct hire jobs these days. Half of the staffing agencies have no healthcare plan or non-compliant plans. Others require 1-4 months waiting period. Without my affordable ACA plan, I would not have healthcare right now. I had not had a major illness since 1991. However, last spring I had two unexpected in-hospital procedures, three over-night stays total, the combined cost was over $75,000. The cost of this temporary illness would have financially ruined my husband and me as I have been unemployed since January.
Under-employed citizens over 50, until retirement and Medicare-eligible, must have affordable insurance options. It is very difficult to find suitable, comparable employment if one becomes unemployed after the age of 50. Even with my ACA plan, our financial future has been severely destabilized by my unemployment. I hope to be working soon. ACA literally save my life. I know for a fact that before ACA, the private insurance quotes from the SC Alliance were double the premium and deductible for a much lesser quality plan.

Please work together on a bipartisan plan to tweak ACA. And, understand that the astronomically high and growing costs of medical care and medicine is the root of the problem. And, patients without any insurance make it worse for everyone. I believe that growing the ACA pool of insured will help as well as emphasizing preventative and well managed care.

Please keep my name private as I am still looking for a job and don't want my personal and healthcare information exposed. However, feel free to contact me if you would like more information.

Sincerely,
Cathy McGraw
Conway, SC
[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ruth Edd[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:50 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Ruth Eddy
Subject: Graham Cassidy Hearing

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I write to you today regarding the proposed bill by Senators Graham and Cassidy.
This bill should not be brought to a vote without a CBO score. How can something be voted on without fully understanding the impact on most Americans?

This bill eliminates protections for pre-existing conditions, allows insurance companies to charge older Americans more, lets state reinstate lifetime caps on coverage and raises premiums for working families. It is terribly distressing to know that monies cut from Medicaid, would hurt seniors and the disabled. This bill is an assault of the most vulnerable of our population.

Healthcare should be something made accessible to all who need it. This bill does exactly the opposite.
From what I understand, this bill would not bring healthcare to more Americans rather, upwards of 30 million people would loose their coverage.

There is something horribly wrong when one of the richest nations on the planet cannot make sure that a person who needs medical care can get it.
This bill is beyond mean spirited. It seems to be a way for the GOP to pay for their tax cuts.

Please, let's return to regular voting procedure rather than this rush vote by reconciliation. I want to live in a country where bipartisanship is at play and a vote by all members of Congress determines the outcome.

Respectfully yours,
Ruth Eddy Minot

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Frances Bennett[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no on Graham Cassidy Bill!

To the senators and congressmen who have promised in their Candidacies to represent us, The time has come for you to keep your promise! All 50 state Medicaid associations have said that this Graham Cassidy bill you propose is a bad bill for your people, your constituents! Yet you turn a deaf ear!
I am a senior citizen. I am a voter. I am your constituent. I am 70 years old and my mother is 96 and we are both on social security. As you know Social Security is a fixed income. We cannot afford to be denied coverage for conditions which have now as old age befalls us, become pre-existing. Nor can we afford higher premiums because we fall into the category of "Older, high risk", senior citizens.
Without Medicare and Medicaid, my mother who worked until she was 82, would not get a walker, or wheelchair, and healthcare she now needs. Soon we will all become old and feeble, including you! How will we survive without the funds to take care of us or health care we can afford after we have been productive tax paying citizens all our lives and are now too weak to care for ourselves.
You can lie to the American public now about how great your Healthcare bill is. However, when it becomes law, the truth will be revealed, and we will blame you! We will blame you for not caring about us, The people who elected you to represent us! If our elected officials do not represent the will of the people, then they should not be in positions of government.
If you truly represent the people, you will vote no on this terrible Graham-Cassidy bill. Thank you, Mary Frances Bennett, a senior citizen, and a voter.
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elaine Yapelli [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham Cassidy Bill

Say no to the Graham Cassidy bill. As a teacher, I am distraught that students across the country will lose needed health care coverage because of politics.
Dr. Elaine Yapelli

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: A Longenbaugh <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:50 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: AmericanVoices@mail.house.gov
Subject: Trumpcare- Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senators of the Senate Finance Committee,
I am concerned about the new Cassidy-Graham Trumpcare bill that is being so quickly forced through the Senate. While I know that the ACA has its share of issues, I was happy to see that bipartisan work started after the last vote. That this new bill is being forced through without Americans being able to see the details and without knowing how this is going to affect the economy is very disturbing to me. I've been in PTA meetings where it's taken 30 minutes to vote on whether or not to pay for $100 worth of t-shirts. That they are asking you to vote on a bill that affects 1/6 of the economy without knowing how much it costs is irresponsible.

Here is the bill text to which I've referred. https://www.lgraham.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/06822f49-b801-4d9f-95f5-d7b5406e9aa9/lyn17709.pdf

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—115th Cong., 1st Sess.

www.lgraham.senate.gov

LYN17709 S.L.C. AMENDMENT NO. llll Calendar No.lll Purpose: In the nature of a substitute. IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—115th Cong., 1st Sess.

I've done some of my own research into the details of the bill. Here is one specific example which has me deeply concerned:
Section 118- Federal Payments to States (see page 54-55, Section 118(b)(1)(A)(ii)). It denies Federal funds from essential community providers if they also provide abortion services. Planned Parenthood is an example of an essential community provider of preventative services and it currently does not receive any Federal funding for abortions. Adding this clause means funding would be cut off from them entirely simply because they provide the service.

Defunding Planned Parenthood would be devastating to Americans who rely on it for preventative care.

The country is in a bad place right now, and pushing this bill through without giving it the time and debate it deserves will just widen the divides between both sides. We need to work together. We need to close the divide. We need there to be regular order in the government. This chaos is scary. Please vote no on this new bill so that it will allow bi-partisan efforts to continue.
Sincerely,
Allison Longenbaugh
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Brook McHugh <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because I'm a pediatrician and a mom of two boys on the autism spectrum. This proposal will jeopardize the care and therapy my children and others receive, which is crucial to developmental progress.

Brook McHugh, MD FAAP

Brook McHugh

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Pate[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy/Graham Bill

Basically every health advocacy group in the country, and Cassidy's position is shared by...none of them.

We should listen to the experts. And the experts — from all 50 Medicaid directors to the American Cancer Society to the American Medical Association to the American Diabetes Association to the AARP all say the same thing: this is a bad bill being jammed through a bad process, and the Senate needs to take a breath and start over.

If Congress had spent any bit of the previous 7 years coming up with viable solutions or fixes to the ACA, we would be off this roller coaster & focused on improving healthcare delivery and cost. This bill is NOT the answer.

Please vote in the best interest of the country, rather than risking OUR stability so that you can say you "repealed Obamacare". The next step matters even more than the first & this bill is not that step.
--
Jenn

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Juanita Norman [redacted]m>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

'Please' scrap the Graham-Cassidy Bill, it's 'NOT' what the American people need in healthcare. The Graham-Cassidy bill is far worst than 'ALL' the previous bills put together, voted on and failed.
Let's introduce a bipartisan bill to 'IMPROVE' the lives of others, instead of destroying them in years to come.

Juanita Norman
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rebecca Fly[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:55 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

My state, Georgia, chose not to take the medicaid expansion. As a result we've had 6 rural hospitals close. One of those was near my elderly parents. Having to drive an hour to get to a hospital can mean life or death if you are having a heart attack or any other critical issue.

In addition, when my sister had to use the emergency services at a hospital 2 counties over, they didn't have the resources to do her blood work. It took 3 days for them to send the blood work out and get it back.

The services available to all of us depend on enough of us having adequate healthcare coverage.

In addition to healthcare issues with hospitals closing is the issue of lost jobs in these rural areas that desperately need jobs. If we don't have enough people with adequate health care coverage, health care workers will lose their jobs.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Charles Sandmel <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:55 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I urge whatever effort it takes to derail this mean-spirited and stupid piece of legislation. The process is inappropriate, abusing procedure and short-circuiting CBO review; the results are likely to devastate the most vulnerable of us.
It isn't about "Me paying for his or her care," it's about everybody paying for the care that each of us will ultimately need.
Charles Sandmel
Brookline, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Holley Atkinson [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:55 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please, do NOT repeal the ACA, fix it!

Dear GOP Senators,

Please, please, please don't do this horrible thing to the American people, your constituents and your fellow citizens. People will die - including untold disabled people and children. You claim to be pro-life, you are not.

Graham Cassidy is a horrible horrible non-plan that ALL health care experts, medical personnel, insurance companies and majorities of US OPPOSE.

You know full well that 1) the ACA is NOT failing, 22 million more of us have coverage than 8 years ago, thank God, and 2) that while it has some problems that need addressing, it's your own sabotage (Rubio messing up risk corridors, SCOTUS blocking Medicaid expansion, etc) that are the real problem.

You also know that vast majorities of US support affordable health care and patient protection and you are deliberately doing the opposite. We want a bipartisan FIX yet you spike Sens Alexander and Murray from their good faith work.

Your mendacious substitution of the word "access" for the word "care" is sickening.

How do you look at yourselves in the mirror each morning knowing the Kochs and Mercers are calling the shots for you? Stand up for US instead and what's right!

Please. Please.

Holley Atkinson
American Citizen
Brooklyn, NY

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From:	Ken Capone[redacted]
Sent:	Friday, September 22, 2017 11:57 AM
To:	gchcomments
Cc:	ken@pogmd.org; tami@pogmd.org
Subject:	Testimony for Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

My.name is Ken Capone. As a person with a disability who relies on Medicaid long term supports and services, I am deeply concerned about the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill in efforts to cut or cap Medicaid. Medicaid provides home and community supports such as residential supports, day programs, supported employment, respite care and other critical services to keep people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in their community.
I want to tell you what Medicaid services mean to me. Do you believe in the right of a person to be able to live in their community, pursue meaningful relationships with friends and family, have a meaningful career, I hope you answered yes to all of these questions because the Medicaid long term supports and services that I receive have allowed me to live a productive and fulfilling life in the community. Without these critical services I would not be able to live an inclusive life. I would not be able to work, volunteer, socialize or attend important meetings without paid supports and services. I rely on my staff to assist me with all my daily living activities.
I am not just advocating for myself, I'm advocating for the thousands of people with disabilities who need Medicaid to live a life of their choosing.

We strongly oppose The Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill.

Ken Capone,
Director
People On the Go of Maryland

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maria Cochran [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

To vote without a CBO score and analysis of what the Graham-Cassidy legislation does to health insurance coverage and premiums is irresponsible and inexcusable. The Republicans have known about the September 30th deadline since January 20th, when the change in administration allowed ACA repeal to have a chance of succeeding, and yet here they are at the last minute trying to force through this abomination. What an embarrassment! Leaders of the Free World no more, sadly.
This legislation would completely restructure the Medicaid Program funding, it would be the largest intergovernmental transfer of financial risk from the federal government to the states in United States history. It involves 1/6th of the US economy, 3% of the GDP, 25% of state budgets. It will provide "Block Grants" to States to fund Medicaid, these monies will not be required to be used for healthcare specifically, allowing states who need to balance their budgets the ability to transfer funds away from Medicaid. Eventually it is likely that Medicaid would be abolished.
Another problem with the proposed legislation is that HHS Secretary Tom Price would be the person who would determine if state plans are adequate and affordable for people with pre-existing conditions. Based on how Secretary Price has thus far performed in his office, I have great concern about how he would make this determination and foresee huge increases in premiums.
Please, please, please think about the millions of Americans who will be affected by this legislation and not just about the minority of campaign donors and lobbyists who want this passed for idealogical reasons or personal benefit.

Sincerely,
Maria Cochran, MA, DVM
Melbourne Beach, FL 32951

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jordan Simmons [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:43 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I strongly object to this bill

I stand with the American Medical Association (AMA), American Cancer Society, American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, AARP, National Association of Medicaid Directors, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Kaiser Permanente, and literally every other major group of doctors, health care providers, insurance companies, hospitals, medical advocacy groups, and humans that oppose this terrible piece of legislation.

Jordan Simmons

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Doris Jamison[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:43 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare Bill

Dear Gentlemen and Ladies,

Americans cannot bear the cost of the proposed healthcare bill, there just is not that much money available to normal people. We need your help in quashing this bill!

Healthcare provides 1/6 of the economy in America. The consequences of this healthcare bill will be economically horrible, not even considering the death, pain and suffering that the sorrow will cause.

The sponsors of this healthcare bill are hard-headed and determined to pursue passing it regardless of the consequences because they seek a reduction in their taxes, but more than that, the threat of campaign finance loss and pocket money loss is more than they want to bear just to save the lives of Americans. So they say that they made campaign promises to rid us of the ACA - well, so did they promise that they had a viable bill ready to replace it. Which was the greater lie? No matter, they were all lies just like they would have us swallow in this bill.

Americans need help, and this bill does not give them the support they need. It would be so much better to adjust the ACA so that it repairs the problems and moves toward a system that works.

Lost in the discussion is the amount of cash Senators and Representatives are receiving from the medical and pharmaceutical industries as payola to refrain from reining the industries in and prevent them from charging Americans such exorbitant, ridiculous prices when the same equipment, procedures`` and medications are available in foreign lands at comparatively dirt cheap prices.

We need your help to set these matters right again. We are counting on you. We must have your attention and your vote AGAINST THIS BILL.

Sincerely,

Doris S. Jamison

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Jost [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:43 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Please reject this heartless bill. It is sad and disheartening that so little regard is being shown for millions of Americans. For a party that proclaims itself to be "pro-life", this bill is anything but. I pray that the current administration and the Republican Party find it in their hearts to truly work for the good of the country and its citizens, as it claims to.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:44 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not pass Graham-Cassidy Bill

Senators,

Please do not pass the terrifying Graham-Cassidy bill.
This bill is a bad deal for so many people and will harm those with preexisting conditions.
I can not understand why the Senate will not go to regular order to create a healthcare bill that works for us all.

Respectfully,
Suzanne West

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Fred Yapelli [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:45 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Senators:

As a clinical psychologist who has seen the positive results of the ACA for my patients, I am loathe to have the protections of the ACA reversed by the draconian Graham-Cassidy bill. Do every American citizen the favor of voting down this bill.

Dr. Frederick J. YapelII
Licensed Clinical Psychologist

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jean Rothman[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:45 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it takes away the pre-existing condition clause and will harm millions of Americans.
Sincerely,
Jean T. Rothman

Jean Rothman

[redacted]2

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Irwin Hochler [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:45 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/ Cassidy bill

Senators,

Please do not repeal the ACA with the Graham/ Cassidy bill. It is even worse than the other repeal bills because it severely cuts Medicaid to many states, and it doesn't guarantee coverage of pre existing conditions.

In addition, you are all rushing this through to take advantage of reconciliation. You should at least wait for the entire report from the CBO.

If this passes, I will never vote for a Republican again.

Sincerely,

Irwin Hochler

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Janice Cha[redacted]t>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:45 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on the Graham Cassidy bill

Dear Senators,

Please vote NO on the Graham Cassidy healthcare bill. It would be disastrous for my family, and for my friends' families, and for the state of ILlinois, and for the country.

My husband relies on insurance to help cover costs of medical appointments for a condition he has had for many years. Without the healthcare— and the support of insurance— his quality of life, as well as that our our family, would plummet.

Please vote NO on the Graham Cassidy bill.

Do what is right for the people you represent.

Sincerely,

Janice Cha

Morton Grove ILLINOIS

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shannon Small [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:45 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill- from an MD in IL

To Whom It May Concern-

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

Sincerely,

Shannon F.R. Small, MD
Trauma Surgeon and concerned citizen

--
Sent from Gmail Mobile

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: diana burbano [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:36 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

My family would be bankrupt without the coverage we receive. My husband might be dead. Please consider:
32 Million Americans could lose coverage, radical change to Medicaid and diminished funding for every state, 90 seconds of debate? If you want to keep your campaign pledges start by keeping your pledge not to touch Medicaid benefits. Reject this bill.
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julie Feng [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:36 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Life is a pre-existing condition.

Our disappointment that pre-existing conditions are not fully covered in the bill could also be shared by many of the Rust Belt voters who voted for Trump. Pennsylvania, Indiana, Ohio and Wisconsin have some of the highest numbers of individuals per capita with pre-existing conditions and who buy insurance on the individual market. There are no guarantees those individuals would be able to buy insurance under Graham-Cassidy.

The South, which has moved heavily toward Republicans at the federal level over the last few decades, would also see decent-sized chunks of its population potentially impacted by the flexibility in the law around pre-existing conditions.

DO NO HARM. THAT SHOULD BE A BASIC TENET OF LIFE, not only medicine.

Americans live in a first world country but we also die at higher rates due to non communicable diseases and conditions. Cholesterol. Diabetes. Depression. Without health care your workforce dwindles. Your economy suffers.

Don't be short sighted on the grounds of some archaic ideology called Federalism. The states will enact varying degrees of health care, destabilizing the market and shutting people out completely. The states already have power etched into the Constitution. But widespread issues like health and civil rights are national issues. They define us as a nation. This can't be left up to the states.

Sent from my iPhone

Julie C. Feng
Attorney
PEARLMAN,BORSKA & WAX
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Sklenicka [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:36 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

Please reject Graham-Cassidy. This Senate will go down in infamy for destroying the American middle class.

Put yourselves in the same healthcare system as the rest of the country and then figure out how it should work!

Carol Sklenicka
Milwaukee, WI

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patricia Demopoulos [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:37 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy act

Dear Sirs,
I am completely opposed to the Graham/Cassidy act. The cost of this program would devaste my family and our security buisness.It is wrong to remove ACA, this action would benefit the 1% in this country, but not the 99% If the GOP really cares about the citizens of this country, they would work to fix and make ACA better, as citizens we all deserve a good, strong, caring healthcare system in the best country in the world.
If you vote to remove ACA and put Graham/Cassidy bill in, we will fire all GOP. You will then have shown all voters that we can't trust you to care about our country, only your mega donors.

Sincerely,
Patricia Demopoulos-Minnesota

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kelley Gladden [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:37 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Bill

Hello,

I 'am vehemently opposed to the Graham/Cassidy Bill. It is unconscionable to me that our elected officials would even think of killing off the ACA, which has covered so many more Americans and decreased the trajectory of medical costs and imposing this new law which will upend the insurance and medical fields, and throw so many citizens off health insurance.

What we need is a thoughtful, bipartisan discussion of how to improve the ACA and how to finance it so that as many Americans as possible can have basic, affordable health care.

Kelley Gladden

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nan Schaefer [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:37 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA repeal/non-replace

I wish to register my strong opposition to the repeal of the Affordable Care Act, which you all seem to have forgotten is the real name of that legislation. Your chosen "replacement" does nothing for the good of your constituents nation wide - it only serves the wealthiest among us. Seniors, children, chronically ill, anyone with a pre-existing condition - all thrown under the bus. Despite what the authors say, it does not guarantee anything for them. We here in Wisconsin (listen up, Mr. Johnson) will be absolutely screwed with the so-called Governor in our Capitol.

You WHITE MEN on the health cabinet (and ONLY white MEN) like to tout how you call yourselves Christians, yet you defy every single thing that Jesus the Christ told us to do - take care of "the least of these my brethren" - feed them, clothe them - all things that current Democrats choose to include in their budget items. Jesus did not tell us to turn plowshares into swords - quite the opposite. You choose to increase the military, screw with health care, and ignore the needy. Shame on you.

So, my preference is for you to scrap this absurd effort to repeal the ACA and instead work to improve it. It NEEDS improvement, yes, but your offering is certainly NO IMPROVEMENT.

I hope you see this - it comes from the heart.
Nancy Schaefer

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shena Wolf <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:38 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy objection

Hello.

I am writing to voice my objection to Graham-Cassidy. Many people rely on the insurance system that is in place to stay alive, and having read the literature and analyses of Graham-Cassidy, the protections that are so vital to the health and lives of Americans are not in place in this bill. Please don't do this.

Thank you,
-Shena Wolf

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Diane Buglioli [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:38 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Proposed Bill

This bill appears to hold disastrous implications for people with Developmental Disabilities. Please do not pass this bill without extensive review and assurances that protect this vulnerable population.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

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The Cassidy-Graham bill will allow states, for a temporary transitional period, to use grant funds to address the needs of people whom the ACA enabled to purchase individual insurance plans. The ACA requires these plans to cover people without regard to "pre-existing conditions" and does not allow them to charge higher rates to those people. In return, the ACA seeks to incentivize insurance companies to participate by requiring people not covered by other means to purchase these individual plans, and by subsidizing the cost of these plans in order to keep premiums, deductibles, and co-pays affordable.

The short-term grant program allows states to waive the specific provisions of the ACA with regard to pre-existing conditions. In order to do so, states must simply "explain" how they will ensure that people with those conditions will be able to get coverage. There are no specific requirements in the Cassidy-Graham bill that states must do any particular thing, including any particular thing that experts in the insurance and actuarial fields would consider to be likely to work, in order to comply with that requirement. And there is no requirement for the federal Department of Health and Human Services to monitor compliance or impose consequences for failure to comply.

When the grant program ends, there will be no additional funds, but the requirements, such as they are, will remain. States will be forced to expend their own funds to meet the requirements that they did not choose to waive, which will create a perverse incentive for them to waive as many of them as possible at the beginning of the transitional period while grant funds are available. Among the rules that can be waived are those that prohibit insurance plans from charging higher premiums to people with pre-existing conditions.

The inevitable result will be that large numbers of people with serious chronic disabling conditions will be unable to afford insurance and they will be forced to quit working and go on the public dole purely in order to qualify for Medicaid.

the two most important are these: 1) The cost of long-term care services, which include not only attendant-type services but also durable medical equipment such as motorized wheelchairs, and of prescription medications which are used in high quantities by people with significant disabilities, increases at a much higher rate than CPI-M +1; 2) The formula does not take into account the facts that Americans are living longer and that the percentage of older people, who use more long-term care services, in the population is increasing.

There are also proposed caps on expenditures for nursing homes and community support services, but since both will be capped, the effect is a "wash". The controlling factor will be the mandatory nature of nursing home services, and with a lower amount of available funds for long-term care services, a higher percentage of those funds will have to be used for the mandatory service, forcing a major reduction in optional community-based services.

The section of the Cassidy-Graham bill that describes an optional payment "adjustment" for certain Section 1915 HCBS services appears to offer a 100% FMAP for these services for only four years, and the total per capita expenditures for these services would still be capped at a rate well below what would be available if this bill is not enacted. Further, many states have transitioned HCBS services away from Section 1915 waivers and into Section 1115 waivers, which are not included in this "adjustment" offer.

This approach is wrong-headed from the point of view of cost-effectiveness, because community-based long-term care services are, in the aggregate, between 66% and 80% less expensive than the equivalent nursing home service for people with similar needs.

It is dangerous because having to spend a higher percentage of a smaller "pot" of Medicaid funds on nursing homes will mean a smaller number of people with disabilities who need these services as a matter of survival will be served, or the services offered will be reduced in intensity, duration, or quality, to the point of endangering their health.

3. "Pre-existing condition" is a synonym for "disability".

Although the Cassidy-Graham bill relies on the narrow Social Security definition of "blind or disabled" in its sections specifically aimed at people with disabilities, that definition does not include all Americans who have chronic disabling conditions. The Social Security definition is intended to capture those who are presumed unable to work due to their disabilities. Millions of other Americans with serious chronic disabling conditions do not meet this definition, but if they could not obtain health insurance, their health would quickly deteriorate to the point where they would be unable to work. Many of these people work for employers that do not provide health insurance. Without the ACA, they would lose their jobs and become fully dependent upon governmental supports. This includes, for example, people with significant heart disease, diabetes, and the early stages of a variety of auto-immune diseases such as multiple sclerosis and lupus. These conditions require extensive ongoing medical treatment to enable those who have them to function.

You are going to hear from many people that ending the Medicaid entitlement literally threatens the lives of people with disabilities. That is not an exaggeration. Claims that this bill "won't hurt" people with disabilities are false. Here is why:

People with significant disabilities are, overwhelmingly, poor people because they are unable to get well-paid jobs, or because they are past working age and living on Social Security. Large numbers of impoverished elderly people are "dually eligible" for Medicaid and Medicare, and the Medicaid in effect pays what would otherwise be, for them, unaffordable Medicare deductibles and co-payments. Even people who are able to get good jobs with good medical insurance must still rely on Medicaid for long-term care services. And without Medicaid, families of children with significant disabilities would face medical bills that would quickly impoverish all but the wealthiest people.

"Long-term care" means services and supports that are not acute medical care but are necessary for people with disabilities, including elderly people with reduced capacities, to stay alive. This includes paying for people to feed, bathe, toilet, dress, accompany, and do other things for people who cannot do various things on their own. It includes services provided in institutional settings, such as nursing homes and group homes, and in people's own homes.

There are no other government insurance programs, private insurance companies, or employer-based health insurance plans, that pay for long-term care on a permanent basis. Medicare funding for nursing homes and medical homecare is temporary and strictly time-limited. So-called long-term care insurance plans offered by private insurance companies only offer temporary coverage of a few years' duration at most.

There is no "market" in permanent long-term care insurance. It is only available from Medicaid.

Under current Medicaid law, states that participate in the Medicaid program are required to pay for nursing home services, but are not required to offer a full array of community-based long term care services. Cassidy-Graham does not change these requirements (the proposed "Medicaid Flexibility Program" is not available to adults with disabilities).

Cassidy Graham ends the FMAP entitlement and imposes a per-capita annual cap on the federal contribution to Medicaid. The formula for calculating the caps will have the effect of reducing the amount of funds available to serve blind or disabled adults. (Cassidy-Graham uses the Social Security definition of "blind or disabled", a narrow definition that includes only those with the most significant disabilities. This population includes those who need, and qualify for, permanent long-term care services.)

Although the annual increase in the cap for that category of participants is to be largely determined by adding one percentage point to the CPI-M, a large number of actuarial experts have found that this will still result in funding rates much lower than those projected for this group under the current law. There are a number of reasons for this but

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ken Dibble [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:38 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: STIC Comments on Graham-Cassidy Bill

See below for comments from Southern Tier Independence Center, Inc. on the proposed Graham-Cassidy legislation to replace the Affordable Care Act. Thank you for your attention.

Ken Dibble
Policy Analyst
Southern Tier Independence Center, Inc.
[redacted]

Southern Tier Independence Center, Inc. (STIC) is a Center for Independent Living in Binghamton, New York. Our primary concern regarding changes to federal health care programs is about the effects on people with disabilities.

We oppose the Cassidy-Graham bill for the following reasons:

1. It exceeds the scope of ACA reform/repeal/replacement.

The Cassidy-Graham bill would end the Medicaid "entitlement" (the federal percentage match, or FMAP, which is paid regardless of the cost of providing services) beginning in 2020. The Medicaid entitlement was established when the Medicaid program was created in 1965. It is not part of the Affordable Care Act; it predates that law by 45 years.

The vast majority of those who have called for the repeal of the ACA have not called for an end to the Medicaid entitlement. To the extent that certain elected officials promised to repeal the ACA, that promise does not include ending the Medicaid entitlement. It is not an expectation of the majority of people who want the ACA to be repealed that the Medicaid entitlement should also be ended.

The Medicaid entitlement is unrelated as a matter of policy or finance to anything that is in the ACA.

The individual-market features of the ACA affect approximately 12 million people. Medicaid affects approximately 68 million people.

2. Medicaid is the only form of permanent long-term care insurance in the United States.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: beth arky [redacted]n>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:38 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote no on Graham Cassidy!

Hello,

I'm writing to ask that you vote no on Graham Cassidy. This is a terrible bill that would hurt millions. I am the mother of an autistic son so I am especially worried about what could happen should the bill pass.

Thank you for your consideration.

Beth Arky
Brooklyn, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Gallagher [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:38 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: reject graham cassidy bill

Please vote no on the graham cassidy bill. Millions would lose health insurance protections, which will put well being and lives at risk, and even result in deaths. Protect the people of our country and follow protocol in creating health care reform, including committee discussions, research and input.

Jennifer Gallagher
Jackson, MI

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sandra Herman <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:38 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Repealing the ACA and replacing it was the Graham-Cassidy bill is a travesty that will leave millions without affordable healthcare. As someone with family members with pre-existing conditions I am begging you not to do this. Work on a bi partisan basis to fix the ACA. Please put people over party and politics.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: barbara marshall <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:38 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I am writing to voice my objectionsto this potentially catastrophic bill. Senator Grassley has admitted that the only reason for supporting this bill is because Republicans campaigned on repealing Obamacare. That's not a good enough reason to strip healthcare from millions of Americans and totally disrupt one sixth of our economy.

Congress has just approved $700 million dollars in military funding a large enough increase to provide healthcare for all Americans. We have a larger military than the next 27 countries combined and 26 of those are our allies. Still there was no hesitation to approve this.

The United States is the wealthiest country in the world and yet far poorer countries manage to provide healthcare for all of their citizens. We should be ashamed. It's an embarrassment to our great nation. Even Donald Trump admitted to the Australian PM that they have much better healthcare than we do. What kind of message does that send. Where are American priorities. We can protect our citizens militarily but not from illness.

This bill is purely political. Yet another attempt to punish the poor and reward the rich. It's heinous. It must not pass.

Thank you

Barbara Marshall

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jamie Putnam [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:39 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: New Senate bill to repeal Obamacare

What are you unbelievably incompetent republican dotards thinking? are you totally deaf to the majority of Americans? Many of them may not have voted in 2016, but they will see to your ousting in 2018. Bye bye!
Another outraged voter,
J. Putnam

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Zanthe Taylor [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:39 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Appalled by Graham-Cassidy

I am disgusted and appalled by this attempt to strip healthcare protections from American citizens. Reinstating caps on coverage, denying coverage for those with preexisting conditions, and not abiding by McCain's cherished "regular order of procedure": these and others are reasons that Republican senators should be ashamed of themselves. How about focusing less on repudiating the work of a popular 2-term President to prove a point and more on helping regular Americans lead happy and healthy lives like you were elected to do?

Best, Zanthe Taylor
Concerned citizen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michael Moats [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:39 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please consider the most vulnerable

Hello and thank you for accepting comments.

After a working career that spanned over 50 years, and contributing to Social Security over this period and to Medicare since it began, I am most concerned about what the proposed GC bill would do to my family members who are not lucky enough to have Medicare.

The states that did not expand Medicare under the ACA are those regressive states most likely to leave their populations vulnerable for the sake of a libertarian "high-five." It's long since time to use legislative skills to enhance the ACA rather than to tear it down.

Saving the least of us may even be a way to remain legislators in the near future, as this most uncertain political moment plays out.

--

Michael Moats

Downers Grove, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Clayton Marquiss [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:39 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: OPPOSE Obamacare Repeal

Health care is needed in this country. Do not support the repeal of Obamacare. Stand up for what is right. Thank you.

Clayton Marquiss RN

[redacted]

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: cj hohnke <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:39 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO!

Stop trying to destroy our healthcare system. I can only assume you (collectively and individually) don't give a damn about the citizens of this country; you're just interested in lining your own pockets and protect your own interests.

Have you no shame? Would you inflict this monstrosity of "healthcare" on your mother? Oh, wait ... you probably would, if it insured more Koch brothers $$ in your pocket.

Flecti Non Frangi

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Caroline Kunitake [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:40 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please protect the Affordable Care Act

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

As a citizen of the United States, I want healthcare to be a right that is extended to all citizens. It is unfortunate that one of the richest countries in the world is unwilling to create a healthcare system that provides healthcare to all of its citizens. The majority of the other countries around the world have a form of universal healthcare. Without cost controls for healthcare in the US, there is no way that all Americans will be able to afford healthcare coverage.

Even with healthcare coverage, it is very sad that many still cannot afford the out of pocket costs that are not covered by their health insurance plan. Most people do not understand the complexities of healthcare insurance coverage or the actual costs of medical care and drugs even after healthcare coverage. Those without coverage take a serious gamble by delaying diagnosis and treatment (and may end up in an emergency room where their costs will become a burden for the hospital budget).

I am hopeful that these continuous threats to healthcare in the United States will wake up the voters who have been apathetic and unwilling to participate.

I also hope that Congress will take another step forward to creating a healthcare system that is accessible and affordable with costs controls.

Respectfully yours,
Caroline Kunitake

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Chandler [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:39 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: cdr-membersxchange@yahoogroups.com; Zoli Harway; Bryan & Bev Gingg
Subject: CDR Opposes the proposed healthcare bill

As a Disability Rights organization CDR opposes the proposed health care bill for many reasons! This bill is a travesty and puts most of the US population at risk of horrible health care. Most importantly, people with disabilities and seniors, our most vulnerable citizens, are the ones who will be most adversely affected and suffer the most with these draconian measures.

What is wrong with just instituting Universal Health Care like most of the civilized countries in the world?

We assert, **Healthcare is a right** not an industry and an opportunity to make a profit!

Friends & all please send something to your senators and the GCh email above thanks Susan
****
Susan Chandler, President
Californians for Disability Rights

CC: Senators Feinstein & Harris
BCC: Friends, family and advocates

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: R.R. [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:40 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: pattymurray
Subject: Will be devastated by ACA Repeal

I am the single mother of a high needs child with Selective Mutism. This past summer I was hospitalized and am receiving follow up cardiac care and hematology/infusion specialist care, as well as ongoing treatment to manage serious health issues, so that I can be a great mom and raise my son.

Without expanded medicaid, I would probably be dead. With my pre-existing condtions, if the ACA is repealed, I will not be able to find comprehensive insurance I can afford. I will not be able to access ongoing medical care that I need to survive.

My life and health depend on the ACA and the protections it affords. I cannot believe how out of touch the Republican Senate is. I cannot believe they are willing to sell our healthcare down the river. Tens of millions will lose their insurance if the ACA is repealed and tens of thousands will die, needlessly, and I will likely be one of them. While my child is young and so dependent on me for full time care, there is no possible way I can obtain full time employment with health insurance. I've always worked and contributed, since I was 12 years old. I volunteer in my community and at my child's school.

My life has value and meaning and I contribute. Healthcare is not only for the wealthy- it's a human right.

Rachele Rice

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jason F Tannen [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:40 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA vs. Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

My name is Jason Tannen from zip code 95926. I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy health care bill being rushed through Congress. This bill vindictively cuts funding for some states to reward states that did not expand Medicaid. Please don't steal from your own constituents. Thank you.

Jason Tannen
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ashley Volion [redacted]m>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:40 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Grahm-Cassidy Bill

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Ashley Volion, and I am a Louisianan with Cerebral Palsy. Because of my care needs, I receive personal care attendant services 24/7 through a Medicaid waiver called, the NOW Waiver. This allows me to live and work out in the community. Currently, I'm a Ph.D. candidate, a TA in Disability Studies, a Policy Assistant at the Advocacy Center of LA (Louisiana's P&A), and the chair of NOLA Disability Pride Fest. There are all things that I love and all of these things are made possible by my Medicaid services.

If this bill passes, I could end up in an institution or dead. My mother is disabled, and my father recently had surgery on his knees. Therefore, they are unable to meet my physical needs. The Graham-Cassidy would end the federal matching funds for Medicaid to states and restrict funding for pre-existing conditions. I am a pre-existing condition, like many others, but I am human and I deserve the best life possible.

To learn more about me:

http://www.msnbc.com/melissa-harris-perry/louisiana-not-cerebral-palsy-deferring-woma

http://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/politics/article_9ca647b8-5c40-11e7-81b8-c39b195d78fc.html

http://poczineproject.tumblr.com/post/131271093569/zine-spotlight-the-adventures-of-a-misidentified

Ashley M Volion, M.A.
[redacted]es
[redacted]t
[redacted]nt
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Catherine Honzl <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:40 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do NOT consider this horrible bill

To the Finance Committee reviewing the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill,

You can ignore that the American Medical Association, American Cancer Society, American Diabetes Associations, American Heart Association, AARP, National Association of Medicaid Directors, Blue Cros Blue Shield, Kaiser Permanente, and literally every other major group of doctors, health care providers, insurance companies, hospital, medical advocacy groups, and states groups that oppose this piece of legislation.

Do not succumb to partisan pressure to meet a quick deadline for a ridiculous loophole that allows this controversial bill to pass with a tie-breaking vote, rather than with the support of the majority this country's representatives, whose constituents will be deeply (and often devastatingly) impacted by this life or death legislation.

With respect,
a voter from Minneapolis,

Cate Honzl
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Heather Stellmacher [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:41 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mrs. Heather Stellmacher
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Janice Killian Hurtt [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:46 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

My name is Janice Hurtt and I live in Fort Payne, Alabama. My Senators are Richard Shelby and Luther Strange. In my opinion the Graham-Cassidy Bill is a potential death sentence for the sick and vulnerable people of our Country. This bill is worse than the BCRA. It destroys Medicaid as we know it and it guts protections for people with pre-existing conditions. To me this is reckless and immoral to ram through such profound changes without regular process and a full CBO score. It is wrong for America and its values. It is time to support a bipartisan effort to stabilize the ACA exchanges and mandate outreach in order to prevent spikes in premiums and lapses in coverage. With great power comes great responsibility. Please protect the PEOPLE. Thank you for your concern in this matter.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: MCS/Matmos/Vague Terrain [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:16 PM
To: gchcomments

Please don't pass this dumb thing. Why oh why is this horrible petty revenge game happening? Have care and dignity. Pleading.

Thanks

MC Schmidt

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stephanie Staie[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I live in Pinnacle, North Carolina. I am a mom to a 7 year old boy who has autism. I care deeply about health care and support services for people with autism, including Medicaid.

Medicaid provides vital services for my son, like providing therapies (occupational, speech, etc) that are essential to his development.

Please oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill and any bills that make cuts to provide vital services to children like my son. Work across party lines to improve access to health care, including autism services and Medicaid.

Thank you so much. Have a blessed day!

Stephanie Staie

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Makenzie Morgans [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mrs. Makenzie Morgans
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Zoey Hanke [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ms. Zoey Hanke
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joe Di <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

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

Joe DiVincenzo
New Windsor, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: dawnasuenunn[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Heath care bill

I am shocked and surprised that even after the American Medical Association have said they cannot support a bill like this. That this would continue. Either fix the healthcare we have or find a solution that isn't going to make millions lose their coverage. Even as a republican voter I can see how wrong this is. I can't believe that you're even considering it. Please vote no.

Sent from my Galaxy Tab® A

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Phil Abrams <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:34 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Healthcare Bill

Dear Senators,

Please DO NOT pass this healthcare bill that many major health associations are against including the American Heart, the American Lung, as well as some insurers and I would guess the majority of Americans!

For you to pass this bill without even first receiving a CBO will be a travesty and dereliction of your duty as intelligent, thoughtful legislators representing your constituents.

Thanks for listening to one of them.

Best,
Phil Abrams
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cody Eliff [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Ernst, Senator (Ernst); Senator,
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Good morning,

I wanted to leave my comments regarding this newest proposal to repeal the ACA. I think that the leadership should be ashamed of themselves for refusing to guide this proposal through the Senate in the normal manner with hearings and allowing all sides to add amendments. I remember full well that the other side let Republicans add amendments to the ACA. I think it is also sad that there is no bipartisanship on this issue, when it impacts EVERYONE in the the country. We have 90% coverage right now. If this bill passes millions will lose coverage, and you are chipping away at Medicaid. Let me tell you,I work with those on Medicaid and I am related to those on it, and I will be advising ALL of them to vote you all out. And I will be specific that Senator Grassley is up in 2022 and that Senator Ernst is up in 2020. Taking healthcare coverage from people, making people with pre-existing conditions suffer under insurance company BUREAUCRACY, and literally killing people will not be forgotten. This bill has the support of less than 20% of the public. This bill is being denounced by major medical orgs like the American Cancer Society, the MS Society, the AMA, the AARP, and many others, along with doctors, and many other experts. It's a sham. And you are playing politics with those block grants. We will not forget. 2018 is just the beginning. Please VOTE NO. Get together and FIX the ACA on a bipartisan basis. We are counting on you to get it right.

--
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julia Read [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our health care

DON'T REPEAL THE ACA.

LET WOMAN MAKE CHOICES FOR THEMSELVES.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mara Kelosky [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate. While I do agree that Obama care is not perfect, it has helped millions gain health insurance coverage- many for the first time in their lives. Those "single adults" receiving coverage are the working poor, if our government isn't looking out for those individuals, who is it looking out for?

Please think very carefully before passing this, millions of children, adults, and families lives are at risk.

Mara Kelosky

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: tracy lisk [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on healthcare repeal

Please, please, please vote no on this current healthcare repeal. Serve the country with the best of your ability.

Thank you.

Tracy Lisk

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Catherine Henninger [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because ....
This is the worst plan to replace ACA you have come up with of the 6 plans. Your constituents have made it very clear. The American public wants affordable healthcare, with no gimmicks or negative shots at certain states because they are red or blue. Please do the right thing for the American public.

Catherine Henninger

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol J Hannah <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:34 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GRAHAM-CASSIDY

Dear Committee Members,

I am an average US citizen just struggling along trying to make the most of life in this country I have always held such fierce pride to be an American and always believed in the American spirit. I am compelled to write to you regarding this newest, last ditch attempt to repeal the ACA and replace it with the worst bill in American history, the Graham-Cassidy. Millions of Americans like me are reaching out to you and Congress, begging them to hear our voices, our very real stories, and to put the will of the American people first. This country and this government was founded by the people, for the people and it seems the current Congress and administration have forgotten this or simply don't care. It is very scary for us regular folk to know our government is incapable of, or simply refuses, to hear our voices and/or recognize and accurately represent the very people they were elected to represent. Instead of fighting for and protecting the American people, the government has become a hideous reality show and panders to extremes, lobbyists, and other special interests. All of this scary enough, but we, the People, are eyes wide open and fighting for our very lives when it comes to this and other current atrocities. Millions of lives are at stake here and its not funny and its not entertaining to watch the bullying and sickening tactics going on trying to get this horrible bill crammed through. Aside from the horrifying consequences and actual points contained in Graham-Cassidy, the glaring and equally horrific problem is the way it is being done. We, the American people, will fight, we will not tire, we will not yield, we will continue to demand our voices be heard and our rights and our very lives be protected. This begins with begging, demanding, insisting that each and every one of you votes NO on Graham-Cassidy. NO to throwing millions off their health insurance, NO to the millions who WILL DIE because they cannot afford to simply get sick or have a baby, let alone be struck with terminal illness and /or injury. NO to the irreversible economic damage this bill would inflict on the entire country. Equally critical, NO to the slimy way this is being crammed through, NO to putting political gain above the best interests and lives of the American citizenry. JUST NO. FOR THE LOVE OF GOD AND EVERYTHING THIS COUNTRY WAS BUILT ON AND FIGHTS FOR ACROSS THE WORLD, DON'T ALLOW THIS TRAVESTY.
Sincerely,
1 of millions of concerned Americans,
CAROL HANNAH

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Delores Johnson [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:30 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re: preexistingconditions

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

On Fri, Sep 22, 2017 at 10:16 AM, Delores Johnson
[redacted] wrote:

I have 2 boys with hemophilia 10 and 2 . 10 yr old has done his infusions since 7 yrs old he advocates to pa n fed congress explaining how important it is to care for himself and freedom involved in doing it . prior to aca he spent 3 yrs in hospital infection after infection til port was removed i never left him alone which led to all of the following house business (home daycare) car being removed from our life but he fought and won his life and is personally accountable for it the cost of the drug is unaffordable no matter how many jobs i work. Now the 2 yr old receives infusions twice a week at hemo treatment center i cant get his veins on my own and don't want to sail the port disaster river again since im a single parent his dad left a year ago i've lost car job all over again and struggle daily dr visits and lack of childcare make it impossible to hold a job no community programs to assist i've worked my butt off for 20 yrs as a cna my life is my children and instilling values but to not being able to provide the vital medicine to protect them from hemophilia a severe over 400 million hurts i call sen Toomey office daily and sen casey weekly advocate is all i have to make noise and be heard i cant imagine life without my children sir please fix aca and continue medicaid & soc sec i never asked for entitlements but they help make life liveable until 2 yr old can go to school next year

Thanks for listening #hemophilia matters
Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kim Krodel <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:35 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to GrahamCassidy

I am strongly opposed to the Graham-Cassidy "healthcare" bill. If there isn't time for a CBO score on this potentially lethal legislation, it should not be voted on. The American people deserve better. Do your jobs--work together in a bipartisan manner to fix the ACA. Stop voting for big business and tax breaks for the super-rich and do something for the greater good for once. The world is watching.

Sincerely,

Kim Krodel

Avon, CT
Member ForwardCT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julie Benick [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:35 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GrahamCassidy

Vote NO!

We need healthcare accessibility for all people. No one should go bankrupt or choose medicine over food or be left to die because of a pre-existing condition. In America we take care of each other!

Stop this nonsense and improve the existing ACA.
jb
Julie Benick
Minnesota

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laura Heisler [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:34 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

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

Laura Mitton
Madison, CT 06443

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judy O'Leary [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:35 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy feedback

This is a very rich country but the wealth is concentrated within a very small segment of the population. The majority of Americans struggle, day in and day out. Our government policies have exacerbated this imbalance. People are not pawns in your game of "power & prestige". Graham Cassidy is an ABOMINATION to humanity.
SHAME ON YOU; SHAME ON YOU.

Judy O'Leary

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marc Jaffe[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:35 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fix ACA, Don't Replace or Gut It

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

Taking healthcare away from millions? Gutting medicaid? The Graham Cassidy bill is not a comprehensive health regulation plan. Our current ACA needs to be modified, not taken away or crippled. In addition, Medicaid needs to be supported, not reduced, as it is one of the most important ways that our country keeps health care affordable and accessible. Please put politics aside and respect the wishes of the VAST MAJORITY of people in this country. Fix it, don't replace it.

Marc S. Jaffe
La Jolla CA
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Minow [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:35 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote against Graham-Cassidy

I am writing to voice strong objection to Graham-Cassidy. As an individual who buys my own health insurance I have never felt secure until the ACA was implemented.

Mary Minow

Wisdom is timeless

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Diana Burbano[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:42 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

With the pre-existing conditions clauses my husband would not have coverage. There will be more women dying in childbirth and from preventable cancer thanks to Individual states being allowed to prevent women's clinics from charging Medicaid for services like cancer screenings and birth control.
Insurers would be able to double their surcharge on elderly customers. My mother in law is on a fixed income and needs care

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cammie Cantrell <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:43 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: listen to the experts - oppose this bill

Doesn't matter what I say....but why not listen to the 50 Medicaid Directors...the 19 Governors...the National Health Groups who all OPPOSE this bill.
Country First.

Who cares what you've promised in your past campaigns? We've all learned and can change our minds.

Cammie Cantrell
DeWitt, MI

The information contained in this e-mail, including any attachments, is confidential and intended solely for the named recipient(s) and may be subject to protection under federal and state laws. If you are not the intended recipient, please inform the sender immediately by reply e mail that the message was sent in error and delete the message. Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tim Forrester [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:26 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

People who care about people want everyone to have a fair and equal chance for healthcare. It's a human right that everyone should have. You should want to help save lives, not take away the healthcare of millions.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anna Sicalides [redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:26 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: (SENDER VALIDATION FAILED --- May not have originated from apparent sender) Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because ....
It lacks the basic framework to be considered insurance. 32M people will lose their healthcare, everyone with an existing condition (which is pretty much everyone over the age of 20) will be uninsurable, will force millions to welfare, productive, successful people that I know will DIE, women will be discouraged from having babies because the cost will be prohibitive, the poor pathetic base, more uninsured vets, more uninsured children, not one consumer or medical group supports this bill, the KOCH brothers et al have you all by the balls, this is no longer a government for the PEOPLE, by the PEOPLE. We are the wealthiest country in the world and we cannot provide the best healthcare in the world, we are at a disadvantage in the world. I WILL ACTIVELY CAMPAIGN AGAINST YOU IF YOU VOTE FOR THIS BILL.

Anna Sicalides

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Davis [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:26 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: STOP Graham-Cassidy

Please vote no on this ill-considered bill. Even those supportive of it have not been able to make a rational case for it being preferable to the ACA, except for the fact it is NOT the ACA. It is not an improvement on a health care bill, but an attempt at any cost to fulfill a campaign promise. Let the promise go, it can't be met this way to anyone's benefit, except for the rejoicing and self-congratulations it would create among Republicans and the White House. The chaos and cost it would create for so many is untenable.

Sincerely,
Karen Davis
Glastonbury, CT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christopher Rodriguez [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:26 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

To Whom It Concerns:

Hello. For some background: I am healthy and young--but just wise enough to recognize the perilous and temporary nature of such a state of being. I may get sick tomorrow. I may be injured in an accident. I may blink and find that 30 years have gone by, and that I've grown old and in need of medical care--yes, my family has some history of Alzheimer's disease. Beyond concerns for my own self preservation, my wife and I are planning to start a family soon. We will need healthcare then. It is a certainty. Additionally, I have family members that are growing old and will no doubt require some assistance. I do not know how I would manage that cost on top of providing for my own family and especially if, God forbid, something should happen to me requiring healthcare.

The simple fact of life is: nobody can live their life without health insurance--it is either a death sentence or a path to bankruptcy and poverty. These things are not freedom. These are, in fact, antithetical to the rights endowed to us by our Creator.

And now, for full disclosure: I may not have voted for you. But I implore you to look past any political or even ideological differences that we may have. Please reject the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill. There are simply too many unanswered questions with this bill--a bill that seeks to recklessly tamper with such an important part of the American economy and American lives. The bill is rushed and did not solicit any input from Democratic Senators that represent the interests of millions of Americans. Worse, the costs are not known as the CBO has not yet scored this fully, but industry leaders and experts have expressed deep misgivings about the contents of the bill.

It's true that the current healthcare system can be improved. But the effort to repeal the ACA is not motivated by such a noble goal. It is motivated by partisan or even personal disputes. Please, for the love of God, the US, and her people, please commit towards a bipartisan effort to find a practical solution that will bless that most lives instead of boosting the swollen coffers of the few. The eyes of America, the world, and history, are upon you now.

Best regards,
Chris Rodriguez
Proud Citizen of The United States of America

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alisa Rock [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:26 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

As a parent of a young adult with special needs, I am appalled at the Graham Cassidy bill and urge you to kill it. He (and we) depend on Medicaid and insurance to pay for day programs, therapies, medications, critical supports, and more.

--
Alisa
Alisa Rock
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: teresa hays [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:34 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

This is heinous piece of legislation that McConnell and the Republicans are attempting to ram through Congress with out discussion, debates, input, or an analysis from the CBO.

I am 62 years old, I have worked hard, paid taxes, raised my children to be contributing members of this society, and because of a near fatal cardiac incident that my husband occurred in January, 2015, i am now using the ACA program and am grateful to have affordable coverage. It appears Graham-Cassidy will take that from me, and for the first time in my life, at the age of 63, I will join the ranks of the uninsured, or we will pay heavily from our limited savings for my healthcare.

This bill is not about healthcare. This is about dismantling Obamacare and keeping the Koch brothers' monies funding the Republican Party.

This bill will penalize the poor, the elderly, the disadvantaged and disabled, moderate income folks, and everyone but the wealthiest two percent.

Everyone involved in health care is against this bill. Who wants this bill besides Republican Congressmen, a few Republican governors whose states stand to benefit and the Koch brothers?

Healthcare should not be available only to the wealthy. We are the only industrialized country in the world that does not guarantee health care to our population. If our system is so great, why aren't other countries rushing to emulate us?

Do the right thing senators, take this bill down and work together in a bipartisan fashion to make Obamacare work better.

teresa hays
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beverly Wiemeri [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:37 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: American Association of University Women Stance on Health Care
Attachments: AAUW stance.pdf; ATT00001.htm

We are a national organization and hope you take our stance on Health care into consideration when you review the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patti Meerschaert [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:38 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments to consider
Attachments: Dan at Steins 10-2-14.jpg

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

From: Patti Meerschaert
[redacted]

My 48 year old son, Daniel, is challenged by autism. He is doing better than many folks with this diagnosis. He lives in a group home with 3 other gentlemen and has two jobs. He works at a sheltered employment center 3 days a week and then has a community job (with a job coach) the other two days. He is so very proud of his "real" job at Stein's Garden center.

Medicaid pays for the supports he needs to live and work in the community. Wisconsin has put these community services first thus keeping most people with disabilities out of nursing homes. This is far more cost effective and leads to a much better quality of life.

As an "aging" parent I am worried that the life Dan now lives is in danger of disappearing through the changes to health care proposed in your bill. Medicaid "block grants" would decrease funding over time and thus decimate community services.

Please consider Dan and the many like him as you consider this health proposal.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From:	Suzette Mathes [redacted]
Sent:	Friday, September 22, 2017 11:38 AM
To:	gchcomments
Subject:	Graham Cassidy Bill
Attachments:	TG702 (1).JPG; TG704 (1).JPG

Dear Sen. Todd Young,

Hi, I am Suzette Mathes,

I work at New Horizons at Batesville in the classroom. It is very important to me because I am teaching these clients to read, do math skills, money skills, cooking, safety, and many other life skills that we do every day without thinking about it. I also help them learn job skills to work in the community. If the Graham Cassidy Bill goes into effect it will change their quality of life. Enclosed are some pictures of our working in the classroom.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bradley, Christie D [redacted]m>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:26 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I write to voice my extreme opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal. If Republicans have to push a bill through very quickly, without a thorough review and without waiting for a CBO review, don't you think this is an indication of something very wrong, both in the bill and in the process? If, rather than working to improve what we already have in place, all legislators want to do is "repeal and replace," do you not see that as a warning sign?

Instead of focusing on hate and on removing an Obama legacy, this bill must focus on the ability to take something somewhat flawed and to use everything in your power to improve that legislation. Let overhaul of the ACA be your legacy – your proud moment. Prove to us that you value your country over partisan politics.

I am very discouraged that, instead of continuing down a bipartisan path and working on issues to improve the strength and stability of the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) marketplaces, the sponsors of this legislation have put forward a proposal that will:

- Eliminate the financial assistance that helps millions of Americans purchase health care coverage;
- End expanded Medicaid coverage that Americans rely on;
- Gut Medicaid through deep, permanent cuts that would grow over time and threaten care for hundreds of thousands of low-income seniors, children, and people living with disabilities and shift massive costs and risks to states;
- Jeopardize access to life-saving and effective treatments for addiction and weaken states' efforts to address the current crisis of drug overdose deaths
- Undermine essential protections for people with pre-existing conditions and do away with essential health benefits that provide robust coverage;
- Resurrect - *and worsen* - the devastating cuts in coverage and benefits that the American public and the majority of Congress have already rejected.

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal threatens the health and financial security of millions of American seniors, low-and moderate-income families, people living with disabilities, veterans and people with preexisting conditions. It undermines years of work that this state has undertaken to advance access to affordable coverage for our residents. Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson does nothing to improve affordability or availability of coverage for consumers and will likely result in millions of Americans losing coverage by 2027, will undermine the financial stability of our health care system, destabilize the private insurance market, and place significant financial strains on state budgets.

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

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

This proposal takes away secure coverage from millions, and replaces it only with the possibility of inadequate and temporary coverage. It ends the ACA's successful Medicaid expansion, which has extended coverage to nearly 12 million newly eligible low-income adults. It also eliminates the ACA tax credits that 10 million low- and moderate-income people rely on to afford coverage in the individual market. Although it replaces this funding with a block grant to states, the proposal offers no guarantee that states will provide an alternative affordable coverage option to former enrollees - and indeed the block grant is inadequate to pay for comparable benefits. Analysis has shown clear reductions in funding under the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal, as compared to current law. It appears unlikely that Congress would reauthorize additional funds for these programs at a later date, because the funds would no longer be in the baseline of the federal budget. Congress would therefore have to identify and reauthorize a new funding stream – something that would be extremely difficult, if not impossible.

Threatens care for low-income seniors, children, consumers with substance use disorders and people living with disabilities.

This proposal threatens the care of millions of low-income seniors, children, and people living with disabilities who relied on the Medicaid program even before enactment of the ACA. By capping and slashing funding for the traditional Medicaid program by 12% ($1,079 billion) between 2020 and 2036, the per capita cap will force states to cut payments to health care providers and health plans, eliminate optional services, and restrict eligibility for enrollment - all of which could restrict access to important health care services for Medicaid enrollees.

No eligibility category would be immune to the impacts of these cuts. Because children make up almost one-half of Medicaid beneficiaries, they cannot possibly be protected if cuts of this magnitude are enacted. In fact, the Avalere Health analysis shows children nationally will see a 31% cut to their funding. Cuts to Medicaid would also leave consumers with substance use disorders without access to the most effective treatments for addiction and to life-saving overdose medicine. And seniors and people living with disabilities would also face painful cuts, since Medicaid is the primary payer for long-term services and supports. Community Based Services - the services that keep people with cognitive and physical impairments home and in their communities - are "optional" in Medicaid. The fiscal pressure created by per capita caps will likely lead states to cut back on these services, forcing seniors and people living with disabilities out of their homes and into institutions for their care. And the burden will likely hit communities of color especially hard, where Medicaid enrollment is especially high.

Pushes massive new costs onto states.

All states would take on new risks and costs because this proposal converts the overall Medicaid program into a per capita cap. Under this proposal, the federal government would cap its payments to states for most enrollees, and those caps would grow more slowly than actual Medicaid expenditures, leaving states with insufficient funding to meet its current obligations. This is funding that in each state we cannot easily replace because of the various budget restrictions in state laws. In addition, states would be fully exposed to any unexpected health care cost increases, such as from a natural disaster, an aging population or medical innovations. The per capita cap alone would reduce federal Medicaid spending by 12% ($1,079 billion) by 2036.

On top of those cost shifts, the 31 states that expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act will face far deeper cuts. This proposal ends all federal matching funds for the Medicaid expansion in 2020. Some of the funds that the federal government would have spent on Medicaid expansion get rolled into the block grant, but the block grant doesn't make up for state losses because the block grant is inadequate overall, the formula

favors non-expansion states (it redistributes funding from expansion to non-expansion states), and it ends entirely in 2026, leaving states with no funding to replace the lost expansion funds.

Because federal dollars for Medicaid account for about 20% of state budgets, FitchRatings "believes substantial Medicaid cuts would require states to make material budget adjustments over the next decade and beyond."[1]And by pulling coverage from so many, this proposal would drive up uncompensated care costs on local communities, state budgets, safety net providers, and hospitals. This is a completely irresponsible and unacceptable burden to place on the states and our residents.

Increases premiums and out-of-pocket costs and destabilizes the individual market.

By repealing the individual mandate and eliminating advanced premium tax credits and cost sharing reductions, this proposal would drive up premiums and cause insurers to exit the ACA's marketplaces. As we know from previous CBO projections, repealing the individual mandate alone would increase the number of uninsured individuals by 15 million and cause premiums to increase by 20 percent. Furthermore, by replacing the financing of the ACA's financial assistance with a block grant without any guarantee that states would direct their temporary block grant funds toward financial assistance, this proposal puts millions of Americans who currently rely on financial assistance at risk for sharply higher out-of-pocket costs and coverage loss.

Beyond the impact of this proposal on individuals, insurers currently selling in state-based marketplaces would face extreme uncertainty. Because this proposal allows states to change the market reform rules under the ACA and because there are no requirements or standards on how states must use the block granted money, insurers would likely face completely unpredictable risk pools. To make up for this uncertainty, insurers would likely impose large premium increases to protect themselves from unpredictable claims costs or choose to exit the marketplace completely. This means that consumers who purchase coverage on the individual market would likely have fewer coverage options, much higher premiums and no guarantee of financial assistance to shield them from the increasing out-of-pocket costs.

Eliminates critical consumer protections.

This proposal allows states to eliminate one of the most popular and important consumer protections under the ACA - the prohibition on charging higher premiums based on a person's health status or a preexisting condition. This means that in states that choose to eliminate this requirement, insurers could charge individuals with even relatively mild pre-existing conditions thousands of dollars above standard rates to obtain the same coverage as someone without a preexisting condition. Additionally, this proposal allows states to waive the requirement that insurers cover essential health benefits including mental health services, substance abuse treatments and maternity care. This could lead to discrimination against segments of the population (e.g., older adults, LGBT community) or consumers with specific chronic conditions (e.g. mental health or substance use disorders). For example, this could return us to a time when insurers only covered short-term, minimal treatment for mental health or substance use disorders, if they covered it at all. Before the ACA, almost half of plans in the individual market excluded addiction treatment.

Lacks transparency and opportunity for meaningful input.

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

require the opportunity for stakeholders, including industry experts, providers, consumers and state policymakers to weigh in.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my objections to this cruel and risk-filled legislation.

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

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Davis McCallum <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:27 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham/Cassidy

Dear Sen Finance Com,

Please do not allow this rushed piece of legislation to pass. So many people will lose their coverage. The proponents of this bill have LIED to the American people about provisions that are explicitly in the bill. No one has read it. Please do the right thing and remember that your work in Washington has huge effect on American lives.

Thanks for your service.

Warmly,
Davis McCallum
Brooklyn NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Iacovella, Teri - Bloomingdale, IL [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:27 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My testimony for Monday 9/25/17 hearing on the Graham Cassidy bill:

My name is Teri Iacovella and I live in Naperville, IL. A strong GOP town. I have employer based health insurance and had been paying into it for 35 years and rarely really needed it except for physicals and birthing babies. In 2006, I found out that our 12th grader needed to be put in a drug rehab program. After being in the program for 3 days-3 days the insurance company stated that they would not be paying for more days. Our insurance guidelines stated that they would pay for up to 28 days. Out of pocket would cost $50k. When speaking with the doctors, they wanted our child to stay for the full 28 days, in calling our insurance carrier we found out money managers at the company felt it was too expensive. Not doctors, but bean counters who wanted to give money to stockholders and the CEO. (The CEO makes $30 million a year) Up until 2006 I had paid premiums for 25 years!! We had to fight tooth and nail to get them to pay for the services that we thought we were entitled too. It is bad enough that your child is facing a horrible disease, but worse to believe you have benefits and to be told sorry, money means more to us that your treatment.

Years later the ACA was passed and the ACA required that insurance companies provide certain basic minimums. And it allowed us to keep our children on until the age of 26 and they could not be discriminated against because of a pre-existing conditions including mental health. This was a life saver for our family and child. We can't go back to what is was like before the ACA!!!

We currently have 3 grandchildren on Medicaid, through no fault of their own. Not sure people realize it, but it not easy to find doctors that take Medicaid. Especially in a "red" city. But my grandchildren have a wonderful doctor and if not for Medicaid, my grandchildren would not have insurance. No physicals, no vaccinations, no glasses, no antibiotics for ear infections. Our story is not a heart wrenching story, where my grandchild has a heart condition or cancer. However, just think if 9 million children can no longer get vaccines. Without vaccines in many States, that means they can't go to school. (But I guess that's ok, because it will fill up those private prisons faster.) How can we not allow little children to get something as simple as a vaccine? Without the ACA, my grandkids will lose their coverage, and so will many other children who need oxygen to breathe, wheelchairs to get to school, asthma medication. 9 million children, how can you say you are pro-life and destroy these children's lives?

THIS IS EVIL!! This is not American. We take care or our weak, sick, elderly and poor. Every day I pray that we will Save the ACA.

I am vehemently opposed to the Graham/Cassidy act. It is unconscionable to me that our elected officials would even think of killing off the ACA, which has covered so many more Americans and decreased the trajectory of medical costs and imposing this new law which will upend the insurance and medical fields, and throw so many citizens off health insurance. From what I've read, not one industry involved in the medical field is in favor of this law. And neither am I. The Koch brothers will still support the Republicans, so put your reputations and your hearts above donations.

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Audrey Gormley-Veasley [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:17 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

I want you to fix the ACA, not pass this Graham-Cassidy bill which would be detrimental for so many of the citizens you claim to represent. Work with the Democrats and come up with a bipartisan solution that will actually benefit the people of this country.
Audrey Gormley-Veasley

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Claire Chalifoux [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:25 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable Care Act
Attachments: ACA Letter.docx

Hello,

Please see attached a letter that which I show my DISAPPROVAL and OPPOSITION to the proposed Graham-Cassidy Bill.

ALL HUMAN BEINGS HAVE A RIGHT TO ACCESS HEALTHCARE.

Thank you,

Claire Chalifoux

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ilyse [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:28 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy - Protect Medicaid

> Dear US Senate,
>
> The Graham-Cassidy proposal is an egregious attempt to take away health care from children and adults with disabilities and other vulnerable populations. It would devastate the state budget for health care in Massachusetts. I urge you to oppose this proposal.
>
> Thank you for your work.
>
> [redacted]
>
>

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ralph Vitt [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:28 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it changes medical insurance from a Defined Benefit concept to a Defined Contribution format. This will result unexpected and higher out of pocket costs to people who can least afford them.

Block grant money in the hands of 50 state governors and legislatures has little chance (if any) of getting to its intended purpose and to the people who need the help.

I know the goal of the Senate is to get 51 votes regardless of how the legislation affects Americans. This is not good governance.

Sincerely,
Ralph Vitt

Ralph Vitt

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jessica <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:28 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I OPPOSE GRAHAM-CASSIDY

To the Senate Finance Committee,

The proposed Graham-Cassidy bill is a disgrace. It should not be passed. It will not "Make America Great". It will punish people for having babies and getting sick. Do not pass this bill. Vote your conscience, for once. Help people instead of hurting them.

Sincerely,
Jessica Green

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David Fisher [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:28 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy!

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

The Graham-Cassidy bill must be defeated at all costs! This horrible bill represents the height of the Senate's negligence as a governing body. The bill has not been vetted with any of the most affected constituent groups, nor has it gone through anything even close to resembling proper order of legislation. Never mind that it represents one of the biggest transfers of wealth in our country's history from the least empowered citizens to the wealthiest, it will also remake a huge portion of our country's economy without any real hearings, citizen input, or even a clear understanding about what the bill will do.

We do know that it will place an untenable burden on states and yank health care from tens of millions of Americans. As a result, many tens of thousands of our citizens will die needlessly -- simple as that.

This bill represents a reprehensible dereliction of duty by our GOP senators and will affect every American -- almost all of them for the worse. The only ones who will benefit are the wealthiest Americans who are funding the GOP senators' campaigns. This bill and the way it's being undemocratically rammed through embodies all that is wrong with our government.

Health care is not a commodity, it is not a luxury, it is not comparable with cars or phones. Health care is a right that we as the richest nation in the world cannot morally deny any of our citizens.

You must oppose Graham-Cassidy.

Sincerely,
David Fisher
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Valerie ElGhaouti [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:29 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: healthcare on the record

Good morning,

I write to you this morning to contribute to the decision of whether to repeal the Affordable Healthcare Act. NO. I'm not asking anymore. I've asked when you attempted the first second and third time and I'm sick of it. I'm demanding, pass single payer or at least fix what we have but every living person in this country needs healthcare as much as or more than they need the road to get to the hospital or the library or fire department or any other publicly funded service. You work for us and we need healthcare. This latest "plan" is garbage that should never be considered.

Thank you,

Valerie ElGhaouti

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: cks[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:29 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Save the ACA

Please vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill. Too many people in the country will lose benefits. It's wrong to give people insurance coverage that works for them and turn around and take it away.

There are ways to work on the ACA without totally repealing it. You may think that your constituents want you to keep the promise of repeal and replace but you would end up hurting more of them than you would actually help.

It's time to put country before party and do what's right for ALL Americans.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sheare Bliss [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:26 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Deathcare

I have a four year old grandson, a daughter and a son-in-law with life threatening food allergies. I am talking full blown anaphylaxis, not an upset stomach or a rash. My granddaughter, his twin sister, was either very lucky when her teeny tiny just fertilized egg cells were recombining the genes from each parent, or just very lucky she hasn't been exposed to anything yet that triggers anaphylaxis. My daughter

My daughter, who had just graduated from high school, joined the Navy in 2002 and they wanted her badly enough to let her wear running shoes instead of boots at Naval boot camp, to no avail. Her tendons were loose enough that her feet suffered permanent damage. Her pregnancy with the twins was so difficult that it is likely they would have been born prematurely and thus reached their lifetime cap before they went home.

My son, who was in the Air Force, suffered an injury to his foot that led to having it completely reconstructed which, naturally, is now a pre-existing condition. His daughter, knock wood, so far has none.

My father is 85, on a fixed income, and is a cancer survivor. Yup, pre-existing.

I have fibromyalgia, which medical research in more enlightened, less anti-science nations suggests is an autoimmune disorder. I also suffer from hypothyroidism (also considered by some medical authorities to be auto-immune), cervical (that's neck for the medically illiterate) disc degeneration, a prolapsed lumbar disc, a partially disabled right arm as a result of shattering my elbow in a fall in 2015, and migraines. All pre-existing, check.

And my family is actually pretty fortunate. I may not like my ex-husband much, but his wife has MS and just had surgery to replace a heart valve. Since it was his fault I had to file for a medically caused bankruptcy twenty years ago, I can't say I'd weep for him if he had to, but the Kochs and the GOP should know he votes Republican.

Now multiply us by the 32 million for whom you are killing health insurance coverage. Seriously, do it. That's how many people you will physically harm if you pass this travesty. 80 million for endless war, but not one cent for healthcare, eh?

Well, the $400 million the GOP stands to earn from the Kochs may numb their consciences, but in spite of that, I urge you to reject this gratuitous cruelty and instead stop that lunatic in the White House from destroying the ACA and take action to fix an admittedly flawed, but beneficial law.

Thank you.

Sheare Bliss

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:29 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham- Cassidy

Hello,
I am begging you to abandon the Graham Cassidy bill and return to bi-partisan talks to stabilize the ACA market by shoring up insurance markets, stabilizing premiums and increasing participation of the young/healthy.

GrahamCassidy is NOT a better solution, it will negatively affect the older, poor, sick and disabled by decreasing Medicaid funding, and making it easier for states and insurance companies to not cover or increase rates on those that are older or have pre-exisiting conditions.

Please do not jam thru this bill, return to bipartisan talks for solutions.

Thank You,
Mary Wehking
Edwardsville, Il

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mona Stepczyk [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:26 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Hearing - My Personal Comments

I am a senior citizen who has several pre-existing conditions. I am an asthmatic and a cancer survivor. If this bill passes I will not be able to afford all my medication and insurance due to cuts in programs. I believe that follow up checkups and continuing care would be limited by sharply rising costs. This bill is not in the best interest of anyone with pre-existing conditions. It would also be a death sentence for many Medicaid patients who lose coverage and can no longer afford their medication or care.

I live in California and my state, which implemented Medicaid, would be penalized by this bill In order to give to states who chose not to implement Medicaid. I find this to be a dirty political ploy.

Healthcare bills should be based on bi-partisan efforts.

I believe that all congressional members should have to carry the same insurance that they implement with no exceptions.

Thanks for your attention.

A registered voter,
Mona Stepczyk

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michelle Williams [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:41 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO!

Please vote no to the current bill to repeal health care. Too many people depend on this to repeal it and deny them the ability to procure health care.

-Michelle Willams

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Noel Reed <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:41 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Stop acting like frat boys bullying up to the beer bongs. My god you look awful writing a healthcare bill that has no "health" care in it and then standing in front of the cameras laughing and patting yourselves on the back like you did something great. Then you went out and advertised it with blatant lies. How can you look your constituents in their faces and tell them thus us good, that they will have their Medicaid, their Planned Parenthood still open, their current coverages covered, their Pre existing conditions covered like they all are now when there are no stipulations, no guarantees that the states will pick these up. The federal government us not mandating any of these. Don't you think there should be? Just to make sure there's not a crooked politician at the state level, that's skimming off the top? It has been known to happen. Let's get real. This bill doesn't have a snowballs chance... Wait til Jan 4th and sit down bi-partisanly with the democrats and write up a bill that you and we can be proud of. In the mean time shore up the ACA, yes give it some temp money, to last for 6 more months to give you 3 months to draft a great Health Plan! Sound like a plan? Well part of it came from Joe Scarbough this morning, except for the money part! That was me! Get it together Repubs!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rosemary Dixon [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:41 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

I am writing to object in the strongest way possible to the proposed Graham Cassidy bill. Clearly, the AC is not perfect, but it has resulted in millions more American becoming insured over its lifetime. I am one of those Americans.

Due to the ACA I received the gift of a kidney transplant. Also due to the ACA, each month I receive a $10,000 infusion that keeps this kidney from rejecting. There is no other medicine I can take. I have no other option if I wish to live, to see my daughter achieve her dreams, to support my husband in our thriving small business. I love my family and they love me. We live in fear EVERY DAY that a bill like this could pass.

This is my particular story but I represent millions of other Americans in similar situations. Can you guarantee the American people that we will be better off if Graham Cassidy passes? Can you guarantee that those of us with pre-existing conditions will continue to receive life-saving care?

If you cannot honestly guarantee this, do not move forward with this bill. We have a right to be heard. This bill has been opposed by most major medical and disease/condition advocate organizations and many state governors. Please, please do not pass Graham Cassidy.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Dixon
PRescott, AZ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Howard Goldberg [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:41 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care "hearings"

The push to repeal the ACA has risen once again. As with the previous version, senators have not read it, do not fully understand it and it is not supported by the vast majority of Americans. All Americans have the right to evaluate the entire bill along with a full CBO score including coverage loss and premium spike estimates BEFORE the vote. This bill is no better than the one that was previously written in secret and rejected. Please reject this as well. People across America simply DO NOT WANT THIS.

Thank you.

Howard Goldberg

Howard Goldberg

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kari I Gunderson [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:42 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Another health care story

Dear committee members,

I am a 63-year old Montana woman with a pre-existing condition. I had a hip replacement in 2015. As a state employee I have health insurance that helped pay some of my medical costs.
However due to budget cuts dictated by the Montana Republican-controlled state legislature we are facing significant cuts to many social service of up to 10%. Public education is one of the programs that faces extreme budget cuts. In order to keep my health insurance I had to accept to 50% pay cut. My salary is not sustainable and I will need to find another job or two just to make ends meet.
I looked into getting on my husband's health insurance plan but I cannot afford to pay $800/month. Please put yourself in the shoes of many struggling Americans and vote "NO" on the Graham-Cassidy health care bill. Montanans will suffer from the Graham-Cassidy health care bill. The Graham-Cassidy health care bill will make my life worse, not better.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Kari Gunderson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kim Ward [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:42 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Don't kill me

Dear Senators
I'm writing this in a desperate attempt for you to not kill me. I can't believe that I actually live in a country where I have to send an email to the senators begging for my own life. Are we a Third World country now?

I have a brain tumor. And without healthcare I will die. And if that isn't enough a drunk driver hit me while I was walking and gave me two more pre-existing illnesses. I live in the state of Tennessee that did not except Medicaid expansion. And you really expect me to believe that with the limited money that you're going to give this state by robbing from blue states that the state of Tennessee is going to make sure that I get healthcare? That is an out and out lie. Why you want to do this to the American people so that you can give your tax cuts to the 1% is beyond me. Is money that important to you. I also understand that the Koch brothers are threatening to take their money away from you. That is if you don't do what they tell you to do. Do you realize there's a term for that? It's called being a whore.

I can promise you this much. If you do not vote no on this bill and work with the Democrats to try to save the ACA I will work every second that I'm here to make sure that you are never reelected again.

And I will also tell you that if you vote yes on this death care bill you are committing murder, my murder. I am sick to death of waking up every single day worrying that I'm going to die without healthcare. what gives you the right to do this to me?

Sincerely
[redacted]
My cell number is a CA number
I'm ashamed to have a TN number

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jim Kopycinski [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:42 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Bill

I am a father of four who would be financially ruined had it not been for the ACA. PLEASE don't repeal or gut the ACA. My family would be devastated by this callous move!!

--
Jim Kopycinski
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Diane Pilch [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:42 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it will drastically cut dollars for essential medical care for all people.
The handicapped children with whom I work as a pediatric physical therapist rely on Medicaid monies to pay for essential healthcare, equipment, therapies, and services. Removing funding for these most deserving children is just not right.
Healthcare for all is the answer, Medicare for all.

Diane Pilch

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Rohr [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:42 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am appalled at the disregard for the American People the GOP is exposing. People who must unfortunately depend on a one sided unchecked government whose entire agenda seems to be "undo anything to do with Obamacare" FIX it don't destroy it just because of its name. Perfect wasn't it's immediate intent- getting better healthcare for the entire country was. This Graham Cassidy ridiculous so called healthcare bill is an insult to everyone except the ultra rich! Why bribe Alaska Senator and others with letting them have ACA Obamacare if it's so awful? What healthcare does Congress use themselves- who pays for it? US citizens? - our elected so called leaders take the best for yourselves and punish those who put you in office to do your job! You all work for citizens not some corp. HELP us by squashing this horrendous Graham Cassidy Bill!
Sincerely
US citizen!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dair Brown [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:42 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy

As a concerned citizen I have one simple comment on the Cassidy/Graham Healthcare bill:

Are we really going to pass a bill that reorganizes 1/6th of our economy without so much as a CBO evaluation? This is madness. Please don't do this.

As a wife and mother, a cancer-survivor, the daughter of a man who contracted his disease due to exposure to Agent Orange while serving in the United States Air Force, and a person who believes every word of the Sermon on the Mount and the Golden Rule:

Are we really going to pass a bill that would take away healthcare coverage from 30 million people, including more uninsured vets, children and those with pre-existing conditions? This is heartless. Please don't do this.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Jo Meteyer [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:42 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham Cassidy

I urge all members of the Senate Finance Committee to oppose the Graham Cassidy bill and any bill that will strip Americans of their health care coverage.

Graham Cassidy will be devastating to our citizens, especially for people with pre-existing conditions and the sick and vulnerable.

It is unconscionable to destroy the ACA which so many have come to depend on.. A bipartisan approach to fix the problems with the Affordable Care Act is the only way forward.

Mary Jo Meteyer

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Deb Lecos[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:27 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Pre-Existing Conditions

Dear United States Senators,

I live in Illinois where both Senators have are in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare. I'm sharing my story because I am gravely concerned with the lack of provision for mental health care. I am diagnosed with Post-Traumatic-Stress-Disorder, managed by twice-weekly sessions with a therapist at the cost of $160.00 per. My insurance covers $40 after I reach a $6000.00 annual maximum if the therapist is in network. If my qualified therapist is not in-network, which mine is not, the annual maximum is $20,000. I'm considered fortunate compared to many others with PTSD who cannot afford out of pocket costs or acquire health insurance. I can't actually afford the cost...college tuition bills for my kids who already graduated hang in the balance. Which means, not only is the cost of therapy an added stressor in a life already encumbered with enough stress, the economy of our country is involved.

There are millions of Americans with PTSD, many of them veterans, or survivors of rape and or child abuse. It is inhumane to make the lives of people suffering the effects of harm more difficult for them to get qualified care for their recovery. I understand Graham-Cassidy Healthcare just enough to know that citizens in certain states will have a better shot at desperately needed services, while others will not have the same opportunity. In my current PTSD situation, it is personally crushing to know there are other people suffering who are not receiving care. Graham-Cassidy Healthcare will exacerbate what is already an inequitable situation and bring more pain to people who carry more than their fair share of harm. Graham-Cassidy Healthcare also threatens my own meager insurance coverage. Please, VOTE NO and take a stand for survivors of war, rape, and child abuse. We need you.

I would be happy to speak with you, your staff, or other members of Congress if it would be of service in any way. Please let me know if I can help other people understand what no or little coverage for mental health care may be like for an individual suffering with PTSD.

Sincerely,

Deb Lecos

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Steven Nelson [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:27 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repealing the ACA

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee

I am writing to object in the strongest terms possible Republican attempts to appeal the American Health Care Act. Without adequate hearings and behind closed doors, Republican senators have created a draconian plan that is in actuality designed to end health care for as many people as possible without directly killing Medicaid, one of the country's most successful insurance plans.

No rational person would argue that Obamacare is perfect, but it has massively expanded access to health care in the United States. Without it, some of my friends and family would not be alive today. What I find so curious is the fact that Republican senators yammer on and on about how this legislation has made it difficult for people to have health care, yet they never cite a single concrete example of someone whose access to health care has been diminished by the ACA.

What you need to do is work across the aisles and improve what we have. Truth be told, if the choice were left to me (and to millions of others), the United States would adopt a single-payer health care system.

Again, I ask that you vote against the repeal of the ACA. Better yet, do not bring it to the Senate floor for consideration.

Sincerely,

Steven Nelson
Los Angeles, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Ellio[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:27 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it will result in millions of Americans losing their health care and will essentially generate 50 different health systems. Our health insurance system is already too complicated. This will make it even worse. PLEASE VOTE NO ON THIS TERRIBLE BILL.

Barbara Elliot

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Colleen Spagnardi [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a thoughtful, **bipartisan** Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. These discussions should include how such improvements can be financed to ensure Americans have basic, affordable health care.
Sincerely,
Colleen Spagnardi
Durham, NC [redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Enid Wood <[redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with affordability is this: my husband's 41-year-old cousin died because she could not afford to see a doctor after falling and hitting her head on a coffee table. She was a hairdresser and could not afford health insurance premiums, and was thus uninsured. A craniotomy (the same surgery that saved Senator McCain not long ago) would probably have saved Teri. In the richest country on earth, we should be able to insure all of our citizens, and assure them of medical care when needed, regardless of income, employment, or pre-existing conditions. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Enid Wood, Bastrop, TX

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: mary b kerr [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: mary beth e kerr
Subject: Please do not pass this bill

Dear Honorable Senators,

Please do not take away health care from your people to appease the president or your donors.

We need you to work to improve the Affordable Care Act. You can rename it.

The Graham-Cassidy bill would put me at risk of losing Health Care. If I lose health care I may lose the use of my left arm.

I was between jobs when I fell in May fractured my humerus. I am working to regain the use of my left arm so I can get a job.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Kerr
Santa Ynez, California

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Petra Farmer [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Deathcare aka trumpcare aka graham- Cassidy healthcare bill

I strongly urge you to vote no on this bill. As a matter of fact, as a citizen, I must insist that you vote no. We are (supposedly) a civilized country. Our citizens should not face bankruptcy because of a medical emergency. Our citizens should not be told they must die because they have reached their lifetime cap. Parents should not have to sit by and watch their children suffer. Our elderly should not be denied the help they need. Please stop trying to force these evil bills through. Sit down together, take the time, and come up with something good for our country. Again, I must insist you vote no on this bill. I am a citizen AND I VOTE!

Petra Farmer
[redacted]
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: S Horein <[redacted] on behalf of Susan Horein
[redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: oppose Graham-Cassidy proposal

I am writing to express my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy proposal and ask you to vote against it and work to stop it.

Thank you.

--
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ellen Jo Ljung [redacted]n>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Current GOP Healthcare Bill

This bill is a travesty that is harmful to America. Some Republicans acknowledge its inadequacies but plan to vote for it anyway, for purely political and self-serving reasons. How can the richest nation in the world spend more on healthcare and get much poorer outcomes than other developed nations? Because politics determine our values?

My in-laws were both diagnosed with hypertension in 1972 -- not surprising given their family histories. Yet my mother-in-law told no one of her diagnosis because she knew they couldn't afford meds for both of them. So Dad filled his Rx, and she did not. She suffered a massive stroke on her 55th birthday and spent 18 years as an invalid before succumbing to heart failure. Her story is far more common than it should be. Even if Senators don't care about the human suffering, the long-term ultimate cost of caring for her post-stroke [not only for the family but for insurance and the medical community] should give them pause.

As a nation we spend far too much in the last months of life and far too little on preventative care that would save lives, dollars, and suffering. Yet this bill impacts well-baby childcare and maternity care. How short-sighted is that?

This bill is wrong. It must not pass!

Ellen Ljung

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Meagan Badger [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

Please do NOT LET THIS PASS. We the people deserve better than this! We are human beings who cannot predict the future. Some of us are rich, some of us are poor. Some of us are healthy, some of us are sick. Either way, we're all HUMANS who deserve universal healthcare. Please do everything in your power to protect our health care and block this dangerous bill.

Meagan Badger
Louisville, KY
Wife
Mother
Daughter
SIster
Aunt
Friend
Human
American

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Valerie File [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Please don't let this bill pass. It is politically motivated and not in the best interest of Americans.

Please have hearings to hear opinions, suggestions and a bipartisan solution to health care coverage. Not so unreasonable, is it?

This rush does not make sense. Please take time and get it right. We are entrusting our well being to you.

Respectfully,

Valerie File
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Pampuch [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Lisa Pampuch
Morgan Hill, CA

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Roseann Petropoulos <[redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy

Please vote NO!!!! Our health depends on it.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Brandt <[redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect everyone's healthcare. No to Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

We should not be a country that kicks 32 million people off of healthcare, devastates working families or rolls back health history. As for the tax break for the wealthy and the profitable, why is it that they always find an avenue into the public trough.?

Do right by America.

Nancy Brandt
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: merin mione [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: comments on Graham Cassidy bill

I'm writing to explain my opposition to the newest repeal and replace of healthcare bill under consideration.

First, the vote shouldn't happen until the CBO has had a chance to score it in detail. This affects so many American lives, how can anyone vote now in good conscience in light of the list of healthcare companies opposing it?

Second, this isn't about making sure you act on campaign promises. The argument about healthcare has changed since the ACA law. It isn't about a yes or no any longer. Trump promised better healthcare for all with smaller premiums. This doesn't look like that promise either. You shouldn't have to be rich to afford medical care.

Third, trying to slam this in before Sept 30 shows us that the supporters are only concerned with the tax cuts for the wealthy and the Koch brothers donations. We need regular order where all parties work together for the best bill for the American people. That is what you should be focused on. Let Murray and Alexander work their bipartisan support changes for the ACA.

Speaking of wasting time, we have natural disasters going on in many parts of the U.S. Get the support bills complete and passed for Puerto Rico and the USVI.

My final reason: Medicaid, opiod addiction and mental illness need more funding not less. This bill doesn't provide that. You need to look out for the people that need help. They cannot help themselves alone.

Anyone who supports this bill doesn't support actual healthcare. They are more interested in politics. That is not what makes America great. We elect leaders to get things done that help those in the U.S. I consider you part of the problem if you don't help and are just trying to do anything the opposite of President Obama. Hate is not a virtue.

merin mione
edmonds, wa
healthy right now, but who knows when that will change

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jacobson, Rich [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy

We have several family members with pre-existing health conditions. My sister has lupus, I am a cancer survivor, my brother has a pre-cancerous condition. Because of the lack of consumer protections offered in this plan, it is unconscionable to move forward with this bill. It will literally kill people. A civilized nation can't and won't stand for this irrational and harmful behavior. I recently protested next to about 50 fine people in wheelchairs, all scared to death you would take their Medicaid away, sentencing them to a slow death. The mental anguish you are causing is mean and horrific and benaeath the offices you hold.

Rich Jacobson
Austin, TX

Sent from my iPad

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cynthia Colvin <[redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

My family relies upon affordable healthcare. My husband has thyroid cancer, my 2 children have limited incomes. If this bill passes, it would impact all of us. For this reason, and because I believe ALL Americans deserve affordable and quality health care, I strongly oppose the bill. I would like to see a bi-partisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.
Thank you,
Cynthia Colvin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Arnold Woodruff <[redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stop the Gillespie-Graham Bill

I have worked for 40+ years as a behavioral health professional, spending nearly the entire time in publicly funded mental health and child welfare agencies. The reductions both immediately and long term to funding for services the most needy and the most vulnerable, as proposed in this latest dashed-together insult to the American intelligence, would cause untold damage (mostly untold as CBO hasn't even had a chance to rate it due the the dashed-together nature of the process (?) utilized to sneak this across at the last minute). I have worked most recently in Virginia and we are already a very penurious Medicaid state who has not allowed the expansion under ACA due, in large measure, to the same kind of cruel and unhumane thinking (?) that has gone into this latest monstrosity. The very wealthy due very well. They don't need more tax breaks and, in fact, tax reform is where all of Congress should be placing their intellectual energies to close loopholes designed by the rick to serve the rich and the corporate world. We, as a country, are not "taxed enough already" and are among the lowest in the first world in what folks actually pay in taxes. To destroy the sickest, the weakest and the poorest, as Gillespie-Graham appears to do, is beyond reasonable explanation. Please stop this bill, work together across the aisle to fix the acknowledged problems with the ACA.

Arnold Woodruff
[redacted]

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sandy Roseburg [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re:Graham-Cassidy Healtcate

NO on Graham-Cassidy bill

This bill does not help those who need it the most.

Sandra Roseburg
[redacted]t
Nampa, Idaho 83687

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy Sweitzer <[redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to Graham-Cassidy

My family and I need good, affordable healthcare. I have pre-existing conditions. With regular treatment, I am a productive, high-functioning citizen, worker, and member of society. Without treatment, I would be extremely ill and would be unable to care for myself or others. Many Americans are in this position. We cannot reasonably expect to be a successful and high-functioning society if we do not accept this reality.

My very young nephew has already been diagnosed with a pre-existing condition. No one should support a bill which would essentially destroy his chances of living a healthy, productive life.

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Congress needs to work together to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Providing quality healthcare should be a bipartisan issue and should be an opportunity for both parties to work together responsibly to build something of lasting value.

I am one of Senator Graham's constituents and I will also be sharing my thoughts with him. I am disappointed that he is proposing this bill.

Sincerely, Amy Sweitzer

Spartanburg, SC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Emma Ewert <[redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

To Whom it May Concern,

I and my family rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with healthcare is that I grew up with healthcare through my father, who was a teacher, and I saw how the comprehensive healthcare we received through the government allowed us to manage my father's diagnosis, illness, and eventual death with dignity and peace. We never had to pay for his many expensive procedures, which allowed us provide him with quality end of life care in other areas.

However, as I have transitioned to getting my own health care, I have had to deal with getting mental health care to help me process his illness and death. This was extremely difficult until I was able to qualify for ACA healthcare in Washington State. There are still challenges, but I worry that with a diagnosis for depression and a family history of cancer, without affordable health care, I will not be able to afford the coverage I need and deserve. The same goes for my two sisters.

I have since moved from Washington State, as have my sisters, and our experience with health care in states that did not choose to expand Medicaid through the ACA has shown us that the biggest problems with the ACA are not in the bill itself, but in the way that states are responding to it. For example, it took 6 months and many hours on the phone for my sister to get her bills covered by her insurer when she broke her leg while living in Texas, while when a similar thing happened to a friend in Washington, everything was covered automatically.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA and make sure that it applies fairly to ALL citizens of this country, but I do not want to see it repealed.

Sincerely,

Emma Ewert
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kay Sweeney <[redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Hello fellow Americans.....I write in opposition to the above bill. As a psychotherapist, I am acutely aware of my clients', the majority of whom have opioid addiction, needs for health care and drug treatment. Many of them were able to get into therapy because of the ACA. You are all aware of the crisis of opioid addiction in our country. There is also a large percentage of the population with mental illness and their well-being depends on access to treatment.

When you vote, please treat this bill as you would want us to treat it if our positions were reversed. You are all fortunate to be in the upper socioeconomic level of society. Please vote with kindness, concern and compassion for others. You were voted into your offices to represent us....the "common folk" who feel the same pain as you all when you are sick and unwell. Most of you claim to be "God-fearing" people. You know the right things to do.
Please have some respect for the enormous responsibility you have to ALL Americans. You sure took care of your own health care.....So you ALL know what a good health care program is.

With my fingers crossed that you will prove yourself people of integrity and courage,

Kathleen Sweeney, LICSW
[redacted]
Sherborn, MA [redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amanda Davis <[redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Republicans: People over politics may not mean much to you. It's trite. But the reality is that so many of the weakest in our society would be hurt by this. Maybe you don't think they're voters and so they don't matter. Maybe you think they're victims of their own choices and don't deserve health care. Or they're lazy and should be getting coverage through high powered jobs. But I know you understand that they will not be able to afford the coverage they need if this is passed.

If you don't care about them then at least you should consider whether your chances of re election are better for going along with the party line or for being responsible for the illnesses or even deaths of those who lost coverage. Because that will surely be well reported and the blame placed on those who voted for this bill. And those numbers will huge.

Thank you.

Amanda Davis
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Wendy Anderson <[redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Sirs and Madams:

Affordable quality health care is a life or death situation in my household. As a cancer survivor of ten years, continued diagnostic procedures are essential. As the parent of a teenager with debilitating emotional disorders, I feel even more keenly the need for medications for her. My husband lost his job two years ago and has not had steady work since, though not for lack of trying. I am a freelance teaching artist and do not receive medical benefits through an employer.

All of these situations and more leave us utterly at the mercy of a government we have paid our taxes to all our lives. With Obamacare our daughter has been able to receive the care she needs to have a chance at building the tools she needs to become a fully-functioning, happy and productive--taxpaying--adult.

I implore you, do NOT repeal the ACA.

Very sincerely,
Wendy Anderson Epstein

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: chefjoesb . [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Aca

Majority of Americans do not want THIS. I do not want this! Bipartisan bill is the only way to fix things. Please listen to the majority!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Theron Schultz [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Theron Schultz
Madison, WI

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Adrianne Middleton [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham-Cassidy

I have worked hard all my life, and I've been lucky enough to have had good insurance from my employer. All that changed when I was laid off 18 months ago. I have chronic fatigue, mold infections from the 9/13 flooding in Boulder, and Lyme disease. My COBRA has run out. I have put away money for retirement, but with my current insurance and medical bills, I'm paying over $20,000/year. If Graham-Cassidy passes, that will most certainly increase. And with my pre-existing conditions, it could increase well beyond my means, or the means of most Americans. Please do not vote against healthcare for myself and for 32 million Americans like me.

Thank you,
Adrianne Middleton
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judy Forester <[redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassity bill to repeal ACA

Hello. I'm writing today to explain why I want you to vote no on the Graham Cassity bill, and what health care legislation means to me and my family.

I have asthma. My son has kidney disease. If I lost my job and had to find health insurance on the open market without the ACA protections for preexisting conditions, my son and I would be uninsurable. Yes, insurance would be available, but I would not be able to afford it because companies would be allowed to charge me astronomical rates because of our preexisting conditions.

Please vote no on any legislation that eliminates or reduces protections for preexisting conditions.

My mother recently died after a 15 year battle with alzheimer's disease. For the last 4 years of her life, she needed 24 hour skilled nursing care in a locked down memory care facility. The cost of that care far exceeds what an average family can provide and was therefore covered by medicaid. Cuts to medicaid funding mean that elderly people in nursing homes will not get the care they need and deserve.

Please vote no on any legislation that cuts medicaid funding.

Thank you for your time and your service to our country.
Sincerely,

Judy Forester
Gainesville FL
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Schenkenfelder [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.
I have been lucky enough to have access to quality, affordable healthcare my whole life, but I know there are so many people around me who have not been so lucky.
This fall I got pneumonia and was able to receive treatment at very little cost to myself. I found myself reflecting on how difficult the process of getting diagnosed and recovering was, and how much more difficult it would have been if I had to worry about the cost of treatment as well as my health. I was able to follow up several times with my provider when I had concerns about medication not working or my symptoms not improving. Without access to affordable healthcare I likely would not have gone back in to the doctor for continued care, and would have continued to struggle to be successful at school and at work.
All people in the US deserve the ability to receive the same basic standard of care I received. The GCH moves us away from that, far away. I would encourage you to reflect on how you can best serve your constituents, not on how you can best score political points.
I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.
Sincerely,
Mary Schenkenfelder
Ames, IA [redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stephenie Gleason [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with affordability is: I was working for a non-profit that does not offer affordable insurance options. The cost for my family of three would have been over $900 a month for a high deductible HMO plan. We chose to split our insurance, I went under the company plan solo, and my husband and child went on a private high deductible PPO plan. This allowed us to keep the monthly premium below $700 a month. The downside was that if all of us needed extensive medical care, we would have to pay two policy deductibles (totally $7500) and be responsible for two policy out of pocket maximums ($20,000). I do not think families should have to go through the hassle we did, and risk possible bankruptcy in the event of an emergency, just to be able to have an affordable monthly premium. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Stephenie Gleason
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Hearing, Monday Sept. 25 2017

My family relies on quality affordable health insurance. Because of this, I OPPOSE the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Here is a brief version of my story - on August 3, 2006, my oldest daughter Sara died of sudden cardiac arrest, due to a condition called hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. My other child, Rose, also has HCM, and is only alive today because she received an implanted defibrillator that saved her life. She required ongoing medical care with specialists, otherwise her life will be at risk. I am afraid that this proposed bill will not protect her right to affordable health insurance, given her preexisting condition.

I have already lost a child, and this bill threatens the life of my only surviving child. Millions of other American lives would be threatened by this bill's provisions. Please vote NO.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
Miv London

Miv London, [redacted]

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joanna Myers [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Say No to Graham-Cassidy

To Whom it May Concern:

I am very concerned about Graham-Cassidy. As a Physician Assistant, I see many patients per day who depend on Obamacare in one way or another: out of pocket maximums; no denial due to preexisting conditions; access to primary care providers for check ups at $0 cost for the first time in years. But it is not just my patients for whom I fight - it's for people like myself as well.

You see, when I was younger, I slowly realized there was something wrong with me. But I was unable to afford health insurance since I was a poor master's degree student. I knew I couldn't go to the doctor and get diagnosed with anything due to the rule of pre-existing conditions. So I let it go. And let it go. And let it go. And eventually I purchased some health insurance with an egregious co-pay and a ridiculous deductible, and went to the doctor. Luckily all that was wrong was uterine fibroids. I required a massive surgery that cost upwards of $25,000 out of pocket, and $12,000 with my insurance. I was far too poor to pay that at the time — I was in school full time to become a PA — and the debt was thankfully written off. But what if I hadn't been? What if I had been one of the thousands of people who hedged their bets because they couldn't afford insurance, but still was employed? I would have been financially ruined. Obamacare changed that for many people. Thank god I didn't have a cancerous tumor or a long-term condition, but I know many people who do. And the costs of treatment for just months or a year are enough to financially ruin them without the rules of the ACA. The ACA is literally keeping people alive who would have either died, gone bankrupt, or both.

Insurance companies need more regulation, not less. Until every single one of them is not on the Fortune 500 list, they can and SHOULD afford providing good health insurance for ALL Americans.

Do not let the egregious bill that is Graham-Cassidy pass. You are more decent than that — or at least I hope you are.

Respectfully,

Joanna Myers
Virginia Congressional District 10

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ron Karnack <[redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO ON DEADLY HC BILL

This bill is worse than other offeringA from the GOP. It serves no other purpose than to secure this tax cut to the 1% you cherish and take money from. Quit being robotic cowards and choose the lives of the citizens. Choose bi-partisanship. REAL bi-partisanship. Quit dicking around with people you do not even know.

Sent from The Batphone.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susann Fletcher <[redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy hearing, Mon Sept 25

I rely on quality health care and adamantly oppose the Graham Cassidy Bill. Before. ACA was enacted, I was without health insurance for seven years. If anything happened, I would end up in the ER on Charity Care (I live in NJ). Basically, they patch you up and get you out of there as quickly as possible. Once ACA was implemented I could afford routine checkups and blood work. I was discovered to be borderline diabetic, with severe osteoporosis and a condition called Ellars-Danlos Syndrome which was severely limiting my mobility. I took all of this information to heart and made some drastic lifestyle changes to improve my health, and went on daily injections of a drug called Forteo, which actually builds new bone and is ridiculously expensive ($7000 per month). Did I mention that I am a professional actor, singer, dancer? In order to make a living I need to be able to move and to not worry about fracturing bones while onstage.
Without ACA, I would probably be barely able to walk right now and most likely be trying to figure out how to afford insulin because I would have converted to full blown diabetes. Because of ACA I could regain my health and start working again. This year I qualified for six months of private insurance through my union. In Sept, I converted back to ACA. (Cobra would have been $1000 per month...ACA is $250 with vouchers) I know no one will read this. I know your party only cares about destroying President Obama's legacy. You don't care about the people this affects. You only care about ego and producing a "win". Shame on you for trying to ram this bill through. Shame on you for putting your party above the health of the citizens' of the US.
Look. It's really simple. You either have to subsidize health care or regulate the health care, health insurance and pharmaceutical industries. You can't strip us of our health care AND allow these industries to be unregulated. QUALITY, AFFORDABLE health care should be a right of ALL CITIZENS not just the wealthy If you really want to do something positive, instead of something punitive, put forth a BIPARTISAN congressional effort to improve ACA, not replace it.

Susann Smith
[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tim Milton [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: UnAmerican!

Greetings to you!

The attempt to ramrod GCH thru Congress is little more than political posturing at its worst. With so many Americans poised to be negatively impacted by a bill that has not been properly debated--or debated at all, really--the designers of this bill should be ashamed.

Do not do this to America. Withdraw this bill now.

Sincerely,
Tim Milton
[redacted]

Yep...the iPhone!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

To the Senate Finance committee,

When considering the Graham Cassidy bill please decide not to pass it. Not only it is inherently unfair and detrimental to millions of citizens like me who can't afford hospital bills even **with** the minimal coverage afforded at the moment, but it will cost the nation more in the long run due to uncovered sick people. The fact that congressmen and women have better health insurance than the general population lessons the motivation to work through and change whatever is wrong with the Affordable Care Act in a way that benefits the nation. Being elected is a service and not a career. We must all serve the nation. Standing behind ideology in the face of a crisis such as national health care should be cause for termination. Work together or leave Washington.

Bob Williams

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

This legislation will devastate many seniors. My 93 year mother lives in assisted living, has severe dementia and is wheelchair bound. She needs Medicaid assistance. She worked hard until she was 82. She has always paid her taxes and been a good citizen. She is among many to do so.

Please fight this legislation! It is obscene that 60 million additional monies have been given to the military budget. We can and must care for our seniors's!

Respectfully,

Hollis Welch
Culpeper, VA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rob and Bern [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: #GrahamCassidy - NO

To ALL Senators,

Please vote NO on Graham Cassidy. Instead of jamming through this "repeal and replace" bill by Sep 30, that the country doesn't want, please work toward the COMMON goal of all Senators and the American people: affordable healthcare for all citizens with guaranteed coverage for pre-existing conditions and no lifetime cap.

Our country is better when we work together. Please unite the country by showing that the Senate can respect each other to reach its common goal.

We are counting on each of you!

Thank you.
Bernardine Walker

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Seroka [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

[Susan Seroka
Sicklerville NJ

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Richard[redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham- Cassidy bill

Senate Finance Committee,

We ask that the Graham-Cassidy bill (or any bill) be processed the way the Senate was intended to do so: deliberate, considerate, courteous, careful, respectful and not rushed. Senator McCain reminds of this process routinely. He is correct. The Founding Fathers designed our Government to work slowly and deliberately for these matters. Please keep the Senate the honorable, level headed body it was intended to be.

Do not push the Graham- Cassidy bill forward in a rushed, unstatesmanlike like process. Americans expect their Senators to represent them and their best interests.

God Bless America

Respectfully,

Richard Correia & Janet Gore
Fairfax, Virginia

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dawn Kinney [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

The Graham-Cassidy bill is an abomination. Please throw it with gusto into the nears trash can.

Dawn Kinney

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Caitlin O'Connell [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill is a nightmare

Hello,

My name is Caitlin O'Connell, and I am a resident of New Jersey. The Graham-Cassidy "healthcare" bill is horrific, cruel, and an utter disaster.

I work in publishing, and am lucky enough to have healthcare provided by my employer. However, writers - the people whose creativity and brilliance fuel our industry and enrich all our lives in every possible way - are freelancers, and do not receive healthcare from their employers. Many writers use the ACA to be able to write and provide healthcare for their families. Many writers need the ACA to stay alive, because writing - a job that can be done from home - is the only job they can sustain around mental illnesses or physical disabilities.

Many millions of people will have their healthcare taken from them by this bill. Many thousands of them will die.

If you have ever learned something from a book, ever loved a book, ever had a story make you smile or make you feel something, please, support the writer of that book. Let them continue writing. Let them continue making the world a smarter, better, and more joyful place. Support the ACA, and vote NO on Graham-Cassidy.

Thank you.

-Caitlin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Katherine Gamble [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

To whom it may concern;

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare with protections for pre-existing conditions. My husband was born with an endocrine disorder that requires regular care and medication through his entire life. My son has autism and requires the support of multiple medical and mental health professionals. My aging mother has a congenital connective tissue disease. The number of people in this nation with pre-existing conditions is staggering. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Katherine Gamble
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Harden [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement regarding the Graham-Cassidy Repeal Bill

I write this statement to express my thoughts about the Graham Cassidy Repeal Bill and to explain to you how the struggles our country has experienced with health insurance have affected me and others like me very personally. I was diagnosed with Hodgkins Lymphoma when I was 17 years old in 1984. I was lucky and after several months of surgery and radiation therapy I went into remission and have made a complete recovery. If I lived in a different country this would be the end of that story. Just a chapter in my life. Because I am a proud American citizen that diagnosis and successful treatment has followed me throughout my life.

For many years, I was not given the same rights to purchase health insurance as other people. I wanted to go to graduate school and become a psychologist. Because of our health care system, this decision wasn't the same for me as it was for other Americans. I did not have the freedom to purchase my own healthcare and was forced to go without. This meant trips to the emergency room and health clinics and neglect of my overall healthcare. It was frightening and caused needless suffering.

Today, the Affordable Care Act has allowed me to purchase my own health insurance. I have my own successful business working with children and adults affected by cancer. I pay taxes and I am a good citizen of this country. I am now 50 years old. If this Bill is made into law, insurance companies will no longer be required to sell me insurance. I will have the choice of no health insurance at the age of 50 or to give up my own business so I can work for someone else and receive the healthcare I need. This is not acceptable to me and it should not be acceptable to you.

I am shocked and saddened by this bills desire to punish me and those like me for my health history. I have done nothing wrong, I have committed no crime and only seek to be able to purchase acceptable health care for myself as I age. This should be a fundamental right of all Americans.

I urge you to do the right thing and protect the american citizens you represent.

Sincerely,

Susan Harden, Ph.D.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bob Griffiths [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Health Bill

This bill will cause my family irreparable harm. We depend on affordable health care to work, raise our family and pay our taxes. We have one disabled adult child who depends on the support of Medicaid so that she can work and participate in life. Were she to loose that support she would end up no longer working and on the dole.
If passed as drafted this bill will cost individual Americans more than any bill in history. Please do not pass this bill.

Robert Griffiths
PO Box 20922
Juneau, A[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Miguel Penaloza [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I am writing to express that I do NOT support this bill. Congress should be looking for ways to ensure that more Americans are covered by health care and not less.

Miguel Penaloza
Arlington, VA

Get Outlook for iOS

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kate Chambers [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill hearing, Monday, Sept. 25

I am a nurse practitioner in a practice that serves only low-income people with serious chronic medical conditions. I serve Marine Corps veterans, former teachers, former administrative workers, housekeepers, school bus drivers, tailors, even a former jockey. The thing they shared was a life where their work contributed to their communities until illness made it impossible for them to continue to work full time, or even to work at all.

All of them have benefited from the ACA, either through subsidies or through the Medicaid expansion. They have been able to receive treatment to ameliorate the effects of heir illness and improve their health to the extent possible. Some have been able to return to work part time or to volunteer in community organizations a few hours a week. Some have been able to stay in the community rather than move into long-term care. Some have been able to die with dignity and as comfortably as possible with hospice services to ease pain and provide necessities.

I have always worked, and have always had employer-provided health insurance. But I am well aware of what a tenuous security that is. I've seen how easily one can lose security in my patients' stories.

I haven't had to rely on the ACA, but I've come close. I live with my son, who is a disabled veteran, and my husband, who is disabled by a rare disease. I am the primary support in the family - they have disability benefits, but my paycheck is necessary to keep us going - I pay the taxes and the mortgage, buy food, maintain a car, etc.

I was laid off when the practice I worked for cut out several departments last spring, and I saw how quickly one could need the security the ACA tries to offer...without my employment, we would have to live on savings. We could make it, barely, except for some large expenses that would be out of reach - like a car, and health insurance for me. My husband and son both have medical care because of their disabilities - VA and Medicare. I had no insurance without employment except COBRA, which was completely unaffordable, or insurance through the marketplace, which was manageable.

Fortunately, I found another job with a couple of months, and we didn't have to confront that. But I have been left with a fearsome awareness of how quickly we can, almost any one of us, need the support the ACA starts to provide.

It's not a perfect program - premiums are high even with the subsidies - but energy and capital are being spent foolishly on endless, fruitless, and cruel attempts to repeal. I have no idea how much of my money was spent on the 60+ times the House voted to fully or partially repeal the ACA, but it is too much and it makes me angry.

Please stop. The house and senate attempts at repeal would cruelly destroy a program people need and depend on - and its effectiveness is threatened by the chaos and uncertainty these attempts have caused.

Polls show quite clearly that majorities of voters now understand and want to keep the ACA - with improvements.

So please, stop wasting your time and my money. Earn what we pay you. Do the work you're supposed to do. Work together in a bipartisan manner, in regular order, as you are supposed to. Come to agreement quickly in the easy places. Negotiate the difficult places. Take the time needed to reflect and investigate and debate and consider and revise. Behave with the respect, integrity, flexibility, and creativity that is expected in every American workplace.

Please, get to work on fixing the ACA's problems instead of working to destroy it.

Sincerely,
Catherine Chambers, [redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Morgan Hall <[redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GC is a disaster

My comment is this: fix the problems with the ACA in a bipartisan way. Do not blow up our health system, economy and the lives of millions with this horrible, useless attempt at removing what the black guy did. The only way forward is to work together to make what we have better, not forcing horrible bills down our throats just so Republicans can say they actually repealed Obamacare.

Sincerely,
Morgan Ennis
Richmond, VA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Violet Perry [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham-Cassidy

Finance Committee,

This is a horrible bill, there is not one redeeming feature. Giant give away to the Medical device industry and wealthy Americans on the backs of the middle class and working poor, and Seniors is an abomination . Sneaky, underhanded methods which can only result in uncertainty and chaos. NO !, NO !, NO !

Violet Perry
violetperry@icloud.com
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carla Pyle [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am sharing my personal story regarding Medicaid in hopes it may persuade those senators voting for this damaging bill to please reconsider:

My husband and I faced the possibility of having to sell our house to pay for his medical costs when he was diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis 3 years ago. Since we are both self-employed, my upholstery business provided the sole income for us during that difficult time. Medicaid enabled his access to prescriptions and treatment, and he has since been able to return to work. We are hard-working, and don't by any means believe in getting a 'free ride'. We feel nothing but gratitude for the Medicaid program which has allowed us to stay in our home, and contribute to the community we are proud to be a part of. The Graham-Cassidy bill would convert funding for the ACA into block grants for the states, which would result in drastic reductions in essential services to those, like my husband, with pre-existing conditions, as well as many others.

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

Sincerely,

Carla Pyle
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hilary Babcock <[redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller.

As a physician, I can attest to the many patients I care for who were able to get insurance through the ACA. This security changed their lives and allowed the process of providing care for them to actually focus on providing care - not finding alternative funding for life-saving medications. The health of my patients improved with this coverage and we were able to care for more patients in the time freed by them having coverage.

As all my patients have pre-existing conditions, making no-cost-increase coverage for patients with pre-existing conditions optional instead of required would drive up costs and force many of them off of their plans. Saying that the outcome is on the state's or the insurance company's conscience instead of yours is passing the buck and the blame.

Graham-Cassidy-Heller would cause 32 million people to lose their health coverage while destroying Medicaid and harming some of the most vulnerable members of our communities, seniors and people with disabilities.

ACA could use some improvement - but don't throw the baby out with the bathwater in an attempt to meet an arbitrary and self-imposed deadline.

Hilary M Babcock, MD
St Louis, MO

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jean Hennessy [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because ....I believe that we need to slow down and fix an over-complex system with costs beyond what is necessary. My family lived in the U.K. For 25 years. Because of my husband's pre-existing conditions we couldn't consider moving back to the USA until the ACA came into being.
I am dismayed that we are considering further complicating and limiting people's access to health care by setting up a system where the state you live in determines what kind of care you can get at what price.

Jean Hennessy

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pat Johns [redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

To the Senate Finance Committee:

The Graham-Cassidy bill is an attack on America.

When you try to bribe Senator Murkowski with exemptions for Alaskans you disrespect everyone in the remaining 49 states.

When you do not allow my Senators to participate in the crafting of a health care system, you disrespect everyone in my state.

When you try to defund Planned Parenthood you disrespect every poor woman in eastern Kentucky.

When you lie about the contents of this bill you disrespect me.

You will eventually lose this contest and we will win, but the pain you cause for millions of people in this country with these callous bills will not be forgotten. Ever.

Pat Johns
Clermont Co. Ohio

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mara Evans <[redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: question to consider

If we have 50 different state systems of health care, what is going to happen when people move [job transfer, new job, moving to care for family member, etc]. It seems like potential chaos.

Thanks, Mara Evans, NC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Gerena [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearings on Graham Cassidy Bill

To the Senate Finance Committee:

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have two children who suffer from pre existing conditions. Both have asthma, and one suffers from juvenile onset of a serious thyroid condition, for which she takes daily medication for the rest of her life. As young adult women, they will also need future coverage for maternity care, childbirth, and God Forbid, any birth complications or child defects or disability coverage, which will not be guaranteed under the GC bill (Access does NOT equal AFFORDABLE COVERAGE that will be automatically provided as it is under the ACA).

In addition, my nephew suffers from EPILEPSY. He will soon turn 26 and he WILL LOSE HIS HEALTHCARE that he currently has under his parent's plan. Under the G-C bill, he will NOT be able to find affordable health care given his serious pre existing condition. Right now, even with HealthCare his parents pay HUNDREDS of dollars a quarter for his medication. Without Essential Benefit coverage and TRUE coverage for Pre existing conditions (not just ACCESS that will be UNAFFORDABLE or NON Existent) as required under the ACA, HE WILL DIE!

Not only is the content of this bill UNACCEPTABLE, the process has been MORE THAN AWFUL! I agree with Senator McCain (and I suspect many other Republicans do as well) that the Senate MUST return to REGULAR ORDER. That means applicable Committee meetings, ability to offer Amendments, Expert Testimony, and a true process of figuring out how to improve, NOT SABOTAGE, the ACA. We CANNOT reorder a SIXTH of the US economy in a few days, with a bill that was crafted in secrecy and without any real discussion, in a few days' time. As such, I would like to see a Bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, NOT repeal it.

Every Medical Group, Hospital Group, Insurance Group, 50 Medicaid State Directors, BiPartisan Governors, etc. are OPPOSED to this bill. I have attached some of their Opposition letters and public announcements to this email.

Respectfully yours,
Linda Gerena
Forest Hills, New York [redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Megan OConnor <[redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

I work in a hospital with doctors on the front lines of caring for patients and they all think Graham-Cassidy-Heller is a bad idea. We don't want this rush job! The American people deserve better.

Megan O'Connor
San Francisco, CA

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Baker [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing Monday Sept. 25, 2017

I rely on the ACA for affordable health insurance. I oppose Graham-Cassidy because I will not be able to afford insurance if it becomes law. Please improve the ACA and stabilize insurance markets.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Catherine Drew [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

My friends and family rely on quality and affordable healthcare. I oppose the Graham Cassidy Bill. My daughter has been a type 1 diabetic for over 19 years and she just had her first child. Without affordable health care, her intense prenatal care would have been out of the question and her pregnancy and the birth of a totally normal, healthy child would have been in jeopardy!!

I would like to see a bipartisan congressional effort to work on improving the ACA, not repealing it!

Thanks!

Cathy Drew

Newark, Delaware

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Dalton [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Say NO to Graham-Cassidy

Hearing on 9/25/17 @ 2 PM. This needs to be a decided NO. If passed, this bill will cause me as well as millions of Americans to go broke because I have Type 1 Diabetes. I am currently a productive member of society (I am a Nurse Practitioner) and in good health thanks to my affordable healthcare insurance. If you take this away from me, I will no longer be able to afford my medication nor my doctor visits. If this horrible bill is passed, my death is in your hands.

Sent from my iPad
Lisa M. Dalton, [redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rogard Ross [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on ACA repeal

Dear Senators,

My wife and I have ACA health care plans. We're over 50, we both have pre-existing conditions, and I am an independent contractor. My wife is a breast cancer survivor. I have had hyperthyroidism. Without the coverage and pre-existing condition protections guaranteed by the Affordable Care Act it is unlikely we - and especially my wife - could get useful health insurance. The Graham-Cassidy "Healthcare" bill would put both our financial and our health futures at severe risk. It would do the same to 30 million Americans.

This bill is opposed by just about everyone including the **American Medical Association**, **American College of Physicians**, **American Academy of Pediatrics**, American Hospital Association, American Health Insurance Plans, Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, JDRF, ALS Association, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, Arthritis Foundation, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Family Voices, Lutheran Services in America, March of Dimes, National Health Council, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, National Organization for Rare Diseases, Volunteers of America, Womenheart, and the AARP. Listen to the groups. Listen to the people.

Don't put my and my wife's lifes in jeopardy to vote on this truly horrible bill just to check the box on some half-baked campaign promise. If you want to improve healthcare in America work across the aisle to find a bipartisan centrist compromise that helps Americans instead of hurts Americans. We are watching.

Most sincerely,
Rogard Ross
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tim Reeves [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy hearing

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

Sincerely,

Tim Reeves
Portland OR

Sent from my BlackBerry - the most secure mobile device

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Krause-Byers [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: #GrahamCassidyBill

My son is thirty one years old and suffers from cystic fibrosis His lung function is at 22%, for you that would be like breathing out of a cocktail straw. My son wrote the letter below from his hospital bed. PLEASE READ HOLDOUTS ARE HEROES !

To the United States Legislature,

To those who would not be swayed or bullied. To those who went against the current of their party. Outliers, that would not allow a bill that affects so many, to be passed so haphazardly. I applaud you. I, like millions of other Americans, watched closely as our very lives were hanging in the balance. I watched as you stood up repeatedly against health bills that were unacceptable. You senators are heroes.

My name is James Krause. I am a 30 year old Virginia native that was diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis at birth. A chronic degenerative lung disease, my prognosis was bleak. My mother sacrificed all she could, to allow me to live the best I could with the time I have. The ACA has granted millions of people like myself, with hereditary diseases to live a full life. You stood for what is right and know that you do not stand alone. We, the silent ones that are too sick cry out. We are with you.

Sincerely, James Krause

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margaret Swezey [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

Dear Senator Hatch and Senator Wyden, and Finance Committee Members,

I'm writing because the Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill (GCHC) would have serious ramifications for my own health care. I was diagnosed 2 years ago with moderate-to-severe ulcerative colitis, an autoimmune disease. I had become very sick, missed a month of work, and was hospitalized. It took me a year to become healthy again. For what it's worth, the doctors assured me I had done nothing to put myself at risk for this disease.

This disease would be considered a pre-existing condition, so GCHC would jeopardize my health care in the future, according to numerous health-care experts I have heard discuss it.

In addition, the doctors have prescribed powerful medications to keep my disease in remission. It has been in remission for over a year, and I am able to live a normal, symptom-free life and contribute to society -- I work in the education field and participate in volunteer activities and civic life. Without this medication, I would be very sick. Unfortunately, this medication is extremely expensive -- thousands of dollars a dose. My insurance makes it possible for me to afford what is literally life-saving medication, but GCHC would jeopardize this situation.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional committee work to improve the ACA, not dismantle it.

Thank you,
Margaret Swezey
Durham, NC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patty Hardee [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Scrap the Graham-Cassidy healthcare repeal bill

The Graham-Cassidy bill is a bad deal for America. We need more access to healthcare for all Americans, not just the few who can afford the high premiums.

Don't cut Medicaid. Do you want to live in a country where the people who can least afford medical care may also be sickest among us?

Don't make it difficult or impossible for people with pre-existing conditions to get good, affordable healthcare.

If you think about it, we ALL have something that could be termed a pre-existing condition:

* An abnormal pap smear
* An elevated PSA count
* High blood pressure
* Herpes
* A heart murmur
* Seizures
* Migraines
* Asthma
* Depression
* Uterine fibroids
* Erectile disfunction
* Diabetes
* Basal cell skin cancers
* High or low Thyroid function
* COPD
* Etc.

And that's just to name a few of the more common conditions.

What do YOU have that might be considered a pre-existing condition? What do you or your families suffer routinely that YOU hope affordable healthcare will be available to treat.

Please let the mean-spirited Graham-Cassidy bill DIE, not more Americans from lack of affordable widely available healthcare.

Thank you.

--
Patty Hardee
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sheri Fox <[redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller in favor of the bipartisan bill the Senate HELP Committee was considering.

It goes beyond my understanding how you can't wait for a CBO score. Yea, I know, the September 30 deadline. Politics vs people and you want people to lose.

Also, I truly don't understand how any human being could want to pass the Graham-Cassidy-Heller bill as it would cause 32 million people to lose their health coverage. AND it would destroy Medicaid and harm some of the most vulnerable members of our communities, seniors and people with disabilities.I — Like my 83 year old mother. And other family and friends. Yes, this is personal. It's personal for everyone willing to read the fine print. Not that you care. I'm asking you to care.

Sheri Fox
Chicago, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Fishers [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with a variety of complex health insurance is lengthy and painful. We have basically been crushed financially by the increasingly expense of health insurance. Many features of the ACA are appealing, however making more move towards single payer and taking the insurance companies out of the picture as well as limiting the influence of big pharma on the system seems most desirable. The Graham-Cassidy bill would only cause harm to us. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.
Sincerely,

Mrs. Robin S Fisher
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: mary mclaughlin [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

Dear Senator :

I am writing this email to implore you and other senators on this committee to vote no on this healthcare bill. It is unacceptable. I have been a clinical social worker for 30 years and I can't tell you the importance of healthcare to the well-being of families, children and the communities they love in. The costs are far greater to a society that does not provide a safety net for vulnerable citizens. Please vote no. Thank you.

Mary L. Mclaughlin, LCSW

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Milissa Orzolek [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I was able to join Medicaid last summer during Louisiana's expansion. Because of this, I was able to see the doctor when I got a terrible parasite last summer, as well as able to get hearing tests early this year when I was worried about my hearing.

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

Sincerely,
Milissa Orzolek
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kristin Nilsen <[redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My personal statement about healthcare

My 15 year old son was recently hospitalized for severe depression and anxiety and suicidal ideation. And with that terrifying event came a new reality -- a preexisting condition.

If Graham-Cassidy is passed, which states will take their block grants but not cover him? Which states will choose to side with the insurance industry instead of my child? Which states will say it's okay to deny coverage to someone with a pre existing condition? Which states will decide the insurance companies don't have to pay for his mental health treatment? Without which those suicidal thoughts could come to fruition?

Will it be Mississippi? Alabama?

Perhaps you would advise him to just move to a different state to get the coverage he needs.

If so, maybe you should give that same advice to the coal miners whose mines have closed and the disenfranchised people whose manufacturing jobs have evaporated. Just move to find a new job.

I guess it all depends on whose vote you're depending on.

Kristin Nilsen
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dawn Proteau <[redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO!

The Affordable Care Act is not a disaster and the American people agree. Stop Trumpcare (Graham-Cassidy). It's a horrid bill that would see millions of Americans suffer. How about stop being horrible to the American people just for our own gains full stop! I'm so ashamed of the US, because of the government, right now. Take a stand a do what's right. Let Americans keep ACA, strengthen it and make the US a leader in the world again.

Sincerely,

Dawn Proteau
CA [redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: D. Purnell [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Pre-existing conditions

When I was 60, I was found to have a large "benign" brain tumor. At that time I had a major medical policy that had a $2000 deductible and cost $4000 a year. The premium rose an average of 40 percent a year! The deductible rose annually too.

The hospital bill alone for the surgery to remove as much of the tumor as possible was over $139, 000. This did not include surgeons, physical therapists, out patient pre surgery MRI scans, etc. The grand total was on the order of $150,000. They paid all but my deductible, thank God.

Instead of the annual renewal notice three years later, I got an apologetic letter from my insurance company of decades. Unfortunately, they were no longer offering my policy! Instead I could have a much more expensive policy that covered much less. Oh, but by the way, because I had a pre-existing condition it would not be covered. Period!

I took it. One year later I got Medicare under Obamacare. Good thing too. Within months my tumor recurred and required radiation that cost, all told, over $200,000. Medicare "disallowed" it down to $100,000 and my medigap policy picked up all but a few thousand of the rest, which we have finally paid off.

If folks become seriously I'll in a state which is forced to spread it's inadequate block grant under the GC version of Trumpcare by allowing insurers to offer policies to people with pre-existing conditions at market price, only the very wealthy will be able to afford coverage.

Don't kid yourselves. Hospitals will not get paid by the legions of uninsured, and many, especially in rural areas, will close. Large city hospitals will raise the price of an aspirin from $150 to $300, to cover the ranks of uninsured. And the insurance companies will prosper as always.

EVERYBODY pays for the uninsured! Even the Congress will pay if they have to travel 100 miles in an ambulance when they're having their heart attack.

NO to GC, the short-sighted monstrosity whose stench will hang with the perpetrators as long as people still get old and sick in America.

Dolores Purnell

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Houtrow, Amy [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Against the Graham-Cassidy bill

Hello,

As a person with disabilities, a physician who cares for children with disabilities and a researcher who studies how children with disabilities and their families interact with the health care system, I can definitively say that the Graham-Cassidy bill is bad for America.

A few points:

1. While flexibility for the states is a great talking point, it is only a great talking point. Medicaid is a federal-state partnership in which the states already have incredible flexibility. Increasing flexibility through block grants which is what Graham-Cassidy says it does, won't fix the problem of increasing health care costs. Further, it is a myth that flexibility would actually increase. It will decrease because the budget won't be able to fluctuate with need. This restricts options for the states. It is really an attempt to punish the expansion states. This is truly shameful. The political talking point of increased flexibility is built on 2 false premises: 1) that more flexibility will solve the problem of rising costs and 2) that there would be increased flexibility through the block grant process.
2. This isn't an ACA repeal, this is a full on decimation of Medicaid. People need health care to live productive lives and contribute to society. Medicaid funding would decline drastically. This would be terrible for the health of our country. Disrupting care for 70+ million Americans would throw our whole health care system into a tailspin.
3. People with pre-existing conditions benefit from the protections in the ACA
4. Eliminating the individual and employer mandates destabilize the insurance markets
5. The National Association of Medicaid Directors are opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill as are 100s of professional and advocacy organizations and a majority of Americans.

Obviously, we all understand that Republicans campaigned to repeal the ACA and that now is the time to ram something through because of the procedural opportunity. But, this isn't how good policy making is done. I hope that Senator Alexander will stand up and speak against the Graham-Cassidy bill which is both bad policy and bad process.

Thank you,

Amy

[redacted]

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Poleno [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I believe that Graham Cassidy Bill is not fair or just to Americans. States should not be choicing to provide or cancel coverage for pre-existing conditions. Pregnancy and mental health must be covered. The list gones as do the medical groups that oppose the bill. The only winner are GOP canditidates looking to be purchased by the Koch Bro machine.

Be mora,l not opportunists. And stop the sabbotaging of the ACA.

Carol Poleno

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Exec. Director SNRProject [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA Repeal ~Vote No

Senator Hatch, Senator Lee,

I am a resident of Weber County, Utah.

I work with a large number of individuals with disabilities. The majority have benefitted greatly by gaining insurance or Medicaid coverage despite their pre-existing medical conditions. This has allowed many to avoid bankruptcy and their family members with disabilities are beginning to thrive.

I have a 32 yr. old adult child with a physical disability, a 25 yr. old niece with multiple disabilities, 3 of my neighbors have children with varying autism spectrum disorders and 1 has a child with an "orphan" disorder. ALL of whom rely on Medicaid for the medical supplies and therapies they receive not covered by regular insurance programs. Prior to the ACA all of us had high debt ratios and the majority of these families, mine included, have either filed for bankruptcy or flirted with it. Several are still working hard to get out from under huge amounts of debt incurred before the law was enacted during the Obama administration.

Average medication costs for my child, per month, are over $5,000. Yearly equipment costs can be over $50,000.00. None of which is covered by traditional insurance programs. My neighbors all spend well over that amount for therapies and medications for their children. The family caring for their child with an orphan disorder has bills over $25,000.00 per month. Many of these services are life saving and are only covered by Medicaid.

I also have family members who, for the first time, have been able to obtain insurance coverage under the pre-existing condition clause. This has been life changing as they can now gain medical treatment they can afford which allows them to work and support themselves and their families without fear of bankruptcy around every corner.

Loosing pre-existing condition coverage, setting lifetime caps and decreasing overall medical coverage would be catastrophic for all of us.

Gentlemen, it is important that Congress return to the standard bipartisan process of rule of order when enacting legislation. You were voted into office to make thoughtful and smart decisions for your constituents. We are not seeing this behavior from Congress.

I strongly encourage you to REJECT the Graham-Cassidy bill as it would hurt our family and many, many others if enacted.

Sincerely,
Linda Jorgensen
Roy, Utah

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stacey Salant [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repealing ACA

I am scan er survivor. My family members all have pre-existing conditions. As a solo practitioner I use the ACA for my health insurance. Please Don't appeal this important plan.

Stacey L Salant, Ph.D.
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Teresa Goodell <[redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

This bill is hateful. There is little opportunity to vet it, the CBO can't accurately score its fiscal impact by design, it will harm millions of Americans and only the wealthiest will incur any benefit. STOP GRAHAM-CASSIDY. It is hateful and cynical.

Dr. Teresa Goodell

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kristin Nilsen [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: A new direction for healthcare, please.

I am a person of privilege. I have all the benefits that my race and class have afforded me. We have education, employment and paychecks. My family has good insurance through my husband's employer. And still, we are overwhelmed with bills for the treatment of my son's mental illness. We are lucky in that we can pay a little at a time from our ample paycheck. But it is not enough to keep the collection agencies from harassing us daily. If this system isn't working for me, who is it working for?

Kristin Nilsen
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joseph Szczesniak [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:50 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My father, mother, sister, brother in law, and nephews ALL are on medicare. They have preexisting conditions, disabilities and can't afford healthcare otherwise. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Joseph Szczesniak
Minneapolis, MN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joyce [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

[Your name]
[City, State]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Debbie Dean [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Committee Members,

Although I appreciate your efforts, the Graham-Cassidy bill will not provide quality, affordable health care to all Americans. As an individual who has pre-existing conditions, I am very concerned with the language in this bill and how it may affect my healthcare options in the future.

In addition, my career as a public school special educator opened my eyes to the struggle that families face when they have a child or children who have medical needs due to physical or intellectual disabilities. They depend on Medicaid to assist with the medical expenses for their child/children.

I urge you to do right by all Americans and work together in a bipartisan manner to craft a bill that helps all people and protects everyone's right to affordable health care. The AARP and the AMA have come out against this bill for good reason.

Please fix the ACA! The health of our nation depends on the health of all of its individuals. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Deborah Dean

Carmel, Indiana

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda West [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Please.

Linda West
San Diego, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: nancy white [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

TO: Senate Committee on Finance
RE: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

I am not in support of this bill. Why is it being handled in such a secretive manner?
PLEASE VOTE NO.

I am a proponent of guaranteed, quality healthcare for all. That's the least we should expect from the greatest country in the world.

Warm regards,
Nancy

NANCY WHITE
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Donald Anderson [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose!

I vigorously OPPOSE the Graham-Cassidy Act. It creates opportunity for division and treats states differently. Additionally, it leaves open the possibility of removing pre-existing protections which directly affect me since I have a medical history including tumor removal. Additionally, ramming through a bill that affects nearly 20% of our economy without bipartisan approach or the 60 vote normal threshold is an unconscionable breech of the trust given the Senate leaders. I will work to remove my Senators from office upon their next election cycle should they vote for this atrocity.

Don Anderson
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ronald John Meyer [redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Ronald Meyer
[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Allegra Martin [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: public testimony for Graham-Cassidy hearing

I am a professional musician, and at many times in my life have relied on my state's version of state care (in the past it was called Commonwealth Care) for my health insurance. When I have not been insured, I have felt stressed and scared. I am lucky enough to currently have a full-time job teaching, with benefits, but many of my musical colleagues, whom I rely on to perform with, and who create my city's musical culture, rely on having affordable healthcare that is not provided through an employer. Many of these friends and colleagues have serious conditions that need regular care.

I want to live in a country where I can do my part to support my fellow citizens' healthcare needs. I am perfectly happy if my own taxes increase to help take care of others. Please make a Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. In the future, I am in full support of a single-payer plan.

Sincerely,
Allegra Martin

Worcester, Massachusetts

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Teresa Harless <[redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Statement

I would like to add my statement to be included in Monday's hearing on this bill:

I am 61 and have been working part time (not by choice) since losing my full-time job a few years ago. I have been covered under the Affordable Care Act since its inception. Three years ago, I was diagnosed with agressive skin cancer on my nose. This required radical surgery to remove the cancer and two major plastic surgery procedures to reconstruct my nose.

I do believe that without the ACA, I would be either (1) deceased or (2) deeply in debt. Please do not repeal this life-saving law! People like me who are too old to get a full-time job with insurance and too young for Medicare are relying on it. We must have a guarantee of no "pre-existing conditions" and no "senior tax" in any changes to ACA.

Thank you.
Teresa Harless
Abingdon, VA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Meg Sewell[redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill comment

Dear Senators,

John McCain stated that he could not in good conscience support this bill, and I respectfully suggest that no other Senator should either.
The bill is rushed and will not have the benefit of full CBO scoring, but all indications (and the history of block grants in other policy
areas) suggests that millions of Americans stand to lose affordable coverage for essential health care. States would not be required to maintain basic coverage including pre-existing conditions, mental health care or maternity care, and the financial incentives of the block grants would be strong for states to weaken rather than maintain coverage.
Some Americans will unnecessarily face medical bankruptcy or even loss of life.

Sincerely,

Margaret Sewell

--
Margaret Sewell
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ally Gmail [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: OPPOSED to Graham-Cassidy!!

As a resident of the State of Georgia, we already struggle to cover the uninsured. The Graham-Cassidy bill will do NOTHING to help the more ham 300,000 people who have no coverage and significantly limited access to care. In addition, it does NOTHING to protect pre-existing conditions. This is a tragic piece of legislation that should be killed. The people of the United States deserve access to to coverage and care. This bill only puts up barriers.

Respectfully,
Allyson Burroughs
[redacted]r
Decatur, GA[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy Berning [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fwd: Keep Obama Care - don't take health away from people

Subject: Keep Obama Care - don't take health away from people

I urge you to refrain from repealing Obamacare. Prior to two years ago I rarely had any medical issues. Now I have chronic back pain, and thus a pre- existing condition. Beyond me, I don't want anyone worrying whether they can afford to go see a doctor when they are in pain.

Please work on constructive improvements to the existing system rather than a rushed change that will be disastrous to many.

Amy Berning
[redacted]
Fairfax, Virginia

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tamara Prince [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy-Graham

The Cassidy-Graham bill is no health care bill at all. Trump lies when he says that "previous conditions" will be covered; covering them will entail huge increases in premiums. Millions of people will be stripped of coverage. How can Congress pass such a bill, which has had no debate, no chance for amendments, has not come under "regular order". The effort to repeal the ACA is cruel and inhumane. The ACA is, in fact, favored by the majority of Americans.

Tamara G. Prince

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mark Cottingham [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Government,
We need much better healthcare in this country provided to everyone without it financially killing us! This country is suppose to be the best country in the world. Our medical coverage is controlled by money hungry insurance companies and pharmaceutical companies seeking huge profits. I work for a very small company that does not provide health insurance. I purchase insurance for myself and my wife through the current Obamacare exchange system. This system is definitely not great, but better than no insurance at all. We received our letter that our current insurance provider is pulling out of coverage in our state at the end of this year. We cannot renew coverage with them for next year. Choices get slimmer and premiums continue to get priced higher for poor coverage. We pay $1000 per month currently for medical insurance with $12,000 deductible before insurance starts paying medical providers. We cannot afford to make higher monthly payments for this type of coverage or worse coverage with higher deductibles. Elected officials in this country need to come together and work together to improve our healthcare. Having medical issues and not being able to pay or not being able to have treatment because of cost is unexceptable!!! Please help people in this country not throwing out solutions that hurt people. Do your jobs, try to have a heart, think about how this current method would effect your family if you didn't have medical coverage.

Thanks,
Mark Cottingham

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: LauriePhillips [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare.

Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

I'm self-employed and depend on the ACA to buy our health insurance. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Laurie Phillips

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julie Gildred Connolly [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Protect Our Health

My putting prices on preexisting conditions, you will make it so people cannot leave their jobs and build their own businesses.
If someone with less than perfect health loses their job, you will make it so they might never be able to be insured again.
Cutting Medicare will make it so that people with chronic debilitating health conditions will be moved into hospitals instead of living at home with subsidized care.
This Graham Cassidy bill hurts so many people, it makes one wonder who it helps?
Why pass hasty legislation that has not been fully researched when the initial analysis shows how dangerous it is to the health of your constituents?
Please reconsider this partisan, hurtful vote.
Thank you,
Julie Connolly
San Diego, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Willa Bandler [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: This is a terrible bill!

Americans deserve health care. This bill will kill people. If you pass it, it will kill your party. Just don't.

Yours,
Willa Bandler

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carmiel Banasky [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please reject health care bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee:
You must reject this health care bill if you care about the people in this country.
We need bipartisanship.
We need a CBO score.
We need to take care of those with preexisting conditions. We need health care for women, children, and outreach for addicts. Instead of providing this country with protections, instead of investing in our present and future, the Graham-Cassidy Bill offers us chaos. The price is too high.
Please, please, please reject this.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Heather Sanderson [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Keep the ACA

Three years ago my 67 year old husband lost his job. He was able to get Medicare but Myself (now 58) and our two daughters (13 and 18 at the time) were only fortunate in that we could get insurance through the ACA. I work for myself and while the ACA has increased in premiums it has also given us peace of mind. It also saved my life.
This year I had an abdominal aortic aneurysm. An emergency room visit resulted in surgery and a lengthy hospital stay. Without the ACA I would either be dead or we'd be bankrupt.
My condition requires extensive annual check ups which we most certainly couldn't afford without the ACA. It's not a perfect healthcare option but it's better than nothing. Instead of repelling and replacing why not put your energies into getting healthcare costs down?
Thanks for listening.
Heather Sanderson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Molly Bunder [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony for Graham-Cassidy Hearing

Dear Members of the United States' Senate,

My husband and I, who both work full-time for non-profits focused on public education, depend upon the reliable, affordable healthcare provided by the ACA. Therefore, we oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Our story is an ACA success story: I remained on my parents insurance until 26, and then purchased affordable coverage through the marketplace. I have a pre-existing neurological condition and fear I would be unable to afford insurance, and/or be unable to see my current neurological team were the Graham-Cassidy bill to become law.

My husband was able to return to grad school for a Master's degree because we knew he could purchase coverage through the marketplace while he was studying.

We would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Healthcare affects every, single American and requires robust partisanship.

Sincerely,

Molly Bunder

West Lafayette, Indiana

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: harrisrn [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy

Dear Committee:

Please vote NO on Graham-Cassidy. This horrible bill would hurt and possibly kill millions and solve nothing. Work in a bipartisan manner to truly solve the health insurance issue.

Best wishes,
Reid Harris
[redacted]
Langley, WA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: beverly mullins [redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:15 PM
To: gchcomments; beverly mullins
Subject: Graham Cassidy 'healthcare'

I don't understand what all of you don't understand. We are the ONLY first world country that does not have national healthcare for its citizens. You make this into some convoluted process when it's really quite simple. STOP taking bribes.....er.....lobby money from the health insurers and big pharmacological companies and actually do what is right for this country for a change.

I am so disgusted with all of you career politicians. We need term limits for ALL of you. I would especially like to thank all the male politicians who when they get elected all seem to turn into gyneticians upon arriving in DC. Where did you all go to medical school again?

This Graham Cassidy 'healthcare' is nothing but a train wreck just like the last GOP disaster was. When is the GOP going to really start caring about the citizens of this country and put COUNTRY before PARTY and your bank accounts? We all know the POTUS isn't going to do this and until any of you develop a spine you will continue status quo per usual. 2018 can't get here soon enough.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lynn Vasicek [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

I am a widow, 80 years old. I have observed what the lack of basic health care does to families and how in the long run costs the taxpayers more.
Not providing maternity care and preventive child care always costs more when conditions are not found early and treated promptly.
Elderly people on Medicare do not receive dental and vision care at the time of their life they need it most.
Please don't pass this bill and create more costs and suffering later on. Work together to improve the ACA and forget about calling it Obama Care and making it into a purely political issue.

Sincerely,

Lynn A. Vasicek

Titusville, Florida

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tara Woolpy [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not enact the Graham-Cassidy health care bill

My name is Tara Woolpy and I'm a very healthy sixty-year old woman with a pre-existing condition. I have a right bundle branch block in my heart's electrical system. It's a completely asymptomatic congenital condition which is benign for the vast majority of the people who have it. Mine was diagnosed when I had an EKG as part of an application for life insurance. I deeply regret that application for life insurance because it catapulted me into the high risk insurance pool, even after my physician wrote a letter to my insurance company assuring them I was healthy.

For years after my diagnosis, I was forced to be on Wisconsin's High Risk Insurance Pool. The coverage was terrible. My deductible was very high and there was a lifetime cap of 1 million dollars, all of which meant that I essentially had catastrophic health insurance only as long as my catastrophe was not long, expensive or reoccurring. Fortunately I did not get catastrophically ill during that period and thanks to Obamacare I am now covered by my employer.

I am personally terrified by the Graham-Cassidy bill. I'm afraid, not only for myself but for all those who have not been lucky enough to get employer sponsored healthcare, especially those who are unable to afford health insurance (which could soon be most of us).

I urge you all to vote against this cruel and heartless bill.

Sincerely,

Tara Woolpy

Mincqua, Wisconsin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Terry Ross [redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Terry Ross
Madison, WI

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: mary feaster <[redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Don't repeal the ACA

To the Senate Finance Committee,
I rely on the quality, affordable healthcare I now have access to because of the Affordable Care Act.
Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.
I am a 58 year old woman whose mother died of breast cancer and as such I am in a higher risk category of developing the disease.
Being able to afford health care provides me with the regular check-ups and screenings I need to know my status and get timely treatment if needed.
It is a well-known and often repeated fact that early detection and treatment can mean the difference between survival and cure and death.
While the existing ACA is not without it's problems, I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.
Sincerely,
Mary Feaster
Staten Island, New York

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marion Kaplan [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham -Cassidy

How can the Senate pass a bill that has not been discussed, debated, or financially analyzed. How can it agree to a bill that will leave more millions of Americans UNinsured?

--
Marion Kaplan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anne Smith [redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hurts our families

Members of the Senate and the Finance Committee:

The ACA allows my sister-in-law to, for the first time in her life, afford a treatment for her blood disease, which would otherwise cost an impossible $500,000/year. Because the ACA uniformly prohibits lifetime limits on care, she is able to work. Her job? Providing speech pathology therapy to homebound patients in rural North Carolina who otherwise would probably not receive care if not for her. (Not many people are willing to do her job).

She is hardworking, dedicated, passionate about life and her country, and she deserves access to the best healthcare, just like everyone else.

The ACA is not perfect. So IMPROVE IT, don't repeal it. Don't pass this absurd plan that will reduce protections and coverage for all Americans. People's lives and livelihoods are in your hands.

Sincerely,
Anne Smith

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Fitzpatrick [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Mary McCarthy
Tampa, FL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Claire-Elizabeth DeSophia <[redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham-Cassidy bill

I am writing in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

I am a licensed psychotherapist working both in private practice and with an extensive resume of working in addiction treatment facilities for over 30 years. My patients depend on quality, affordable health care, including the continuation of coverage for pre-existing conditions.

I am acutely aware of the importance of coverage for behavioral health treatment.
My suicidal patients, and those with severe drug and alcohol disorders, would be negatively impacted if outpatient and inpatient treatment for psychological issues were to be curtailed. Many of my patients would have difficulty paying for insurance if state block grants were decreased or disappeared.

Please vote against the Graham-Cassidy Bill. Then, while leaving the ACA as is, work to make Medicare for All a reality, as it is in every other industrial nation.

Thank you,

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beppy Huls [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: For the record - Graham-Cassidy SFC hearing

To whom it may concern:

My name is Beppy and I live in Kansas City, Missouri. I'm thirty-two years old and I have temporal lobe epilepsy. I had my first seizure in November of 2006. I was a student and on my parents' insurance plan, but when I graduated in May of 2007, pre-ACA, I was notified that I would have to get my own plan. At the time, I was laughably naïve about the process. I hadn't even heard the term "pre-existing condition" until I tried to get my own private plan. As it turned out, I had a robust list of them before the seizures even started – from anxiety to chronic headaches to not wanting children yet – and no private plan would cover them until after a lengthy waiting period.

My scramble to find a full-time job so that I could have employer-based coverage landed me in the cubical pit doing administrative work. My plan had been to continue working with developmentally disabled children like I had been doing part-time during school, but none of those jobs offered healthcare as quickly as I needed it.

I stayed in the work force until 2013, when my health had deteriorated to the point that I couldn't hold down a regular job, even after use of FMLA hours and a fight for ADA accommodations for lower lighting in my office. At this point, my husband had a job with a good health plan and made enough to keep us mostly afloat while I did the occasional odd job from my home computer. It was a difficult transition, but with the ACA in place, I at least felt secure knowing that, were my husband to lose his job, I would still have somewhere to go for insurance.

In 2015, I had a vagal nerve stimulator surgically implanted. It's a neurocybernetic device that sends pulses to my brain to prevent or slow down seizure activity – essentially, it's a pacemaker for my brain. My seizures are now far less frequent and severe, and I can usually feel them coming on at least a few seconds ahead of time, which is a vast improvement over having absolutely zero warning. Sometimes, I can even stop them from happening. If I start to feel jittery, I have a magnet I can run across the device that gives it an extra boost. Without insurance, the whole thing would have cost $89,000. The co-pay was $700.

My health has improved since the operation, but not to the point of being able to get and keep a job, especially when factoring in the near-constant pain in my head. I was starting to get used to this kind of existence – taking things one day at a time, trying to help when I could without overworking myself –

when the GOP began their work on the AHCA. *(Full disclosure: I originally wrote this in June, before both the ACHA and BCRA were sent to the floor and defeated. I guess I'm glad I held onto it.)*

My husband is good at his job, well-liked by his co-workers, and has a promising career ahead of him. He has ADA accommodations that allow him to stay home three days out of the week to look after me. Last year I even got on social security disability, so I get a small check every month and I have the option to go on Medicare if my husband loses his job. It sounds like I'm set, right? Even in the worst-case scenario, I would have at least something to help pay for my prescriptions, specialist visits, lab work, etc. The casual observer might ask, "why are you so personally afraid, then? I can understand you empathizing with the **tens of millions of people who will lose their coverage without the ACA**, but can you really sit there and say that you fear for your own life because of this new bill?"

Yes. Yes, I can. No, I won't be immediately torn from my husband's PPO, but I'm terrified of what next year's enrollment packet might entail. What good is his plan going to do if I get put in a high-risk pool that raises our premium to the majority of my husband's paycheck? Or if a lifetime cap is placed on my coverage that I'll hit within the next few years (if I haven't already)? What good is Medicare going to do if I get kicked off disability? **How am I supposed to trust my Republican governor to actually use block grant money for healthcare?** How can I say "oh, this bill isn't going to affect *my* life," when it could very likely bankrupt us?

Epilepsy is so much more than just seizures. It's the chronic pain, the inability to drive, my family always worrying when the next one is going to happen, ME always worrying when the next one is going to happen. I can hardly do anything alone. I can't take a shower without my husband in the next room. I can't walk my dog by myself, no matter how much he sits at the front door and pouts because he doesn't understand this. It's the crushing knowledge that pregnancy could kill me and the baby, so that's off the table. So is adopting, pretty much. So is a career in childcare. Finally, it's the fear that the next seizure will be fatal. Right before I lose consciousness going into one, all I feel is pain, confusion, and terror. That's not how I want to go out.

I'm on new medication after 6 days of observation and testing last month that came to a total of $54,000. That I may end up able to drive a car again, able to re-join the workforce in at least some capacity, is something I try not to think about because there's no guarantee it will work. I'm also trying not think about it because there's no guarantee I'll be able to afford it. A spouse with a good healthcare plan and job security used to feel like a "get out of the morgue free" card, but the threats that this bill poses are keeping me awake at night. And sleep deprivation is my #1 seizure trigger.

Thank you for your time. Please have a conscience.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Erin Fabrizius [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Wisconsin Family Care Association Testimony on Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson
Attachments: WFCA Testimony to Senate Finance Committee.pdf

Good Afternoon,

I am submitting the attached testimony for the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance Hearing on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal on behalf of the Wisconsin Family Care Association.

Please let me know if you have any questions or require additional information.

Thank you,

Erin Fabrizius
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: kim wheeler [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy NO

I am writing against the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Plan for a number of reasons. First, I agree with Senator John McCain, that healthcare is too important to be decided without due process. Second, I am totally against the block grants. I do not trust my governor to provide the best affordable healthcare for me or other Floridians. Third, and most importantly, I am very happy with the ACA. I have excellent affordable healthcare. Prior to the ACA, I could not get private insurance due to a pre-existing condition at any cost. NO Coverage. None. Please listen to the hundreds of doctors and insurers who have come out against this last-ditch effort to repeal and replace. The ACA may have problems but with a true concerted bi-partisan effort they could be fixed. I am terrified to think of my life and the life of my family and friends if Graham-Cassidy is passed. PLEASE consider the health and financial well-being of all Americans. Please do not forward Graham-Cassidy to the Senate Floor.

Thank you for your service and your consideration,

Kim Wheeler
Williston Florida

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Taylor Howell [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to Graham Cassidy health care bill

I venamently oppose graham Cassidy bill. It does NOTHING to help Americans in need of meaningful, affordable coverage. Stop tearing down our hard won accomplishment.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Melissa Muth [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal
Attachments: health-care-graham-cassidy.pdf

Senator Hatch and members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am sending my comments electronically for the hearing to consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal (see attachment) due to its time sensitivity, but am also enclosing the original in the mail (per your instructions).

Below are my comments in text form as well.

Sincerely,
Melissa Muth
[redacted]

- -

Senator Hatch and members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing to give my perspectives on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill.

Given that the Congressional Budget Office will be unable to estimate the impact of this proposal for several weeks, it would be irresponsible to proceed with it before then.

I also oppose this proposal because independent analyses estimate that tens of millions of Americans are likely to lose health care coverage under its provisions.

In addition to the unconscionable human suffering this will cause, when an uninsured American needs to go to an emergency room, someone will still have to pick up the tab! This isn't an efficient way to provide health care, and could result in hospitals closing and jobs being lost.

I urge you to work toward other, more effective remedies for the issues with the Affordable Care Act, including Medicare-for-all, as proposed by Senator Bernie Sanders and 16 co-sponsors.

Sincerely,

Melissa Muth

cc: Senator Ron Wyden
cc: Senator Patrick Toomey
cc: Senator Robert Casey
cc: Senator Bernie Sanders

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Katie Kilgrow [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham Cassidy

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

I am writing today to beg you to stop the insanity of "repeal and replace". The Graham Cassidy bill, as with every other bill that has been proposed, is reckless, harmful, and dangerous. These bills have been hastily thrown together to appease large donors (not your constituents) and will harm Americans, all while lining the pockets of the rich. It is unbelievable that anyone would use healthcare as a way to provide yet another tax cut for the rich on the backs of the disabled, children, women, and the poor. If tax incentives are going to be part of healthcare reform, they belong squarely in the middle and low income brackets.

Instead of this insatiable obsession with dismantling an existing program that has benefitted so many, why not:

Tackle drug and other inflated costs in healthcare. Get the US in a position to negotiate the ridiculous drug costs. Put big pharma on notice that we will no longer participate in their manipulation.

Expand choice and break down barriers that prevent multiple carriers to provide insurance. Look towards expanding choice in exchanges.

Focus on the parts of the ACA that need improvement. Put your energy into strengthening and improving, not repealing.

Abandon the concept of eliminating Medicaid over time.

Approach healthcare as a right, not a privilege.

Work together and put some thought and time into this process. Include the medical and disability community in your work to help you.

DO NOT create any situation where the pre-existing condition protection is eliminated or can be manipulated by the insurance provider.

Include addiction, mental illness, and the opioid crisis in your plan..

Healthcare is too important to rush just so you can check a box. The citizens of United States, regardless of where they fall on the political spectrum, are counting on all of you to do the right thing. As you move through this process, ask yourself, who are you there to serve? If your decision will harm middle and low income people, then you are on the wrong path. They make up the majority of your constituency.

You were not elected to appease large donors and the rich. They are fine and will continue to be fine. Serve the people that need you the most.

With Hope,

Katie Kilgrow

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jen Willsea [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do Not Support Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

I am writing to express my concern that the Graham-Cassidy Bill, like previous bills to repeal health care earlier this summer, would have a devastating impact on America's families.

Specifically, Graham-Cassidy would:

· Cause more than 30 million people to lose their health insurance

· Make devastating cuts to the expanded Medicaid program. Under Graham-Cassidy, the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion would end altogether by 2027, throwing millions of people off their coverage.

· Cap funding for the traditional Medicaid program, which provides vital care to seniors, children, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations.

· Cut funding for the financial assistance that helps people purchase insurance through the Affordable Care Act's insurance marketplaces.

· Allow states to eliminate protections for people with preexisting conditions and to end the requirements that insurers cover a set of essential health benefits like oral health services, prescription drugs, maternity care, and mental health care.

I work with a national network of 1,000 people representing as many organizations across the country that is working to make dental and oral healthcare accessible by ALL Americans. A bill such as as this one would take us several steps backwards. Did you know that one of the biggest reasons poor children miss school is due to untreated and preventable pain in their mouths? This is unacceptable.

We need to make healthcare MORE accessible to ALL Americans, not less.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Willsea

Atlanta, Georgia [redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Bill

This does nothing for health care in America and in places is a blatant bribe to Republican Senators. Shameful on so many levels. It should die in committee.

Karen Mcalister

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

I am writing to voice my opposition the the Graham-Cassidy bill. I feel this will be devastating for millions of Americans and urge you to proceed with health care reform on a bipartisan, regular order basis to address the ACA so that all Americans have the ability to AFFORD health care.

Sincerely,
Susanne Waldrep

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: SUE JOHNSTON [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Concerns about Graham-Cassidy from a clinical social worker working with people who suffer from PTSD

Our country is in the midst of a mental health and opioid crisis. People struggling with opioid addition are often attempting to self-medicate PTSD symptoms and painful emotions. Mental health care and substance abuse care are an essential benefit in the ACA.

The Graham-Cassidy bill would do away with these essential benefit. Many states will not use their block grants to cover behavioral and substance abuse disorders, as was happening before the ACA.. Specifically West Virginia (Senator Shelley Moore Capito) and Ohio (Senator Portman) face particularly high opioid abuse problems and stand to suffer greatly. Additionally as some states do not step up to treat substance abuse and mental illness, people will migrate to those states who do offer care, further increasing the cost of care for neighboring states.

The only adequate care for health, mental health and substance abuse is a federal system. Block grants will not work. Graham-Cassidy should be voted down.

Sue Johnston, LICSW
Clinical Social Worker/Psychotherapist

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Debra Ramirez [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I want to lodge my opposition to this bill. It does nothing but hurt Americans. There is no CBO score before this vote. The CBO is expected to show millions losing healthcare and hurting rural hospitals. Repealing the ACA will cost the tax payers in love and
treasure.

Thank You Debra Ramirez

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Heather Mae Hall [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Bill effects

I am a person living with many chronic conditions. I receive SSDI which I earned while I was able to work. Along with SSDI I receive Medicare and Medicaid. I'm very frightened that if this bill passes, I will lose access to the physical and mental health care that I rely on to live. So many able bodied people can't remotely conceive of what it is like to be unwell, much less struggle to get care. For example 3 years ago I moved and I requested mental health therapy at my local community mental health center. It took 9 months to get matched. 9 months. This year I experienced a very violent sexual assault and it was nearly fatal. I have had 3 hospitalizations and 2 ER visits since it happened. In that I have been threatened, assaulted, harassed, and I went hungry because the hospital only paid lip service to providing safe meals. I was just in for a week. I received 2.5 safe meals, one was just not enough food to be considered a full meal.
So you see, I am already in great distress from the horrible care provided due to understaffing and overworking. But I'm grateful I have *something*. I can at least fight and push and beg and get some care if I can overlook the abuse and neglect that comes with it. If you cut it off entirely I will most likely end up dying. And that isn't fair to the people who love me.

Please do not pass any deleterious legislation in health care. We need expansion instead. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Heather Hall
--
Heather

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: E R Dodson [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care bill

Please remember that you are SUPPOSED to be representing WE THE PEOPLE of the United States. We The People do not want this disaster of a health care plan. It will leave many sick and in pain without insurance. THAT IS NOT OKAY! Remember that the people voted you in and will be delighted to vote you out if you cannot and will not represent US.

Thank you.

Esther R. Dodson,
One of THE PEOPLE

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mimi Braude LICSW [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Aca

Dear sir

I am writing to support the continuation of the ACA to allow all Americans access to healthcare. I am not in favor of the new proposed plan to repeal and replace the ACA

Best regards

Miriam Braude

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michelle Schutz [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: on Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill. please make change. but do it right.

Hello from Illinois,

I write not to tell you my entire healthcare story. You won't find much about my medical record below - but suffice it to say that our family should not go uninsured. Instead, I write as a businessperson in the healthcare sector. I write as the primary breadwinner (and provider of healthcare benefit) in my family. And I write as an American who cares about the collective health of our people and our economy.

My family is financially stable. I've worked corporate jobs in the healthcare sector for fifteen years, save time getting my MBA. My husband is successfully self-employed. We are squarely upper-middle class. For several years, I've considered whether I should strike out on my own. Become an entrepreneur. Start up a new healthcare consulting business, or start up a small healthcare venture. Although I never took advantage of the ACA exchanges, the fact that they are *there* is what let me hatch that dream a few years ago. Having the exchanges means I could leave the corporate world to found something new -- without being reckless with my family's health and finances.

I'm in agreement that rising healthcare costs are not sustainable. I applaud the work that's being done to drive quality of care over quantity, and to explore new ways to deliver healthcare like telemedicine -- better and cheaper ways. I'm both a citizen and a businessperson with energy around these ideas -- and I'd like to spend the next part of my career innovating in this space. But as a consumer of healthcare, watching what's happening in Congress right now, I cannot in good conscience leave my corporate job. I can't take a risk that might bring us new ideas for better healthcare. That's because periodicially bringing "repeal and replace" bills to the floor creates instability. Without analysis from the CBO, debate about what the details mean for families, understanding of scenarios around stability of health insurers and other sectors within the healthcare economy -- bringing these bills creates uncertainty for me and my family. And it unintentionally stifles exactly the innovation the country is looking for to help find a way for all families to be secure in the fact that they can be cared for if they're sick.

And so I ask: please don't stop talking about healthcare. Please brainstorm. Please debate. Please analyze. Please make change. But don't be hasty -- do it thoughtfully and get it right. Our people and our economy depend on that.

Best regards,
Michelle Schutz
Chicago, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Erin Chadd [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Monday's Graham-Cassidy Hearing

Greetings,

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Having a pre-existing condition such as Type 1 Diabetes is a burden I did not ask for. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Erin Chadd
[redacted]
Tucson, AZ [redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gloria Fong <[redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: REJECT Graham-Cassidy bill, PLEASE!!!!!

Senators,

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. My 96-year old mother survives mainly on Medicaid, I have pre-existing condition [diabetes], and my son can only get decent healthcare by using ACA since he is just beginning his work career after recently graduating from college.

Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Unfortunately, this current Bill has not been thought through with input from all impacted Americans and our **elected** government representatives. Such a life impacting Bill needs to be bipartisan and given indepth consideration to reveal who is impacted, how many are impacted, what the true cost of the Bill is, etc. You are there to represent **ALL Americans**, not just the handful of your party members. I support and respect Senator McCain's position.

Our representatives should be statesmen/women and should represent ALL of its citizens. I demand to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Gloria Fong
[redacted]
San Mateo, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Brooks Stevens [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I oppose this bill. It will affect me and my family personally in many ways. And it will affect my patients in my work as a clinical social worker.

Brooks Stevens
[redacted]
Concord, MA[redacted]

Brooks Stevens, LICSW
[redacted]
Lexington, MA [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Leann[redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Health Care

I am a resident of Illinois in Evanston and I am registering my opposition to the Graham Cassidy Health Care bill.

This bill only "saves" money by harming millions of Americans – and it has been clearer than ever that this bill is only being
Rushed to pacify the Koch brothers and perhaps other donors.

No one, except for them and some Republican senators thinks this bill is any good – even insurance companies (see BCBS).
And even those who "support" it know that it's a lousy bill (see Grassley-Iowa).

Throw this thing in the trash bin and work together to shore up Insurance / Markets and allow Medicare to negotiate drug prices.

Also – please be advised that many of us are knowledgeable enough to know that Republicans and Rubio's previous add on are why the ACA
Is having most of the problems its having it. Fix it.

Regards,

Leann K. Harwitz
Evanston, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marilyn Bush [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

The latest effort to repeal the ACA is a health care disaster for this country. Many would lose health insurance entirely and many would not be able to afford what would be offered to them. Suffering and death would be the result of passing this proposal. Just say no!!

Marilyn Bush
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: lizzy yoder [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

Myself and my family rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Many members of my family, including
young
children, have pre-existing conditions and disabilities. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Yoder

[redacted]

NYC [redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: clea hantman [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

[Your name]
[City, State]

Sent from outerspace!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: NITTAYA SAENBUT [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:55 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, 9/25/2017

Finance Committee,

Nittaya Saenbut
[redacted]
Providence, RI

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Born and raised in Thailand, I came to the U.S. to further my education. I worked hard to improve my English and went on to earn my Master's Degree in Sustainable International Development at Brandeis University. Since my graduation, I have worked with many refugees, immigrants and low-income U.S. citizens. As an immigrant, I'm trying every day to contribute to this country and to help underserved, marginalized, low-income families who struggle to meet their basic needs.

I realize while this country has so much wealth, the level of poverty is so high. People struggle to have their basic needs fulfilled and health is among those needs. Coming from Thailand with universal health coverage, I see how America is heading to the right direction with the Affordable Care Act. While the implementation hasn't been perfects but many Americans have already benefited from this program. My day-to-day work is involved assisting individuals and families as they apply for health insurance through RI's state exchange (Health Source RI) and I have first-hand experience seeing how much individuals and families benefit from the ACA, particularly the poorer. With current ACA, many community members I serve every day at least now have affordable health insurance plan.

I am outraged by the Senate's most recent attempt to dismantle the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and strip health insurance from millions of people. With the Cassidy-Graham proposal, cost sharing subsidies would be cut, Medicaid would be slashed and Planned Parenthood is targeted again for providing critical health services to low-income women. This is yet another

blatant attack on women of color and reproductive justice. These attacks are of particular concern to Asian Americans. Specifically, the bill would harm AAPI women by:

Repeal of the ACA would push coverage out of reach for AAPI women, exacerbating health disparities.

Eight million Asian-Americans now have coverage for preventive services without cost sharing. Between 2010 and 2015, the uninsured rate among Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) fell by more than seven percent. Over 2 million Asian-Americans gained coverage under the ACA, giving more AAPI women coverage for preventive services without cost sharing.

Cancer is the leading cause of death for AAPI communities, and the cervical cancer incidence rate is higher in several Asian-American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) subgroups than in non-Hispanic whites. For instance, the incidence rate is twice as high in Cambodians as in non-Hispanic whites, and 40 percent higher among Vietnamese women. Coverage for preventive services without cost sharing removes barriers to care, enabling AAPI women to access essential health care like cancer screenings.

Attacks on the ACA's important protection for people with pre-existing conditions would further exacerbate health disparities for AAPI women.

Other health conditions, like the Hepatitis B virus (HBV), were also considered pre-existing conditions prior to the ACA.[i] Chronic HBV affects about 1.3 million people in the United States, and AAPIs account for over half of the chronic hepatitis B cases and resulting deaths.[ii] AAPI women are 20 percent more likely to die from viral hepatitis as compared to non-Hispanic whites.[iii]

Defunding planned parenthood from the Medicaid program jeopardizes AAPI women's access to critically important health care.

Planned Parenthood health centers are a lifeline for quality health care for underserved communities. Fifty-four percent of Planned Parenthood health centers are in underserved areas. In 21 percent of counties with a Planned Parenthood health center, Planned Parenthood is the only safety-net family planning provider, and in 68 percent of counties with a Planned Parenthood health center, Planned Parenthood serves at least half of all safety-net family planning patients.

Attacks on the Medicaid program would take away health care from hundreds of thousands of AAPI women

Nearly one-fifth (19 percent) of AAPI women are enrolled in the Medicaid program. The

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Darice Veri [redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:55 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

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

I have reasonable coverage through my employer but fear for the changes that a state would be free to apply. That, however is not my main concern. Healthcare, like education, is not a commodity. It is something that should benefit all and should not be subject to markets. It should be equitable and reasonable and should benefit all not just those who can afford it. A healthy electorate is necessary for a healthy, productive country.

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

Sincerely,
Darice Veri
Columbus, Ohio

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sally Ray [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:55 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Save our care

My 78-year-old mother is currently bravely fighting metastatic cancer. With Graham-Cassidy, her care will increase by six figures plus annually. She cannot afford that. Her children can not afford that. Our choice will be to go bankrupt or let her die. That is not a choice. But it's not just about my personal story. It's about all of America. This bill is evil. It is purely the GOP's attempt to rip healthcare from millions in an effort to appease their mega donors. Support the 1 percent at the peril of the rest of us...the 99 percent of Americans. Medicaid slashed and children, disabled and elderly without care. Hospitals shuttered. This is evil and should never even be considered.

Sally Ray

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dave Nicholson [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill horror show

I cannot in strong enough words (without stooping to 45-like profanities) condemn this bill by these two Senators and all who have signed on in support.

This bill is a travesty! Inhumane, carelessly thrown together and lacking in the most basic compassion all in order to achieve a win that will be devastating to Americans outside the 1%.

And the lies of its supporters from both ends on Pennsylvania Avenue are staggering. Real true facts about the effects this bill would produce boggle the imagination when examined thoughtfully, carefully and with a duty to serve all the people.

Get bipartisan input and support, hold hearings, pay attention to the economic impacts and for the love of God and country do the right thing. This bill is NOT the right thing.

Do not proceed with passage of this bill!

David Nicholson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pattie Mulderig [redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:55 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Good Morning -
I am writing today in the hope that someone will listen to me.
I was in good health for most of my life.
I worked, and still work, hard.
I did, and still do, my part to help the economy.
This year, I got seriously ill and had to be hospitalized.
It turns out that the food I've been eating - some of it fast food, but not all of it - has not been that good for me.
It was a typical American diet. Nothing special.
My liver revolted from the overabundance of salt and fat in my meat and potatoes diet.
Now, I have to have quite a few regular tests and doctor's visits to try and stay on top of it so that I don't need a liver transplant.
To be honest, I am scared.
I am scared that if this bill is allowed to pass, I either won't qualify for insurance or will not be able to afford it due to this now pre-existing condition.
It's just a little bit maddening to see that there are so many people that are (supposedly in public service and are supposed to be the voice of their constituents are instead) more concerned with the money they can receive from lobbyists to help sway them from doing what is in everyone's best interests.
Please know that not everyone is sitting back and not paying attention. Our lives are at stake here. I, and so many others like me, have a vested interest in how this vote goes.
Instead of working so hard to take insurance away from people, why can you not take the ACA and tweak it to improve it?

That's right - improve it, don't gut it!
I realize there's no easy fix. I get that. I do.
But, if you can't come up with something that helps the majority of the people, perhaps you should just not do anything.
I have tried really hard to stay level-headed and not get overly emotional while writing this letter. I apologize if I haven't.
All I ask is that you take a moment or two and just try to imagine yourself in my shoes or in the shoes of someone who has a sick child that needs regular care.
Just take a couple of moments and think of how hard a $6000 deductible is for someone who is living paycheck to paycheck.
Take a moment to think of the added stress, which interferes with healing, of having those bills hanging over your head while you are trying to take care of yourself or someone else.
Just take that minute and really feel it.
Please do not let this bill pass.
Vote NO.
Thank you,
Patricia Mulderig
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:55 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care for my sisters.
Attachments: arrm day 2012.jpg

To Whom It May Concern:

Please see the attached photo. I have three sisters who are profoundly mentally retarded and cerebral palsied. All three live together in a Phoenix Residence in Maplewood, Minnesota and have for the last 26 years after spending 31 years in Cambridge State School and Hospital. Two of my three sisters are confined to wheelchairs. All three are unable to communicate verbally and are unable to feed or dress themselves. They have never been to school, nor will they ever have a job.

I have lobbied my legislators on their behalf for many years. The Graham-Cassidy bill will affect them negatively, in the worst way, as their care depends on Medicaid and Medicare. They already have suffered so much. They suffer because due to low wages and no health insurance benefits, more than 8,700 unfilled caregiver and staff jobs exist today in Minnesota's Home-Community Based Services. This means that my sisters get minimum care now. Graham-Cassidy will be disastrous to my sisters and all disabled people throughout America.

Please work together and FIX the Affordable Care Act. Basic, affordable health care should be guaranteed to every American. It is NOT a privilege for the wealthy only. And that is what it comes down to. Which side of history will the present Congress fall?

Elizabeth McCambridge
[redacted]
Minneapolis MN[redacted]
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ruth McCusker Wilkowski [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:56 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My testimony for the Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Title Of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017

My name: Ruth McCusker Wilkowski

My address: [redacted]

My testimony:

As a Canadian, I don't even think about the cost of health care. Ever. Universal health care works. I love it.

I have great sympathy for what Americans are going through right now. My name is Ruth McCusker Wilkowski and I've been lucky enough to live in Canada all my life. Here are some facts about my experience with our system:

- I can see any doctor I choose. I don't even know what an HMO is.

- My medical care is determined by ONLY my doctor and myself. No insurance company or government entity is involved in these decisions.

- I usually make a regular doctor's appointment 3-10 days in advance. But there are walk-in clinics and Emergency rooms if I need immediate help.

- I have never experienced long wait times. I had a possibly cancerous growth removed a few weeks ago. I had to wait a whole 9 days between my initial doctor visit and surgery to remove it by the excellent specialist.

Just because they try to scare you off universal health care by saying we have "long wait times" doesn't make it true. You have been lied to for decades about this.

- I have never met anyone who went to the states for medical care. I'm sure there are some that make that choice for elective procedures, but I personally have never met one.

- Any time I've left a hospital, even after a 10-week stay after a major stroke a few years ago, the only paperwork I received was directions for how to continue recuperation at home. Never a bill.

- Every test I've ever had, from X-rays and blood tests to MRIs and CT scans has been completely covered. I have no idea how much they cost. In fact, I've never received a bill for ANY doctor's visit, test or medical procedure.

- 10 years ago, I got the phone call every parent dreads - from a hospital. My son had fallen 4 storeys and broken his back. He had every test imaginable, an army of health care professionals, gruesome surgeries and difficult therapy over the following years.

The only thing we had to worry about was his recovery. Not money.

I can't imagine adding financial worries on top of our concern for his recovery. Money doesn't even cross a Canadian's mind when it comes to health care. Ever. (He's doing well now. Thank you.)

- There is no lifetime limit or "cap" on care. Birth to death, I'm covered.

- Pre-existing conditions don't matter. At all.

- Prescriptions are reasonably priced.

- My taxes have always been reasonable and cover everything yours do in addition to health care. If you're thinking "but my taxes would go up", just add a year's worth of your health insurance premiums, your co-pays and deductibles to your tax bill and see what you get.

- The larger a country's population, the better this system works.

It's always been this way for me, all my life. I never realized how lucky I was until I saw Americans' struggles over health care. I am so grateful now.

Do not believe the politicians, pharmaceutical and insurance industries' lies that tell you the opposite of these facts. They just want to keep milking you to line their own pockets. You have been lied to for ages. We love our health care system.

Every other developed country on the planet works this way. We don't have "access" to health care. We have health care.

Greed and profit have no place in public health care ... except in America, the richest country on Earth.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bob Kent [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:56 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare Debate Scheduled for 2:00 p.m. Monday

To: Senate Finance Committee

Please consider the point that passing a bill at this time to simply remove the remaining provisions in the ACA without a replacement healthcare plan is irresponsible. To do so would be an act of vindictive politics, promoted by certain health industry lobbyists and it would ignore the expressed will of the people to maintain the key good points of Obamacare. A replacement measure must be debated with bipartisan input and be the product of legislators who want our citizens to have fair and affordable healthcare. Until a replacement measure is ready, the ACA must be left unchanged. We need the protections it provides.

Bob Kent
Newport News
VA [redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Colleen Dunnigan [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:50 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare testimony

Good morning,
I would like to speak about the healthcare situation in the United States. I hope that my testimony will be used because I feel I represent many Americans.

I am 38 years old and I am a pre-existing condition. I am terrified of losing my health insurance because of greed. Trust me, I am aware that premiums are high. I struggle to pay mine but I thank god that I am able to have that policy. I was denied insurance coverage for years due to my health. That stress took a huge toll on my parents, my husband and myself, trying to find ways to be covered.

When discussing the ACA, most Americans are ignorant to the facts and instantly say that all people are looking for a handout and are on government assistance. Well, I am not. I have never been on medicaid. When I was laid off, I received a subsidy which was completely paid back to the government at the end of the year from my tax refund. I am a hard-working American who deserves to have her healthcare available to her and not stripped from her.

I've had over 11 surgeries since 2001 and I am a stronger woman than most men because of the pain I've endured. One week ago at Johns Hopkins, I was diagnosed with neurological conditions and I'm terrified to lose coverage because of them. I have frontal lobe brain lesions and right side decreased motor skills (I have no reflexes and 50% decreased sensitivity). I am 38. Imagine your child going through this and then imagine being middle class, senior citizens on social security who can't do anything to help her because she has no insurance.

And then more importantly then myself, there are disabled Americans who can't talk, eat or breath unassisted and will die without health coverage.

I beg of you to vote with decency and vote against the repeal.
Thank you.
Colleen Dunnigan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jessie Wilton [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:57 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

To Whom It May Concern,

Please know that my family and community rely on quality, affordable healthcare. My father is in remission from metastatic prostate cancer and relies on Medicare for his healthcare needs. My family is in debt because of healthcare costs and the Graham-Cassidy bill will only exacerbate this. I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Jessica Wilton
Minneapolis, MN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kim Sheridan [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:58 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill

Dear Member of the Senate,

Please record my opposition to the latest attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act.
I note that my opposition stands with the majority of medical and insurance organizations.

The uncertainty around accessing healthcare produces anxiety. My family and friends squelch our ideas to start businesses, to change careers because we fear the loss of access to affordable health care. This is not a humane or sensible way to support the citizens of our country.

Our healthcare is too important to be rushed through without attending to CBO's estimates on coverage and costs. The idea that states will know how to manage their budgets belies the fact that our health and other social systems are national in scope and the choices of one state impact the other. Moreover, such a massive change should not be attempted in such a rushed and frivolous way without thoughtful examination by those who will be affected.

Improve the Affordable Care Act in a bipartisan, patient and thoughtful way and reassure the country you are not just playing politics with our lives and well-being.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Sheridan
Fairfax, VA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ellen Bernards [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:54 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Andy Larson; larson.a.m@gmail.com
Subject: Graham-Cassidy NO

Dear Sirs & Madams,

I spent 11 years (from 2004 to 2015) as a non-profit credit and housing counselor and educator. I saw first hand the devastation of the recession on the middle-class - particularly the loss of jobs and therefore health insurance. Pre-ACA, there were absolutely no options if one didn't qualify for health care provided for very low income households.

I also saw families in which someone, often one of the bread-winners, came down with MS or other chronic, expensive diseases...and needed healthcare. Many had lost their jobs and their insurance when unable to work full-time. Since it takes up to 3 years to get disability, these folks ran up tens (if not 100's) of thousands of dollars in medical bills which they would never be able to pay, forcing them into bankruptcy.

My daughter was a home-health caregiver making $10/hour without benefits and was able to get insurance coverage through ACA, without which she wouldn't have been able to get the medication she needed to recover from a severe depression.

That doesn't mean there aren't problem including affordability. Just last year, I closed my business so that I could take a job with benefits including health insurance. ACA just wasn't affordable for us.

The most important parts of ACA - access to affordable healthcare for those that fall through the cracks of a free market system. Those who any for-profit business wouldn't want to serve: those for whom providing service will result in a financial loss to the business. This is why we have government programs and protections.

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

Please do not eliminate ACA - fix it. And don't think like businesspeople. Think like people who have the responsibility to protect those who do not have protection...without you. Those whose very lives depend on you.

Thank you for doing the right thing. And, if you are a Christian, remember "well done, good and faithful servant... 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: **35** for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; **36** I *was* naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'
37 "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed *You,* or thirsty and give *You* drink? **38** When did we see You a stranger and take *You* in, or naked and clothe *You?* **39** Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'**40** And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *unto* one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.'

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dartania Emery [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:54 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My Personal Statement

To Whom It May Concern,
My name is Dartania Emery and I'm 30 years old. I was born on April 6, 1987 with moderate spastic diplegic/ataxic cerebral palsy and hydrocephalus. I got my first VP shunt when I was 2 days old. Normally, people's bodies are able to get rid of excess fluid that's on their brains but, I'm not able to do that. That's the purpose of the shunt. It takes the excess Fluid away from my brain and drains it into my abdomen. I've had 4 surgeries to date and on July 17th, I had my fifth brain surgery. This time around, I've had lots of complications. I've been hospitalized again and I've seen the neurologist and neurosurgeon more times than I can count. I've also had a manual wheelchair and a posterior Walker since I was 7 years old and an electric one since I was 24.

My family has always been a shade under the poverty line so, I've had Medicaid for as long as i can remember - except for two years as an adult. Medicaid has paid for all of my wheelchairs, all of my leg braces, all of my physical therapy sessions as a kid and adult. They've paid for all of my orthopedic surgeries and they've paid for all of my shunt surgeries. Without all of these surgeries and medical equipment, I wouldn't be able to be a productive member of society today and I would be dead. As a prime example of my being a productive member of society, I am a CASA - court appointed special advocate - for abused and neglected kids in the city of Newport News, Virginia. Without Medicaid, I can no longer do this life-changing work. Please keep fighting to keep Medicaid in Virginia for all who need it. You can do that by opposing the Graham-Cassidy bill. Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laura [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:54 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GrahamCassidy Hearing On September 25, 2017

I write to urge all elected officials to vote against this bill. Shame on those who have proposed this "legislation" without regular order, without knowing how the provisions of the bill would impact the citizens they represent and the economy of this nation. Shame on those who insist on misrepresenting the provisions of this bill. Shame on those who ignore the findings of respected experts in the healthcare field – principally that the plan envisioned by this "bill" is not viable. The "hearing" to be held will involve only those who wrote the proposed legislation? How un-American is that??? Shame on those who blindly support this bill simply because it would repeal ObamaCare, regardless of its impact on those they represent. Shame, shame, shame.

Laura Felker
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Thom Greving [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:54 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy Bill

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

Thank you.

Thom Greving
Venice, CA

Thom Greving
[redacted]
Venice, California
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: katekaufmann1 [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:54 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My family has a family lineage of arthritis, depression and related mental illness. It's not fair to limit or preclude coverage of such conditions for my generation, but more importantly for the generations that come after us.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Frankly, I am encouraged that passing legislation along strictly partisan lines has proved unsuccessful. Bipartisanship offers our best hope for a balanced, logical approach to legislation and governing.

Sincerely,

Catherine T. Kaufmann, Portland, Oregon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Baumoels [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:54 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable care act

Please do not repeal and replace with this horrible Graham-Cassidy bill. You do not have my support as an American citizen.

Matthew Baumoel
[redacted]
New Rochelle, NY [redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beth Panucci [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:52 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am strongly opposed to this bill. Giving states the authority and control over health care will create a very uneven system of health care across this country. What we need is a strong bipartisan bill that fixes the problems in our healthcare system from the bottom up. Rushing through bill just to repeal the ACA jus to get it done is not the solution. This bill is being rushed without thorough vetting, so please put this flawed bill aside and work together for a thoughtful fix so that all Americans have access to proper affordable healthcare.

Respectfully,

Beth Panucci
[redacted]
Montclair, NJ[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeanette Emmons [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Please don't kill my children; they have pre-existing conditions including little granddaughter they are the working poor; we try to help but we are Seniors on SS & Medicare.
Please care about us we are most of America now.

[redacted]
Saltillo MS [redacted]

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: morticia wheeler [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: health care

I am writing to ask that you not recommend the new health care bill for a vote. I love my ACA and the access it provides me to get health care. Prior to it's passing I was unable to get affordable heath care insurance due to prexisting conditions. I depend on the ACA and do not want to lose it or have my access to health care be decided by my governer who I feel does not have my best interest at heart. Thank yo Paul Wheeler

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Deer public servants,

I am a hard-working mother of two with a stay-at-home dad. My daughter is on Medicaid my husband and son and I would all have pre-existing conditions of asthma and allergies. If this bill were to pass it would financially devastate our family. We are living paycheck-to-paycheck and barely able to make our insurance premiums every month as it is. My father is a lifetime Republican and is retired. He just found out 6 months ago that he has cancer. I have siblings with children on Medicaid and we are all full-time employed.
Please do not let this bill pass it would devastate my entire family and my whole community. We are hard-working American citizens who pay our taxes and do not live off the government. Please keep our best interest in mind as this would throw our local economy into a downward spiral and my family members would be personally hurt by this bill.
We are fighting for Single Payer. We feel that it is our right as human beings to have health care. There are much bigger things in this world to worry about than how we are going to pay our doctor's bill.

Please represent the people's wishes and do not let this bill pass. Thank you for your service to our country and your careful consideration in this matter.

Wendy W Treadway

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dianna Jackman [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Casssidy

Why would you insert language into the bill that allows insurance companies to increase my premiums the second I get sick and need to actually use my insurance? So, in other words, you're going to make sure that I have "access"to insurance, but when I utilize that "access" my insurance company can skyrocket my rates so that I can no longer afford to use it. Pay my insurance'company to not use my insurance. Try to use my insurance and "oh, you're going to have to pay extra for that!"
Vote NO ON THE SO CALLED GRAHAM CASSIDY BILL!

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: rwfishbu [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote No on Graham/Cassidy

The Graham/Cassidy Bill will leave millions of Americans without health insurance. Many are our must vulnerable citizens. Please stop politicizing what should be a basic human right, the right to healthcare, and do the right thing for everyone: vote no on Graham/Cassidy.

Sincerely,
Bill Fishburn
[redacted]
Rainier WA [redacted]
[redacted]

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Muriel P Feigenbaum [redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.
My story with pre-existing conditions, affordability, are a couple of important reasons why I have serious reservations.
Along with many Governors, all 50 State Medicaid directors, and too many medical groups to list, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill!!
I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Hadad [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:54 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy hearing Monday sept 25th

My name is Nancy Hadad and I live in Gaithersburg, Maryland. I oppose graham Cassidy bill strongly. My 26 year old son has had his struggles and is so fortunate that the Medicaid program has been there for him for all his medical needs thank God. Please do not reduce money for Medicaid. Also, it's essential that preexisting conditions are covered. It's insane that switching jobs can cause you to pay so much more for your health care. People losing a job or being laid off are at the greatest risk financially and so it is adding insult to injury that they would have to pay a lot more if they happen to have a pre-existing condition for their healthcare. Thank you. Nancy Hadad Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

To whom it may concern:
Please do not vote yes on this bill. America has spoken and 70% or more of us do not want this. Please work together and FIX Obamacare. Stop trying to make it fail and work to make it work for all of us. Every single American deserves good, affordable health care and we want all of Congress to work together to give that to us.

As a woman, I really don't understand how men can even consider this bill. It provides no maternity care, prenatal care or birth control. Where do all of the men in Congress think they came from? How can women afford $17,000 to have a baby? And if that baby is premature and stays in intensive care for a month or two, then the baby's lifelong cap is met and what do we do for insurance for our baby? I DO NOT UNDERSTAND HOW THIS BILL CAN EVEN BE CONSIDERED.

Please do not do this to women, to children or to any of us who aren't rich enough to afford the effects of this bill. We all are not rich like most of you...

I'm counting on you to do the right thing, like my two Senators from Virginia will do. Thank you Senators Warner and Kaine!❤□

Tana Blevins
[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [redacted] on behalf of Lisa Rosenberg [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:52 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Lisa Rosenberg
Somerville, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kristin Stewart [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care for All

I am writing to request that ALL of our representatives in the Senate and the House come together and do their jobs, which is to protect and care for the people who elected them. This latest nasty version of a supposed "Health Care Bill" is cruel and awful and absurd. Is there some particular reason that our representatives have different (and far better) health care than they are willing to provide to the people they represent? This has to change. We should be all about **our people**, not about how much money we can make by running over them. Please wake up and do the right thing. PLEASE.
Sincerely,
Kristin J. Stewart
Ithaca, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Emily Taggart [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:50 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

I do not support this abomination of a bill. This bill abandons the federal government role in providing affordable health care for all. This puts the burden on the states who may not have the will or funds to provide the necessary care. It is pushing health care back to what it was in the early 1900's. This is despicable and leaves our babies, children, elderly, chronically ill, and disabled vulnerable to the whims of politics and individual states.

Please come up with a bipartisan fix to ACA or expand Medicare for all. We are a first world nation that seemingly cannot find a way to provide health care for all. We are no better than a third world nation in terms of our health care. We as a people and a country are better than that. Please please please do not pass this horrible bill that will deprive people of necessary care. There is no guarantee of any care or affordable care for people with pre-existing conditions.

Thank you,

Emily Taggart
Illinois

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kate Muth [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:50 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not pass Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senate Committee,

I urge you not to ram the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill through committee and then on to the Senate floor. Please return to regular order on a bill of such magnitude that affects so many Americans and such a large part of our economy.

It is unconscionable that this body known for deliberation and careful consideration would consider a bill that has not had full hearings with testimony by experts or the citizens most affected by it.

Please please do the jobs we expect of you and govern in sunshine and let the American people have a say in such important legislation.

I personally disagree with most provisions in the current bill (or what we know to be in it) and yet I want to see the current law improved and I fully believe that can only be done in a bipartisan manner.

Please know that most citizens want good policy and recognize that governing actually happens in the middle and through compromise. Please do not let the shrill voices on either side drown us out.

Regards,
Katherine Muth
Arlington VA

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Deidre Girard [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not repeal the ACA -- NO to the Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

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

When I was in a bicycle accident four years ago, I could've easily accrued an incredible debt to treat my injuries, or even lost my job due to the amount of time I needed to recover. I am very fortunate to have good healthcare and a very compassionate employer. Unfortunately, most people in the United States are not this lucky. This needs to change.

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

Sincerely,

Deidre Girard
Seattle, WA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Yvonne [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:50 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote against Graham-Cassidy

Importance: High

I am writing to ask that the Affordable Care Act not be repealed and the Graham- Cassidy Bill not be voted into law.

The Affordable Care Act has been a lifesaving piece of legislation that has greatly impacted my family. Please read my brief comments below and take these thoughts into consideration and stop the repeal efforts of the ACA.

My husband and I used to be gainfully employed by a Fortune 500 company here in the US for over 15 years and we never had to worry about health insurance because we got it through our employer. In 2003, I noticed that I had started to develop some depression and uncomfortable feelings after the sudden death of my mother. I wanted to seek help from a psychiatrist and psychologist, so I got a copy of our health insurance policy from our employer and found to my dismay that it did not provide any mental health coverage. I called some mental health providers but found that I couldn't afford treatment out of pocket, so I dealt with my feelings the best I could. Thanks to the ACA, mental health coverage was required because in 2011 I had a nervous breakdown. I was finally able to get psychiatric care thanks to the ACA. My conditions didn't resolve well though, and I ended up needing to spend some time in a psychiatric hospital. I am now doing well and able to function normally, but without the ACA mandating insurance companies must provide mental health coverage, I would be in a much worse situation than I am now.

Due to my mental health difficulties, I lost my job. Then last year, my husband became very sick and was diagnosed with a very rare genetic condition that is causing a part of his brain to degenerate. He is no longer able to work and is on Social Security Disability. Neither of us were working from mid-July, 2016 until I got a job about a month ago. The ACA saved us because we were able to get Medicaid coverage that will last through the end of this year until I can go on my employer's insurance plan on Jan. 1, 2018. Without the Medicaid expansion, I am certain that we wouldn't have been able to get coverage. We do not like having to be on public assistance, and I worked hard to get a new job so we can get back to employer-based health coverage as soon as possible. However, I am extremely thankful for the lifeline that the Medicaid coverage has given us for a short time. Without it, we would absolutely not have been able to afford the life saving medications we both need to manage our conditions or go to regular doctors' appointments to stay healthy. Thank goodness we live in a state that took the Medicaid expansion money and doesn't discriminate against people because of their financial or health situations.

My husband and I now both have several pre-existing conditions and they are totally out of our control. I am extremely concerned about the leeway that the G-C Bill will offer states to let insurance companies charge people more for pre-existing conditions. I am just as concerned about repealing the ACA because of the many protections it offers Americans, such as mandatory mental health coverage, no lifetime caps, mandatory prescription drug coverage, etc. In addition, Americans need an affordable way to get health insurance if they can't get it through their employer, i.e. the marketplace.

There is so much more I could say, but I wanted to briefly express my concerns. I don't understand why most GOP Senators are so out touch with the reality that most people face in our country regarding their healthcare. With the advances that healthcare has made, I believe it is now a basic human right and should be protected in some fashion by the Federal Government. If the G-C bill goes through, I believe very conservative states are going to make decisions about healthcare regulations in their states that will truly hurt people's lives. Everyone knows there are problems with the ACA, especially with the marketplace, but why can't the GOP work **with** the Democrats and just try to fix the

problems with the ACA? Why is the GOP so obviously trying to repeal it because they don't like President Obama? Is there no appreciation for how hard he worked for the ACA?

I implore all GOP Senators to think carefully about voting for the Graham-Cassidy Bill because if it passes and the ACA is repealed, I guarantee you that the Democrats will start to win back control in 2018 when people start to realize the grave impact the repeal of the ACA and implementation of G-C will have on their lives. I personally switched from the Republican party to the Democratic party this year because of this one issue. I feel that the GOP has shown their true hand and demonstrated that they really don't care about average Americans, just themselves, and the GOP is just doing this to make sure they get their big party donations if they get the ACA repealed. I am not the only one who feels this way.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maureen Beck [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

I am writing to state my opposition to this Bill. My family relies on the ACA to provide coverage and it is my understanding that their ability to get the help they need would be at risk without the federal mandate. I have 2 nieces with disabilities and other family members, including young children, who have pre- existing conditions. Furthermore, I am a senior expecting to go on Medicare within the next year and I am concerned that this bill represents a weakening of the coverage I can expect. I would like to see a bipartisan effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Bill

To Whom it may Concern:

I strongly oppose the bill sponsored by Senators Graham and Cassidy. My reasons are numerous and complex. Given the time allotted for consideration of this bill, which is ridiculously inadequate and makes a mockery of the legislative process, you will forgive me if I merely go on the record with this brief-ish email, rather than submitting a dissertation.

With all due respect, the GOP has acted irresponsibly in opposing the ACA for years without ever making a serious proposal to replace it. It is easier, and cynical, to vote for crazy bills that have no chance of becoming law, than to actually craft a real law. Shame for playing politics instead of trying to govern. To be fair, and to avoid "whataboutism" or "he started it" arguments, I happily concede that the Democratic Party has little excuse either. Now, however, the GOP has been caught between promises that were impossible to keep, and the proper governance of the Country. Senator Grassley's, and I paraphrase, "[we promised, so we need to do something no matter how dangerous, stupid, or harmful]" is a terrible argument.

We must find a way, in a bi-partisan fashion, to address serious problems. The current bill is politically motivated, and a disaster. Senator Graham said the other day that failure to pass this bill would lead to socialism, which was silly. I would suggest however, that passing this bill will lead to a disaster of such mythic proportions, that the fix adopted will be single payer, which may not be our best solution. Crazy left is hardly better than crazy right.

Table this bill. Ignore the screams from the White House where we have a President who wants to sign ANYTHING, probably without even reading it. Ignore the crazy right, and the crazy left. Ignore your bases and donors. Every citizen of the United States should have a guarantee of reasonable healthcare.

Meet, discuss, hold hearings, listen to experts, and for the sake of this Country, compromise. Senator McCain is dead right: bi-partisanship, respect, regular order. The Senate IS THE BODY where stupid ideas go to die, and reason should rule. Kill this stupid bill. Keep the 60% rule. Forget about whataboutism. But first, PLEASE KILL THIS BILL.

I am a centrist; I suspect there are more of us than you may think.

Sincerely,

Richard Blau
Manchester, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cheryl Walsh [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Committee members:

Health care is too important to Americans, and too important to the American economy, to reform the system that delivers it with a slapdash legislative effort steeped in partisanship. Republicans and Democrats need to work together to reform the system. Even if Republicans think Democrats weren't bipartisan enough when the ACA was developed, two wrongs never made a right, and doubling down on a wrong surely won't make things right. No major organization in the health care or insurance industry thinks Graham-Cassidy is a good bill. The CBO score isn't available. Bringing this bill up for a vote is irresponsible and a symptom of dysfunction in our government. Some people may not like it, but the ACA instituted a system that is now in place. The pre-ACA system no longer exists. Repeal, whether wholesale or piecemeal, is no longer an option, unless chaos is the objective. Accept the system as it is now and move forward to reform it using regular order and good governance practices, instead of trying to game the system to win partisan points from a shrinking base. Graham-Cassidy and the attitudes and procedures that spawned it are not the way forward for the American people or the American economy.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Walsh
[redacted]
Iowa City IA [redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margaret Addicott [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

It is very important to me to have quality, affordable and accessible health care. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am a retired teacher who has witnessed the health care needs of children and the relationship between health and academic success. I have directly seen the importance of health care needs related to disabilities and affordability. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve ACA, not to repeal it.

Sincerely

Margaret Addicott

Sacramento, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Neal Makely [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to Graham-Cassidy bill

I speak in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill. Healthcare is an incredibly complex, immensely important part of the average American's life, far too complicated to risk simply because Republican lawmakers feel an obligation to live up to their campaign promises, regardless of the impact on the well-being of their constituents. This was nicely stated by Senator Grassley. I am astonished that the majority in the Senate would even propose voting on such a bill before a full CBO evaluation and a reasonable period of review and debate.

Healthcare reform is absolutely critical, but perhaps on this topic lawmakers should adhere to the premise "do no harm" in the process. Senators, do your job and take care of the health of all Americans by not passing this ill conceived, poorly constructed, and hastily assembled bill.

Thank you.
Neal W. Makely
Arlington, VA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa P. Smith [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators,

I'm writing today to urge you to vote against the current repeal bill. We know the bill will deprive Americans, particularly the most vulnerable, of access to health care and throw millions into financial distress.

I'd like share my personal story with the healthcare system and insurance. I am one of the lucky ones but not everyone is.

In 2010, my husband and I were both working - him full time as a computer programmer and me part time starting a web design business while raising my children. We were both 1099 contractors but paid out of pocket to get decent coverage under BCBS. We were both reasonably healthy adults.

Except in November of 2010, I was diagnosed with stage 3 colon cancer. Standard of care required surgery and chemotherapy. When my husband asked the surgeon hypothetically what would happen without surgery, the doctor replied, "She'll be dead within 2 years." My husband seemed shocked and the kind doctor later apologized to me but I was not surprised by the answer - I had done my research - only that my husband would ask.

I had surgery, 12 inches of my colon removed, and 9 months of chemotherapy. After five years, I was declared NED (no evidence of disease) or cancer free.

Here's the important thing relevant to this current health care debate:
My signs were subtle. I was 44 years old with 11 and 13 year old children. If I did not have good health insurance (and a very insistent aunt who was a colon cancer survivor) I very likely would have ignored them. I would not have bothered to see the doctor and perhaps would not have gone in for that colonoscopy which saved my life.

It absolutely boils down to money. People in this country need and deserve affordable health care. For what reason other than greed or to enrich donors would you vote to take it away from them? Why would you make access harder or give states the right to make preventive care and safety net insurance unaffordable?

I will keep fighting this fight. I would hope that our Congressional representatives listen to the many many stories like mine and vote with compassion in their hearts. Not everyone has the resources my husband and I did. We all need affordable health care.

Regards,

Lisa P. Smith
Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Darla Guenzler [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham Cassidy bill

I am writing to express my profound opposition to the health care bill known as "Graham Cassidy".

This bill is opposed by the broadest possible cross-sector of doctors, nurses, medical associations, all Medicaid directors, and citizen associations, such as AARP.

Rather than make improvements to Medicare, this bill would undermine advances to health care in this country. It is particularly destructive to affordability, preventative care, women's health, and so many of us with pre-existing conditions. There is not a single health marker that this bill has any possibility of improving.

This bill is another example of why Congress is held in such contempt because rather than do the hard work of understanding the complexity of the issues, listening to public health and medical experts, and negotiating improvements, the Graham Cassidy bill will not hold a meaningful (if any at all) public hearing, does not have a CBO score, and will have no debate in reordering 1/6 of the national economy not to mention people's health and well-being.

I object and oppose this bill in the strongest possible terms.

Darla Guenzler
West Sacramento, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beverly Swann [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senator Blumenthal,

There are so many reasons to oppose this horrific excuse for a healthcare bill. It's ultimately a financial disaster for the country, and for millions of Americans personally. I am one of those Americans. I am a small business owner, and my business is my sole source of income.
I also have had two mild traumatic brain injuries, so I have pre-existing conditions. Before the Affordable Care Act, I was unable to obtain healthcare insurance outside of an expensive, catastrophic coverage policy. In these past few years, I have at least been able to have coverage. What we have currently isn't ideal, but it has allowed me to get healthcare I needed, which ultimately kept me working and earning money. Please don't take that away from me.

Sincerely,

Beverly Swann

--
Gratitude as a discipline involves a conscious choice. I can choose to be grateful even when my emotions and feelings are still steeped in hurt and resentment. It is amazing how many occasions present themselves in which I can choose gratitude instead of a complaint.

~~ Henri Nouwen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: phyllis herzig [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill

My family rely/relies on quality, affordable healthcare. I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill, because of pre-existing conditions.

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

Sincerely,

Phyllis Herzig
[redacted]
Ann Arbor MI[redacted]
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Njcpix <[redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Hello, I am urging you to stop Graham Cassidy. Stop allowing the Koch Brothers to dictate everything the GOP does, and maybe someday your party will be viable again. The Koch Brothers are the only reason this horrendous bill is still alive. Please do not jeapordize America's health, economy and stability for Koch money.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Aoife Longmore [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham-Cassidy bill

America was built on the ideal of equality and equal opportunity. The Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill will deny the most vulnerable Americans the ability to be anything but poor and sick.

My niece got cancer when she was four. She would have gone through any lifetime maximums that were set prior to ACA. Don't let a disease become a death sentence.

Aoife Ülker
Austin, Texas

Via mobile

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Hill [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposed to Graham Cassidy bill

I am opposed to this bill for a number of reasons:

It has been rushed to a vote with no opportunity for debate, public comments, bipartisan input or a full CBO score. A rushed process never delivers the best results, and more times than not results in a bad outcome. Public health officials, healthcare industry experts and a bipartisan group of state governors oppose the bill. Only 25% of the public supports the bill.

The bill reduces Medicaid state funding by 17% through 2026 and 100% thereafter, effectively transferring the burden of funding to states with no fiscal resources or infrastructure to handle it.

The bill allows states to use waivers which result in loss of federal protection for coverage of pre-existing conditions, reimposition of lifetime caps and stripping away of essential healthcare benefits.

States will be allowed to introduce low cost plans with much less coverage. Healthy young people will select those plans. Major medical plans will have fewer and sicker members, driving up the cost of health care for full coverage. Seniors like me can see increases of up to 5x current premiums.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: glen schenck [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My Life

My life means a lot to me, and probably more to my children and family. I have not committed a crime, and therefore, I do not merit a death sentence! Whether or not you like Obama, his bill did save my life and countless others. Do not deny good, honest families of what should be a basic right - healthcare. You don't know how important it truly is, until you or someone you love, will die without it.

Glen Schenck, age 56
Stage 4 metastatic prostate cancer

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Daniel Winchester [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Disastrous consequences of passing the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Healthcare Senate bill

By way of introduction, my name is Daniel Winchester, residing in New York City. I would like to outline the horrific effects of the proposed Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Senate healthcare proposal if passed by your committee both on a national level and personally as a highly educated person with a severe disability, cerebral palsy which affects my balance(relies on power wheelchair for mobility needs), coordination, speech to a mild degree and hearing (I'm Deaf but compensate with hearing aids in conjunction with lip reading skills. Therefore I depend daily on the services of my homecare personal assistants 24/7 paid through a consumer directed personal assistant program called Concepts of Independence (www.coiny.org) which enable me to actively be productive and engage in the community. Such a support system, funded by both Medicaid and Medicare was the key to enabling me to thrive and obtain an advanced degree in 1985 at a time when few with such severe limitations were able to do so. The proposed conversion of funding streams from Medicaid expansion state sources to finite block grants run by state agencies, like NYC Department of Health, will set up a triage paradigm where people like myself will be forced to be institutionalized for the remaining years of my life, a chilling prospect. According to statistics generated by the Henry Kaiser Family Foundation, a highly respected healthcare analysis organization, the nonpartisan equivalent of the CBO, New York State alone would lose 35% of current ACA Medicaid Expansion State funds. Nationally, the loss is projected to be $160 Billion if they are converted to block grants slated to end in 2026! This is morally and economically too steep a price to pay! I would certainly lose the fundamental infrastructure that covers my medical needs, maintains my power wheelchair and ensures that my hearing aids are functioning well to facilitate my communication requirements. Please vote "NO" to the proposed bill and retain and enhance the ACA, not dismantle it because lives are at stake!

Thank you very much for your time interest!

Sincerely,
Daniel J. Winchester
[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: SUSAN KAHN [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Everyone has enough to share.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christina Holmes [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:50 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no on Graham-Cassidy

Dear Members of the Senate,

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare to cover a number of conditions, including the many chronic concerns associated with type 1 diabetes. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My mother and brother have struggled their whole lives with that and several other illnesses that have made stable employment difficult. They have suffered bankruptcies to pay for their healthcare, which has only further destabilized their lives and challenged their health to the point where their lives were at risk. I have lived in other countries such as England and Australia and received much better healthcare as a non-citizen than my family are receiving in the United States--our national healthcare system's prioritization of profits over health makes America an embarrassment among other nations that have already figured out how to care for all their people and at a cost that is lower than what America is already bearing. It is unconscionable. I sincerely hope we are on our way to a single payer health system, but in the meantime I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Christina Holmes

Columbus, Ohio

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maria [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments for the Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
September 25, 2017
Eva Maria Johnston
[redacted]

I am commenting because I will be directly affected if this bill passes. I am 54 years old and self-employed, and I have a preexisting condition called endometriosis. Due to an impending divorce, I am losing my husband's health insurance in early 2017. Before Obamacare, I could not afford insurance on my own since the only option for me was the high-risk pool with its $1000-$2000/month premiums. I do NOT want to return to those days, and if the Graham-Cassidy bill passes, I will once again not be able to afford insurance due to my endometriosis. Please do not do this to me and to the millions of Americans out there like me. Health challenges are difficult enough without the added stress of dealing with bankruptcy and the loss of everything you have worked for your entire life. PLEASE listen! I am a constituent of Senator Graham's and have contacted him many times, but he does not listen. Obamacare works for people like me. Why would you take it away and replace it with something that will destroy so many American lives???

Sincerely,
Eva Maria Johnston

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Richerson [redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on graham-cassidy

To whom it may concern (which is millions of people)
I rely on quality affordable healthcare-
I oppose the graham-cassidy bill.
I would like to see a bipartisan congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it -
You are responding to the direction of a bully - who is Unempathetic !

Thanks

mary richerson
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kristen Gilmartin [redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on graham Cassidy

Please vote NO!!!!
Lots of people will be put in pain, grief, and death!! Imagine losing your mother, father, kid, or love of your life for this?? Please VOTE WITH YOUR HUMAN HEART!!!!!
--
Kristen Gilmartin
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathleen Tice [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition

I oppose the Graham Cassidy health care reform bill! This bill will cost my sister everything she owns and has worked for and it will cost her life! She will die without proper health care and will not be able to afford health care if this bill is passed! Please vote no in good conscience for the good of the American people!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Marcus [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:37 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham - Cassidy

Reject Graham Cassidy. Vote no!

Sent from my iPad
Karen Marcus

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barb [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:36 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

To Whom It Ma Concern,

I am asking you to please vote no on the new health care bill being presented to congress this week. It is a poorly constructed bill with very little public support and would hurt many of the people you have come to serve. Please return to the American way of going about business in Washington. Open your ears and hear each other. Gather facts and work together to come up with a good, strong healthy bill that works for us all. Please do not be bullied by the horrible man serving as president. He also is not respected or liked by the majority of Americans. He will go but you will still be there. Be respectful and behave as you are or have taught your children to behave.

Thank you for your consideration,

Barb Blanchard

Barb Blanchard
Certified Personal Trainer ~ NPTI, ACE
Senior Fitness Specialist ~ACE
Registered Yoga Teacher
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Smith, Ellen M [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:37 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

Trump care would hurt my family by making elder care unmanageable and also endangering my husband, who has a life-threatening preexisting condition.

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

This is too serious to be done in a partisan way.

Ellen Smith
Pittsburgh, PA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From:	Heather Tanner Tanner [redacted]
Sent:	Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:31 AM
To:	gchcomments
Subject:	Testimony Regarding Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal
Attachments:	Testimony for the Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal.docx; IMG_20170409_132457.jpg

TITLE OF HEARING: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

DATE OF HEARING: 9/25/17

FROM

Dr. Jason Frank & Heather Ann Tanner

[redacted]

Fort Wayne, IN [redacted] U.S.A.

Dear Hearing Committee:

When our baby boy, Colton James Tanner, was born at 30 weeks we were terrified! He required emergency abdominal surgery removing 2/3 of his small bowel in order to save his life. When he was in the NICU it was the hardest, loneliest, and most excruciating experience. Every day was scary and we never knew what tomorrow would bring or if our son would see another day. We have never been in a war but it feels like we have after fighting for his life every day.

Exhaustion, emotions running high all the time, tears on the verge of overflowing, personal isolation, depression, constant fear, and on top of it all the worry of the financial burden and how we would afford his care. All that wrapped up into every moment. During that time, we just existed, barely.

The NICU would be a ten week stay for him including two major surgeries, two central lines, intubation, ventilation, two bouts of sepsis during one of which our son coded right in front of us, and numerous procedures, transfusions, and consults.

His life changed instantly and so did ours. He now had a chronic condition, Short Bowel Syndrome that would require specialty physician care and medical intervention to allow him to survive. This meant living with a central I.V. line (inserted into his heart surgically) to deliver the I.V. nutrition and fats (TPN and LIPIDS) he body required as well as a nasal gastric tube to slowly deliver a medical food (amino acid based formula) designed especially for children who have his condition. He was medically complex and fragile along with being a preemie!

Our family had private health insurance (Physicians Health Plan) but it didn't cover all the medical devices, specialty pharmacy infusions, medical supplies, medical foods, powerful supplemental vitamins, physical-occupational-feeding therapies, and co-pays for specialty physician care. Thankfully we applied for and were accepted for the Medicaid Aged and Disabled Waiver program. What a G-dsend. It picked up where our

private insurance left off and covered all these extra costs. His medical food formula was in excess of $700 per month just to feed him!

With Medicaid, we could have in-home therapy to help our son learn to do what other children did without help: develop and coordinate his muscle movements, gain strength to lift his head and sit, stretch his scarred abdominal region so he could learn to crawl, reverse the oral aversion from having the nasal gastric tube for over a year, and so much more! It gave us Respite Nursing care so our son could remain in his own home and receive the nursing support he needed to survive and thrive. How wonderful to have him in his own room and dressed in his own clothes and care for him around his whole family! Having Medicaid provided all of this for our family.

The new Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal threatens to take all of these provisions away from medically fragile and complex families like mine. It would cut Medicaid funding that provided the in-home therapies, the in-home nursing services, and the coverage of the durable medical equipment and supplies that our private insurance didn't cover. Without all those Medicaid covered essentials we would have had a terrible decision to make. Keep our son home with us and go bankrupt trying and cover the financial burden of his care or institutionalize him in a hospital. That is a choice no family should ever have to face or make.

Because of Medicaid coverage our son has thrived at home in his community! He learned to crawl and walk and now he runs everywhere because of PT and OT! He began to eat orally and now tolerates a variety of foods and liquids because of Feeding Therapy. He overcame developmental delays with proper nutrition, nursing care, and avoiding sepsis to knowing his letters, numbers, colors, shapes, and is now a pre-reader and will be ready for Kindergarten next Fall with peers his age. He loves computers and might give Bill Gates a run for his money! He has a future because of proper access to the healthcare he required through the funding of Medicaid and Community Based Programs.

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal is dangerous. It threatens the lives of the disabled, medically fragile, elderly and by cutting funding to the programs that support them medically. In doing that, it basically states that they are not valuable enough to our society to be worthy of coverage or care!

Quality affordable access to healthcare is essential! It is a certainty that every American will need healthcare in their lives to be safe, healthy, productive, and to thrive! The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal undermines this inevitability and is a direct threat to our society as a whole.

We urge this committee to vote NO on this proposal. The experts in the field of medicine, The American Medical Association, have also expressed their disapproval.

> **"Similar to proposals that were considered in the Senate in July, we believe the Graham-Cassidy Amendment would result in millions of Americans losing their health insurance coverage, destabilize health insurance markets, and decrease access to affordable coverage and care. We sincerely urge the Senate to take short-term measures to stabilize the health insurance market by continuing to fund cost sharing reduction payments." – American Medical Association CEO & Executive Vice President James L. Madara, M.D.**

Repeal and Replace is not the best answer for this current situation. The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal is a grave detriment to the healthcare of all Americans and we stand firm that it should be rejected by this committee.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jason Frank and Heather Ann Tanner

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Angela McAnall [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to Graham Cassidy

I, Angela McAnall, mother of three, am completely opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill. Millions of lives are on the line. This is not health care, this is murder.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: lea lortie [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose graham Cassidy

My family relies on health care that doesn't charge additional for preexisting conditions. We are self employed and already pay the max our family can handle. Please think of all US families not just the small group that will benefit from this change. Oppose this bill.
Sincerely,
Lea Lortie.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: CYNTHIA Ringo [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: New healthcare bill

The proposed bill needs to be voted NO! It puts millions of citizens at risk. The only meaningful reform MUST be bipartisan. Yes, that means GOP needs to learn a skill they should have learned in preschool. Cooperation.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michael Radell [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Gentlemen and Gentlewomen:

I am writing to implore you not to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Eight months after I was eligible for Medicare benefits, I had major surgery to salvage my right leg and knee. (damaged from a bone tumor and subsequent surgeries)

Without Medicare, I would have been hard pressed to find the funds necessary for the surgery and my rehabilitation.

Without the ACA, my sole employee for the last 30 years would not be insured. The same for my married daughter and her husband.

Please, in the name of humanity, keep the ACA and work to improve it, not repeal and replace it.

Sincerely yours,

Michael H. Radell, DDS

Sarasota, Florida

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Vicki Hedeen [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham-Cassidy bill

My entire family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband is a cancer survivor so what happens with preexisting conditions affects us very deeply. Our oldest d
aughter is disabled and currently an SSI recipient.
S
he has

pre

e
xisting
conditions
and we
have grave concerns regarding
future cuts to Medicaid

which will affect her continued health coverage. Our youngest daughter currently has employer health coverage but also has preexisting conditions. I worry about her ability to afford continued health coverage. She currently lives in Massachusettes which is a progressive state regarding health care. But who knows if her employer coverage will continue or where she may live in the future. Health care and subsidies should not differ depending on your state of residence. So far I am the lucky one in my family. I have private medical coverage and am currently without major health concerns but I am 62 years old. I am wise enough to know that it's only a matter of time before I may also have a "pre-existing condition" which could bankrupt us. Health coverage is important to my family and to countless others that I know. Do not repeal ACA - make it better, for ALL OF US!

Vicki Hedeen

Clifton Park, New York

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Doronit Shlank-Bloomenthal [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:57 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

To Whom It May Concern:

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

Sincerely,
Doronit Shlank-Bloomenthal
[redacted]

--

Doronit Shlank-Bloomenthal, LICSW
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy Herman [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:58 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Pre-existing conditions and lifetime caps

I was a kidney donor for my husband nearly 15 years ago. This means we now both have a pre-existing condition. With monthly blood tests and expensive anti rejection medication, we are heavy healthcare users. The return of lifetime maximums would mean we would be in fear of exceeding our "allowed" healthcare. We are both in our early 40's and have a daughter.

Please vote no for Cassidy-Graham which does not provide adequate protection for pre-existing conditions and allows the return of maximums.

A voter from Minnesota.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Veronica Connelly [redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:58 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

To whom it may concern:

I urge you to withdraw the Graham-Cassidy bill from a vote on the Senate floor.

I am a voting citizen who wants affordable and accessible health care for all Americans as a basic human right - not as a commodity traded in the volatile marketplace.

I have read the available analyses of the G-C bill, as well as those associated with previous "repeal and replace" efforts put forth this year by the Republican majorities in the House and the Senate.

I am outraged by these callous and cynical bills that are not the product of the regular order so eloquently described by Sen McCain.

I urge all members of this committee - and all our congressional representatives - to act in the best interests of the country first and foremost! Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy

Let's get rid of the dark political donations - or Americans will soon be getting rid of this Congress for men and women who do look out for us!

Sincerely, Veronica C Connelly

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Bevilacqua [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:58 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My brain injuries

Hi. I'm Susan and I go through life being discriminated against because of my brain injuries. I look ok.
In 1967,I fell out of a tree a long way when I was 11 but because I had such a severe injury to my shoulder even though my head was swollen like a large ball, my head injuries went unaddressed. My personality changes also went unaddressed and I became someone considered as a person with problems. I went from being very quiet and shy to being disruptive and having outbursts.
Receiving numerous blows to my head from my abusive ex husband and several car wrecks has caused multiple traumatic brain injuries.
I began to have seizures in my 30s that went unaddressed. They stopped as suddenly as they started. I have had visual disturbances for over 20 years, such as floaters and a feeling of a film over my eyes.
I went through 19 hours of tests over a period of weeks with a neuropsychologist and was found to have only 15% brain capacity in some areas. My mind fatigues easily.
In my 50s, I started just losing my balance, falling over, falling down stairs, and having a big difference in my memory. Comprehension is my biggest issue now. I can be shown something 20 times and I still don't understand it. And I overwhelm very easily.
I have been bullied by my landlord. Discriminated by the public and had the label of being mentally ill put on me by doctors and ignorant people who judge.
Brain injuries are difficult to deal with. No one knows. Or the extent. Or understands. It's invisible...

Thank you,
Susan Goldenray

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Helene Bacalski [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:58 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham Cassidy

Dear Senators and Committee Staff,

Every major health care organization in this country is against this bill and so am I. I agree that the states are a wonderful laboratory for democracy, but delegating this primary responsibility for protecting our right to healthcare to the states with such little guidance and forethought is dangerous to those who rely on our healthcare system to stay alive.

This bill discriminates against the poor, women, those who are disabled, and makes it more difficult to deliver effective healthcare to those who need it most. Graham Cassidy makes the negative consequences of Obamacare worse instead of providing an effective repeal and replace, which is what the Republican Party has been promising us for seven years.

Please do not allow this horrible amendment to proceed to the Senate floor.

Thank you for your consideration and your service to our country.

--Lisa Helene
Let us learn from Christ how to pray, to forgive, to sow peace, and to be near those in need. --Pope Francis @Pontifex

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elena Evans [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:58 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing Monday Sept.25, 2017

Hello, I have three grown children all of whom depend on Affordable health care for coverage because it is affordable. My young grandchild has the best care through MASS Health as affordable healthcare. Because of this I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see aa bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, NOT repeal it. You have the mandate to work together and take time to make health care affordable to all the hard working people in this country. Please do it correctly. NO REPEAL

--
Elena Anastas-Evans, M.S. CAGS
Licensed Psychologist
Executive Director HotFutbol

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: jill gian [redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:59 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE no on Graham-Cassidy - Protect Medicaid

Dear US Senate,

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

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

Jill Gianlorenzo
[redacted]

program is particularly important for Southeast Asian and Pacific Islander women.[i] For example, 62 percent of Bhutanese women, 43 percent of Hmong women and 32 percent of Pakistani women currently receive their insurance through Medicaid.[ii]

Increasing cost sharing and premiums hit AAPI women hardest because of gender and race-based wage gaps.
While Asian-American women as a whole earn 87 cents for every dollar paid to white, non-Hispanic men, Southeast Asian and Pacific Islander women experience some of the widest wage gaps compared to other racial and ethnic groups. For example, Burmese and Marshallese women make only 44 cents for every dollar paid to white, non-Hispanic men.

I encourage you to use this information and highlight the negative impacts that Graham-Cassidy will have on the lives of AAPI women in your opposition to this extremely harmful bill.

NITTAYA SAENBUT
[redacted]
PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island [redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Suzanne Resnick [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health bill

I think that this is the worst bill yet for poor and middle class people, both the young, old and in between. Shameful!

Suzanne Resnick

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Janice Duquette [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy healthcare bill

Dear Sirs,
I would like to voice my disapproval of this awful and dangerous bill for the people of the United States, All the States! This is a death sentence to people with pre-exiting like my sister who had cancer. I am a nurse and I see people who are alive today because of medicaid and because they have heath care by Affordable Care Act.

This bill has been put forward by senators who just want a win and do not care about what they are doing to the people of the nation. Please do not support this bill.

Thank you,
Janice Duquette
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joana Pineda [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

· People with disabilities rely on Medicaid for the services that enable them to live and participate in the community;

· Allowing states to waive protections for people with pre-existing conditions is allowing states to waive protections for everyone with a disability;

I am requesting you to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill or any other bill that cuts, caps, or block grants Medicaid.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ximena Flores [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Ximena Vargas
Rockville, Maryland

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Gilchrist [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Don't Pass the Graham Cassidy bill

Please do not pass this bill. My disabled sister will lose many of the services that allow her to lead a productive life. Both my husband and I are are insured by MediCare and have pre-existing conditions. This bill will also affect our ability to stay healthy with preventive care and thus will ultimately lead to higher costs and possibly our deaths.

Please work on a bipartisan, thoughtful and thoroughly researched reform of our health care system that is affordable and accessible for all Americans.

Thank you!

Sue Gilchrist

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lucy [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy

Apparently Americans don't want fellow citizens to be without good healthcare or face medical bankruptcy. The question is why the GOP does. And let the less fortunate die so the 1% can have a tax break? Seriously, what is wrong with you?

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robert Coleman [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Current health care proposal

To whom it may concern,

The current proposal, as best as I understand since it has not yet been published, seems to take away from people who currently have healthcare.

Please follow good order of your own senate procedures so that complete financial projections and other valuable information will be available to all senators.

Then seek every way possible to cross the aisle and work together to find an approach that will improve what we have not just be against what is.

Bob and Joyce Coleman

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Tempel [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

We need a universal healthcare option. The Graham Cassidy bill is awful.

Senstor Graham, Why are you proposing legislation that hurts SC. Senstor Scott please don't go along with this fiasco.

Why are Conservatives in the Senate are at it again. They're trying to rush a vote on their harmful Graham-Cassidy health care repeal bill.

They want to vote soon without a Congressional Budget Office assessment of how many people would lose their health care because of this repeal. The earlier version of this bill was estimated to cost over 20 million Americans their health care, and remove protections from even more.

Here's what we know* about the bill that will take away our access to affordable care to give more tax dollars to the rich:

Eliminates Obamacare subsidies that lower premiums, deductibles and co-pays.

Eliminates Medicaid expansion funding, which 31 states use to provide coverage for residents with incomes up to about $16,000.

The catastrophic costs for ore-existing conditions loosens protections for people with pre-existence conditions. It would allow carriers to charge enrollees more based on their medical history. So younger, healthier folks could see their premiums go down, but sicker Americans would see them go up.

Carol tempel
Sent from my iPhone
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jorgensen [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

Several members of my family have been though difficult times due to the high cost of medical care, as well as not having care available to them when they needed it. My sister-in-Law was in constant pain and almost lost her job due to pain from a knee injury. Insurance was not affordable for her, and her knee injury was considered a preexisting condition, so she suffered until the enactment of the ACA, when she finally was able to have knee replacement surgery. My father in law spent his savings on medical care for his wife prior to her death, and now needs help himself after having a stroke. He has insurance, but does not have the money to provide for all his needs. I could relate more stories, but I am sure you have heard many by now. It is critical that the ACA be improved and expanded, not repealed. Every other developed country has figured out how to provide health care for its citizens. I'm sure we can as well!

Regards,
Pamela Jorgensen
Burien WA.[redacted]

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: GUGLIELMELLI JOSEPH [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: my thoughts on Graham Cassidy
Attachments: stats.jpg

I am writing to provide the Committee with my experience under ACA and why the proposed Graham-Cassidy bill is a disaster for me.

I am a 61 year old New York resident. I began to purchase my individual health insurance policies from EmblemHealth Care in 2007 at a price of approximate $750 per month. Before ACA was enacted, my bill rose of over $1100. After ACA went into effect, that bill was cut in half. I now may approx. $520 per month. In light of the cuts that Graham-Cassidy deliberately inflict upon New York State (for what appears is purely political reasons), at least one analyst as estimated that my monthly insurance bill will double.

Moreover I suffer from a pre-existing condition. I am blind in my left eye due to a detached retina for which the doctors could not ascertain a cause. I have also suffered from a torn retina in my right eye which required two operations to repair and implanting of an artificial lens. If I have any further problems with my right eye after the passage of Graham Cassidy, there is nothing to stop my insurance company from refusing to insuring me for operations to retain my sight.

While I expect the counter argument would be that no governor would want to subject their residents to the whims of a profit minded corporations, I call your attention to the 19 states that deprived their residents of funds from Medicare expansion for solely political reasons, states with some of the worse health conditions in the country such as Texas and Flortida.

While I cannot envision Governor Andrew Cuomo taking action to allow insurance companies in New York State to penalize New Yorkers with pre-existing conditions, there are plenty of New York politicians who would do so if given the chance such as Westchester executive Ron Astorino. Indeed, a survey of the Republican congressmen such as Rep Chris Collins is all the proof that I need to voice this concern. Current ACA legislation precludes any attempts by insurance companies by refuse to insure or overcharge people with pre-existing conditions. Why should my sight be subject to the whims of politicians? I should not be force to choose between blindness or a mountain of debt for my remaining years?

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Matthew Smith [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham-Cassidy bill

To whom it may concern-

My family—my wife and two children—is always trying to keep up with the yearly increases in our health insurance. When the ACA went into effect, we had many more options to find better rates without pre-existing conditions. We now pay half the amount we did before. My wife and I are self-employed and don't have access to lower rates though a job. We used to pay more than 20% of our income on health insurance. That's not right. Don't repeal the ACA. Work on it a truly bi-partison effort.

Thank you,
Matthew S. Smith
[redacted]Minneapolis, MN[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rita Fischer [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: testimony not for Graham-Cassidy hearing

To Whom it May Concern:

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. I am a lymphoma survivor and just completed 6 month of chemo therapy. I worked for the past 50 years as Social worker. I depend on Medicare, social security and have gap insurance. Without protection guaranteed by the government I could not afford the treatment I will continue to need. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Rita Fischer
[redacted]

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Augustine Cook [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: testimony on the Graham-Cassidy health care bill

Kill the Graham-Cassidy bill. It is unfair to the working class.
--
Augustine Cook
[redacted]

Children's Mental Health Awareness Week is May 4 - 10, 2014!
Visit www.childrensmentalhealthmatters.org for more information.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: mamajo [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re: "healthcare vote"

GCHcomments@finance.senate.gov :



She opened her eyes after the induced coma that saved her.


Preparing for her Doc McStuffins birthday last week.

You know if it has to be pushed through without hearings and ratings and public input, it cannot be good. I have yet to hear a single citizen think it is, let alone any doctors or hospitals. So, the question is: who is this good for? I know it will devastate, possibly bankrupt family members.

I look at my four-year-old granddaughter and the miracles of medicine that have kept her with us and the continuing miracles that will be needed. She was premature, she almost died at 1 1/2, and now she receives therapies at 4. She is bright, loving, interesting to be around, and great-spirited. To know her is to love her. She's four. Pre-existing conditions. What tortures are you preparing for her future in this House bill? Take a good look at her and look at this horrific bill and go to bat for her and every other person who may face caps on their healthcare or pay exorbitant amounts or, worse, not be able to pay exorbitant amounts and die. This is the reality of this bill.

Keep these pictures in mind.

Joanne Amato

Palmyra

[redacted]

Senator Warner's Facebook post:
The GOP's partisan fight to repeal healthcare has been declared dead before, and I'm not naive enough to think it's true now either. On Monday, the Senate Finance Committee will hold a hearing on the "Graham-Cassidy" healthcare repeal bill. This hearing shouldn't be mistaken for the thoughtful, bipartisan process that an issue as important as healthcare demands, but it's the path Republican leadership has chosen. As a member of the Finance Committee, I'm asking you to participate in this hearing in three ways:

1. Submit a statement for the record by emailing: GCHcomments@finance.senate.gov by 9:00 AM Monday morning. Tell your story, let Congress know what healthcare means to you. Your voice matters more than ever.

2. Share this post to spread the word.

3. Tune in to the hearing Monday at 2:00 PM ET. I will be broadcasting it on Facebook Live.

Yesterday, Senator McCain once again reminded us of what true statesmanship looks like. Now it's on us to show my Republican colleagues what active citizenship looks like in our Democracy.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathi Watts [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA and how it has affected my family

Hi,

This email is in response to Senator Warner's request to share stories about how ACA (Obamacare) has affected us (see the Senator's post below).

I am 56 and my husband is 61. We are both in excellent health with no pre-existing conditions. In 2010, my husband lost his high paying job and of course, the insurance plan that went with it. We signed on with a non-ACA insurance plan with a monthly premium of $650 and deductible of $5000 a year. As the ACA took hold we found premiums were going up, but Blue Cross/Blue Shield was "grandfathered" in and out cost remained where they were -- higher than we felt reasonable, but stable. My husband was not able to find full time work for 3 years. It was a difficult time for us, but I am self employed and was able to pay our bills. We recognized we were more fortunate than many, including some of our friends and family.

The 3rd year of my husbands unemployment we got a letter from Blue Cross / Blue Shield that our premiums were going to go up. We looked into getting insurance through the ACA website. We were astonished! The lowest amount of coverage we could get was $1200 a month with a $12,000 deductible. I

couldn't believe it! Two healthy people would have to contribute $24,000 a year for insurance for what amounted to well checkups and to cover the off chance we would get sick, which for us is very rarely. So basically, we felt we were being punished for being healthy. We were struggling financially and this was a big blow to us. Thank God, my husband found full employment with benefits, and we were able to avoid Obamacare once again.

I see where people say Obamacare was a godsend to them. I personally haven't met anyone though. Everyone I talk to was hit hard by rate increases. Due to my own experience an observations I feel the ACA was a poorly designed act that hit middle class workers the hardest. Once again it is that middle class that is carrying the burden of care for the poor and indigent.

My husband would like to retire in a few years, but I would still need insurance. As long as healthcare is so screwed up he can't retire and take the risk of me having to go on an expensive and/or poor plan.

I would like to see the ACA repealed and the federal government get out of the business of forcing socialist health care on this nation. I urge my Virginia senators and congressman to vote yes to repealing the ACA.

Sincerely,
Kathi Watts

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Heywood [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: healthcare

In 2008, at age 50 I found I had breast cancer. I did all the right things and caught it very, very early. In 2012 we retired and moved to another state which meant new health insurance. I applied with several companies and was declined by all--no matter the price of premium--they just didn't want to carry me even though I was healthy. Thank goodness the ACA came along. Now these Republicans want to destroy all that is good with the ACA. Please don't let it pass! Let's work together to improve the ACA--not only for the people but our nation.

Thank you.

Barb Heywood

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cherlene Nerland [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment on Graham Cassidy bill

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to the Graham Cassidy bill that will be the subject of a hearing on Monday 9/25/17. While the ACA is far from perfect, I think voting on a bill to repeal the ACA without a complete CBO score would be a disservice to the American public. I wish that all members of the Senate would work with the HELP committee and find a bipartisan way to fix healthcare.

Thank you,

Cherlene Nerland
Jackson, TN [redacted]

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Naomi Nemtzow [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senators,

I implore you to oppose Graham-Cassidy. I feel strongly about this because the ACA saved my daughter's life in 2012, and continues to protect her, and all of us who have pre-existing conditions.

In July 2012, at the age of 23, my daughter Alexandra was diagnosed with a rare cancer called chordoma. The chordoma was a large tumor inside her skull and it was squashing her brain stem. Within a matter of days, she went from being normally able, to having difficulty walking or even holding an object in her hand. Left untreated, she would soon have lost the ability to breathe. She required a 10-hour surgery called an endonasal craniotomy to remove the bulk of the tumor. As soon as she recovered from that surgery, she had a second craniotomy to remove more tumor tissue, although it was impossible to remove all of it. In 2013, she underwent 30 sessions of maximum dose proton beam radiation to reduce the likelihood of tumor regrowth.

What does this have to do with the ACA? From 2010-2011, Alex had no health insurance at all. She was a young college grad, and the jobs available to her did not provide health insurance. I was no longer allowed to carry her on my family coverage. Thankfully, in 2012, with the ACA, I was able to put her back on my employer-based family plan. Otherwise, she would have faced cancer uninsured.

In the time since 2013, Alex has returned to school and completed a nursing degree. She is now an RN, caring for others and paying taxes. Every year, she goes back to her oncologist for scans and check-ups.She has a very significant pre-existing condition. If Graham-Cassidy should pass, she may no longer be insurable. That is just not acceptable.

As you know, it's about half of all non-elderly who have one or another pre-existing condition. Maybe not cancer -- maybe diabetes or asthma or something as common as high blood pressure.

Graham-Cassidy, with its block grants and so-called "freedom" for states to make their own rules, would enable insurers to raise rates prohibitively for people with pre-existing conditions.

I heard Senator Cassidy himself on the radio claiming that his bill is not a threat to people with pre-existing conditions. Either he had not read the fine print, or he is deeply cynical about his responsibility to the American people. I pray that the Senate as a whole will not be so cynical.

Sincerely,

Naomi Nemtzow
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Andrew [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

My family and I rely upon quality, affordable healthcare. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. I am totally opposed to the Graham/Cassidy bill.

Sincerely, Gail Kahan

Corvallis, Oregon
Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Apell [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

I will lose my healthcare as I have a pre-existing condition.

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

Jennifer C. Apell, Esquire
[redacted]
Cherry hill, Nj

Sent from my mobile telephone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julie Cramer [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham Cassidy

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sharon Roth <[redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Sharon Roth
Medford, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Manda Galin[redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Sirs:

I am writing because I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My nephew had Leukemia when he was 3 and 1/2 years old. He is 8 now and in remission. However, he will always have a pre-existing condition on his health record and without guarantees, will find it expensive if not impossible to find health insurance. I know this to be true because of his Mother, my sister, having thyroid cancer when she was 6 years old, and after moving to Florida as an adult had difficulty finding health insurance and it is not affordable. This is a young family with two small children and both parents working to afford health insurance.

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

Sincerely

Manda Galin

Wellington, Florida[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Connie Berman <[redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it leaves so many without "realistic" health insurance AND there is really NO PROTECTION against insurance companies from raising the rates for the premiums to make anyone with pre-existing health conditions affordable . The cuts in Medicare and Medicaid will be extremely unfair to the lower and middle classes. DO NOT PASS THIS BILL Connie Berman

Connie Berman

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nina Moukova [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am Czech-American, and I was born and raised in the Czech Republic, where we have single payer healthcare. The price of healthcare and medication in USA is outrageous, and it is a disgrace that the #1 reason for people filing for bankruptcy is because they are ill. Having said all that, healthcare it is still somewhat affordable and if the ACA is improved, many more people will be able to afford insurance and proper medicine. If you repeal the ACA, many people will choose not to get insurance, will not have preventative care, and will be dying prematurely of preventable diseases. I KNOW you must be aware of this. Please put yourself in those people's shoes and try to imagine what it must be like to have to make the decision not to go to doctor even though you desperately need one, because you just can't afford it. How is it possible that in 2017 you put corporate profits in front of human basic needs? Could you please consider all those millions people who will not be able to see a doctor/ afford medicine and will die many years prematurely as a result? If you support the Graham-Cassidy bill and it is signed into law, the blood of these uninsured people will be on your hands. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Nina Moukova

Pennington, NJ[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Rinaldi [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Linda Rinaldi
Palmyra, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margie Lemons [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Slow down on healthcare

Please slow down this hearing and return to the regular order of business in the Senate.

One hearing prior to a vote does not allow for two weeks of comments on the bill. There is no CBO score on this drastic measure.

One sixth of the American economy will be affected -- not to mention the millions of American's healthcare.

We deserve a thoughtful and deliberative process as well as the best coverage available for the most people. Graham Cassidy does not achieve this goal.

Please pause and think. Are the American people being well-served by this rush to fulfill a campaign promise?

You know it is not.

Sincerely,
Margie Lemons

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jocelyn Rish [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy bill

To The United States Senate Committee on Finance:

The evidence is that health-care programs like the ACA save lives by increasing the number of people who have affordable access to a regular care and needed medications. This type of coverage produces a substantial eduction in mortality.

As we age, we will all develop serious health conditions. So a critical test of any health reform is whether it improves or reduces our prospects of having the continuous care and medicines we need. The Graham-Cassidy bill fails this test. It will terminate Medicaid coverage and insurance subsidies for some twenty million people. The entire individual-insurance market will be thrown into a tailspin. Federal protections for insurance coverage will be gone.

Every major group representing patients, health-care professionals, health-care institutions, and insurers has come out adamantly against this plan. Governors from Alaska to Ohio to Virginia have opposed the bill. In a highly unusual, bipartisan statement, the national association representing the Medicaid directors of all fifty states has also opposed the bill. The top health official in Louisiana, Cassidy's home state, has opposed the new plan. There is not a single metric of health or health care that the Graham-Cassidy plan makes better. This bill is a national calamity. It should not even come to a vote, but if it does, I'm begging you to vote NO.

Most sincerely from an American who depends on the protections of the ACA due to pre-existing conditions,

Leigh Burkett

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amanda Walden [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:13 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy

Dear Finance Committee,

Graham/ Cassidy will cost more money to implement than ACA.

This bill should be voted down.

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:57 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing-Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017-My story-Line Llao

Good day,
Please receive my letter for HealthCare, after some changes of my previous letter for the Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing-Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017-My story-Line Llao:

On Saturday, June 17, 2017, Line Llao writes:
Good evening,
The more complex the hostilities of hostile environments, the ritual initiation hazards and pitfalls of PMU, opposed to childhood, to its well-being, of societies represented by those of family cells reproducing and prolonging by violent games and SM of irresponsible adults (close to Islamic terrorist groups, EI training camps), difficulties encountered in the assimilation of minors, infancy in groups, language learning in prohibitive, violent and dictatorial environments, the earlier the puberty will be achieved by survival of a valley of tears, adult precocity already acquired at birth, disguised by each social class, modesty towards parental immaturity,a replicate of the early puberty of the Middle Ages and the underprivileged classes of the world dictatorships, the minor born more responsible and head or breadwinner, than his parental, family cell, become unconscious and irresponsible ritual tortures between endured and inter-cultivated class ignorance, absolute totalitarian processes of repressive and repressive regimes for holocaust.
The planet is already in an open world war but apparently larvae, to consider the ravages of capitalist colonialism in every country of the world, America of B. Obama will have tried in vain to counter-square this phenomenon globalist, of a Mondialism having surpassed the limits of a global burn-out begun by the colored, razed revolutions, and the ISIS burn-out, which, after the Muslim Left, was eradicated, killed in the egg, tortured , arrested, repressed, and executed, massively or even.
Recall :
Would global warming originate from a combined warming between pollution and the warming of an interglacial period, these combinations with a repressive system establishing a constant pathogenic overworking in itself resulting in one of the capitalist laws of an overproduction for an overproduction stimulating a hiring (hence a pauperizing inflation) not a function of the skills acquired during decades of learning, practice, professional experiences, the payrolls of the employees paying the profits of the companies and thus their tax havens, the relocations resulting in job losses in waves and over-numbers, the impoverishment of the salaried classes,deprived of the return of all their wages harnessed by the capital gains guaranteeing in their cumulative tax havens of big companies, these factors carcinogenic and pathogenic really involved.
It will be necessary to come to terms with the polluting companies, reduce them, reduce their size and activity, or reduce them to close their branches, according to their necessity in everyday life, and cease their activity, their relocations, by means of an international plan of action, prohibit polluting undertakings at their first production so newly active in the market, require checks on the probability of harmful pollution in the environment of multinationals including Monsantos, prohibit them if they refuse to comply industrial cartels of environmental crime, dispossess their leaders of their golden parachutes, tax advantages and tax niches, pay these tax levies to the victims to compensate, and families of victims with disabilities,deaths from invalidating pollution related to the activities of these firms, paying the surplus of these fines to the needy, disadvantaged, migrant, refugee, low-income, low-wage, marginalized and NGOs making them survive backwater.
The survival of the Earth is due to an Alter experimental ecologist ecology, following a destruction of the natural phenomena of the host planet assuring Life on Earth, and that of the human species, species in cohabitation with it and those ensuring its food survival. Systematic and systematic destruction, linked to industrial machinery, liberal globalist capitalism, over-industrialized overproduction, dangerous and fatal relocations for human, animal, vegetable and polluting life (petroleum in Africa, suicidal cotton latifundia fields in India, agri-food in America), overproduction of gadgets of gadget companies for the profit of multinationals over consuming reserves of terrestrial resources endangering life, that they exhaust the last tropical forests of the Quaternary, now alive the presence of Earth's atmosphere, necessary for life and only breathable by humans.
https://plus.google.com/u/0/+LineLlao2015-Fichages-%C3%A9lectroniques/posts/MjZ75x1b9Nq
https://plus.google.com/.../+LineLlao2015-F.../posts/MjZ75x1b9Nq
Precisely, these pre-existing plans at Trump, by ObamaCare, which are very valuable for the democratization of care adapted to the pathologies included in work, old age, youth, maternity, and precariousness increase in gravity, frequency and number, individually and collectively, America loses a serious, vital asset, the health of its citizens, and laboring masses. Morbidity, high-rate pathologies augmented by D. Trump's policy of air pollution, global warming, causing severe climatic events, causing deaths due to global climate catastrophes, typhoons and floods, linked to the warming climate change, induced by a polluting over-industrialization, causing desertification to deregulate the natural phenomena of the Earth, hence, these natural disasters, in fact, linked to the overactivity of Man, having led (from this obstinacy of the West, to persist, in the ravaging colonization of the Earth world), the Syrian War, and the current armed conflict. For the Republicans will have always refused to cease suburbanization, over-industrialization to the utmost, having deprived the countries where the West has settled, their democracy, generated dictatorships and therefore chaos in the World.

necessary for life on Earth) and natural biotopes, including those of land-based terrestrial cycles; the overpopulation linked inevitably to an over-growth or even a renewed increase in growth will be an aggravating factor of the American and French supernatality, knowing the ratio surface / demography / natural reserves of the natural critical biotopes in America and France, reduced for its demography; this increased from overpopulation immigrant refugee climatic, economic, political, for strictly legitimate humanitarian reasons. the overpopulation linked inevitably to an over-growth or even a renewed increase in growth will be an aggravating factor of the American and French supernatality, knowing the ratio surface / demography / natural reserves of the natural critical biotopes in America and France, reduced for its demography; this increased from overpopulation immigrant refugee climatic, economic, political, for strictly legitimate humanitarian reasons. the overpopulation linked inevitably to an over-growth or even a renewed increase in growth will be an aggravating factor of the American and French supernatality, knowing the ratio surface / demography / natural reserves of the natural critical biotopes in America and France, reduced for its demography; this increased from overpopulation immigrant refugee climatic, economic, political, for strictly legitimate humanitarian reasons.
Half the continent due to a progressive shortage of food and drinking water, if not to assimilate the rest of the continent and the world with social assistance, maintained in the general social case, the other half of the continent devoted to the grid of a police state in the making of this, returning to one half of the American continent and planet containing the other half of criminal offending, the third of its policemen ins crumbling otherwise under the weight of their loads, falling in absolute corruption having to incarcerate with their detainees.
a great difficulty despite the disability and the multi-infirmity, physical, mental, sexual and genital, thus generated and caused, in multiple combinations. Depending on the type of classes, needy, medium or privileged.
This led to the appearance of epidemics linked to the allegedly sustained, assisted, financed and yet bitterly defended American-led anti-globalization action, despite the brakes, total blockades opposed by the enemies of the Democratic Movement, to ecological progress. Populations at the edge of a general burnout. Under a threat of planetary dictatorship more policed and totalitarian still than that present, intended to contain them.
America is the only one in this tunnel, to vegetate in the shed blood.
Capitalism will have decomposed nature, dissociated individuals, exploded entire regions, exterminated species and populations, the point of no return of the death of the Earth approaches, what solution to find there, since it seeks, altermondialistes they were exterminated, for the immoderate use of drugs and soft drugs, discriminating their movement May-68ard, and post May 68, lucid on the facts, the only movement having radiated in the world spring, freedom and peace, to a universality of us, customs, under French ferocious global connection, since, absolute immobilism bury Life on Earth, another bomb, still diesel, still a MOAB-MOM Bomb .. .
The very idea of Democracy, Freedom, Justice and Equality causes so much fear in the privileged ranks, that they privilege the privileges of impassable caste, and thus arrogate to themselves the illicit Rights called Rights of Duty established on the act committed or "done" judged legal right and not Laws established on the most just reason) Law established by the lords, authorizing and defending this right of appropriation of the soil, means of production, and animals, plants and natural elements such as water, air, rocks and other meteorological elements, and the right to over-exploitation of those elements, are human, resources, that anyone who can not because of these established Laws, their delight.
If the very idea of democracy makes one think of the demon among the Republicans, it is good that the Republicans promise the worst, the free exploitation of the ultimate resources of the world, of America, for the privileged whom they will choose in their herds of followers, and survivors.
D. Trump, son of a criminal released by the bribed and threatened Ku-Klux-Klan authorities, would not be surprising.
The hour may not lend itself to reflection on the future of man, but I can not refrain from showing my faith in a possible future, the important symbolism, and listening to a need inherent in humanity, to survive, to live, and to give birth. It remains 2-3 billion years before the planet completely disappears in the Sun, its warmth (the beginning of a climate warming that is insensitive to its beginnings, and plunging humanity into the distress of high temperatures as as the Earth moves closer to the sun), will be at its climax and unlivable point for Life on Earth then well before 2 billion years, will be inevitable and boil the oceans and seas, their water evaporating, killing all life on Earth if mankind will have succeeded in s' and the recovery of the most dangerous elements dissident and their emulators in grass, recovered from the youngest age, in order to avoid any swarming gravitating around their landmarks. This last active group, virulent and vehement, or soft, of the left soft anesthetic, will remain the first to live under the attacks of the other two groups, to perish or survive. In the constant stress of the Ki of the Last Samurai
Perhaps more worthy of interest:
Key posts threatening the security of the states hosting Arab Muslim immigration, burdened with dormant ISIS infiltrations but active on the ground of immigrant populations.What to do.
Saudi, Syrian, Turkish, Western and Israelite Markets.
Markets in France of psychiatry and child psychiatry.
Men, employees, vigils, key positions, or even as much encumbered as women, of the duty to give the exchange, if taken by ISIS. A must kill suicide kamikaze to avoid the sacrifice of their family, women, children, goods, bequests. If their posts facilitated positive discrimination, be wary, from an ISIS grip to tight mesh.
NB: The hallucinatory drugs of the Nazi era, and the rise to power of Hitler, composed almost exclusively of soft hard drugs, used in psychiatry commonly in case studies on listed dementias, including dissent and dissenting dissent, psychotic derivatives, drugs and neuroleptics, their derivatives. In the days of Nijinsky and Van Gogh.
The vigilant witness of the action EI testing the freedoms of women and their degree of slavery to the precepts EI whose obligatory wearing of the veil, unspeakable if subjected to the duty to give a change to the personal will of the carry. Under the penalty of death by brutal domestic torture, atrocious domestic torture, masking so-called natural deaths of women under marital, conjugal, family, close and neighborhood violence, and abused childhoods of radicalized, spouses, family family families, or simply parental, no one will be able to detect it, to what degree of masked radicalization, these fragile lands of immigration, live ISIS.
Is it necessary to undress each woman in the office of the office to verify the exact degree of bruising of the family brutality, or to wait until they die in the shower Arienne sanitizing their bodily sores and vermin, black misery, poison or commotion of cause invisible to

the naked eye, on the orders of corrupt social services maintaining the fact, in search of new prey for their markets of flesh, medicine and forced cooking?
The response of medicine must remain at the level of its tasks, including that of regulating, verifying, informing, educating, literacy, the wretched and immigrant populations, in demand for care and care adapted to their demand and that of their cause. which would offer additional jobs and medical posts, in order to avoid an upsurge of uncultivated social grounds, and in total precariousness, causes of ISIS.
Women:
Overwork, overload of domestic and professional tasks, hence sleep deprivation, recovery of brain, nervous system and body, deprivation of healthy food, feminine, non-masculine, industrial junk, lipid, over-soda on-glucidic, daily dehydration, related to daily and professional tasks, pollution of basic sources of life, irradiation of essential food sources (varied, fresh and seasonal), human survival and reproduction (dairy, eggs, red meat and white, fresh vegetables, primeurs, citrus fruits, cereals, starchy foods, fish), deprivation of rest, legitimate and legitimate holidays, exacerbated reproduction, domestic duty, domestic violence and tyrannies,childbirths, poorly carried out, in force, hyper- and subalgic trauma, mutilators of the pelvic organs, and fracturing the entire body, torn in its entirety especially in the abdomen, heart, spinal and muscular heart system , and of its nervous tree, of the general nervous system, this increased the sequelae of the obligation to retain the faeces during the use, the routes, the whole carcinogenous, in itself.obligation to retain faeces during employment, journeys, all carcinogenic, per se.obligation to retain faeces during employment, journeys, all carcinogenic, per se.
The obvious progress would consist in constituting a moderate liberalism taking advantage of the industrial merchant chains of the multinationals, recovered thus in their professionalism, to convey democratic moral values with humanitarian aim in the dictatorships world, and instill a humanitarian liberalism liberating dogmas and bad living conditions material means of the peoples, methods of subjection of the masses proper to the totalitarian regimes. A real world socio-economic order will reign on Earth only under these conditions, commonly understood, freely accepted, unconditionally and free to vote.
I think that we should not reduce the spending of the middle classes unless they are financially too privileged, but that we should raise the ceiling of wage incomes, the social minima of the disadvantaged classes, such as working classes, inactive classes (Invalids and disabled persons, persons in all types of long-term pathologies, victims of violence, unemployed and inactive receiving social minima in France RSA and RMI).
But the will persists in disabling alienating pathologies, alienating well-being authorizing liberties of conscience, in the staggered state, industrially organized lobbies, subjugating the masses, phenomenon of global dictatorships, and treating the pathology also persists in place and place to prevent it. Double work of Medicine and its duties, current, prevent, cure.
Violence at school: if the words of racial rejection, slanderous, defiant, rude, lazzis humiliating, moral bullying, injustice, bizuts, physical and sexual violence, in America, in France, sanctioned school sanctions understood, assumed by students, elementary school students, middle school, high schools and crèches, murderous revenge with heavy weapon EI or strictly student would no longer practice, or strictly, ever.
The "I will have" psychiatric and repressed avoiding psychiatry, would no longer be recruited in EI therefore but among the international populations wronged from the so-called badly lived totalitarian regimes.
Cf. my articles on the treatment of drug addicts EI detoxifying in psychiatry, and heavy psychiatry.
"Soldier pill", the Vietnamese GIs, having tested some of the drugs including Acid, LSD, Heroin, Nazi Drug Amphetamines tested on German soldiers engaged voluntarily and enlisted by force roped into brachycephalic soldiers-killers, occipital zones with parietals, amputated, lobotomic resection performed in mass for more accurate use of the conscious brain, privileging reality more than the dream awake, nighttime and prolonged daytime fights, hallucinatory dreams induced hard drugs causing insomnia to be controlled, increased sleep disturbance nocturnal coma, disturbing action in combat), STO, hard drugs having stimulated them psychically, and physically, dominated of duty, knowing that "it is necessary to obtain in these cases the "license to be driver and driver", lead the troops and conduct, under the influence of these hard drugs, authorization of adapted conduct acquired on the ground, authorizing any serious error of sorting and action, costly in human lives. "
These hard drugs added to the overconsumption of strong, hallucinogenic disinfectant alcohols, as part of the Jihadi fighters war. Alcohol plunging into second and rising states destined to "hold on", to take drugs before the fight, to disconnect and to desensitize the wounds, the spirit, to insensitize him in the face of death and torture. Addictive drugs added to strong alcohol, for the amnestic effect of their overconsumption, post-war, among American veterans (to forget the horrors of war, without addiction to Alzheimer-like barbiturates), and among combatants EI, in order to submit to the EI control, and disconnect from any resistance to the EI orders.
Women: Women / cards of payment:
I was writing on the subject of Women, their delivery, Phallocrates and pleasure: The pleasure-delivery:
And why not a painless report of women, rather than their expected delivery without pain, if not report and deliveries irresistible and delivering to a point of defloration of pleasure, unspeakable of delights? Both, relationship and childbirth, without deadly clap-end. Anal perineal, vaginal and ovarian, uterine, fallopian tubes up to their twist, low-abdominal, and breasts, bronchi, neck, pulmonary, even cerebral, cardiac, general. In other words, to deflow the woman by her partner, companion or husband husband and spouse ante-conception before it is by a dangerous delivery, in sub-dolorous and subalgic deliveries at risk including thereby mortal .
If the Woman who is destined to allow herself to be deflowered in sodomite stifling humiliation, to be drunk to be made to roll, to crush, to break, to rape, to prostitute, to roll and to encu ... (masculine language flourished) "in beauty" will be able to give birth without risk to pure motels for her and her offspring.
The lives of women are complex ....
The actual childbirth a pure rape sodomite religious neo-Nazi. In excreta, urination, sweat, blood and tears, drool and vomit, a mutilatory, sometimes murderous "baked" of mothers and newborns, in itself, a crime against humanity. Traumatizing enough for Women only recover with extreme difficulty. The pure enjoyment of the sexual act and of the passage to the act of the layers, a natural enjoyment in itself, unknown to this day in the female populations; pelvic fissures trapped in the pelvic orifice not assisted in the early or malformed layers of the narrow calcified pelvis, related to the late growth of the woman, tight jeans and trousers, worn

even in early pregnancy or late, requiring resuscitation, diabetic or cardio-pathogenic infusions, will have posed under the Nazis, and long before within medicine, the question of whether these female deformities of the narrow pelvis, leading to fetal and post-natal suffering, insurmountable and sometimes fatal the choking by strangulation of the neck of the newborn and the fetus by the umbilical cord at the time of delivery or during the fetal reversal during gestation could be regulated and regulated, prohibition of tight clothing, corsets and corsets of the pelvis by jeans and over-tightened trousers, or the natural selection of non-attendance in childbirth that could lead to the death of the mother and the child. Except in cases of rape, rape with incest, brutality, domestic violence, and clandestine abortions by tight clothing, if prohibited abortion. Mothers who have chosen, by spite, unconsciousness, frustration, self-mutilation, suicide, despairing derivation of despair, to give birth, stupid as much wilde to treat and almost hammered for their unawareness to act in counter-nature acts contrary to human nature and life, and to squeeze themselves into dangerous clothes, ante and during gestations, their consequences, sometimes serious and fatal complications for their irresponsibilities, for violated, prostituted consciously or not, from deflowering to the conception and layers of these women self-punitive behaviors, if not those sequelae, mother-tormentors, increasing the rate of neo-pathologies in the infant, the child and the human being,
Except in cases of pregnant women at risk for the appetite of their husband or fetus sire, and the appetite and tendency of the fetus to consume and refer to rich foods including charcuterie, causes of fetuses more voluminous than the pelvis can contain them in women of stature and less corpulence than that of the child's parent, in gesine.
in Esquimo under a green cloth surgery. Mental mental mental favorite mental sport of the current men, French, European, worse than in trailer of our dear neighbors, cow shots of spouses. That will make women slaves of household, domestic chores, flaring of unbearable kids, races for their pizzas and junk food capitalist; which Daech himself would not want.
So much hatred was not enough to dissuade Women from giving birth, neophytes without the basic instinct of the act or the natural layers, which Nazis would have eliminated for this systematic lack in any woman instinctively, if not severely denatured, eliminated, it would have been necessary to exterminate them, all of them, handicapped by birth almost all, the most instinctual razzed, for the benefit of hospital trusts recovering for life the bodily and mental damage engendered by these factors generating the therapeutic rape of the layers, what to do, inevitable neophytes, more than to admire their work, generations thus begotten of neo-Nazis, or future leftists drugged, depraved alcoholic short, an eternity of humanity missed, for this fact.
Sometimes it's good to take revenge, where it hurts, Daech, ISIS, I think, Savonarola, alas, there. The Women's authors, let us not forget, the Phallocrates.
causing mental retardation in children, curbing complex studies, and providing lower classes of ignorant, illiterate, additional dead weight to human rights violations and democracies because hard-hit women have not been able to benefit of pregnancies having taken place in the necessities of calm, and of the public and private health, necessary, physical and environmental, to possess the abilities to work based on abstraction if not manual. Pregnant mothers at work, in my opinion, very dangerous for the child, his mother, because over-exploiting their physical health, and generating pregnancies at risk in primiparous women, multiparous, if difficulties thus, manage jobs, maintain proper hygiene of the baby or previous infants and the home, additional burdens and chores in pregnancy, in addition to previous pregnancies resulting in newborn babies in the following pregnancy, and disabled newborns, poorly managed according to the degree of poverty, needy women single mothers, or victims of rape, marital rape, marital rape, home-based violence that engendered a disability, and child abuse from conception and ante-conception (before conception). So less able to work in school and adult. and home-based violence that engendered disabilities, and child abuse from conception and ante-design (prior to conception). So less able to work in school and adult. and home-based violence that engendered disabilities, and child abuse from conception and ante-design (prior to conception). So less able to work in school and adult.
Wage increases and maternity leave, combined, would allow healthy design, without post-natal risks, or ante-design, avoiding a medical trust to compensate for genetic errors and sequelae of medically, the spouses, the partners, in a state of rape and brutality by all unbearable errors and awkwardness of lysis and castration of feminine pleasure, if attending deliveries of deliveries, presence of husband, companion long prohibited by the medical teams of until the 1980s, in the delivery rooms), to the handicaps produced by these working classes composed of young mothers and women in the gesine,especially in the poorer classes, mainly in the black classes, in the deadly risk of disabling layers because they are not taken care of properly in a recovery time worthy of the name and their duplication, work for a boss who must listen of their state, but concedes, and the labor of bringing forth the future World, of labor (future contingents of economic soldiers) to hire and prospective employers potentially more balanced.(future contingents of economic soldiers) to hire and future potentially more balanced employers.(future contingents of economic soldiers) to hire and future potentially more balanced employers.
The best solution is that if women want and "desire" to be born, they must be able to breastfeed their children and conceive them in the preserved and free right of their choice.Excluding conjugal duty imposed, and excluding rape, in a context of free will and economic choice, financial ease, fair enforcement of the laws preserving the Rights of Women, those of the Civil Code, and those of Childhood.
Any birth born, born of generations to the rights of respect for the basic needs to life, health, free care, decent rights, housing, clothing, food, drinking water, healthy, culture and knowledge , not respected, potentially subject to delinquency, social disability criminality, physical or mental tare, reversible or ad vitam disabilities.
Rights to life infringed by firms causing lethal poisoning of inherent and inherent food sources that are specific to human life and on Earth, including free access to natural breastfeeding, commercial milks, decent, natural, intended for humanity from the beginning, healthy for life and health. (Except for a burnout out planetary).
a great difficulty despite the disability and the multi-infirmity, physical, mental, sexual and genital, thus generated and caused, in multiple combinations. Depending on the type of classes, needy, medium or privileged.
This led to the appearance of epidemics, neo-pandemics linked to the sustained, assisted, financed and yet bitterly defended globalized anti-globalization of the American state, despite the brakes, total blockades opposed by the enemies of the Democratic Movement, ecologists. Populations at the edge of a general burnout.
The American system, due to its medical and production structures, as much as the French medical and productive system, the democrat struggle was at this level, medical personnel, nurses, will have to face pro-trumpist internal purges, multinational and national, liberal institutions and enterprises. the probity of physicians, their teams, will be questioned, they will face perhaps strong

pressures desisting and positioning vis-à-vis their political, ethical commitments, they will run up against the corruptions of civil servants, liberal doctors according to a catastrophic scenario of political crimes, will be victims of these deletions of post-presidential posts, and the doctors, hospitals, of the private domain, will gradually replace,
The reformist and social welfare policy of raising wages for young working class students, new wage earners (students in principle working in food jobs to compensate for their enrollment and university fees, working time encroaching on their study and note taking, reflection and the creation of state-of-the-art theses, higher than their usual condition, overexploited) on the Labor Markets: encouraging them to work better, without suffering human rights violations, or precariousness in their living spaces, to enter the world of work more quickly, these classes of new employees being better paid and therefore more correct and better cared for (of Health Care), better fed,better housed and better dressed, will be all the more able to work because this increased salary will correspond to a minimum comfort ensuring a greater reconstitution of their labor forces therefore a growing emulation if the security of employment and that of their wages, insured.
Wage increase and allocation of student grants which would allow a greater purchasing power to circulate socially within the social and professional strata (primary, secondary and tertiary sectors), this wage addition, the comfort premium needed for a boosting economic recovery positive.
Hence the interest of maintaining a dynamic social health insurance, engaged in the social problems of the poorer classes, and of the middle classes suffering from their own diseases, induced by the specific professions most often of these social classes, and thus requiring physicians able to treat them fairly, honestly, ethically therefore, with less cost to patients and society if these diseases treated in time and surgical, pharmaceutical methods, adapted to these sufferings, types of pain, and diseases. In this respect, luting against the causes of the disease, pathogenic factors, remains a priority, economic and social prevention against pathologies, daily fight of HealthCare
Challenging Health Care's Health Insurance System would mean losing the health of the social classes representing the Labor Forces who must rebuild themselves in good health to ensure the efficiency of their profession, their well-being due to their saving and investing, and thus maintaining in its boom already started, the economic machine, generating healthy generations of Men, Women, Children who will represent the future Humanity in the World.
I wanted to give my opinion all the same, about the latest American-Health Care events:
Childhood and mother's maternity, including dental, ocular, orthopedic, other, costly and often unrecovered, which increases the morbidity and mortality rate if this childhood, left without care, worthy of the name, and left in precariousness if these children, minors in the younger age and have access to random care. Childhood, future adolescence America, growing muscular, organic and bone and therefore in a frequent deficiency of appropriate healthy foods, because children, students, future builders of their country and the world where they will swarm, having a healthy mind in a healthy body , not conceived in the utmost necessity, nor in material misery, nor having been constituted of unhealthy foods in question, the extreme poverty of their family,
When it comes to the lives of civilian populations, in a capitalist world economic war. Creator of pathologies and trusts of the pathogenic therapeutic drug of all natures: I would share a project to exempt the capital gains of small and medium-sized enterprises, rather than imposing them more (depending on the benefit obtained) as well as multinationals themselves, which are themselves more exempt in their profits than the Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, multinationals and industrial trusts, national and international, operating in retention of tax pockets not taxed according to their financial content, cumulative gains, companies that have not been reinvested in replacements and progress in robotics of industrial products machines, most often a gadget of companies that are pathogenic to leisure and wasteful use of resources, energy, human resources, etc.), not repaid to employees, workers deprived of underpaid wages compared to the neo-colonialist overexploitation of these wage-earners. Karl Marx is not to be remade in his Capital.But it is necessary to go to the evidence of the lives of civilian populations in a capitalist world war that creates diseases as much as pathogenic air pollution that is dangerous for global survival. workers underpaid as compared to the neo-colonialist overexploitation of these masses of wages. Karl Marx is not to be remade in his Capital. But it is necessary to go to the evidence of the lives of civilian populations in a capitalist world war that creates diseases as much as pathogenic air pollution that is dangerous for global survival.workers underpaid as compared to the neo-colonialist overexploitation of these masses of wages. Karl Marx is not to be remade in his Capital. But it is necessary to go to the evidence of the lives of civilian populations in a capitalist world war that creates diseases as much as pathogenic air pollution that is dangerous for global survival.
Atmospheres, nocturnes, and diurnal. electrode rings, and lobotomic resections, medical-legal procuring. Charivaris venal. Medicinal venues for doctors supported by essayist psychiatry in hard and soft drugs, and current consumption of drug addicts, mandatory populist opium intake. Conducting, under compulsion of common medical tortures, the intimate integration of Daech.
All forced prostitution, including procuring, under penalty of torture and physical, sexual, mental and mortal violence, established. Permitted, integrated, legal, ipso facto, on full legitimate current colonialist, Globalist. Its systematic refusal of integration and that of the crime of procuring, which is unlawful under the Civil Code and the French Laws, must be proved and justified, causés honoris, in continuous obstructionist procedures, to contumax. All ignorance and breach of the Laws of the French Civil Code, esteemed Individual and collective legal right, rightfully and legitimately right of Divine Right. On Communist, Cuban, Russian and Soviet mode in Gulag, Aryan, neo-Nazi exterminator, Petainist, Saudi.And ISIS In Human History, cyclical phenomenon of 1000 years in 1000 years.
Traffics pedophiles and thus also incestuous.
The adult and minor preys of these flesh markets and the French, western sex tape, used in gitons and lolitas.
Text Reminder:
male chauvinists
- December 1, 2016
Any woman forced to pain in childbirth fatal for many of them under tight clothing or mutilating up peri-mortality deadly suburban New for stillbirth young women who have recently given birth, or a mortal risk systematically incurred violence by taking the murderous, marital, parental, inestimated, ingrained, unheeded, non-legal, deontological, worthy of this name.
All women destined to gauge genital organs impotent and helpless in the face of the Male, his virulence overpowering, casting the sexual legitimacy of the female genital apparatus, competitive with the male penile power and its attributes, in a recommended or

imposed weakness , of the female race.
Getting rid of women undergoing education adapting machismo to impose mental poverty, sexual, educational, social women, formatting them to the schizophrenic unbearableness legitimized these women's indigence, in an educational process incapacitating violence severe repression, specialized torture of specialized corrective education for the emancipation of women, to a woman's duty to remain mentally deficient, impotent, unworthy of her educational role and mother, in a lack of personal hygiene, Domus, imposed in an unceasing medical traffic, now the woman in a revolting indignity as justifying social rejection male macho trap of imposing phallocentrism the harem and repressed homosexuality manifesting men,refusing the woman as a whole, so emancipated, and reduced to the unbearableness of the Woman, sought to justify the morbid and holocaust violence of which the male seduction violating the rape freely consented by the Woman, their women infringed until the birth intended for coldly murdered women in the world who were deemed insupportable either of cultural and intellectual emancipation or of inhuman stupidity required, a fatal violence against the women representing the two groups, of racial liberal and left-wing politics, embedded, inseminated by their standards in desire to reproduce their species and race of racial Males of Right and Left, in sub-assemblies of the political representation of the male Man, tending to live between Men,homosexuals in homosexuality displayed or masked, in general ... The morals and camp of the gynaeceums evidence of a homosexuality common masculine generating homosexuality in women ..
Strangulation by tight clothing, carcinogenic in itself indefinitely repeated injuries.
Etriquement basin among nubile so caused, due to frequent systematic caesarean section unfinished basins nubile teens in tight jeans with ossified étriquant pelvic opening which allows the passage of the heads of the newborn babies in the course of layers, remains trapped during its expulsion in childbirth, or can not cross the pelvic barrier and necessitates an emergency caesarean section, pelvic opening of the pelvis in the pelvis, the jeans are banned from adolescence and iliac adults in the pelvic bone during its formation, with the final growth and ossification being possible until the 25-27 years of age of the human being.
Every woman conditioned to the formidable stupidity of machismo, employing her to punish with severe bodily punishments, such as chores and chores of domus, domestic and sexual slavery, her stupidity framed, formatted, insupportable for the entourage, and immoderily uneducated, acculturation leading to the punishment of sudden indirect death of deadly, disabling layers by murder and exaction towards stupid women, including in enlightened and cultivated environments, Woman subjected to this status and constrained condition, unwanted woman unbearable, forced to give birth deadly clap-end. Another exaction for women thus beaten, of these kinds of mortal mistreatment of mind to beat the Woman, deserved enough to legitimate themselves of a re-education by the use of the home remedies at home,
Caused taken into Christian and Muslim medical expenses during the expulsion of the newborn naturally involves propelling his expulsion délivratoire enjoyable in a expulsateur sucking infant as much mouth without air cleaning, expelling tasty peach in a sucking fast self-managed, self-dried without gaping feminine stupidity, under pain of deadly clap-end, of its flesh in its passage.
The acceptance and intimate acceptance of this fact, on unused to this expulsatory activity of the newborn, can lead to the compensatory epileptic crisis if not self-managed healthy if conceived expelled ravaged sneeze, exploding the eardrums, Eustachian tubes and frontal, maxillary sinuses, both direct from the right in uppercut zones. lesions, rectal-anal, vaginal, vulvar, uterine, ovarian, fallopian tubes, accompanied by tearing of the local nervous system, cerebral , vascular, up to cerebral angiomas, strokes, muscle tears, ligaments and blood vessels, genital mutilators,
Most women by exaggerated hyper-politeness, managed the Right, and extreme right, sneezing their sneezes of sexual pleasure, obvious, imploding their internal vessels to the brain, this self-restraining female orgasm, ducts natural and sensory cones located in the nasal cavity.
so polite Women (due to their rank feminine delicate than males without complex), therefore women (if not violated by the male and his company), self-generating clap-ends during sneezing inopportune, and deliveries equally brutal.
On the Reason, to estimate the global overpopulation to be eradicated, but a preventive regulation would avoid and save the massacres planned to regulate the instituted births of traditional natalist religions, having instituted this duty to give birth in the race for the penetration of the body of Female, sexual penetration fertilization, STD contaminant used in pepper spray, supposed to curb by infectious burning, cauterizing the genital sensitivity to pleasure, the sexual appetites of the Earth, and thus punishing sexual partners not respecting the sexual hygiene advocated as a forerunner of medicine, sexual intercourse, sexual intercourse condemned therefore for its uses in vice, the ideological blindness of the masses, the mental blindness of popular opium,the infernal fevers admitting into a Hell on Earth any couple lovers of lovers wishing to escape this castrating law of the birth control, Malthusian birth control policies inhuman.
When only the delivery of the layers permits the woman finally to enjoy, in the common castration of her sex, delivered only by the mutilation of the nervous, blood, muscular and tendon systems of her genital organs, forever deflowered by inversion complex masochistic sexual pleasure epileptic, survival, these total fractures of the body, and these organs, traumatized to the bones of the Woman, enjoying in the organic weakness (reserved for the woman and her Sex to remain Weak against the Male, following their total fracture) residual nervous systems of flesh no longer offering resistance to the mating of males and partners abusing the strokes of the trumpets of Jericho in the current sexual relationship.
Instituting a Legal right of suppression, legitimized, to kill, to suppress, the Woman, in the Woman.
The task that awaits medicine, and HealthCare, immense,
Your Defender,
Line Llao

Le Samedi 17 juin 2017 1h32, Line Llao écrit :
Bonsoir,
Plus la complexité des hostilités de milieux hostiles, les dangers et embûches initiatiques rituelles de PMU, opposées à l'enfance, à son

bien-être, des sociétés représentées de celles des cellules familiales reproduisant et prolongeant par jeux violents et SM d'adultes irresponsables (proches des groupements terroristes islamistes, camps d'entraînement EI) , les difficultés rencontrées dans l'assimilation des mineurs, de l'enfance en bas-âge dans des groupements, l'apprentissage du langage dans les milieux prohibitifs, violents et dictatoriaux, plus la puberté se réalisera tôt par survie à une vallée de larmes, précocité adulte dès parfois acquise à la naissance, fait dissimulé de chaque classe sociale, par pudeur envers l'immaturité parentale, fait reproduisant la précocité pubertaire du Moyen-Age et des classes défavorisées des dictatures mondiales, le mineur né plus responsable et chef ou soutien de famille, que sa cellule parentale, familiale, devenue inconsciente et irresponsable des tortures rituelle entre-endurées et entre-cultivées des ignorances de classe, procédés totalitaires absolus des régimes durs et policiers répressifs à holocaustes.
La planète se situant déjà dans une guerre mondiale ouverte mais d'apparence larvée, à considérer les ravages du colonialisme capitaliste en chaque pays du monde, l'Amérique de B. Obama aura tenté vainement de contre-carrer ce phénomène globaliste, d'un Mondialisme ayant dépassé les bornes jusqu'à un burn-out mondial débuté par les révolutions colorées, razziées, et le burn-out ISIS, actuel qui n'aura suivi, une fois la Gauche musulmane, éradiquée, tuée dans l'œuf, torturée, arrêtée, réprimée, et exécutée, massivement voire.
Rappel :
Le réchauffement climatique ne serait-il provenance d'un réchauffement combiné entre la pollution et le réchauffement d'une période inter-glaciaire, ces combinaisons avec un système répressif établissant un surmenage constant pathogène en soi aboutissant à une des Lois capitalistes d'une surproduction pour une surproduction stimulant une embauche (donc une inflation paupérisante) non fonction des aptitudes acquises durant des décennies d'apprentissage, pratique, expériences professionnelles, les ponctions salariales surs les payes des employés assurant les bénéfices des entreprises et donc leurs paradis fiscaux, les délocalisations induisant pertes d'emploi en vagues et surnombres, la paupérisation des classes salariées, privées des reversements de l'intégralité de leurs salaires ponctionnés par les plus-values assurant en leurs cumuls ces paradis fiscaux des grandes entreprises, ces facteurs cancérigènes et pathogènes réellement en cause.
Il faudra bien en venir à l'astreinte envers les entreprises polluantes, les réduire, en réduire la taille, l'activité, ou les réduire à fermer leurs succursales, selon leur nécessité dans la vie courante, et cesser leur activité, leurs délocalisations, par un plan international d'action, prohiber les entreprises polluantes à leurs premières productions si nouvellement actives sur le marché, exiger des contrôles sur des probabilités de pollution nocive dans l'environnement des multinationales dont Monsantos, les prohiber si refus d'obtempérer de ces cartels industriels du crime environnemental, déposséder leurs leaders de leur parachutes dorés, avantages fiscaux et niches fiscales, reverser ces prélèvements fiscaux aux victimes à indemniser, et familles de victimes handicapées, décédées des pollutions mortelles à invalidantes liées aux activités de ces firmes, reverser les surplus de ces amendes aux nécessiteux, défavorisés, structures d'accueil des migrants, réfugiés, petits retraités, bas salaires, marginaux, et ONG les faisant survivre la tête hors du marigot.
La survie de la Terre ne tient qu'à un Alter mondialisme écologiste expérimental, suite à une destruction des phénomènes naturels de la planète hôte assurant la Vie sur Terre, et celle de l'espèce humaine, des espèces en cohabitation avec lui et celles assurant sa survie alimentaire.
Destruction systématique, systématisée, liée au machinisme industriel, le capitalisme libéral mondialiste, surproduction sur-industrialisée, aux délocalisations dangereuses et mortelles pour la vie humaine, animale, végétale, polluante (pétrole en Afrique, champs latifundiaires cotonniers suicidaires en Inde, agroalimentaires en Amérique), surproduction de gadgets de sociétés-gadgets pour le profit de multinationales sur-consommatrices des réserves de ressources terrestres mettant d'autant plus en danger la vie, qu'elles épuisent les dernières forêts tropicales du quaternaire, maintenant en vie la présence de l'atmosphère terrestre, nécessaire à la vie et seule respirable par l'homme.
https://plus.google.com/u/0/+LineLlao2015-Fichages-%C3%A9lectroniques/posts/MjZ75x1b9Nq
https://plus.google.com/.../+LineLlao2015-F.../posts/MjZ75x1b9Nq
Précisément, ces plans pré-existants à Trump, de ObamaCare, très précieux pour une démocratisation du soin adapté aux pathologies incluses dans le travail, la vieillesse, la jeunesse, la maternité, et que la précarité augmentent en gravité, fréquence et nombre, par individu et collectivement, l'Amérique perd un sérieux atout, vital, la Santé de ses citoyens, et masses laborieuses. Morbidité, pathologies aux forts taux augmentés d'un reniement par la politique de D. Trump, de la pollution atmosphérique, du réchauffement climatique, causes de graves événements climatiques, générant des hécatombes de vies humaines, décès dus aux catastrophes climatiques mondiales, glissements de terrains, typhons, et crues, liés au réchauffement dérèglement climatique, induit d'une sur-industrialisation polluante, entraînant une désertification dérégulant les phénomènes naturels de la Terre, d'où, ces catastrophes naturelles, en fait, liées à la suractivité de l'Homme, ayant entraîné (de cette opiniâtreté de l'occident, à persister, dans la colonisation ravageuse du monde), la Guerre de Syrie, et le conflit armé actuel. Car les Républicains auront toujours refusé de cesser la sub-urbanisation, la sur-industrialisation à outrance, ayant privé les pays où l'occident s'est implanté, de leur démocratie, généré dictatures et donc le chaos dans le Monde.
Si la croissance persiste, l'emploi pour l'emploi, l'embauche pour l'embauche, la surproduction pour la surproduction, Travailler pour Travailler, pour Familles et Patrie, les ressources naturelles de la Terre, se réduiront en quelques ans à néant, l'industrialisation pour l'embauche nuire à la santé des citoyens, les surfaces habitables se réduiront, les zones d'urbanisation déborderont des zones constructibles et s'étendront sur des zones non-constructibles sujettes à inondations, typhons, catastrophes naturelles, et atteindront des réserves naturelles préservées car poumons verts de la France et du Monde, assurant la reconstitution biologique atmosphérique (production quotidienne chlorophyllienne de la végétation à feuilles caduques surtout, en oxygène et gaz carbonique, recyclage végétal de l'atmosphère, nécessaire à la vie sur Terre) et des biotopes naturels, dont ceux des cycles naturels terrestres terriens ; la surpopulation liée inévitablement à une sur-croissance ou même une reprisse accrue de la croissance sera un facteur aggravant de la surnatalité Américaine et française, sachant le rapport superficie/démographie/réserves naturelles des biotopes naturel critiques en Amérique et France, d'une superficie réduite pour sa démographie ; ceci augmenté d'une surpopulation immigrée réfugiée climatique, économique, politique, pour des raisons strictement légitimes humanitaires.
La moitié du continent par manque progressif de vivres, et d'eau potable, devant sinon assimiler d'assistances sociales le restant du continent et du monde, maintenu dans le cas social généralisé, l'autre moitié du continent consacrée au quadrillage d'une société

policière en devenir de ce fait, revenant à une moitié de continent américain et de planète contenant son autre moitié de délinquance criminelle, le tiers de ses tenants policiers croulant sinon sous le poids de ses charges, tombant dans la corruption absolue à devoir les incarcérer avec leurs détenus.
Se focaliser plus sur la lutte dans la déontologie médicale, scientifique et paramédicale, pharmaceutique et de prise en charge de la pathologie par les institutions sanitaires de l'État, tout en énumérant, analysant les causes premières des pathologies et leur facteurs pathogènes, sociaux-culturels, répresseurs, économiques, liés au sur-travail dans des conditions difficiles à admette, sans mentionner atteintes aux Droits de l'Homme, induites de déracinements de populations réfugiées climatiques livrées à la pénurie d'aliments basiques sains suite à la désertification, déléguant l'alimentation des foules aux multinationales, leur pollution terrestre, misère, surexploitation sous-payée, esclavage économique industriel au sein des multinationales, et donc indigence matérielle, prohibition des Droits fondamentaux de l'Homme, de la Femme, de l'Enfance, des Animaux, et de l'assouvissement des besoins élémentaires à la survie humaine et animale dont respirer air sain, consommer eau potable, nourriture saine, dormir, circuler librement, entretenir et maintenir son organisme en vie sainement, se vêtir dignement, évacuer, éliminer sainement, librement, leurs toxines, fluides corporels, urines et excréments au cours de leur emploi et vie privée, bénéficier de logements décents et sains, d'où précarité sanitaire et malnutrition, violences domestiques, insécurité, trafics de survivance, criminalité importante, d'où stress de survie, épidémies, néo-pandémies, carences alimentaires constantes, quotidiennes, à fréquentes, entraînant cancérisations fatales, cardiopathies, troubles métaboliques meurtriers, fatigue, inaptitude au travail, emplois d'une grande pénibilité malgré le handicap et la multi-infirmité, physique, mentale, sexuelle et génitale, ainsi générés et causés, en combinaisons multiples. Selon le type de classes, nécessiteuses, moyennes ou privilégiées.
Ceci conduisant à des apparitions d'épidémies liées au manque d'action Altermondialiste soutenue, aidée, financée et pourtant âprement défendue de l'État Américain, malgré les freins, blocus totaux opposés par les ennemis du Mouvement Démocrate, aux progrès Écologistes. Les populations au bord d'un burn-out général. Sous une menace de dictature planétaire plus policière et totalitaire encore que celle présente, destinée à les contenir.
L'Amérique n'est la seule dans ce tunnel, à végéter dans le sang versé.
Le capitalisme aura décomposé la nature, dissocié les individus, explosé des régions entières, exterminé des espèces et populations, le point de non retour de la la mort de la Terre approche, quelle solution y trouver, depuis qu'elle se cherche, les altermondialistes l'avaient trouvée, ils auront été exterminés, pour l'usage immodéré de la drogue et drogues douces, discriminant leur mouvement Mai-68ard, et post mai 68, lucide sur les faits, le seul mouvement ayant rayonné en printemps mondiaux, de liberté et de paix, jusqu'à une universalité des us, coutumes, sous French Connexion mondiale féroce, depuis, l'immobilisme absolu enterre la Vie sur Terre, encore une bombe, encore du gas-oil, encore une MOAB-MOM Bomb...
L'idée même de Démocratie, Liberté, Justice et Égalité cause tant de peur dans les rangs de privilégiés, c'est qu'ils privilégient, les privilèges de caste infranchissables, et donc s'arrogent des Droits illicites dits Droits de Fait (Droits établis sur l'acte commis ou "fait" jugé droit légal et non Lois établies sur la raison du plus juste) Droit établis par les seigneurs, autorisant et défendant ce droit d'appropriation du sol, des moyens de production, des êtres humains, et animaux, végétaux et éléments naturels tels l'eau, l'air, les roches et autres éléments météorologiques, et le droit de sur-exploitation de ces éléments, êtes humains, ressources, que quiconque ne peut du fait de ces Lois établies, leur ravir.
Si l'idée même de démocratie fait penser au démon chez les Républicains, c'est bien que les républicains promettent le pire, la libre exploitation des ultimes ressources du monde, de l'Amérique, au profit des privilégiés qu'ils choisiront dans leur cheptel de suivants, et survivants.
D. Trump, fils de criminel relaxé par les autorités achetées et menacées du Ku-Klux-Klan, cela n'étonnerait.
L'heure ne se prête peut-être pas à réflexions sur l'avenir de l'Homme, mais je ne peux m'interdire de manifester ma foi en un avenir possible, la symbolique importante, et à l'écoute d'un besoin inhérent à l'humanité, survire, vivre, et enfanter. Restent 2 à 3 milliards d'années avant que la planète ne disparaisse totalement dans le Soleil, sa chaleur, (l'amorce d'un réchauffement climatique insensible à ses débuts, et plongeant l'humanité dans la détresse de fortes températures au fur et à mesure du rapprochement de la Terre du soleil), sera à son point déjà culminant et invivable pour la Vie sur Terre alors bien avant 2 milliards d'années, sera inévitable et fera bouillir les océans et mers, leur eau s'évaporant, tuant toute vie sur Terre si l'humanité si aura eu réussi à s'en évader entre-temps, surmonté et réussi à réduire son taux d'agressivité de 3 groupements clans de sous-ensembles humains, les suractifs violents, agressifs, prédateurs et phagocytes des autres clans, et, ravageurs pour survivre sur leur territoire admettant une population croissance exponentielle et à éliminer ou à condamne à essaimer dans le monde, puis le groupement des passifs aux coupes et jougs des dictatures instaurées de ces hyper-actifs Aryens, enfin la résistance active et molle, en son clan et sous cultures clivées, de manifeste éthique gauchiste et pro-marxiste Léniniste de souche, dont les militants éradiqués collectivement de leur action, et mouvements militants activement ou mollement sur le terrain, instaurant des tissus et liens sociaux-culturels assurant la matérialité de leur mouvement, et la récupération des éléments les plus dangereux dissidents et leurs émules en herbe, récupérés dès le plus jeune âge, afin d'en éviter tout essaimage gravitant autour de leurs repères. Ce dernier groupement actif, virulent et véhément, ou mou, de gauche anesthésiante molle, sera, restera le premier à vivre sous les attaques, des deux autres groupements, à en périr ou survivre.
Dans le stress constant du Ki du Dernier Samouraï
Peut-être plus digne d'intérêt :
Postes-clefs menaçant la sécurité des États d'accueil de l'immigration musulmane arabe, grevée d'infiltrations ISIS dormantes mais actives sur le terrain des populations immigrées. Que faire donc.
Marchés Saoudiens, Syriens, Turcs, occidentaux et israélites.
Marchés en France de la psychiatrie et de la pédopsychiatrie.
Les Hommes, employés, vigiles, aux postes-clefs, voire autant grevés que les femmes, du devoir de donner le change, si pris par ISIS. A devoir se tuer de suicide kamikaze pour éviter le sacrifice de leur famille, femmes, enfants, biens, legs. Si leurs postes facilités de discrimination positive, se méfier, d'une emprise ISIS au maillage serré.
N. B. : Les drogues hallucinatoires de l'époque nazie, et de la montée au pouvoir de Hitler, composées presque uniquement de drogues

dures douces, utilisées en psychiatrie communément en étude de cas sur les démences répertoriées, dont la dissidence et la dissidence contestataire, leurs dérivées psychotiques, sous drogues et premiers neuroleptiques, leurs dérivées. Du temps de Nijinsky et Van Gogh.
Le témoin vigile de l'action EI testant les libertés des Femmes, et leur degré d'esclavage vis-à-vis des préceptes EI dont le port obligatoire du voile, indicible si soumises au devoir de donner le change de la volonté personnelle de le porter. Sous peine de mort par brutalités e tortures domestiques atroces, dans l'intimité des foyers, masquant morts dites naturelles des femmes sous violences maritales, conjugales, familles, de proches et voisinages, et enfances maltraitées de radicalisés, époux, familles cellules familiales, ou simplement parentales, nul ne pourra le détecter, à quel degré de radicalisation masquée, ces terrains fragiles de l'immigration, vivent ISIS.
Faut-il déshabiller chaque femme dans le cabinet médical d'office, pour vérification du juste degré de meurtrissures des brutalités familiales, ou attendre qu'elles décèdent sous la douche Arienne aseptisant leurs plaies et vermines corporelles, de misère noire, d'un poison ou commotion de cause invisible à l'œil nu, su ordres des services sociaux corrompus entretenant le fait, à la recherche de nouvelles proies pour leurs marchés de la chair, de la médecine et du cobayage forcé ?
La réponse de la médecine doit rester à hauteur de ses tâches, dont celle de réguler, vérifier, informer, éduquer, alphabétiser, les populations miséreuses et immigres, en demande de soin et de soins adaptés à leur exigence et celle de leur cause, ce qui offrirait emplois et postes médicaux supplémentaires, afin d'éviter une recrudescence des terrains sociaux incultes, et en totale précarité, causes de ISIS.
Femmes :
Surmenage, surcharge de tâches domestiques et professionnelles, d'où privation de sommeil récupérateur, reconstituant du cerveau, du système nerveux et de l'organisme, privation de nourriture saine, et féminine, non masculine, ou malbouffe industrielle, lipidique, sur-sodée sur-glucidique, déshydratation quotidienne, liée aux tâches professionnelles et quotidiennes, pollution des sources élémentaires de vie, irradiation des sources alimentaires essentielles (variées, fraîches et de saison), à la survie humaine et à la reproduction (laitages, œufs, viandes rouges et blanches, légumes frais, primeurs, agrumes, céréales, féculents, poissons), privation de repos, de vacances dignes de ce nom et légitimes, reproduction exacerbée, obligation au devoir conjugal, maltraitances et tyrannies domestiques, violences envers les femmes, accouchements mal entrepris, en force, traumatisants hyper et sub-algiques, mutilateurs des organes pelviens, et fracturant l'intégralité de l'organisme, déchiré en son intégralité notamment au niveau de l'abdomen, du cœur, du système cardiaque rachidien et musculaire, et de son arbre nerveux, du système nerveux général, ceci augmenté des séquelles de l'obligation de retenir les fèces au cours de l'emploi, des trajets, le tout cancérigène, en soi.
Le progrès évident consisterait à constituer un libéralisme modéré profitant des filières marchandes industrielles des multinationales, récupéré ainsi dans leur professionnalisme, pour véhiculer valeurs morales démocratiques à but humanitaire au sein des dictatures mondiales, et instiller un libéralisme humanitaire libérateur des dogmes et mauvaises conditions de vie matérielle des peuples, méthodes d'assujettissement des masses propres aux régimes totalitaires. Un ordre socio-économique mondial réel ne régnera sur Terre qu'à ces conditions là, communément comprise, librement admises, sans conditionnement et libre de vote.
Je pense qu'il faudrait ne réduire les dépenses des classes moyennes à moins qu'elles ne soient financièrement trop privilégiées, mais qu'il faudrait relever le plafond des revenus salariés, des minimas sociaux des classes défavorises, telles les classes travailleuses, classes inactives (Invalides et handicapés, personnes en tous types de pathologies de longue durée, victimes de violences, chômeurs et inactifs percevant des minimas sociaux, en France RSA et RMI).
Mais la volonté persiste d'handicaper de pathologies aliénantes, aliénatrices du bien-être autorisant les libertés de conscience, dans la précarité étatiquement, industriellement organisée de lobbies, assujettissant les masses, phénomène des dictatures mondiales, et traiter la pathologie persiste également donc en lieu et place de la prévenir. Double travail de la Médecine et de ses devoirs, actuels, prévenir, guérir.
Violences à l'école : si les propos de rejet racial narquois, défiants, goguenards, grossiers, lazzis humiliants, brimades morales, injustices, bizuts, violences physiques et sexuelles, en Amérique, en France, se sanctionnaient de sanctions scolaires comprises, assumées par les étudiants, élèves du primaire, collège, lycées et des crèches, les revanches meurtrières à l'arme lourde EI ou strictement étudiantes ne se pratiqueraient plus, ou strictement, jamais.
Les "je vous aurai" psychiatriques et refoulés évitant la psychiatrie, ne se recruteraient plus chez EI donc mais chez les populations internationales lésées des régimes totalitaires dits mal vécus.
Cf. mes articles sur le traitement des combattants drogués EI se désintoxiquant en psychiatrie, et psychiatrie lourde.
"Soldier pill", les GI du Vietnam, ayant testé l'on ne sait combien de drogues dont l'Acide, le LSD, l'Héroïne, Amphétamines drogues nazies testés sur les soldats Allemands engagés volontaires et enrôlés de force (lobomotisés, re-trépanés à leur repousse cérébrale, robotisés en brachycéphales soldats-tueurs, les zones occipitales à pariétales, amputées, résection lobotomique effectuée en masse pour plus de justesse de l'emploi du cerveau conscient, privilégiant la réalité plus que le rêve éveillé, lors de combats nocturnes et diurnes prolongés, rêves hallucinatoires induits des drogues dures causes d'insomnie à maîtriser, augmentés du coma nocturne de privation de sommeil, troublant l'action au combat), au STO, drogues dures les ayant stimulé psychiquement, et physiquement, dominés du devoir, sachant qu'il faut obtenir en ces cas le "permis de se driver et driver", conduire les troupes et se conduire, sous influence de ces drogues dures, autorisation de conduite adaptée acquise sur le terrain, autorisant tout erreur grave de tri et d'action, coûteuse en vies humaines."
Ces drogues dures ajoutées à la surconsommation d'alcools forts, hallucinogènes désinfectants de terrain, dans le cadre de la guerre des combattants Djihadistes.
Alcools plongeant dans des états second et remontants destinés à "tenir le coup", se droguer avant le combat, déconnecter et insensibiliser les plaies, l'esprit, l'insensibiliser face à la mort et la torture. Drogues accoutumantes ajoutées à l'alcool fort, pour l'effet amnésique de leur surconsommation, post-guerre, chez les vétérans américains (afin d'oublier les horreurs vécues des guerres, sans accoutumance aux barbituriques à propension Alzheimer), et chez les combattants EI, afin de se soumettre au contrôle EI, et se déconnecter de toute résistance aux ordres EI.
Femmes : Women/cards of payment:
I was writing on the subjet of Women, their delivery, Phallocrates and pleasure: Childbirth, a real pleasure, why not : The pleasure-

delivery:
Et pourquoi pas un rapport sans douleur des Femmes, plutôt que leur accouchement prévu sans douleur, sinon rapport et accouchements irrésistibles et délivrants à un point de défloration du plaisir, indicible de voluptés ? Les deux, rapport et accouchement, sans clap-end mortel. Anal périnéal, vaginal et ovarien, utérin, des trompes de Fallope jusqu'à leur torsion, bas-abdominal, et des seins, des bronches, du cou, pulmonaire, voire cérébral, cardiaque, général. Autrement-dit, déflorer la femme par son partenaire, compagnon ou mari époux et conjoint ante-conception avant qu'elle ne le soit par une délivrance dangereuse, dans accouchements sub-dolores et sub-algiques à risques y compris de ce fait, mortels.
Si la Femme vouée à se laisser déflorer dans l'humiliation cuisante sodomite de se faire saouler pour se faire rouler, broyer briser, violer, prostituer, rouler et "encu..." (langage masculin ordurier, dit "fleuri) femme "roulée en beauté", elle ne pourra accoucher sans risques motels purs pour elle et sa descendance.
La vie des Femmes bien complexe....
L'accouchement actuel un pur viol sodomite religieux néo-nazi. Dans les excréments, la miction, la sueur, le sang et les larmes, la bave et les vomissures, une "cuite" commotionnante mutilatoire, parfois meurtrière des mères et nouveau-nés, en soi, un crime contre l'humanité. Traumatisant assez pour les Femmes ne s'en relèvent qu'avec une extrême difficulté. La jouissance pure de l'acte sexuel et du passage à l'acte des couches, une jouissance naturelle, en soi, inconnue à ce jour dans les populations féminines ; les étriquements du bassin si bébés coincés dans l'orifice pelvien non assistés lors des couches, précoces ou à malformation du bassin calcifié étroit, liés a port tardif dans la croissance de la femme, de jeans et pantalons serrés, portés jusques dans grossesses précoces ou tardives, nécessitant réanimation, perfusions diabétisantes ou cardio-pathogènes, auront posé sous les nazis, et bien avant au sein de la médecine, la question de savoir si ces malformations féminines du bassin étriqué, conduisant à souffrance fœtale et post-natale, insurmontable et parfois mortelle pur l'enfant, l'étouffement par strangulation du cou du nouveau-né et fœtus par le cordon ombilical, lors de l'accouchement ou lors de son retournement fœtal, lors de la gestation, pouvaient se régler et réguler, soit par l'interdiction des vêtements serrés, corsets et corsetages du bassin par jeans et pantalons sur-serrés, ou la sélection naturelle de la non assistance dans l'accouchement pouvant conduire au décès de la mère et l'enfant. Sauf cas de viol, viol avec inceste, brutalités, violences domestiques, et avortements clandestins par vêtements serrés, si avortement prohibé. Les mères ayant choisi par dépit, inconscience, frustration, automutilation, suicide, dérivation d'acte désespéré, d'accoucher, stupides autant gnous à traiter et attaquer quasiment au marteau pour leur inconscience à agir dans actes contre-nature contraires à la nature humaine et à la vie, et à se serrer dans vêtements dangereux anté et lors des gestations, leurs suites, parfois complications graves et mortelles pour leur irresponsabilités, car violées, prostituées consciemment ou pas, de la défloration à la conception et aux couches de ces femmes aux comportements faisant suite, auto-punitifs sinon de ces séquelles, mères-bourreaux, augmentant le taux de néo-pathologies chez le nourrisson, l'enfant et l'être humain, le tout récupéré de pédopsychiatrie et pédiatries en exponentiation croissante.
Sauf cas de femmes soumises à grossesses, à risques pour l'appétit de leur mari ou géniteur du fœtus, et l'appétit et tendance du fœtus à consommer et orienter vers les nourritures riches dont charcuteries, causes de fœtus plus volumineux que le bassin ne peut les contenir chez des femmes de stature et corpulence moindre que celle du géniteur de l'enfant, en gésine.
Un coup de poing anal chez un homme le tuerait (ou tuerait la femme qui s'en vengerait pour ses couches ayant broyé son périnée jusqu'à son rectum), serait infime, en comparaison d'un accouchement actuel mal entrepris, (dans le froid, à jambes écartées, sous une lampe sur-brillante, sur-aveuglante d'une chaleur allergène suffocante de spot de stade de sport ou de Zénith, si un homme pouvait accoucher, il comprendrait le plaisir qu'il manquerait, pour son refus de l'induire à sa femme. Qui une fois rendue invivable, ne mérite plus, que cette vengeance, que leur voudrait leur conjoint compagnon, et jusqu'à Daech, de s'en faire encu.., engrosser, puis éclater le fond du pantalon, sur une chaise percée. Dans une "chiasse" ou colique atroce et des pisses froides à partie de cuisses torrides et glacées, en Esquimo sous un drap vert chirurgie. Sport favori mental de cuisse mentale des hommes actuels, français, européens, pire que dans bande annonce de nos chers voisins, coups en vache de conjoints. Qui rendront les femmes esclaves du ménage, des corvées domestiques, du torchage de sales gosses insupportables, aux courses pour leurs pizzas et malbouffe capitaliste; ce que ne voudrait, jusqu'à Daech même.
Tant de haine ne suffisant à dissuader les Femmes d'accoucher, en néophytes sans instinct basique de l'acte ni des couches naturelles, que des nazis auraient éliminées pour ce manque systématique en toute femme d'instinct, sinon sévicié, dénaturé, éliminé, il aurait fallu les exterminer, toutes, handicapées de naissance quasi toutes, les plus instinctuelles razziées, au bénéfice de trusts hospitaliers récupérateur à vie des dommages corporels et mentaux engendrés de ces facteurs générant le viol thérapeutique des couches, que faire, en inévitable néophytes, de plus qu'admirer leur travail, des générations ainsi engendrées de néo-nazis, ou futurs gauchistes drogués, dépravés alcoolisés bref, une éternité d'humanité ratée, pour ce fait.
Parfois, cela fait du bien de se venger, là où cela fait mal, Daech, ISIS, je pense, ce Savonarole, hélas, là. Les auteurs des Femmes, ne l'oublions pas, les Phallocrates.
Le progrès s'avérerait identique envers les femmes enceintes et jeunes accouchées, travailleuses, ces classes nouvelles de femmes émancipées, créent des emplois supplémentaires à leur état, d'une part, création d'embauche nécessitant soins particuliers propres à la grossesse, plus leur grossesse sera payée, subventionnée, surveillée et médicalement contrôlée, moins la mortinatalité, la péri-néo-mortalité, les décimeront, décimeront leurs nouveaux-nés, plus les descendances qu'elles engendreront pourront vivre sainement si l'allaitement de mise et revenu chez les femmes aptes à l'allaitement, ce qui signifie qu'elles resteront de cette prise en charge médicale gratuite, ou partiellement gratuite, saine physiquement pour l'allaitement de longue et faible durée, selon leurs capacités mentales et physiques, donc, des enfances plus adaptes, plus calmes, sereines, capables et sociables, non tourmentées de précarité lors de leur conception, ni handicapées de cette précarité des logements, manques d'hygiène élémentaire des lieux de vie induits de cette précarité, alimentation saine et équilibre lors de la conception et grossesse, ante-conceptionnelle et un calme plus relatif au sein des foyers qui si sous-payés s'entre-querellent et entre-torturent, et s'entre-tuent voire, donc, un mieux serait opposé à l'aléatoire de grossesses risquées en cause la misère, de milieux nécessiteux engendrant des populations entières d'handicapés, fragiles mentalement, ou handicapés de tares physiques liées à la malnutrition, maltraitance infantile liée à la précarité et la misère induite de bas salaires et surexploitation au travail de femmes enceintes, entraînant un retard parfois mental chez l'enfant, refrénant les études complexes, et fournissant des basses classes d'ignorants, analphabètes, poids mort supplémentaire aux enfreintes aux Droits de

L'homme et aux démocraties, car femmes durement lésées n'ayant pu profiter de grossesses s'étant déroulées dans les nécessités du calme, et de la santé publique et privée, nécessaire, physique et environnementale, pour posséder les aptitudes au travail basé sur l'abstraction sinon manuel. Les grossesses de mères au Travail, à mon avis, très dangereuses pour l'enfant, sa mère, car sur-exploitatrice de leur santé physique, et générant des grossesses à risques chez les femmes primipares, multipares, si difficultés de ce fait, à gérer emplois, bonne tenue de l'hygiène du bébé ou des nourrissons précédents et du foyer, charges et corvées supplémentaires à la gestation, en supplément de grossesses antécédentes ayant abouti à des nouveau-nés lors de la grossesse suivante, et à nouveaux-nés handicapés, mal pris en charge en fonction du degré de pauvreté, nécessiteuse des femmes mères célibataires, ou victimes de viols, viols conjugaux, maritaux, et violences à domicile ayant engendré handicapés, et enfances maltraitées dès leur conception et ante-conception (avant leur conception). Donc moins aptes au travail scolaire et adulte.
L'augmentation des salaires, les congés maternité, cumulés, autoriseraient une conception saine, sans risques post-nataux, ni ante-conceptionnel, évitant à la société un trust médical de rattrapage des erreurs génétiques et séquelles d'accouchements médicalement, familialement et dans le couple, mal entrepris (les conjoints, partenaires, en état de viol et brutalités par toutes erreurs et maladresses insupportables de lisysme et castration du plaisir féminin, si assistent aux délivrances des accouchements, présence du mari, compagnon longtemps prohibée par les équipes médicales des maternités, pour ce fait, jusqu'aux années 80, dans les salles d'accouchement), jusqu'aux handicaps produits de ces classes travailleuses composées de jeunes mères et femmes en gésine, notamment dans les classes pauvres donc essentiellement chez les classes Noires, en risque mortel de couches handicapantes car non prises en charge correctement dans un temps de récupération digne de ce nom et de leur double emploi, travailler pour un patronat qui devra rester à l'écoute de leur état, mais n'y concède, et le travail d'enfanter le Monde futur, de mains-d'œuvres (futurs contingents de soldats économiques) à embaucher et futurs employeurs potentiellement plus équilibrés.
La meilleure solution étant que si des femmes veulent et "désirent" enfanter, elles doivent s'avérer aptes à l'allaitement de leurs enfants et à les concevoir dans le juste droit préservé et libre de leur choix. Hors devoir conjugal imposé, et hors viols, dans un contexte de libre volonté et de choix économique, d'aisance financière, de juste application des lois préservant les Droits de la Femme, ceux du Code civil, et de ceux de l'Enfance.
Toute naissance née, issue de générations aux droits de respect de la satisfaction des besoins essentiels à la vie, à la santé, aux libres soins, à droits décents, logements, vêtements, alimentation, eau potable, sains, à la culture et au savoir, non respectés, potentiellement sujette à délinquance, criminalité handicap social, tare physique ou mentale, handicaps réversibles ou ad vitam.
Droits à la vie enfreints de firmes causes d'empoisonnements létaux des sources d'aliments inhérents et inhérentes, propres à la vie humaine et sur Terre, dont l'accès libre à un allaitement naturel, des laits de commerce, aliments décents, naturels, prévus pour l'humanité dès son origine, sains pour la vie et la santé. (A moins d'un burn-out à prévoir planétaire).
Se focaliser plus sur la lutte dans la déontologie médicale, scientifique et paramédicale, pharmaceutique et de prise en charge de la pathologie par les institutions sanitaires de l'État, tout en énumérant, analysant les causes premières des pathologies et leur facteurs pathogènes, sociaux-culturels, répresseurs, économiques, liés au sur-travail dans des conditions difficiles à admette, sans mentionner atteintes aux Droits de l' homme, induites de déracinements de populations réfugiées climatiques livrées à la pénurie d'aliments basiques sains suite à la désertification, déléguant l'alimentation des foules aux multinationales, leur pollution terrestre, misère, surexploitation sous-payée, esclavage économique industriel au sein des multinationales, et donc indigence matérielle, prohibition des Droits fondamentaux de l'Homme, de la Femme, de l'Enfance, des Animaux, et de l'assouvissement des besoins élémentaires à la survie humaine et animale dont respirer air sain, consommer eau potable, nourriture saine, dormir, circuler librement, entretenir et maintenir son organisme en vie sainement, se vêtir dignement, évacuer, éliminer sainement, librement, leurs toxines, fluides corporels, urines et excréments au cours de leur emploi et vie privée, bénéficier de logements décents et sains, d'où précarité sanitaire et malnutrition, violences domestiques, insécurité, trafics de survivance, criminalité importante, d'où stress de survie, épidémies, carences alimentaires constantes, quotidiennes, à fréquentes, entraînant cancérisations fatales, cardiopathies, troubles métaboliques meurtriers, fatigue, inaptitude au travail, emplois d'une grande pénibilité malgré le handicap et la multi-infirmité, physique, mentale, sexuelle et génitale, ainsi générés et causés, en combinaisons multiples. Selon le type de classes, nécessiteuses, moyennes ou privilégiées.
Ceci conduisant à des apparitions d'épidémies, néo-pandémies liées au manque d'action Altermondialiste soutenue, aidée, financée et pourtant âprement défendue de l'État Américain, malgré les freins, blocus totaux opposés par les ennemis du Mouvement Démocrate, aux progrès Écologistes. Les populations au bord d'un burn-out général.
Le système Américain, tient à ses structures médicales et de production, autant que le système médical et productif français, le combat démocrate se situa donc à ce niveau, les personnels médicaux, infirmiers, devront se heurter à des purges internes pro-trumpistes, au sein même de ces institutions et entreprises, multinationales et nationales, libérales. la probité des médecins, leurs équipes, sera remise en question, ils devront faire face à peut-être des pressions fortes les désistant et positionnant vis à vis de leurs engagements politiques, éthiques, ils se heurteront à des corruptions de fonctionnaires, les médecins libéraux selon un scénario catastrophe de crimes politiques, seront victimes de ces suppressions de postes post-présidentielles, et les médecins, hospitaliers,du domaine privé, se remplaceront progressivement, les doyens des facultés, engagés pour les réformes de B. Obama, désistés ou devront céder aux besoins de Trumpistes en étudiants travaillant pour D. Trump, Trump encore, fera certainement en sorte, que les patients de toutes confessions, opinions, et couleurs, seront très rapidement fichés en catégorie pour D. Trump ou pas, les soins, je le pense des plus charlatans, engagés sur leurs aptitudes au volontariat opiniâtre, seront assignés en fonction je le présuppose, des étudiants et diplômés triés sur le volet dans les universités, leur engagement et degré d'obéissement aux politiques encore indéfinies de Trump.
l 'entreprise réformiste et sociale de politique d'augmentation des salaires des classes jeunes travailleuses et étudiantes, des nouveaux salariés (les étudiants en principe travaillant dans jobs alimentaires pour compenser leurs droit d'inscription et de vie universitaire, temps de travail empiétant sur leur temps d'études et de prises de notes en cours, de réflexion et de constitution de thèses d'État dignes de ce nom, d'un niveau supérieur à celui de leur condition habituelle, de surexploités) parvenus sur les Marchés du Travail : Les encourageant à mieux travailler sans atteintes subies des Droits de l'Homme, ni précarité, vétusté de leurs lieux de vie, à entrer plus rapidement dans le Monde du travail, ces classes de nouveaux employés, mieux rémunérés, donc plus corrects, mieux soignés (de Health Care), mieux alimentés, mieux logés et mieux vêtus, seront d'autant plus aptes au travail que ce salaire augmenté correspondra à un confort minimal assurant une plus grand encore reconstitution de leurs forces de travail donc une émulation croissante si la

sécurité d 'emploi et celle de leurs salaires, assurées.
Augmentation salariale et attribution de Bourses étudiantes qui autoriserait un plus grand pouvoir d'achat diffusant faisant circuler socialement au sein des strates sociale et professionnelles (secteurs primaires, secondaires et tertiaires), cet ajout salarial, prime de confort nécessaire à une relance économique en amorce positive.
D'où l'intérêt de conserver une Assurance Sociale de Santé dynamique, engagée dans les problèmes sociaux des classes pauvres, et des classes moyennes souffrant de leurs propres maladies, induites des professions spécifiques le plus souvent de ces classes sociales, et donc exigeant des médecins aptes à les traiter de façon juste, honnête, éthique donc, de moindre coût pour les patients et la société si ces pathologies traitées à temps et de méthodes chirurgicales, pharmaceutiques, adaptées à ces souffrances, types de douleurs, et maladies. En cela, lutter contre les causes-mêmes de la maladie, les facteurs pathogènes, reste une priorité, la prévention économique et sociale contre-pathologies, combat quotidien de HealthCare
La remise en cause de ce Système d'Assurance Santé de Health Care, reviendrait à perdre toute santé des classes sociales représentant les Forces de Travail devant se reconstituer en bonne santé pour assurer l'efficacité de leur profession, leur bien-être dû à leur pouvoir d'achat, leur épargne et investissements, et donc maintenir en son essor déjà amorcé, la machine économique, engendrer des générations saines d'Hommes, Femmes, Enfants qui représenteront l'Humanité future dans le Monde.
Je tenais à donner mon avis tout de même, sur les derniers événements Américains-Health Care :
Peut s'avérer complexe le système de sécurité sociale, y compris en France, et ne pouvant que considérer le fait qu'une dépense supplémentaire de rétrogradation de cette réforme sous la présidence D. Trump, opposerait un coût de milliards de dollars à une reprise des structures médicales, hospitalières, et libérales, pharmaceutiques et paramédicales, informatiques et sociales, déjà en place et efficientes, étant donnée l'adhésion de nombre de médecins à cette réforme de ObamaCare, renoncer, serait détruire ces structures, représenterait une perte en milliards supplémentaires, dont remplacer ce travail accompli déjà, d'humanisation des conditions d'accès à des soins légitimes, non uniquement réservés aux travailleurs, rapidement et sur un long temps de longue haleine, ce qui représente un investissement humain énorme (qui serait serait gaspillé) vis-à-vis de la piètre résultante qu'opposerait D. Trump en tant que réforme de la Santé, de son cru, confinant les classes salariées à une surimposition de leurs dépenses en soins médicaux, face à des classes inactives ou seniors, rendus à l'absence de soins pour les infirmités, handicaps, pathologies professionnelles liées et entraînées par les efforts, jusqu'à lésions irréversibles qu'ils auront physiquement, mentalement, cumulées au long de leur vie, dues au travail et à leur vieillissement et donc jusqu'à ds pathologies mortelles sans sois appropriés, autant pour les classes des mineurs et jeunes classes d'adolescents, étudiants, lésées dès conçues, en cause la précarité due aux coûts des soins médicaux liés à l'Enfance et à la maternité de leur mère, dont prothèses dentaires, oculaires, orthopédiques, autres, coûteuses et le plus souvent non remboursées, ceci augmentant le taux de morbidité et de mortalité si cette enfance, laissée sans soins, dignes de ce nom, et laissée dans la précarité si ces enfants, mineurs en bas-âge et ont toutefois accès à des soins aléatoires. Enfance, adolescence future Amérique, en pleine croissance musculaire, organique et osseuse et donc en carence fréquente de nourritures appropriées saines, car enfants, étudiants, futurs bâtisseurs de leur pays et du monde où ils essaimeront, devant posséder un esprit sain dans un corps sain, non conçu dans la nécessité maximale, ni dans la misère matérielle, ni ayant été constitué d'aliments malsains en cause, l'extrême pauvreté de leur famille, générant pathologies incapacitantes temporaires à irréversibles et incurables donc pérennes, à vie, si liées à la pauvreté quotidienne grave.
Quand il en va de la vie de populations de civils, dans une guerre économique mondiale capitaliste. Créatrice de pathologies et de trusts du médicament thérapeutique pathogène de toutes natures : Je partagerais un projet d'exonérer les plus values des petites et moyennes entreprises, plus que les imposer d'avantage (en fonction du bénéfice obtenu) autant que multinationales elles-mêmes plus exonérées dans leurs bénéfices que les Micro, Petites et Moyennes entreprises, multinationales et trusts industriels nationaux, internationaux, fonctionnant en rétentions de poches fiscales non imposées en fonction de leur teneur financière, cumuls de plus-values, bénéfices d'entreprises sinon réinvestis dans les remplacements et progrès en robotique de machines à produits industriels le plus souvent gadget de sociétés pathogènes du loisir et du gaspillage en ressources, énergies, matière humaines etc.), non reversées aux employés, travailleurs spoliés de salaires sous-payés comparativement aux surexploitations néo-colonialistes de ces masses salariales. L'on ne va refaire Karl Marx, dans son Capital. Mais il faut se rendre à son évidence, quand il en va de la vie de populations de civils, dans une guerre économique mondiale capitaliste créatrice de maladies autant qu'une pollution atmosphérique pathogène dangereuse pour la survie planétaire.
Ambiances, nocturnes, et diurnes. rixes aux électrodes, et résections lobotomiques, proxénétismes médicaux-juridiques. Charivaris vénaux. Vénalités de médecines à médecins appuyés de psychiatries essayistes en drogues dures et douces, et consommations courantes de drogués, prises obligatoires d'opiums populistes. Conduisant obligatoirement, sous contrainte de tortures médicales communes, à l'intégration intime de Daech.
Toute prostitution contrainte, proxénétisme compris, sous peine de tortures et violences physiques, sexuelles mentales, mortelles, établie Droit admis, intégré, légal, de plein droit, sur modalités du plein droit légitime courant colonialiste, Mondialiste. Son refus systématique d'intégration et celui de ce crime de proxénétisme, illicite aux regards du Code Civil et des Lois françaises, devant se prouver, et justifier, causus es honoris, dans procédures obstructionnistes en continu, à contumax. Toute ignorance et enfreinte des Lois du Code Civil français, estimée Droit individuel et collectif légal, juste, de plein droit et légitime, de Droit divin. Sur mode Communiste, Cubain, Russe et soviétique à Goulag, Aryen, néo-nazi exterminatoire, pétainiste, Saoudien. Et ISIS. En Histoire Humaine, phénomène cyclique de 1000 ans en 1000 ans.
Trafics pédophiles et donc également incestueux.
Les proies adultes et mineures de ces marchés de la chair et de la sex-tape française, occidentale, utilisées en gitons et lolitas.
Rappel de texte :
Phallocrates
- le 01 décembre 2016
Toute femme contrainte à la douleur dans l'enfantement, mortel pour nombre d'entre-elles, sous soit vêtements serrés mutilateurs jusqu'à une péri-mortalité, péri-néo-mortinatalité meurtrière pour les jeunes accouchées, soit risque mortelle systématiquement encouru de violences en prenant le relais meurtrier, violences conjugales, maritales, parentales, in-estimées, in-jaugées, inécoutées,

non prise en charge légale, déontologique, digne de ce nom.
Toutes femmes destinées à se jauger d'organes génitaux impuissants, et impuissante face au Mâle , sa virilité surpuissante, castrant la légitimité sexuelle de l'appareil génital féminin, concurrentiel à la puissance pénienne mâle et de ses attributs, dans une faiblesse recommandée ou imposée, de la gent féminine.
Se débarrasser de femmes soumises à une éducation les adaptant au machisme visant à imposer l'indigence mentale, sexuelle, éducative, sociale aux femmes, les formatant jusqu'à l'insupportabilité schizophrène légitimée de ces indigences féminines, dans un procédé incapacitant éducatif aux violences répressives graves, tortures spécialisées d'éducations spécialisées correctives de l'émancipation des Femmes, jusqu'à un devoir de la Femme de rester débile mentale, impuissante, indigne de son rôle éducatif et de mère, dans u manque d'hygiène corporelle, de la Domus, imposé, dans un trafic médical incessant, maintenant la Femme dans une indignité révoltante telle que justifiant le rejet social masculin machiste, piège d'un phallocentrisme imposant le gynécée et une homosexualité refoulée se manifestant entre hommes, refusant la Femme en son ensemble si émancipé, et réduit à l'insupportable de la Femme, recherché justifiant les violences morbides et holocaustes dont la séduction mâle violant de viol librement consenti par la Femme, leurs femmes enfreintes jusqu'à l'enfantement destiné à froidement assassiner dans le monde les femmes jugées insupportables soit d'émancipation culturelle, et intellectuelle, soit de bêtise inhumaine requise, violence mortelle faite aux femmes représentatives des deux groupements, de politique de Gauche et de Droite libérale raciale, engrossées, inséminées de leurs étalons en désir de reproduction de leur espèce et race de Mâles de Droite et de Gauche raciales, en sous ensembles de la représentation politique de l'Homme de sexe masculin, ayant tendance à vivre entre Hommes, homosexuels en homosexualité affichée ou masquée, en général... La morale et camp des gynécées preuve d'une homosexualité courante masculine générant l'homosexualité chez les femmes..
Toute strangulation par vêtements serrés, cancérigène en soi de lésions indéfiniment répétées.
Etriquement du bassin chez les nubiles ainsi causé, cause de césariennes fréquentes à systématiques chez les bassins non terminés d'adolescentes nubiles ayant ossifié dans jeans serrés étriquant l'ouverture pelvienne d'ordinaire autorisant le passage lors de couches, de la tête des nouveaux nés, restée coincée lors de son expulsion dans l'accouchement, ou ne pouvant franchir la barrière pelvienne et nécessitant césarienne en urgence, ouverture pelvienne osseuse du bassin, ossifiée dans l'étriquement des jeans interdisant l'ouverture adolescente et adulte iliaque des os du bassin lors de sa formation, de la croissance et ossification définitive pouvant s'effectuer jusqu'aux 25-27 ans de l'être humain.
Toute femme conditionnée à la bêtise formatée du machisme l'employant à punir de punitions corporelles graves dont tâches et corvées de la domus, esclavage domestique et sexuel, sa bêtise cadrée, formatée, insupportable pour l'entourage, et immodérément inculte, maintenue dans cette acculturation induisant à la punir de mort subite indirecte de couches mortelles, handicapantes, par meurtre et exaction envers la Femmes stupide, y compris en milieux éclairés, cultivés, Femme soumise à ce statut et condition contrainte, de femme indésirée insupportable, contrainte à accoucher sous clap-end mortel. Autre exaction pour femmes ainsi battues, de ces sortes de maltraitances mortelles d'esprit de battre la Femme, de façon méritée assez pour se légitimer d'une ré-éducation par l'usage de la maison de redressement à domicile, de l'esprit émancipé, émancipateur, de la Femme commuée en bêtise inhumaine méritant la maison de correction familiale, au sein du couple, du couple médical soutien et chef de couple, de famille, ou de foyer/médecine prolongatrice de ces exactions phallocrates, dans l'apparent juste droit d'une légale légitimation de la supériorité du mâle..
Causé de prises en charges médicales chrétiennes et musulmanes, lors que l'expulsion du nouveau-né consiste naturellement à son expulsion propulsive, délivratoire jouissive, en un sucement expulsateur du nourrisson, autant bouche sans ravalement d'air, expulsant pêche savoureuse en un sucement rapide auto-géré, auto-drivé sans bêtise féminine béante, sous peine de clap-end mortel, de sa chair sur son passage.
L'acceptation et acception intime de ce fait, sur non habituées à cette activité expulsatoire du nouveau-né, pouvant conduire à la crise épileptique compensatoire sinon auto-gérée sainement si conçue expulsion ravalée d'éternuement, explosant les tympans, trompes d'Eustache et sinus frontaux, maxillaires, autant directs du droit en zones d'uppercuts. autant pour les parties basses féminines, implosées dans des douleurs telles que pouvant s'avérer mortelles, des lésions, à déchirements rectaux-anaux, vaginaux, vulvaires, utérines, ovariens, des trompes de Fallope, accompagnes de déchirements du système nerveux local, cérébral, vasculaire, jusqu'à angiomes cérébraux, AVC, déchirements musculaires, ligamentaires et des vaisseaux sanguins, mutilateurs des organes génitaux, déjà amplement maltraités lors des cursus de vie des Femmes.
La plupart des femmes par hyper-politesse exagérée, gérée de la Droite, et extrême-droite, enrayant leurs éternuements de plaisir sexuel, évident, en implosant leur vaisseaux internes au cerveau, de cette auto-contention de l'orgasme féminin, des conduits naturels et des cornets sensoriels situés dans les fosses nasales.
Donc Femmes par politesse (due à leur rang de féminines, délicates plus que Mâles sans complexes), Femmes donc(sinon violées par le mâle et sa société), s'auto-générant clap-ends lors d'éternuement intempestifs, et accouchements tout aussi brutaux.
Sur la Raison, d'estimer la surpopulation mondiale à éradiquer, mais une régulation préventive éviterait et ferait économie des massacres prévus pour réguler des naissances institués de religions natalistes traditionnelles, ayant institué ce devoir d'enfanter dans la course à la pénétration du corps de la Femme, pénétration positon sexuelle fécondatrice, contaminatrice de MST utilisées en bombe lacrymogène au poivre, sensées juguler par brûlure sur-infectantes, cautérisant la sensibilité génitale au plaisir, les appétits sexuels de la Terre, et donc punir les partenaires sexuelles non respectueux de l'hygiène élémentaire préconisée en précurseur de la Médecine, dans l'ace sexuel, rapport sexuel condamné donc pour ses usages dans le vice, l'aveuglement idéologique des masses, la cécité mentale des Opiums populaires, les fièvres infernales admettant en un Enfer sur Terre tout couple amoureux d'amants désirant réchapper à cette loi castratrice des politiques natalistes malthusiens régulateurs des naissances, inhumains.
Lors que seule la délivrance des couches, autorise la femme à jouir enfin, dans la castration commune de son sexe, délivré uniquement de la mutilation des systèmes nerveux, sanguins, musculaires et tendineux de ses organes génitaux, à jamais déflorés par complexe d'inversion masochiste du plaisir sexuelle épileptique, de survie, de ces fractures totales du corps, et de ces organes, éléments ayant traumatisé jusqu'aux ossatures de la Femme, jouissant dans la faiblesse organique (réservée à la femme et son Sexe devant rester Faible face au Mâle, suite à leur totale fracture) des systèmes nerveux résiduels de chairs n'offrant plus aucune résistance aux accoups

des mâles et partenaires abusant des coups de buttoir des Trompettes de Jéricho dans le rapport, sexuel courant.
Instituant un Droit légal de suppression, légitimé, de Tuer, supprimer, la Femme, en la Femme.
La tâche qui attend la médecine, et HealthCare, immense,
Votre défenseure,
Line Llao
France

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: James Kenley [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:14 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: SAVE OUR HEALTH CARE

AS A YOUNG PHYSICIAN I WORKED IN CLINICS FOR THE LOW INCOME FOLKS;MEDICARE AND MEDICAID ARE MIRACLE PROGRAMS WELL WORTH OUR INVESTMENT, FOR A HEALTHIER POPULATION OF WORKERS!

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Take very good care. Friend JIMK

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maeve Rupp [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:14 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because ....
this cruel bill will be devastating to future generations of hard working Americans just for you to keep your jobs and placate the Kock brother who want huge corporate tax cuts.
It will make coverage unaffordable for kids with cancer and other preexisting conditions.
It cuts 45 billion dollars to tackle drug addiction.
Many republican governors don't support this so called healthcare bill. Neither do doctors, nurses, hospital administrators,as well as the American Cancer Society, ADA, AHA, AMA, BCBS, too many to list here.
There needs to be a bipartisan effort that stabilizes the market and expands affordable coverage.
What profits a person who keeps their position and loses their soul?

Maeve Rupp

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Claybaugh, Amanda [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:15 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: don't repeal the ACA

Dear Senators,

I am writing as one of the many Americans with a pre-existing condition. Six years ago, I was diagnosed with breast cancer; moreover, I learned that I have a genetic mutation (BRCA2) that makes me more susceptible to other kinds of cancer as well. With these medical history, it would be very difficult for me to afford health insurance, were it not for the ACA's protection of pre-existing conditions.

I call on you to make the right decision for America,

Amanda Claybaugh

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judy [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:15 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Judy Rucker
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senator,

Please, please don't repeal the ACA in lieu of the Graham-Cassidy bill. My sister has battled breast cancer for 10+ years, as had my mother before her. With her preexisting condition and the resulting trauma to her body caused by chemotherapy, she has absolutely relied upon the provisions of the ACA in order to sustain her healthcare coverage. As I face the upcoming years when my own college-aged girls face that same scourge, it terrifies me that they will not be eligible for coverage for a *treatable* disease with proactive detection and aggressive treatment should it strike again.

In that same 10 years, my husband suffered a major heart attack and through the true miracles of modern science and research funding, not only survived that attack, but is in better health now than ever before. Again, had we not had coverage or needed coverage again, his treatment and pharma needs would be problematic, as would his chances for surviving another ten years.

Our family is so typical of the type of coverage enabled by the ACA. We have been fortunate in our careers, we've happily paid taxes that entire time trusting those funds to be spent not only for us, but for the greater good they can engender for our country. So we implore you to work together to *improve* the flaws in the ACA, and work with the providers to insure they are writing policies across the country to keep the pools available and affordable for all.

We thank you for your service to our country, yours is a job with awesome responsibilities and literally the fate of my family in your hands.

Sincere regards,

Judith Rucker

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Atieno Bird [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:16 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: We need health insurance

Travesty if we can pay military contractors but can't care for our people. Don't gut important protections for the human souls who need a government that serves everyone.
If self-employed people or disabled people aren't covered, the whole nation will stumble.
Mrs. Atieno Bird

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robert Pago [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:16 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hi, my name's Robert Pago

To whom it may concern,

To rebuild the health-care system first step, is to fix the economy by fixing the deficit creating a federal tax by asking the people 25 a month 9.5 trillion a yr. 2yrs 19 maybe more depending on the cences from all 50 states.

The second step, pay off the deficit. Keep the money in a federal reserve bank for two yrs 18 trillion or more. Keep adding to it.

Finally, use the money depending on the population of the state's give the treasury of the state so much money depending on the population of the state. Still charge 25 for health care and it will solve a lot more then health care problems.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elizabeth Beatty [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:16 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

Pat Toomy:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because you are counting on governor to determine pre-existing conditions. Corbett did not accept the Medicaid expansion because he was up for re-election.

Pat Toomy is supporting this bill because you want your money for the Koch brothers. That is disgraceful.

Elizabeth Beatty

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cynthia Kemp [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:17 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GC

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill because it will destroy many lives and families. We need coverage for pre-existing conditions and comprehensive coverage. Keep working with Murray and Alexander. Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Connie Fabbrini [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:20 AM
To: gchcomments; dick@durbin.senate.gov; senator@duckworth.senate.gov
Subject: comment on Graham Cassidy

September 25, 2017 Hearing

Senate Committee on Finance
Editorial and Document Section Rm SD-219
Dirksen Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510-6200

Thank you for providing an opportunity for comments on health care coverage.

My husband is 61 years old and has been on COBRA for health care coverage since my retirement in the summer of 2016. His coverage ends December 31, 2017. At the time of my retirement, we had hoped he would be able to find adequate and affordable coverage through the Marketplace, but that is looking quite uncertain now.

He has had health insurance coverage his entire life, through his own employers for many years then through my employer when he became self-employed and during the last few years of semi-retirement. He has pre-existing conditions and takes several medications each day. He will not be eligible for Medicare for over 3 years.

We are fearful that he will no longer be able to obtain health coverage if the Graham Cassidy bill is approved, or, even if he can obtain coverage, it will not be affordable.

Please make the changes needed in the Affordable Care Act to make it available and affordable for us and for the millions of Americans for whom it has been the only option for health insurance coverage.

Thank you.
Connie Fabbrini

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cathie Kissinger [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:20 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I ask all Republican senators to vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill. It will throw so many people off of healthcare, and severely cuts money for Medicaid. People need these protections!

It would be far more helpful to address healthcare costs in the US, bringing the money needed for healthcare down!

Please don't do this to the American people! Fix the ACA! Take a bipartisan approach! Fix healthcare right!!

Thank you
Cathie Kissinger

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeannette Giorgio [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:22 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

My family relies on access to affordable healthcare. My husband, daughter, and I all have what would be considered "pre-existing" conditions. While these are benign at this time, when issues arise, we need to be able to access care. Families who pay for insurance should not have to choose between death and crushing medical debt in a country as wealthy and advanced as the US (and when we already pay plenty each month for coverage).

Aside from our family's situation, it is unconscionable to pull healthcare away from tens of millions of people. While some constituents may be disillusioned with "Obama care", rest assured they are not asking for a 20% hike in their premiums and limited access to care when they need it.

Please continue bipartisan efforts to address challenges with healthcare.

Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dean Salvadore [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fixing costs and political redistribution

Hello;
The Latest version of the aca repeal is especially mean and unsustainable.
The Republicans are showing just shallow and corrupt their policies and beliefs are.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Johanna Siegmann [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

There is no doubt our healthcare system needs fixing.

My preference is to fix the system already in place, which has both solved numerous problems in the healthcare system, AND has worked very well for a vast number of people. It never got a second look, never received any support for working out the kinks of ANY new policy. Instead, the GOP systematically began sabotaging it from the moment it was conceived.

However, regardless of HOW we fix it, such a fix should not be done in a hurried, secretive manner, ignoring any and all expert advice and information in its creation.

The Graham Cassidy Bill is a purely political beast, having absolutely nothing to do with healthcare. At best, it is a tax cut for the wealthy donors of the party. And nothing more.

At worst, it is a death sentence for the millions who could finally afford HC under #ACA, and would see that care stripped from them. Mostly due to the removal of pre-existing conditions protection.

It was created in secret by a handful of men, without input from women, the Democrats, or healthcare industry experts.

NO bill affecting 1/6th of the US budget, and hundreds of millions of Americans should be done in such rash haste, with such a narrow intent, and without regular order.

Respectfully,
Johanna Siegmann

This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christopher Hartly Holte [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stealing Healthcare

The GOP is serving nascent Oligarchs & not the people when they put donor promises over their constituents. We need better & more affordable healthcare for the masses, not tax cuts for plutocrats.

Christopher H. Holte

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Peg Graham [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham-Cassidy

The Graham-Cassidy bill perpetuates tired, old arguments about cost-shifting when we should be focused on issues like price transparency and inexplicable profit-taking even as rural counties go without even one hospital or doctor. The block grant is explained as a mechanism for enabling state flexibility - the current ACA already allows for state flexibility under its waiver program. Not every state has the capacity to function as its own little healthcare system, with its own eligibility rules,etc. In fact, such state variation only INCREASES ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS which is inexplicable given the fact that the average American voter has been pushing to reduce such costs, Republicans, Democrats and Independents alike. The healthcare system has changed over the past 7 years - time that EVERY SENATOR recognized that the American people want to move forward, not backward.

Respectfully submitted by

Peg Graham, MBA, MPH

The Honorable Rick Santorum, Former United States Senator, Pennsylvania. Mr. Santorum announced the release of the Graham-Cassidy-Heller legislation on September 13, 2017 along with current serving Senators Graham, Cassidy, Heller, and Johnson. Santorum served as a U.S. Senator for Pennsylvania from 1995 to 2007. Since January 2017, he has worked as a CNN political commentator. Prior to his service in the Senate, Santorum served as the U.S. Representative for Pennsylvania's 18th Congressional District from 1991 to 1995. Before the House, Santorum practiced law for four years at the Pittsburgh law firm Kirkpatrick & Lockhart (later named K&L Gates). Santorum received a J.D. from Dickinson School of Law, an M.B.A from the University of Pittsburgh's Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business, and a B.A. from Pennsylvania State University.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Debbie Holbrook [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

No CBO score....no vote. This is not why u are in my government. I expect both parties to work together. Because Of republicans stop or block everything. This is the EXACT reason why we have trump.
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Janie Boutwell [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Hearing

I am submitting my comments to be on the record as opposed to this bill. In a representative government, I would hope the representatives heed the will of the people, and in this case take care to do no harm to the people. This bill will cause great harm to the citizens of the United States.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jane Bowes [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy hearing

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

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: foster6906@gmail.com on behalf of Paul Foster & Jennifer Lew [redacted]

Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public comment on Graham-Cassidy health care bill
Attachments: health care bill opposition ltr Sept 2017.docx

To the Senate Finance Committee,

I would like to submit this letter, attached below, to the Public Comments in advance of the hearing on Monday, 9/25/17 on the Graham-Cassidy health care bill.

Thank you very much for considering it.

Sincerely yours,
Jennifer Lew
Baltimore, MD

Date: Thu, Sep 21, 2017 at 6:29 PM
Subject: RE: Letter to Senator Cardin in support of the Affordable Care Act and in Opposition to the Graham Cassidy bill
To: Lauren Herman <[redacted]>
Cc: "Blumberg, Adrienne" <Adrienne.Blumberg@baltimorecity.gov>

From: Lauren Herman [mailto:[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:55 PM
To: McJilton, Ottolie <Ottolie.mcjilton@baltimorecity.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Letter to Senator Cardin in support of the Affordable Care Act and in Opposition to the Graham Cassidy bill

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Vinny DeMarco** <[redacted]>
Date: Thu, Sep 21, 2017 at 9:30 AM
Subject: Letter to Senator Cardin in support of the Affordable Care Act and in Opposition to the Graham Cassidy bill
To: Vincent DeMarco <vinnydemarco23@gmail.com>

TO: Maryland Health Care For All! Coalition Leaders

FROM: Vinny DeMarco

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

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

From: Lauren Herman [mailto:[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:55 PM
To: McJilton, Ottolie <[redacted]
Subject: Fwd: Letter to Senator Cardin in support of the Affordable Care Act and in Opposition to the Graham Cassidy bill

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

TO: Maryland Health Care For All! Coalition Leaders

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

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

Thank you very much!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judy Chadwick [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Pre-existing conditions

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband has a rare, agressive cancer called Plasma Cell Leukemia. We have over a million dollars in hospital and doctor bills since he was diagnosed in March of this year. We have been fortunate that he has a good union job, and that his union is able to continue his health insurance coverage with no cost to us for a year. However, if he is unable to return to work before then, his insurance coverage could cause extreme hardship for us if this bill passes. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Judy Chadwick

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Z[redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Say NO to Graham-Cassidy

I am a 57 year-old voting Texan in zip code 77064. I will lose my health care coverage if this disastrous bill is enacted.

We look to our government to represent us and stand up for our needs. The fact that this congress would consider eliminating Medicaid, Planned Parenthood, and the entire health care structure horrifies me.

We are watching what this Republican congress does, and we'll ensure you don't ignore us again after 2018, if you enact this hurtful and cruel legislation.

Stop the Graham-Cassidy bill from being passed through the Senate, and work together with Democrats on a bill that represents All Americans.

Sincerely,
Karen Zee

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Erin Keller [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it will hurt seniors, children, working families and the individual states. It is an ugly bill--unkind, unjust and un-American.

It is also being found to be economically unfeasible in addition to radically changing the delivery of healthcare in America for the worse.

Do the right thing for the people of America. Vote NO!

Erin Keller

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: rosalyn Kliot [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Making a decision without discussion, debate or a gathering of sufficient information is folly.....our country needs voices of reason, not a body of individuals willing to be bullied into decisions based on politics rather than knowledge.

This is not what you were elected to do, and doubtful that most of you will be re-elected. Repeal and replace will be your swan song.....take time to work together, in a bipartisan manner which will reflect the "United" states, not the divided states. We are one nation, under god....One.

Rosalyn

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Esther Kutnick [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:36 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy bill

Please stop this desperate race to find money for tax cuts for wealthy donors. Consider the repercussions of taking this much money out of the health care system. Many jobs in health care are linked to Medicaid expansion, just like hospitals and clinics, especially in rural areas. Look at all the numbers, not just the rosy ones you want to see.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dr Réagan Edith Eli, PhD [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:04 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re : Comments Needed for Graham-Cassidy Bill by September 25

this bill is harmful to persons with disabilities because of the fact that it cuts medicaid, and many disabled ^people epend on this programme for healthcare and equipment funding. Also for thosewho require personal assistance and aiids, funds willl be cut and these disabled people may be forced into either nursing homes or to fend for themselves when they cannnot, and this is a matter of life and death Obamacare saves lives and allows persons with pre-existing conditions such as myself (I am an adjunct prof and tutor wth a PhD who has CP, neurological conditions, arthritis, and fibromyalgia) access to affordable healthcare and the abiility to pay for my medications. he Graham-Cassidy bill takes that coverage away and peole like me can no longer afford copays and medicine please save Obamacare and leave Obamacare alone and by the way, I am a Republican Dr Réagan Edith

Dr Réagan Edith, Phd
je ne regrette rien" Edith Piaf
."Fais aux autres ce que tu aimerais qu'on te fasse"."Un visage sans sourire est un jardin sans fleurs"."L'UNION FAIT LA FORCE"
AIDE-TOI ET LE CIEL T'AIDERAŠ. la France ne peut être la France sans la grandeur.
Francois Rabelais: Science sans conscience n'est que de ruine l'ame.
Rene Descartes:je pense donc je suis
" Je pense que le moment des femmes est venu, non pas pour les femmes, mais pour l'harmonie de la vie tout simplement, et pour le bonheur des hommes et des femmes. " Ségolène ROYAL

En date de : Jeu 21.9.17, AAPD <[redacted]a écrit :

Objet: Comments Needed for Graham-Cassidy Bill by September 25
À: [redacted]
Date: Jeudi 21 septembre 2017, 19h41

Comments Needed for Graham-Cassidy Bill by September 25

#yiv3452982398 p{
margin:10px 0;padding:0;}
#yiv3452982398 table{
border-collapse:collapse;}
#yiv3452982398 h1, #yiv3452982398 h2, #yiv3452982398 h3,
#yiv3452982398 h4, #yiv3452982398 h5, #yiv3452982398 h6{ display:block;margin:0;padding:0;}

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Meg Clifton [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:31 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO TO GRAHAM CASSIDY

Hello,
This horrendous Graham Cassidy healthcare bill MUST NOT GO THROUGH.
Thanks.

Margaret Clifton
Connecticut

Sent from my iPhone

Anyone suffering with Graves' Disease can tell you, this condition will destroy your life if not treated properly. Because the first 2 common treatments failed, I would not have had the opportunity to pursue the surgery without the insurance provided by the ACA.

Was my procedure free? Absolutely not. HARDLY!

Am I "cured"? No, but living symptom free. I take a Synthroid pill once a day, cheap bloodwork once a year.

Do I have a second chance at a productive normal life with thyroid hormone replacement? Absolutely. I am living it now!

When sharing my story, people with Republican party loyalties have called me a liar, a deadbeat, and a leech on society. I am none of these things. Why don't they want to hear how access to this surgery has changed my life for the better? I am not alone, I am not the only one!

What the ACA did for me was open a door of opportunity so I could receive medical care I otherwise could not get.

It's sad when you read it out loud. For that statement to be needed in the United States Of America in 2017....it's scary and sad.

These same politically leaning people have launched attacks against the ACA for offering people like me a chance to live without illness again. Even going as far as to fault me personally for having an autoimmune disease.

Senseless, dangerous, and groundless accusations that do nothing except promulgate an inaccurate propaganda rooted in fear and hate. Un-American!

I am a productive, working member of the middle class that got sick and was denied insurance coverage and proper treatment for almost a decade because of "pre-existing condition loopholes". I was discriminated against, legally and blatantly.

Thanks to the ACA, after years of suffering, I feel like a man again. I put this disease behind me. All I needed was the opportunity to get proper treatment.

Now I can live my life again, run my small business, and be normal. Nothing feels better than being normal!

Without the ACA I would be dead. Changing this law is putting many, many capable lives at risk.

That is so [redacted]up it brings tears to my eyes.

Robert Jaimes
Peoria AZ

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson
(GCHJ) proposal would:

Allow insurers to charge individuals
with pre-existing conditions more money for health coverage
Cap and block grant Medicaid (the
equivalent of Medicaid cuts)
Cut funding for Medicaid
expansion
Cut funding for financial assistance
that helps low-wage workers and moderate-income families buy private insurance
Repeal the ACA individual and employer mandates

This partisan bill undermines the bipartisan marketplace stabilization efforts that were taking place within the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee led by Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA).

Proponents of this bill are aiming to pass it as part of the budget reconciliation process for fiscal year 2017, which will allow the bill to pass with a simple majority (51 votes or more – Vice President Pence is able to cast a tie-breaking vote in the event of a 50/50 outcome). However, the Senate Parliamentarian has advised that budget reconciliation process expires on September 30.
These next 10 days are critical – please contact your Senators. If you've already contacted them, do so again.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) is still in the process of scoring this bill. While they plan to have a preliminary analysis completed by next week, the CBO "will not be able to provide point estimates of the effects on the deficit, health insurance coverage, or premiums for at least several weeks." Furthermore, few congressional hearings have been scheduled to discuss this bill. Voting on this bill without a full CBO analysis and congressional review is a disservice to the millions of Americans it will impact.

This latest health care repeal effort is reminiscent of the bad repeal bills we saw over the summer – it is just as harmful to people with disabilities and their families. Over the summer, some Senators broke party lines to vote against the healthcare repeal bills that would decimate Medicaid and leave millions of Americans without health coverage – we cannot assume that that these Senators will vote no on this bill.

Contact
your Senators today and tell them not to support this bill!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Peter Henninger [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: REPEAL AND REPLACE

PASS GRAHAM , CASSIDY !
God almighty REPEAL AND REPLACE

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Ellen Ratza [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GrammCass

Please do not take my healthcare from me. This bill is the worst one yet.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Theresa Hill [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re: health care bill

I meant to say please vote yes. I do not want government all in one payer health.

Sent from T

> On Sep 21, 2017, at 7:28 PM, Theresa Hill [redacted] wrote:
>
>
> Please do not pass this bill.
> Thanks
>

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GrahamCassidy

Vote NO

Peace

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Luann Algoso [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, 9/25/2017

Finance Committee,

{Full Name}
{Address}

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am outraged by the Senate's most recent attempt to dismantle the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and strip health insurance from millions of people. With the Cassidy-Graham proposal, cost sharing subsidies would be cut, Medicaid would be slashed and Planned Parenthood is targeted again for providing critical health services to low-income women. This is yet another blatant attack on women of color and reproductive justice. These attacks are of particular concern to Asian Americans. Specifically, the bill would harm AAPI women by:

Repeal of the ACA would push coverage out of reach for AAPI women, exacerbating health disparities.
Eight million Asian-Americans now have coverage for preventive services without cost sharing. Between 2010 and 2015, the uninsured rate among Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) fell by more than seven percent. Over 2 million Asian-Americans gained coverage under the ACA, giving more AAPI women coverage for preventive services without cost sharing.
Cancer is the leading cause of death for AAPI communities, and the cervical cancer incidence rate is higher in several Asian-American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) subgroups than in non-Hispanic whites. For instance, the incidence rate is twice as high in Cambodians as in non-Hispanic whites, and 40 percent higher among Vietnamese women. Coverage for preventive services without cost sharing removes barriers to care, enabling AAPI women to access essential health care like cancer screenings.

Attacks on the ACA's important protection for people with pre-existing conditions would further exacerbate health disparities for AAPI women.

Other health conditions, like the Hepatitis B virus (HBV), were also considered pre-existing conditions prior to the ACA.[i] Chronic HBV affects about 1.3 million people in the United States, and AAPIs account for over half of the chronic hepatitis B cases and resulting deaths.[ii] AAPI women are 20 percent more likely to die from viral hepatitis as compared to non-Hispanic whites.[iii]

Defunding planned parenthood from the Medicaid program jeopardizes AAPI women's access to critically important health care.
Planned Parenthood health centers are a lifeline for quality health care for underserved communities. Fifty-four percent of Planned Parenthood health centers are in underserved areas. In 21 percent of counties with a Planned Parenthood health center, Planned Parenthood is the only safety-net family planning provider, and in 68 percent of counties with a Planned Parenthood health center, Planned Parenthood serves at least half of all safety-net family planning patients.

Attacks on the Medicaid program would take away health care from hundreds of thousands of AAPI women
Nearly one-fifth (19 percent) of AAPI women are enrolled in the Medicaid program. The program is particularly important for Southeast Asian and Pacific Islander women.[i] For example, 62 percent of Bhutanese women, 43 percent of Hmong women and 32 percent of Pakistani women currently receive their insurance through Medicaid.[ii]

Increasing cost sharing and premiums hit AAPI women hardest because of gender and race-based wage gaps.
While Asian-American women as a whole earn 87 cents for every dollar paid to white, non-Hispanic men, Southeast Asian and Pacific Islander women experience some of the widest wage gaps compared to other racial and ethnic groups. For example, Burmese and Marshallese women make only 44 cents for every dollar paid to white, non-Hispanic men.

I encourage you to use this information and highlight the negative impacts that Graham-Cassidy will have on the lives of AAPI women in your opposition to this extremely harmful bill.

Luann Algoso
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bob Alfieri [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA repeal is a terrible idea

Cancel Trumpcare 3.0.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kelly Kennard [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy

Say No to Graham/Cassidy.

Independent Voter from Connecticut
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Debbie West [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

Graham/Cassidy-NO!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Debbie West [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

Graham/Cassidy-NO!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: kathy [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fwd: Pic

Please utilize this letter at
Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal
September 25, 2017

Submitted by
Kathleen Shimek Hahn, parent/guardian of Elizabeth Hahn
[redacted]

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** kathy [redacted]
> **Date:** September 22, 2017 at 11:54:26 AM CDT
> **To:** GCHcomments@finance.senate.gov
> **Subject: Fwd: Pic**
>
> Liz, 20 lives with her parents in Sussex. In 1997, she held the WI record for the state's smallest baby to survive at 13oz 12inches. Being a micro premie and disabled at birth, she has had some challenges over the years but Medicaid has helped her parents provide her a good life. Even though, her local school district presently provides DAY services by law until 21 years old, her parents continue to search for what life will be once services stop. Families struggle to obtain support to fill basic needs and services for quality of life for their loved ones at any age.
>
> Self Direction (IRIS) has been the major support in allowing us to use funding for Liz to do what brings her the most joy and fulfillment. She currently relies on her parents and respite workers for all her daily needs. In home Healing thru Art therapy has been a huge outlet for her socially and mentally. An Art Camp was founded in 2016 due to the great need for individuals with autism plus Liz's personal request of Healing thru Art owner, Kathleen Kaufman.. Attached are pictures of Liz this year at camp "Keep Calm Paint On"
>
> Without Medicaid covering these home and community based services Liz would be in an institution.
>
> This effects way too many vulnerable people to rush it through. Please consider other ways to solve health care budget issues than on the backs of those that truly need the assistance.
>
> Thank you for listening.
> Kathy Shimek Hahn
>
> Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christy Judd [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Necessity to protect preexisting conditions and stop the implementation of CAPs

My son, Ethan was born in October 2008. He was supposed to be health, I did everything I was told to do and just 6 weeks before birth we were told he would have club feet. Those moments were devastating. We saw a specialist who assured us that everything else looked great and club feet was treatable. Super Bowl quarterback Troy Aikman and Olympic Gold medalist Kristi Yamaguchi both had club feet. We meet with several doctors in the D.C. Metro area and had a plan in place for after his birth.

October 10, 2008 Ethan was born via emergency c section. He was rushed off to the NICU "for a little help". The NICU doctor and my doctor came into my recovery room. The words used were "lethal" & "fatal" among others. In those moment I lost my mind and began to scream. Being told your "perfectly healthy " baby is going to die is not something any parent should have to face. The doctor misdiagnosed Ethan with Edwards Syndrome aka Trisomy 18 the same condition that former Congressmen Rick Santorums daughter has. The prognosis for Ethan was not good and my recover bed was quickly moved through the maze of the Winchester Medical Centers NICU so that I would have a chance to hold my baby before he died.

At three days old Ethan was transferred to the university Of Virginia Children's hospital. He was admitted to the NICU and we were told that he had been misdiagnosed, they couldn't tel us what was going on but they didn't feel that Edwards Syndrome was correct. We spent weeks in the NICU and were eventually moved to the acute care facility then called Kluge Children's Rehab Center which closed its doors just a few years ago. Over the next several months as Ethan was monitored at KCRC and transferred to the PICU at uVA for treamtment after infections and surgeries I moved to Charlottesville and stayed with my son for the next 8 months and 6 days. He was finally discharge June 16,2009.

In al that time he received a tracheotomy and was ventilated with mechanical ventilation 24/7 a gastric tub was placed for nutrition. He grew but slowly. Genetic studies and a variety of other studies were conducted ruling out a multitude of conditions.

The answer for Ethan did not come until just after his 5th Birthday. He has Congenital myasthenia syndrome CMS Slow channel. It's a random occurrence of an orphan disease. Ethan was seen By Dr Engle at the Mayo Clinic who is still following him and began to take medication.

Ethan who was unable to sit unsupported at 2 years old, who never took a bottle due to the risk of aspiration, who could not be safely moved between his bedroom and the living room without two people one to hold him and the other to move his equipment is now an honor roll student in 3rd grade with no cognitive delays. He still needs the tracheotomy and is connected to the ventilator at night. He uses a walker and a stroller to cover long distances.

Ethan has excellent private insurance, however there are services not covered by private insurance like private duty nursing. This service enables Ethan to safely attend school and access his community. It also ensures his health and safety as he needs eyes on him all the time. Due to his muscle condition he has limited range of motion and can not suction mucus from his own Trach. Without a nurse my husband and I would have to monitor him 24/7 no sleep no rest. This is not a practical solution for someone's entire life. At nearly 9 years old Ethan's life expectancy is normal so long as he doesn't have a medical emergency that can be prevented.

Medicaid pays for the nurse who is with Ethan about 45 hrs a week. This enables my husband to attend shepherd university where he is majoring in Social Work and is focusing on addiction treatment. I work as a high school teacher

and secure our private insurance this way. We are teaching Ethan to have a strong work ethic to push himself to accomplish his dreams and to be a good citizen. Medicaid pays for the copays for doctors appointments and therapies which are helping Ethan to become more independent and hopefully eventually be able to complete self care.

Medicaid cuts could elongate of reduce access to waiver. Ethan is a preexisting condition. What corporation concerned with profits would ensure him. He has already exceeded any life time cap that insurance may put in place. Any legislation that does not protect these features of the ACA would destroy our family and could lead to Ethan's death or institutionalization. I beg of you to work on a bipartisan bill that would protect these features and fix what is broken. It's the moral thing to do.

Christy Judd

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Cirocco [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GHC Comment

JUST NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!
STOP HURTING US!
WHY?
WHY?
WHY?
Could it be $$$$$$$$$$$?

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: A healthcare story
Attachments: image1.JPG; ATT00001.txt

Please save the Affordable Care Act, protect Medicaid and the Medicaid expansion My story:

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Garber [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:30 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Lindsey Bill

KILL THE BILL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ron Antonucci [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:28 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do NOT

repeal Obamacare...so many lives, and the health of so many good Americans, depend on it.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lorna & Larry Collins, Authors [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:10 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE NO

Please vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill. This is the worst version yet! Create a new system if you can, but NOT THIS ONE!

Lorna Collins
Read about our books: 31 Months in Japan: The Building of a Theme Park, Murder... They Wrote, Murder in Paradise, Lakeview Park, The McGregor Chronicles, Snowflake Secrets, Seasons of Love, The Art of Love, An Aspen Grove Christmas, ...And a Silver Sixpence in Her Shoe, award-winning Directions of Love, Ghost Writer, Jewel of the Missions: San Juan Capistrano, and The Memory Keeper at www.lornalarry.com

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kevin Hubbard [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:10 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GrahamCassidy hearings

Please vote No on this horrible bill

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: deborahelliott63 [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:14 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: BAD BILL Graham-Cassidy

The Graham-Cassidy bill is treachery. People will die.

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Janice Castro [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stop this cruel bill!

You will hurt millions of Americans for no reason. Stop this travesy!

Janice Castro
Edinboro, Pennsylvania

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ginger Simpson [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:35 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GrahamCassidy

Say No No No to GrahamCassidy

Ginger Simpson
--

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patricia Vaughan [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:35 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repeal of ACA

Repealing the ACA would be a healthcare disaster and a financial disaster.
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Esocoff [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:44 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

The Graham-Cassidy bill is a travesty and anyone voting for it should be ashamed of themselves. Voting without a CBO score is absurd, which I'm sure Republican opponents of single-payer would be happy to tell you. The bill would cause millions of deaths and disproportionately endangers the health and well-being of women and impoverished communities. It is unconscionable.

Thanks for reading,
Sarah Esocoff

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gwen McKee [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:43 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: In SUPPORT of Graham/Cassidy

Obamacare has failed me, and ICU RN, and my family. Please support the Graham/Cassidy revision. My premiums and deductible have increased substantially since the ACA was passed in 2010. We have thus sought health care less often, which has increased our health risks.

Also since 2010, a hospital where I work has cut employee raises and incentives, discontinued staffing positions, and required more of current workers with stricter scheduling policies. This has all increased burnout and turnover. They have cheapened customers' medical products (like hand sanitizer, soap, cleansing wipes, and incontinence pads). They have reduced the types of supplies available, foregone current technology in the ICU's (like using plastic disposable thermometers instead of providing medical grade thermometers). They have asked each hospital department to be creative in making more cuts, and have closed certain departments altogether.

Additionally, in New Mexico, where we live, Presbyterian Health Plan, (the largest insurance provider in New Mexico) could no financially sustain participation in the ACA open exchange as of 2016 (Sinovic, 2016). Presbyterian said that they could no longer afford providing health services to the 10,000 people on the Obamacare, because those members used health services 30 percent more than other members. This is regardless of the fact that the federal government through the ACA subsidized 80 percent of those 10,000 people. The ACA prohibits insurance companies from charging higher premiums from those who use more services. Thus, Presbyterian simply stopped offering them services.

Obamacare needs revision! Please support the Graham/Cassidy legislation.

Sincerely, Gwen McKee

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gary Wegner [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Johnson-Heller ACA repeal Bill

Urge it's passing.

Thank you.

Gary Wegner
[redacted]

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: inger fay [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:29 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re Obamacare repeal

This new try to repeal Obamacare is certainly not even close . DO NOT pass

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ed Meyer [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:45 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GrahamCassidy

Stop this bill

--
Eddie

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Monica Lewis[redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:42 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy
Attachments: image1.JPG; ATT00001.txt

My daughter is 6 years old. She has cerebral palsy. We don't qualify for Medicaid, nor disability, but her needs are great. We have a small business that employs a few people. We work all the time, we work hard.

A chair, just so my daughter can sit up costs hundreds of dollars. A van to get her to and from places costs a lot!

We have a company plan at our company. We have a blue cross PPO PLAN. We have done everything we can to work hard, to cover everything.

This bill would RUIN us and let me tell you why...
Adding back annual or lifetime maximums would make my daughter hit her max before she turns 10! What do we do then?

She gets services at school that provide therapy, an aide and more to help her integrate into school. She is in 70% of regular classes! Cutting Medicaid which pays for these school services is really bad. Greg Abbott and the Texas legislature has already cut reimbursement rates, so our state is ALREADY hurting children with disabilities. This would be a double whammy!

If this bill passes and lifetime maximums return, we won't be able to keep our business. We won't be able to employ people. We would go bankrupt. We would end up under the poverty level just so we could go on Medicaid and qualify for disability SSI. This bill would turn functional, contributing members of society into people who have no choice to live off the govt because our daughter would hit an insurance maximum AS A CHILD!

Reducing Medicaid is cruel in so many wayside the most vulnerable. But even when we have private insurance the ACA protected families like mine. The ACA has flaws, big ones, but it's critical to understand the protections it provided.

We cannot go back to the time when families like mine are afraid of hitting a lifetime maximum and feeling hopeless of what to do. This should be behind us.

As far as cutting Medicaid goes, I don't see how pro-life folks can justify doing something that will cause death for so many. I implore everyone before they vote to search their soul and ask themselves "what if it was your child?"

I will work hard 24/7/365, I will give her every opportunity. I will run a business employing people that to society. I will take pride in my country! She will become a functioning member of society!

PLEASE don't add back annual or lifetime maximums. Vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill, for my daughter:

Autumn Olivia Lewis (picture attached)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joshua Norton [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please don't.

I implore you who are reading this to do the right thing, look deep inside your self and put the American people above rhetoric and party. This bill is garbage. Just like the dumpster fire in the White House. Be on the right side of history. Your children and country are watching. He can only last 3 more years. Can you?

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cathey M Finlon [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Stop Graham Cassidy. This bill is unacceptable. My sisters are under 65, have privately purchased health insurance. With Cassidy Graham, yes, they will have opportunity to buy health insurance, but with pre existing conditions, they will be priced out of the market. That's not accessibility and affordability. Just ask Congress to do its job of working across the aisle and FIX the Affordable Care Act. Pre existing conditions are typical in any person. I had cancer in 2002. That's a pre existing condition which would trigger higher costs. This just sounds like America for the rich. Well, that is not ok.

Also, Jimmy Kimmel did take his child to a non profit hospital where healthcare is provided to all. That is accomplished safely to the hospital by reimbursement through ACA or through CHIP or Medicaid. Which keeps the hospital at break even. Starve that hospital of federal payments for these services and the only avenue is the old way...to pass the costs onto the paying consumer who has health insurance or go broke.

Nasty.

Cathey M Finlon
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ken Fridley [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I have read the Graham Cassidy Bill and find it to be one of the most amoral pieces of legislation ever written. Suggesting it's amoral is frankly a compliment in light of what the bill will do to most Americans. I don't believe anyone voted for you to take away their right and access to healthcare.

You should be revising ACA so that it provides better coverage while reducing costs. ACA isn't perfect but is a good start and needs to be revised NOT repealed! I am an American ex-pat that has lived in Japan for the past 20 years and I can tell you that single payer coverage works and works well. Many other countries have single payer and there is no reason it won't work in the US.

Of course, having the courage, morality and ethics in pursuing such a plan would require you to stop taking money from the health insurance lobby and the dark money from the Koch brothers, Mercer family and the other amoral, greedy billionaires.

If the Graham Cassidy bill is so great, please ensure that all members of Congress are required to enroll! Anything else is simply hypocritical!

I strongly urge you to vote NO on this bill! Voters will remember who screwed them out of health insurance in the voting booth!

Regards,

Kenneth Fridley

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Healthcare bill

First let me thank you for reading this email. I hope you take it in the manner it is intended, which is heartfelt.

How do a handful of people get to decide what is "best" for the citizens of this country, without any discussion, debate or input from anyone else? Then expect to put it to a vote, most of you people doing the voting haven't even read it or know what it says, you have no CBO score, you don't know if it will even work, at all, yet you want to ram it through with 50 votes, instead of the full vote it was meant to require anyway?

Even you, living on tax payer money, should have some common decency, enough to take care of your constituents instead of pandering to the lobbyists who are padding your pockets, at the expense of the citizens of this country. I think they have given you money time after time to buy your vote, now they expect their payback from you. You should be ashamed of yourselves. Think about it, makes you little more than a common crook.

You say you want to turn over the decision making on such things as pre-existing conditions, mental health care, lifetime caps, Medicaid for the very poor and elderly living their remaining time in nursing facilities, etc, etc. to the individual states, knowing full well that the money will not be there to protect people from losing their healthcare coverage. Available healthcare is NOT healthcare if it is un-affordable, and it will be un-affordable for many, possibly hundreds of thousands. And without healthcare, many, many of those will die. How does that make you feel? States with Republican leadership will be especially hard-hit, as those leaders are just like you, greedy and thinking only of themselves.

What is wrong with you? Is this what you had in mind when you first came to Washington D.C. to represent the people who voted you into office? If not, then you have let greed and corruption take over your lives.

If you are trying to appease Trump, why bother, he will undoubtedly not last out his term before being impeached or indicted. That, of course, is if he doesn't get us all killed with his insane rantings, ravings and war-mongering.

At any rate, you have shown full well your true colors and we will not forget, and at first opportunity, we will vote you out.

Sincerely,
A sad citizen of this country.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Quinn [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:43 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH

How dare Mitch McConnell and his band of dreary men attempt to affect 1/6 of the US Economy in such a haphazard way. McConnell and his buddies are fiscally IRRESPONSIBLE. I suggest to you that this "repeal" attempt be condemned due to the lack of "regular order" in the US senate.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: babspath [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re : Cassidy- Graham bill

Dear Committee Members,
I URGE YOU TO VOTE YES ON THIS VERY IMPORTANT HEALTH CARE BILL. WE CANNOT CONTINUE TO HAVE SKYROCKETING HEALTH CARE COSTS.
PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE VOTE YES SO LAW MAKERS CAN BEGIN THE ROAD TO AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE NOT SINGLE PAYER. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS DONE A POOR JOB WITH VETERANS HEALTH CARE AND MEDICAID. I DON'T WANT THE FERDERAL GOVERNMENT DICTATING MY HEALTH CARE.

SINCERELY,
BARBARA & MARK TODD

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Kraig [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill!

NO! This bill is about political power, it is NOT about protecting the people. NO!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Smith [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

I oppose and urge defeat of the Graham Cassidy bill because of the terrible effect it will have on the availability of medical insurance and consequently on the life and health of millions Americans and also because of the terrible effect it will have on the healthcare industry in this country. I support Medicare for all which would improve coverage and health for many while at the same time reduce the high costs associated with our current medical delivery system in the US.

Barbara Smith

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jen Valdez [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare.

To whom it may concern,

I am one of millions of Americans that have a preexisting condition. It's not because I did anything to bring this upon myself, I'm not lazy, I'm not uneducated, and I am in no way to blame for how I was born. I depend on the ACA in order to have health coverage. Without it my family would be thrown into huge debt in order to cover my healthcare bills and medications. There are so many of us that will literally die without this coverage. Please, we beg of you, do the right thing for our country and vote no. This is not our America. We should not go to bed every night afraid of what this administration is going to do next or what will be taken from us. Please do not commit millions to massive debt and death because you want to have a "win." Please, do the right thing. Something your families, mothers, fathers and grandparents would be proud of. Don't force the future generations to massive hardships because you want more money for you and your families. When you have to live on 35k or less a year every penny counts when trying to feed and clothe your family.

Jennifer Valdez

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julius Wool [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I am a retired hospital CEO and current professor of health care policy. The Graham Cassidy Bill represents a major step backwards in the ongoing effort to improve our health care insurance system and improve access to quality health care in this country. Shifting all ACA funding and policy decision making to the states is a recipe for disaster. This approach represents an abdication by Congress of its responsibility to serve as a steward of federal tax payer dollars. Instead of abdicating this responsibility Congress should pass bipartisan legislation to improve the ACA at the federal level. Congress has served as the steward for the Medicare and Medicaid programs for 50+ years and has enacted changes in these programs over the years to meet the changing needs of the programs' beneficiaries and providers. It should continue to play this role. Graham Cassidy would result in an ever increasing Balkanization of our health care system, much to the detriment of patients, providers, insurers, employers and government at all levels.
Julius Wool

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Will Corrdin[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

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

Sincerely,

Will

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Benji Knisley [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not repeal the ACA

My family depends on the subsidies provided by the ACA to buy healthcare. Please do not push through this bill - no one knows its effects, there has been no discussion, and if it is worth anything, it should be approached via regular order, not forced through with bribes and without bipartisan support. I would like to see a bipartisan effort to improve the ACA, not a last ditch effort to repeal that is opposed by most Americans. Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maria E. Alonso [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

The Graham-Cassidy Bill will harm millions of Americans specially our most vulnerable citizens. I support ACA because my grandson was born with a rare genetic syndrome and he deserve a right to live. Also because I have HBP and I too have a right to lhealth insurance. Strenghening the ACA is the answer to our right to life, liberty, and the persuit of happiness

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re graham cassidy act

My family relies on affordable health care. The ACA needs to be repaired not replaced. The Graham-Cassidy Bill is a disaster. Please vote against it.
Cynthia McCloskey

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Trish L. [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:44 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: vote No Graham Cassidiy

Please vote NO on Graham Cassidy bill!

VOTE NO!

Sincerely, Registered voter

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julie Campbell [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Why do you want us to die?

I am writing on behalf of my son, my niece, my brother and myself.

My son was born prematurely at 28 weeks, through no fault of his own, and has a pre-existing condition due to the fact the ventilator scarred his lungs so severely.

My niece has Type 1 Diabetes, through no fault or her own. She is dependent on Medicaid to help with the cost of her insulin pump due to it's astrononomical cost. $5000 each time and they need be changed out often.

My brother was in a horrific car accident, through no fault of his own, and requires meds to live.

I have breast cancer through no fault of my own. If it comes back, I will die.

I don't understand why you want us to die. We vote for you. Many of you claim to be Christian. Do unto others as I would do unto you. If that is the case, why are you worthy of excellent health care and I and my family are not? Please explain to me so that I can understand why.

Sincerely,

Julie Campbell

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dirk Cantrell [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am sending this email to express my dismay that the Republican-led legislature again is attempting to remove what has been extremely beneficial healthcare legislation, Obamacare. The proposed legislation will remove millions of participants from healthcare coverage and remove vital preexisting condition protections. Healthcare should be a right for all Americans, regardless of income or employment.

Thank you for protecting Obamacare,
Dirk Cantrell

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bradley Colten [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

To Whom it May Concern,

The Graham-Cassidy will harm millions of people, and it will not even have the benefit of a Congressional Budget Office analysis. Passing this bill would be cruel and irresponsible.

Sincerely,

Bradley Colten

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Zach Roth [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose GC

The Graham-Cassidy bill is a terrible idea. While there are flaws with the affordable care act, replacing it with a bill that will lead to fewer covered, raise premiums for those in need, and eliminate some of the protections for pre-existing conditions (as multiple nonpartisan analyses have concluded) is a step in the wrong direction.

Zach Roth

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: carrie white [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA Repeal

Dear Senators,

Please stop. You are attempting to ram through a health care bill to meet a deadline.

A bill that will affect millions of Americans adversely. A bill that is condemned by major medical organizations. A bill that hits those most in need the hardest.

On Monday, the day of your hearing, I will learn whether my cancer has returned. Should you pass this bill, you will congratulate yourselves on YOUR victory. No doubt the Republicans will gloat about one upping the Democrats. Myself and millions of other Americans fighting serious illnesses, will experience a very different scenario. We will see the beginning of our end.

I am not wealthy. I am a small business owner. Prior to the ACA, I could no longer afford to buy insurance. If your bill passes, my history of cancer will prevent me from being able to afford insurance. Do you really expect me to believe the states will delegate funds in a manner that places the sickest as their priority? We all know that will not happen. In America, healthcare is about profit, not caring for people.

I implore you to come together and improve the ACA. Make it work for all of us. You have the opportunity to do great things and you are squandering it.

Monday will be a pivotal day.

Carolyn S. White

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: michele nathan [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham cassidy

I am strongly against this bill.

My college friend and her husband both have college degrees, work full time, are middle class and struggle to pay their bills. My friend also has a pre-existing condition and elderly parents.

This bill will devastate my friends, their parents and their children. They are all good people who've worked all their lives, each generation trying to make a better future for the next generation.

This is a heartless bill. You say it's for the good of the nation but in reality you want to ensure your reelection. What happened to taking care of each other.

Michele

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ahc [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hands off ACA

The ACA has saved so many lives through preventative Measures. I am one of them. I was diagnosed with the early stages of breast cancer because of a free mammogram.

It would have cost Medicare hundreds of thousands of dollars had I let this go because I couldn't afford the co pay.

It's so OBVIOUS that you are appealing only to the KOCH brothers when you come up with a bill that will harm uspeople

Many people who elected you thought Obamacare was different than the ACA they enjoy.
Your years of BIPARTISAN RACISM had them convinced Obama was bad. You should be ashamed of yourselves

You are harming the people who elected you.

If you truly care about the American people you would work in a bipartisan way to FIX IT!

Sincerely
Cathy Carey

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: MicheleSol [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Kill the Graham bill!!!

Vote NO on this healthcare bill! It's a nightmare. Some states will choose to use the waiver and not cover pre-existing conditions, that will kill people!

I before the ACA I was denied insurance as a diabetic. I have a newly diagnosed autoimmune disease that only requires monitoring, but, just being a woman is considered pre-existing. I will die without insurance!

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S® 6, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gail Pamukov-Miller [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: DO NOT REPEAL AND REPLACE OBAMACARE

I have been on the ACA since the marketplace opened. It has worked well for me. I kept my doctors, hospital etc. I have several pre-existing conditions that would be a problem under the coverage that was available prior to the ACA. Fixes are needed, ie. costs are going up significantly, medical device tax not necessary. Bipartisan work to improve the ACA would be best for all.

As a former nurse and attorney, I have seen many patients and clients that are on Medicaid and need it for addiction, mental health treatment, and basic health care. The Cassidy/Graham bill places all of that it jeopardy. Additionally it seemingly will cost more and provide less coverage to fewer people.

And more globally, how could any bill that effects 1/6 of the economy be seriously considered without serious consideration, committee oversight, debate, etc.

Every health care group and the AARP is against this bill. It has no CBO score.

It is a cruel and reckless bill that must not pass.

Thank you,
Gail Pamukov-Miller
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tracy Poe [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:03 PM
To: heller@senate.gov; collins@denate.gov; murkowski@senate.gov; capito@senate.gov; cassidy@senate.gov; flake@senate.gov; gardner@senate.gov; portman@senate.gov; cruz@senate.gov; paul@senate.gov; lee@sebate.gov; sasse@senate.gov; gchcomments
Subject: Vote no on Graham-Cassidy
Attachments: Graham-Cassidy Please Vote No.docx; ATT00001.txt

Dear Senators,
I am forwarding this letter composed by my dear friend Margaret Storey, whose daughter Josie, born the same year as my son Simon, has Aicardi Syndrome. Without Medicaid, Josie's parents, a full-time professor & a full-timepublishing professional, would almost certainly be bankrupt & unable to meet their beautiful child's complex medical needs. It is terrible that in a country as abundant & promising as the United States of America, two fully-employed, decently-paid professionals have to worry about whether they will have to choose between caring for their daughter to the full extent America's best medical minds have to offer, or having a roof over their heads.
If Josie's family does not "deserve" the full support of our government, I don't know what this country stands for anymore.
Please vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy proposal.

Respectfully,
Dr. Tracy N. Poe

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jenny Derksen [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

To The Committee:

It is evident that we the people are slipping behind with no hope and no help.We are each one illness, one accident away from disaster. I am fortunate at the moment to have employer provided insurance, but I have it only during the course of my contract. If I get sick and can't work the insurance is gone and I will have nothing. Plus, if I can't work due to illness or accident I earn nothing to pay insurance premiums.

People in government, especially those who are extremely wealthy, have no concept of what it means to live pay check to pay check, to make serious choices. This is not a choice between healthcare of a cell phone. No these are choices between medicine, gas money to get to work, living with a toothache, or supplies for a child's school. There is no good choice.

Do not become so disconnected from those you represent, those you are entrusted to care for, that you cannot see our daily struggles. We are good people who work hard. We pay our local, state and federal taxes. We volunteer in our communities. We start businesses.We donate our time, talent and treasure to our churches, schools and local organizations. We are the backbone of this country. We pay into medicaid and social security.

In short, we are America. Social Security is our, medicaid is ours and healthcare should be for all. We need the ACA. I use it when I'm off employer insurance, my family members use it, my kids use it. Help us. Protect us we are working for the United States.

Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: suki [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GOP Bill

I am writing to strongly oppose the GOP healthcare bill you are working on to gut the ACA. I am a healthcare professional. I know firsthand what this will do to millions of patients. To be without healthcare is one of the most devastating things anyone can go through. The only reason the GOP party is willing to do this is to appease Trump. Trump only wants to undo and remove anything that Barack Obama had anything with his name on.

This is absolutely hateful, childish and extremely damaging to millions of our own citizens! You have no right to remove healthcare from the poor, the seniors, the children and the ill. What has become of our country ever since Trump has walked into the White House? How can you in good conscience even go along with such hatred? I truly want to know this.

You are sitting there and only thinking of lining your pockets and those of your wealthy friends. You do not see the sick, injured and elderly or the little children through no fault of their own; have nothing to give them hope. You will wipe out an entire generation of people. You will be the DEATH PANEL!

I am asking you as an American Citizen, a Registered Voter to STOP THIS BILL! You must consider your fellow Americans.

Suki Hoover

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Goldman [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:22 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Kill the bill

I urge all senators to vote "no" on Graham Cassidy.

As a woman who benefited from Obamacare for many years, I know it isn't perfect, but it provides extremely important medical services to millions of people and we should not take these away.

This is a poor legislative choice. We should build on what we have rather than start anew.

This vote should not be about funding for future campaigns or simply passing a bill to say that the republicans can do so. This affects real Americans across the country. I urge senators to think hard about what that means; put yourselves in our shoes. The most important quality an elected official can possess is empathy - I hope to see much more of it coming from these republicans as soon as possible.

Think about the women who will become bankrupt simply from giving birth. Think about all of those people with pre-existing conditions. THINK ABOUT OTHERS.

Sincerely,
Sarah Goldman

--
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lianne Paskel [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

My son will need meds/treatment for the rest of his life. Due to recent diagnosis of ACTA2! This bill is selfish and self serving. I hope that you and ur loved ones never have to experience a life changing disease. This is low and sad.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joanne Sajdak [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Dear Sirs and Madam,

Please try to pull yourself out of the tumult of competing teams and ideas that can blind us to the larger purpose. You are dealing with life and death issues for millions in this bill. This will devastate much of the middle class and all of the poor or working class.

I you have no compassion for the lives you will destroy with passage of this bill. This of the economy as this many people become poor. And we become more and more like a Latin American country with 1% of the population wealthy and benefiting from the society while others suffer at it's cruel rules.

Don't make us a third world country. That class structure is toxic.

Joanne Sajdak

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Naomi Pollock[redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:55 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: "Good Conscience" vs. GC

Voting yes on Graham-Cassidy is like using a sawed-off shotgun in a crowded area while purposely blindfolded. Every yes vote is a reckless and devastating attack on both our citizenry and our economy.

How can any GOP member claim to "pro-life" when they are voting on a bill that hasn't even been scored by the CBO to understand how many lives will be lost due to the devastating cuts to Medicaid coverage that GC entails?

How can any GOP member claim to be "fiscally responsible" when they are voting on a bill that affects 1/6 (!) of the US economy without ANY financial impact analysis on either the healthcare sector or the federal deficit?

How can any GOP member claim to care about "family values" when so many parents will no longer be able to afford medical care for their sick and/or disabled children?

How can the GOP claim to care about the welfare of our country's military veterans when approximately 1.75 million veterans—nearly 1 in 10—have Medicaid as their source of health care coverage?

There is no excuse for voting yes on this bill. And anyone doing so reveals themselves to be nothing more than a cravenly hypocritical politician who has no principles--and no right to be a member of Congress.

Senator John McCain has said he cannot "in good conscience" vote for such a bill. I can only hope that others will follow his lead and, in doing so, begin to restore public faith in our legislative branch of government.

Sent from my iPhone!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Pre-existing condition

Our daughter has had severe Crohn's disease since age 7. Before the ACA, we were not able to find any company that would provide insurance for her (my husband was self-employed-- a physician in private practice!) although many companies would provide insurance to every other member of our family. She is now 28. It scares me to think of what her future will be like if she ever has a period of time when she does not have insurance through employment. She has very expensive medications and often has relapses. It is nice to think that she could purchase insurance on the exchange and her pre-existing condition would not be held against her.
Please work on bipartisan legislation that is affordable and improves the health of our citizens. It is disturbing to hear we have the most expensive health care in the world and yet we rank #37!

Sally Barclay

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dianna Howell [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare System

Dear Senate Finance Committee The Graham Cassidy bill will devastate America if it passes and it will gut the Republican Party.

This bill no longer even pretends to be good for the American people. The only point is for a political win at the expense of the majority of the people you are supposed to represent.

If you really want a solution their are ways to get affordable healthcare to the people and pay for it, while prospering big business, small businesses and creating huge job growth.

How you fund it is always the question.
The truth is we are already paying for medical care for all in multiple ways....in the least cost effective and inefficient ways possible.....We pay for medical coverage in workers compensation insurance, in auto insurance, medical malpractice, injury lawsuits, business liability, etc.

Just think of how much businesses and individuals could save if everyone had coverage and the costs of medical was removed from all these.

One example of how the cost of multiple medical coverage payments is our nonprofit.
Currently our small nonprofit approx. $72,000 a year for both medical coverage for employees and a workers compensation insurance policy. The workers

Compensation cost is 75% of that cost. And 80% of the cost of workers compensation insurance is the cost of medical coverage. 90% of all workers compensation claims are medical only.
If everyone already had medical coverage the medical cost could be reduced or even removed from workers Compensation policy costs.

The Medicare for all sites estimates the cost per person of single payer insurance plan such as Medicare at $49.00 per $20,000 of salary. That is huge saving over our current health care cost.

Our companies Workers compensation costs are double the cost of our healthcare. We are a nonprofit with a discount on the workers compensation cost. The cost to workers compensation to manufacturing, construction or production employers can be 20 times higher.

You could pay for this Medicare for all by offering employers that pay for their employees coverage a 50% discount on workers compensation. The cost saving would be so huge employers would jump at it. It would also remove the incentive to keep employees part time to avoid health care costs.

Our public employers such as State, Federal, City, Counties and colleges and universities would also save

millions with lower cost medical coverage and the huge workers compensation coverage.
Employee costs are one of the largest costs for public employers.
Some added bonuses would
Be the millions of dollars of saving to big manufacturers.
For service businesses large and small they keep part time hours because of healthcare costs.

You don't have to force any business to buy a government option group plan (Medicare for all but call it what is most marketable)

Just give them at least a 50% discount on workers compensation insurance if they buy it.

I have an MBA in business and 30 years in business services, leasing staffing employment. I also have experience working with all levels of disability employment. Since 2013 my small nonprofit has put over 798 individuals, such as disabled vets, social security disability and development disability to work in real family wage jobs.
One of the biggest barriers to placing individuals in jobs is the fear of losing health insurance. Their medical treatments such as insulin often cost more than they could earn. If they can get equal medical coverage from even part-time work more people would be able to work.

Even if they are still receiving Social security disability if they work more hours they receive less cash benefits and they also require less secondary support such as food stamps.

The Majority of American people want healthcare, and now that they have it and have experienced the benefits of it, if you (the Republican Party) take it away you and your party will become the countries evil villains. Even the people who don't realize that " their affordable healthcare" and "Obama Care" will turn on you and your party as soon as they feel the negative impact and blame you for tricking them.

You always intended to create an alternative. Here is one alternative. I am sure all the smart people we have elected can come up with more.

Dianna Howell

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: george roberts [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Health Care proposal

Dear Congressional Leaders,

The Graham Cassidy Healthcare proposal is not the Healthcare Americans need. In Addition, its not fair to the American people that their elected officials are asked to vote on an issues with NO opportunity to review the content. Only a select few were permitted to view the Graham Cassidy Healthcare proposal and I doubt a Missourian was among the few.

I'm a 72 year old disabled Viet Nam Veteran. I started paying in to Social Security at the age of 13 and served 34 years at my last employment. I, We NEED YOUR SUPPORT. **Vote No to Graham Cassidy.**

Kind Regards,
G. Roberts
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: cjlustgarten [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: graham/cassidy bill

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. because of this, I oppose the graham/cassidy healthcare bill. Because of preexisting conditions, this bill would seriously harm my ability to get to get affordable health insurance, and would end subsidies which allow me to purchase a health insurance policy. I would like to see a bipartisan effort to improve the aca, not repeal it.
sincerely,
craig lustgarten

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Emily%20Sisson [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My story of being a cancer patient

In 1994, when I was 44 years old, I was diagnosed with stage 1 invasive ductile breast cancer. About all I did for many months was worry and visit lots of doctors, but now that it's all over, I'm healthy. No reoccurrence, no new cancers. During those dark days, while I worried pretty much all day, every day about my health and eventual outcome, the one thing I didn't worry about was how to pay the bills. My husband & I each had good insurance from our employer, a large public university. It turned out that for the biopsy, surgery, radiation, bronchoscopy I needed because of side effects from the radiation, medication, many, many visits to the surgeon, medical oncologist, radiation oncologist and pulmonologist and everything else, my expenses were almost nothing. I knew at the time that whatever other problems I had, good insurance when I needed it wasn't one of them.

I retired in 2006 but because of my employment at the university, I was able to continue to be part of the large group of university employees. I had to pay 100% of the premium myself, but I was happy to do it. It was a really good deal for someone with a history of cancer and 9 years to go until Medicare.

Now I'm 67, enrolled in Medicare and still doing well.

Finally, here's my comment on the Graham-Cassidy bill. I'm against it. It doesn't insure that everyone in America with insurance is covered for the essential health care benefits, like the ACA does. States can opt not to require insurance companies to charge the same for those who've had cancer as those who haven't. I don't think my state is going to screw me over, but if Graham-Cassidy becomes law, it sure could if it wanted. And there are plenty of people who, through no fault of their own, have medical problems more expensive than mine were who live in states that would be happy to screw them over. Sure, these people with medical histories just like mine will be able to buy insurance as long as they have $10,000 or more a month or more to spend on that insurance. Bill Gates would be able to afford it, but other people, not so much.

The Republican Party for years now has prided itself in being the party of life. Let's see if they value the lives of just plain ol' regular people who are unlucky enough to have an expensive medical problem that wasn't even their fault and also live in a state that decides that insurance company wants & needs are more important than its citizens' wants and needs. There's plenty of those states out there.

Emily Sisson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: kathleen hughes [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stop graham cassidy

Do not approve this health care bill. It will help only the rich. The poor will suffer more with cuts to medicaid & increased rates for pee existing conditions.
Thank you
Kathleen hughes
Omaha ne
68124

I am committed to help create a fossil -free, war-free, just and peaceful world.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: celia damon [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Act

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the disastrous Graham-Cassidy Act. Millions of Americans would lose health coverage if this passed. We must improve the ACA , not destroy the progress we have made. Thank you, Celia Damon, 94707

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: karen hornbeck[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

My husband and I are both diabetic, in our 60's and live on our pensions. I taught for 37 years and we have insurance through my pension, which we pay for. My husband just started dialysis this month and we pay co-pays for it and all his meds. Each year we pay more than the last for premiums, co-pays and prescription co-pays. Now you're considering making our already expensive health care even more expensive or no longer available because we have preexisting conditions. How dare you be so callous and unconcerned about the people who you supposedly represent. You were elected to work for the people and charged with making responsible informed decisions in the BEST interest of the country. Your lack of moral conscience is appalling and your disregard for basic human rights is disgusting. As your bank accounts become healthier, your constituents become more and more sick. DO THE RIGHT THING AND DO NOT VOTE FOR THIS BILL. WORK ON A BIPARTISAN BILL THAT WORKS FOR ALL. Be sure you also have to take this plan for yourselves.

Sincerely,

Unhappy with Republicans

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Patricia DeGutis
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Vince [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

This bill will disenfranchise millions of people. It is an absolute disaster in the making. As a voter I encourage your no vote

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lorraine Tosiello [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on the Graham Cassidy Bill

To Whom It May Concern;

I am a practicing primary care physician.

I am absolutely OPPOSED to the Graham Cassidy Bill.

It seems to be worded by individuals who have no idea what illness is. Asthma, in children and adults, depression, heart disease, anxiety, diabetes, are lifelong diseases that need continuous care. Interruptions in care, prior condition criteria, age limits, income thresholds can not be tolerated.

To trust block grants to cover these issues in the very states that DID NOT EXPAND MEDICAID under ACA is ridiculous.

I am looking for an IMPROVEMENT to the ACA, not something worse.

Lorraine Tosiello, MD, FACP

Be not simply good; be good for something. Henry David Thoreau

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah McLain [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care -- work together for ALL

I urge you to oppose the Graham -Cassidy bill. The Affordable Health Care Act does need improvement, but I do not support repealing and replacing it. Our elected officials must work together to find a solution which benefits all Americans.

Sincerely,
Sarah McLain

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Scott Miller [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I am against the repeal of Obamacare.

I am opposed to the repeal of Obamacare. Although there may be some problems with Obamacare, I think it is foolhardy to eliminate the current legislation and risk the health of millions of people who could lose their healthcare.

I strongly feel that a reasoned, bipartisan review of the issues, including input from those affected through meetings at the local level is the only reasonable way to proceed. Please do not ignore the perspective of the majority of Americans and work together to improve Obamacare as necessary.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide input.

Scott Miller

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Deb [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Taling healthcare away from millions

Don't do it! Vote NO!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maureen Gaynor [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Medicaid

I am a 50-year-old woman with severe physical limitations due to my athetoid cerebral palsy. My entire, well-maintained existence is supported by supports I receive from Medicaid, specifically the Medicaid Global Waiver Program. This support allows me to hire Personal Care Assistants to get out of bed, shower, dress, use the toilet, prepare meals, eat, clean, access the community and a multitude of other activities that fulfill my life. I would die without my Medicaid supports. If my Medicaid services were reduced, it would impact my life

I also am a 1993 graduate of Roger Williams University, majoring in Architectural Studies. For the first time in 24 years, I have real hope that I will finally land a job soon. Rhode Island has a new initiative, Employment First, which puts concentration on agencies and employment specialists to assist people with disabilities find meaningful and inclusive employment. Without the appropriate Medicaid supports, chances of people with disabilities finding employment decreases dramatically, causing the disability community to continue to live at or below the poverty level. This is unjustly unfair. People with disabilities continue to be prisoners of our government. Medicaid Block Grants would be devastating to people with disabilities.

I have probably have written 50 letters over my lifetime to government officials. Sometimes we don't have time to do anything else because we must write letters or make phone calls fighting to keep what supports we have. Sometimes I resent having to writing letters because it eats into my time doing other things like working on my portfolio to find a job so I won't have to be so dependent on government supports. But I will write my letters because I have a duty as an American citizen and an advocate.

I am asking for your assistance to fight for people with disabilities to keep their Medicaid supports. These supports are vital to our health, safety and livelihoods.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: John Viner [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public testimony re. Graham-Cassidy-Heller amendment

Dear Senator Hatch, Senator Wyden, and Members of the Senate Committee on Finance:

I strongly support guaranteed health care for everyone (not merely "access to" health care) – not the Graham-Cassidy-Heller version by any means.
As a retired nurse and hospice volunteer, I have seen plenty of medical issues for individual and families, that seems unacceptable for a country like ours.

To see working Americans not be able to afford proper medical care at a reasonable price is ***morally wrong***.
To have insurance companies dictate the terms for treatment is not only medically wrong but ethically and ***fiscally irresponsible***.
To have pharmaceutical companies and in some cases doctors line their pockets off the backs of sick people is morally wrong and fiscally irresponsible. In short we need to get rid of all lobbyists.
The amount of duplication, excessive office/paper work, inability to obtain or easily find medical insurance and then access is the last thing sick and/or old folk should have to deal with.
Many countries have decades long experience and the U.S. doesn't have to reinvent the wheel; all we, Congress and experts have to do is be willing to put our minds together and get on with it. These current shenanigans are just costing us lots of money and getting us no-where.

You were elected to represent THE PEOPLE = that means all the people, or at least the largest number of people and representing just the rich ones doesn't mean that. The U.S. has a very poor health care system – nothing to be proud of. You can make it better and thereby let it serve ALL AMERICANS.

Respectfully,
Eliane A. Viner, RN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julie Krug [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Why Graham-Cassidy must be stopped

Dear Finance Committee,

As a self-employed mother with my own pre-existing conditions as well as a household full of them, I implore you to stop Graham-Cassidy from going any further.

The ACA has been great for me, my husband, and kids. We benefit from protection against punishment for pre-existing conditions, from lifetime caps on the important care we need, and from knowing that healthcare is treated as a right, not a privilege.

Also, as a clinical social worker and a member of the Pennsylvania Society of Clinical Social Workers, I reflect my own concerns and those of my colleagues when I say that the ACA has been an important piece of legislation for many Pennsylvanians who are invisible in this debate.
The many people with addictions and substance use disorders who need Medicaid and access to mental and behavioral health resources would likely die from overdoses and suicide if you repeal the ACA and leave it up to the states.

We need a standard of regulation for health care and that is what the ACA has been. Either add more benefits to the ACA while lowering premiums, or do no harm by leaving it alone.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Julie Krug, LCSW

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Veronique Liem [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not pass that bill

Please improve Obama Care. Stop cutting down its benefits so you can get tax cuts for the wealthiest.

Dump Graham Cassidy proposal

Thank you.

--
VERONIQUE LIEM

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sprague, Peter [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill unconscionable.

Have I told you that the Graham Cassidy bill is unconscionable? Well it is. It turns my stomach and makes me want to vote for the other party, no matter how dull or dastardly-- they couldn't be this bad. No human would be this bad, and I have a personal rule to only vote for humans, not people who want to displace, disavow, dismember, disable humans.

Peter Sprague
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Moore [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GrahamCassidy

I plead with your instinct for healthy leadership vs political advantage to step away from destructive health care proposals and instead address the needs of the citizens you represent. Everyone deserves health care

Dr Linda Moore
[redacted]
Sent from my iPhone

This e-mail message and any attached files are confidential and are intended solely for the use of the addressee(s) named above. If you are not the intended recipient or person responsible for delivering this confidential communication to the intended recipient, you have received this communication in error, and any review, use, dissemination, forwarding, printing, copying, or other distribution of this e-mail message and any attached files is strictly prohibited. If you have received this confidential communication in error, please notify the sender immediately by reply e-mail message and permanently delete the original message. Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: John Kuhn [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy bill

The U.S. spends way more on health care than any other country yet our health outcomes are the worst of any major industrialized country. This Republican bill does not improve the situation; in fact it is a step backward from the ACA. It will result in fewer Americans being covered and higher costs for almost everyone. All of our representatives in Congress need to work together to improve health care in this country, not make it much worse. Fix the ACA or pass a universal single-payer bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sandra Hammond [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

I'd like to point out something which should be obvious even to out-of-touch dotards. If you pass this bill and tens of millions of Americans lose their healthcare, people will be so mad that 2018 will be a cakewalk for Democrats. Now that I think about it, go right ahead. I'm old and I'm going to die anyway, but I'd love to see every one of you who votes for this travesty out of office. That's on my bucket list. Thanks.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Davis [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable Health Care

Dear senators,

My family and I rely on affordable healthcare, and your proposed bill will take away lifesaving treatment for health issues that are being managed successfully under the current plan. Furthermore, by dismantling our current healthcare, I will be uninsurable because of a preexisting condition that's completely under control with medication, and, like millions of other Americans, I will have to figure out a way to find medical treatment without insurance.

MAKE THE RIGHT AND HUMANE CHOICE BY VOTING NO ON GRAHAM CASSIDY BILL.

Carol Davis

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary N [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I oppose this tax cut bill because it destroys our healthcare system. I also oppose it because REPUBLICANS continue to EXEMPT THEMSELVES from their own bill. SHAME ON YOU REPUBLICAN grifters and welfare recipients who've been sucking us dry for years and years.

M. Johnson
[redacted]
Marco Rubio you're a fraud

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cindy Church [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

I am contacting you to ask you to not go forward with the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill. It is hugely unpopular even among Republicans. The majority of Americans now believe that adequate and affordable healthcare is a fundamental right.

Please show your love for our great nation and do not go forward with this bill.

Sincerely,
Cindy Church

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dpmax100 [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Dear Representatives,

Please follow Senator mcCain's lead and return to regular order. Represent the people not the donors.

The Republican Party will fair far better over the long haul if u represent the people and not special interests

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sherryll Mleynek [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

All tax paying citizens are paying your salary, your health insurance, your travel expenses, your staffs. Could you, personally, pay for your insurance under this new bill? If you have a pre-existing condition, or a member of your family does, can you pay the higher premiums?

Sherryll S. Mleynek, Ph.D.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

d carr
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jen Goodwin [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Meet Ben
Attachments: image1.JPG; ATT00001.txt

This is my son Ben with our dog, Polly.
Ben has Asperger's Syndrome, a form of autism.
With this health care bill, insurance companies could deny him coverage, or raise his rates so high we could never afford them.
Why is that ok?
Look at his face, and then decide if he deserves affordable health care.
Sincerely,
Jen Goodwin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Suzanne Rocca-butler [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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

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Suzanne Rocca-butler

[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Migaldi, Karen [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repeal of Affordable Care Act

The repeal of the Affordable Care Act will have a devastating impact upon our country. The proposed bill will undermine the tenuous security of millions of Americans who live paycheck to paycheck. They are one illness away from losing everything they own. My mother lost her home and entire life-savings when she got sick in 1997. Millions of others face a similar outcome if the Senate approves this terrible repeal. The character of a nation can be measured by the way it treats the most vulnerable citizens. Please show the world that the Untied States does not step on the weak to give tax breaks to wealthy citizens.

Karen Migaldi

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cynthia Dodge [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Death Bill

To our elected officials:
It is inconceivable to me that after 7 years this is the best you can do and you absolutely refuse to work with the democrats across the aisle. These last three attempts in the past 9 months only prove that republicans have no interest in making healthcare affordable for those who need it the most. With each attempt you make it worse than the plan before. The worst part is, you get on television and try to sell it to us like we are stupid and will just sit back and buy the lies. The word deplorable comes to mind when I think of how you treat the American people. You showed your hand 9 months ago when you tried to disband the office of ethics and oversight. Even our lunatic in chief had enough sense to know that was a bad first move, not that I believe for a minute he doesn't support that way of thinking, he's as corrupt as they come. You have shown in these 3 attempts at healthcare that you have no regard for women, minority, those of meager means, elderly, and disabled. Scrooge comes to mind, "best to get rid of the surplus population". You don't want to pay for pregnancy care but you sure as hell want us to pay for your viagra (don't think those of us in northeast Ohio didn't notice the escort businesses were booming during the RNC convention). Yet you claim to run on the "moral" ticket. Give me a break!! All that means is you spread lies and freak and press on those conservative buttons like gun control and abortion to get votes. You can't claim to be pro life if you don't want to give pregnancy care or help those new mothers struggling to provide for their babies. You are pro birth so you can have a platform for judgement. You and your racist in chief have done everything you can to sabotage the ACA and then lie to us by saying it was designed to implode. Your shoddy attempts at repeal are what is causing uncertainty and risk for the insurance companies. All because an educated well spoken black man became president, twice, did something to help people, the least of these. SHAMEFUL!!!!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sandra Willmon [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:14 PM
To: gchcomments; Gardner, DoNotReply (Gardner)
Subject: Healthcare Graham Cassidy

Do you think you can have a good outcome when you shove this down our throats.

1. Wait for a CBO score. How can you tinker with 1/6 of our GDP without this score.

2. How can you fast track this bill without the usual legislative protocol.

3. How can you think you will be able to fool the public into thinking this is pre-existing coverage without the loop holes that are in the fine print.

4. Do you really think those older Americans you are abandoning won't vote Democrat in 2018.

5. This is not the way to govern. This will come back to haunt you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: SUSAN JACOX [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators,
I strongly urge each of you to vote NO on Graham Cassidy. Providing health care coverage to US citizens is too critical to meeting the reconciliation deadline.

'Reconciliation' is an aberration of regular Senate rules. To shoehorn health care coverage into this narrowing window is egregious! It would be an abrogation of your responsibility as a seated senator not only to your respective constituents but also to all Americans.

My father died at 94 after two triple bypasses, diabetes, and cancer over a 40-year period.

My mother died at 89 after diabetes, glaucoma, and cancer over a 30 year period.

My brother died at 50 after three cancers and several surgeries over a 5 year period.

I am in my 70s and have had a hip replacement, cancer, cancer- radiation-related diabetes, and cancer- radiation-related heart issues.

We are just one family. All of us would have lost/ loose our health care under Graham Cassidy.

We four had full white collar careers, two of us for the Federal Government. Graham Cassidy would severely reduce the workforce that is the backbone of America.

Graham Cassidy would severely erode the health and productivity of successive generations.

Please vote NO and buckle down for a long haul effort to construct solid health care for our nation.

Sincerely,
Susan Jacox

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Thomas Watson [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: info@lisabrownforcongress.com
Subject: Graham Cassidy healthcare bill

Senators. My name is Tom Watson and I am a totally disabled combat veteran of the Vietnam war. Some of my medical needs cannot be provided by the Veterans Administration so I must rely upon the ACA providers to supplement my health care needs. I can't afford to pay for my care without healthcare insurance assistance. I was hoping that as I approach the end of my time here, I would have a smoother and more comfortable exit. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elizabeth A McLin [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Dear GCH Committee,
I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill because it rejects the essential elements needed for all humans and shifts funding from the most vulnerable to the pockets of the wealthy.

Regards,
Elizabeth McLin
USA citizen

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Katrina Ortiz [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: This bill is terrible for the American people

Good Afternoon,

I am appalled at this bill. I can not believe that senator graham and senator Cassidy think this bill will help anyone. I am vehemently opposed to this bill and I know it will cost the American people more money than the affordable care act.

Katrina Mendez

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Felice Schlesinger [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

I implore you to take a breath, stop and think and realize the havoc that you will cause to so many Americans if you pass this bill. Health care costs can devastate an individual or a family in ways that are unimaginable. All Americans with pre-existing conditions and older Americans will be hurt by this bill.

If you don't care about ordinary Americans, let's try another tack. Good hard working Americans will have to make devastating choices. The economy will suffer, the tax base will shrink and the health care industry in rural areas will be diminished or disappear.

Is this the America that you want?

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Melody Garber [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Evil healthcare bill

The GOP are evil and this deathcare bill is example 1.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beth [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare repeal

Please do not pass the Graham Cassidy bill. I need my Obamacare to survive!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Steven Ober [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

TO THE UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE:

Please slow down this hearing and return to the regular order of business in the Senate.

One hearing prior to a vote does not allow for two weeks of comments on the bill. There is no CBO score on this drastic measure.

One sixth of the American economy will be affected -- not to mention the lives and health of millions of Americans. Without study and without a CBO score and testimony from experts, you have no real idea of what you will unleash on the healthcare system and on millions of Americans if you proceed.

We deserve a thoughtful and deliberative process as well as the best coverage available for the most people. Graham Cassidy does not achieve this goal. In fact, Graham Cassidy takes what are already issues in the individual markets and makes them worse. It decimates Medicaid, which so many seniors, children and Americans with disabilities rely on. It takes money from states that have expanded Medicaid and are working to provide coverage and care for more of their citizens and gives that money to states that have not opted to participate...to the detriment of their residents.

It guts protections for pre-existing conditions and allows states to decide on a politicians whim whether to cover essential services, including maternity care, mental health and opioid treatment. As someone who is self-employed and with pre-existing conditions, this decision will greatly impact my life, my financial health and my physical health.

Please pause and think. GOP members have already been quoted in the media as saying the bill is seriously flawed and they don't even know what's in it or what it will do, but they would vote for it anyway blindly.

Is that serving the American people? You know it doesn't. You are hurting the American people by going down this road.

We beg you... stop.

Please do the right thing - All Americans are counting on you!

Signed

Father
American Citizen
Taxpayer
Voter

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cynthia Smith [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Testimony on Graham Cassidy Impact

Dear People,

As an state certified Ombudsman, I am committed and responsible to protect the rights and dignities of residents who live in long term care facilities. These residents are elderly, with low to no income, many without family or emotional support, and are dependent on Medicaid for their health care and place of residence.
Graham Cassidy bill promises to decimate their lives, put them on the street, deny them medical care and is the harbinger of death for their fragile lives.
Our parents and grandparents deserve better.
You will be old and frail someday, if you are fortunate to live that long. I pray all people are respected and cared for in their old age.
Graham Cassidy will not be just the nail in the coffin for Obamacare.
It will be the nail in the coffin for thousands of people.

Vote NO on Graham Cassidy.
Thank you.
Cynthia Smith

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Frederick Moulton [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Ending the Affordable Care Act and hurting so many of the Americans is disgusting!

- OUR COUNTRY AND OUR POLITICIANS SHOULD BE BETTER THAN THIS. HOW CAN YOU EVEN CONSIDER HURTING SO MANY PEOPLE. HEALTH CARE SHOULD ABSOLUTELY BE A RIGHT NOT A PRIVILEGE FOR THOSE WHO CAN AFFORD IT. PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING!!!!
-
-
-
- Eliminates current pre-existing conditions protection.
- Eliminates the current requirement that insurers cover essential health benefits such as mental health, substance abuse and maternity care.
- Implements per capita caps that significantly reduce federal Medicaid cost-sharing wit the federal government.
- Will likely result in major reductions in optional Medicaid services such as home and community-based supports for people with disabilities (including employment supports), and increased institutionalization.
- It is estimated that Massachusetts alone will lose up to half ($5 billion) of current federal support for health care by 2026.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judy Leeming[redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing on Sept 25, 2017

From: Judith M Leeming 369 Bridgewater Dr, Newport News, VA 23603

I am writing to request that you please vote no on Graham-Cassidy. The current plan, ACA, while not perfect, is still much better when compared to the horrendous consequences of Graham-Cassidy.

I'd like to share with you a bit about myself. My story comes from "the bad old days" before Obamacare. After many years of productive living, I had to retire on disability. I had NO income for 18 months while I waited for my disability status to be approved by a judge so I could receive Social Security disability benefits. One year later, I became eligible for Medicare. When I had to stop working, I went on Cobra, which was more expensive than the health plan I'd had at my job. After Cobra expired, I had to obtain an individual plan. The monthly premiums were $1000, plus co-pays. The plan had a $5000 deductible. My monthly medication bill was $750. Thank goodness I had long ago obtained a HELOC. Borrowing heavily (to the tune of $50,000) from this account, I was able to pay my living expenses and my medical costs. Eventually, I was forced to sell my home because my situation was beyond tenable. Having gone from riches to rags, I can tell you that poverty is no joke. Thank God I have Medicare, even with the co-pays. Medicare's monthly premium ($100) is deducted from my $1050 disability check. It's really hard to live on $950 a month. You have to be really creative. If the ACA had been in place, my life would be very different. I don't share this story to whine and say. "Poor me." I want to let everyone know this: You never know what twists and turns await you in life. For me, it was disability. For others, it may be a catastrophic illness, or something huge and unexpected. I'm so glad that social security and Medicare is available. I wish the ACA had been in place - I would not have been so deeply in debt. Know this: It could happen to YOU.

Remember: a society is judged by how it treats its most vulnerable.

The eyes of the nation are on Congress. You are now tasked with making the hallmark decision of your career. Stand up for the people you represent and vote no to the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

Thank you for your time,

Judith M Leeming

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Caelia Mer [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Hi, my name is Christina Warren. I'm writing to urge you all to vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill. "Obamacare" is not without its flaws, but if you take it away you are stripping access to healthcare away from a huge percentage of Americans.

Please do what is right and what is moral and ensure that healthcare is accessible to all Americans. 4

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Seigars [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

'NO' on the Graham-Cassidy bill. Please do not vote that the bill before it has been properly read and debated by the House of Representatives. and scored by the OMB, or if it does come to a vote, to vote against it.

Susan Seigars

Sue

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Collins [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:15 PM
To: gchcomments

I am writing to express my very deep concern about the Graham-Cassidy bill. It ends guaranteed protections on pre-existing conditions and essential benefits such care for pregnancy, childbirth and mental health services. It guts coverage for low-income seniors and people with disabilities. Estimates indicate that as many as 32 million Americans will lose health insurance coverage by 2027. It is a mean bill.
Furthermore, it is being presented and scheduled for a vote outside of regular order. It is being pushed through with many advocates and defenders of the bill acknowledging that it is not a good health care bill, but that it honors the political campaign promise to repeal and replace Obamacare. That is a completely unsound rationale. It should be about health care, not about political promises, especially when keeping the promise results in coverage WORSE than Obamacare. It is time for a bi-partisan approach to resolve the problems with Obamacare. If such a resolution needs to be named something other than Obamacare, that would be fine, and might pacify those politicians who feel more inclined to support their unrealistic promise to their rigid base than to serve and support the majority of those in their districts.
Sincerely,
Karen J. Collins

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: John C. Merino [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:15 PM
To: gchcomments

Senator

I know you're doing this in order to diminish Pres. Obama's legacy....but what you are recommending will not help. Please reconsider. Fix what's broken with the current law. Forget your gerrymandered constituents. Even they need health care.
Thank you
John Merino

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: MJ Delaney [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Defeat Graham Cassidy

America wants ACA. It's time for the Senate to fix ACA, not repeal it. America is sick and tired of these Republican shenanigans, no, Republican cruelty, directed toward millions of vulnerable Americans. Do your jobs. FIX ACA and stop trying to repeal it. People will die. Babies will die. You will have blood on your hands and we will hold you responsible.

Sent from MJ's iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marsha Stanton [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: #GrahamCassidy

Do your job and represent the people who elected you. They DO NOT want this bill passed.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Pinheiro [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

How dare you take away my health care when u still have yours. Shame on u.

Susan pinheiro
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan M. [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I am writing to express my concern about the Graham Cassidy Bill.

- I believe it places an unrealistic burden on individual states.
- I believe the block grants will be insufficient and will not be effectively applied.
- I believe many, many people (many of whom voted to put the current administration in power) will suffer and many will die as a result of this bill.

I believe the billl is simply unrealistic overall. It reads like something crafted by people who have never had to deal with pre-existing conditions, or pregnancy. Or, if they have had to deal with these things, they had plenty of insurance and money to pay for them.

It reads like it was written by people who have never actually met or talked to anyone who is suffering from a chronic condition and relies on ACA to continue to live a productive, relatively normal life.

It includes a completely unrealistic expectation for states to suddenly need to effectively manage significant new programs.

I believe that a responsible repeal of the ACA is possible. I believe it should include:

1) A thorough and nonpartisan examination of all the issues
2) Bipartisan debate over what should be included and not included
3) Crafting a bill that makes sure coverage is not taken away from or made prohibitively expensive (based on what average citizens make) for people with pre-existing conditions, pregnancy, an aging body, etc.
4) Crafting a bill that makes sure everyone can afford access to health care. By "affordable," I mean people should be able to afford it and still maintain a reasonable lifestyle.
5) Provision for programs designed to reduce the prevalence of "preventable diseases."
6) Involving women in the development of the bill

Until all of the above happens, I believe the best thing to do is to fix the parts of the ACA that are not working well. Please do not sabotage the ACA. I think everyone knows it is not perfect, but if you sabotage the ACA without having an effective and realistic (see above) substitute, you will only hurt people.

I do not think the bill should be passed simply because it fulfills a campaign promise. You also promised to serve the people. Which promise is more important? I have no doubt that your constituents would be more impressed by having access to good health care than by your making good on a campaign promise.

Please be responsible. Please do not pass this bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lynn Evans [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:40 PM
To: gchcomments

Don't do the disastrous grahamcassidy rip off. And get the money back from price that he squandered on private jet rides.
Thanks

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stephanie Unson [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Graham Cassidy bill

Esteemed Senators,

I am a constituent from California, and I am asking you, not only as fellow Americans but -perhaps more importantly - as fellow human beings, to oppose the Graham Cassidy bill.

If passed, the Graham Cassidy bill would have a devastating impact on people, especially those of us with disabilities and pre-existing conditions.

I have hypertension, a.k.a., high blood pressure. Prior to the Affordable Care Act, I would have been denied healthcare coverage because high blood pressure, which affects 1 in 3 Americans**, is considered a pre-existing condition.

Women's health and family planning, including pre-natal care, also stand to be adversely affected. Funds for mental health services will also be severely reduced. I marvel at how those who claim to be pro-life appear to be hellbent on denying a modicum of decent healthcare to those who will need it most.

This bill also intends to cut state funds disproportionally. Twenty states, many of which voted Democrat, stand to lose up to 60% of their current allotment - with the funds being funneled towards rural, Republican-leaning states. I cannot imagine that this is a coincidence.

The Graham Cassidy bill is a divisive partisan bill that manages to be even more immoral and un-Christian in its proposals than the previous iterations of healthcare reform thus proposed by this administration. Twenty three million people stand to lose coverage should this bill pass.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Stephanie

**Source: Center for Disease Control: https://www.cdc.gov/bloodpressure/faqs.htm

--
Stephanie Unson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Ho [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care message from a single parent

You call yourselves representatives for the American people, but you continue to put yourselves above us. Instead of helping us you repeatedly want to hurt us. I am a single mother, raising a daughter alone. My daughter lost her father (at age seven) six years ago to suicide. I also lost the love of my life. There are so many people with mental illness that rely on healthcare that you want to take away. I also rely on Medicaid because even though I work and am an educated woman with a graduate degree, health care is not available for us in our state. Republican Party - I plan to vote against you as long as I live and breathe.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Thomas Gardner
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rebecca Bleakley [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/ Cassidy Trumpcare bill

Please do not vote for this disastrous bill that will decimate health care in this country. I am a female senior citizen with pre-existing conditions who lives in Massachusetts. I will be punished and ultimately harmed by this bill as will millions of others. There was no bipartisan input or debate on this bill. The insurance industry plus many medical organizations as well as the fifty state Medicaid directors have published statements against this bill. My stroke disabled sister-in-law depends on Medicaid for nursing home care. This bill would put her out on the street. Congress was not elected to harm constituents. Please help us by making sure this bill is never passed.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sherry Frumkin [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill is a disaster

TAKE THIS AWFUL BILL OFF LIFE SUPPORT!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Daniel Frieling [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: 'Daniel Frieling'; 'Wendy Whittington'
Subject: I know more about healthcare issues than almost anyone!!

First my credentials:
1982 – created the first ever electronic medical records system (EMR)
1993 – created the first pediatric-specific EMR
1993 – introduced the concept of digital-photography to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
1995 – first to put EMR on the Internet (when everyone told me I was crazy, that no one would ever go for this)
1995 – first to put a doctor live in an exam room running an EMR (on a wireless handheld computer, and it was over the Internet

This history is all well documented – see http://www.eecons.com/inventions

In my years in the field I have seen it all – the good, the bad and the ugly.

I saw a gastroenterologist in Ledgewood NJ bill a 99215 (the highest level of service) for a (literally) 4 minute off visit – Sudhir K Agarwal MD – what I termed "semi legal insurance fraud" aka BILKING THE SYSTEM to get rich.
I was asked by a pediatrician in Miami, Dr. Peter Martinez-Noda to help him commit insurance fraud by modifying our EMR to help him "false-bill" (of course I refused).
I have seen pediatricians provide extensive preventive-care that took 20 minutes with 1-patient for a $40 reimbursement, just ridiculous when I compare this to the insurance-frauds like Dr. Agarwal

This is not healthcare but government corruption at its best – in 1983 I was asked to quote a job for the EPA here in NJ. When I put in my bid for around $5000 I was told "what will we do with this bid? The EPA-contact will get paid more than that" aka, the payoff for the guy who decides which computer company got the job.

The list goes on and on.

The current healthcare bill does NOT fix the ACA. The republicans only care about the ACA being gone because it has Obama's name on it., it has nothing to do with creating a better system or fixing the problems with the ACA, it is 100% politically-motivated with no factual basis, just horrible. Had the identical bill behind the ACA been a republican-bill they would be out there touting how wonderful it is. Nothing to do with being good or bad, all partisan politics at their worst!!!

When one of our most respected Senators, Mr. McCain, is willing to put his good-name on opposing it, that alone should be telling all of America "THIS IS BAD, DO NOT PASS THIS".

If you want to fix the system, solve the problems and stop putting a band-aid on them. None of these systems get to the route of the problems, they are only about money-distribution and not fixing the broken system.

When you want to learn something about the state of medical-care in the US today, bring me to Washington and I'll be happy to discuss it with you.

Very truly yours,
Daniel Frieling,

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: De_Mail [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Pearson, Beth (Warren); Hurt, Nikki (Markey)
Subject: VOTE no on Graham-Cassidy - Protect Medicaid

Dear US Senate,

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

This bill will be devastating for our family. We have two children one 14 years old girl and a 16 years old boy, both in the autism spectrum. My youngest one is no verbal and she needs constant supervision. I'm not working outside the house because the constant need for medical purposed and to follow her in her school journey. My oldest one is more high functioning and maybe able to have a decent life if he will be possible for him to pay for his insurance, if he will have a couch or somebody in his life that will redirect and structure his path constantly. Sadly, a great number of these young adult end to suffer of depression and kill themselves because consider themeselfe not worthy and reject from our society. We as parents are extremely worry, thinking about their future. With less support for mental health, less support for disabilities we are sliding back to an old structure type society where the only family had to care for member with disabilities but unfortunately, we do not have anybody else, so they will be on her own with no chance to survive. As every parent, we want the best for our children, in this case we just ask the barley minimum, the fact that they can stay alive after we are gone, that they will be protect by our society. It seems that our values are going upside down, when you stop to protect the people in needs, incapable to care for themselves, and only look to your own good, there is no more society, democracy is gone.

Thank you for your consideration
Dan and Grazia DeRocco

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stephanie Bush [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject Graham-Cassidy Bill

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

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Identiteam [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Irresponsible to even try to pass HC legislation....

...without debate, hearings and CBO score. Rewrite 1/6 th of the US economy within two week? Gross negligence. Or should I say malpractice?
Doris Chevron
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Meg Campbell [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Proposed GC bill

I am writing to ask you to not bring this bill to the floor for a vote. It is going to GREATLY hurt hospitals by once again causing an increase in uncompensated care due to fewer people being able to afford healthcare. The rural hospital in my area only began operating in the black after the passage and implementation of the ACA.

This bill is also TERRIBLE for people. There are too many groups to name them all. You should be ashamed of yourselves.

Kill the bill.

- *Margaret Campbell*

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ann-Gmail [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Death Bill

We the People are done with so-called Reps who make up the majority of the GOP. Daily, and hortifyingly, you put Party and Power before Country and People.

The Graham-Cassidy Death Bill is unfathomably cruel and irresponsible. Both Senators who pasted their names on this monstrosity have vacated all semblance of human decency. They lack compassion and common sense. Both should be held in contempt of Congress and censured for all the lies they have told about this piece-of-crap bill in the past 72 hours.

Since November, 2016, I have volunteered my time, talents, and donated to candidates outside California to flip GOP seats. I and countless others will continue to do so in 2018 and beyond. We want real representation in Congress, members who will not place the interests of wealthy donors above their constituents.

America is pissed off at you GOP. They see you for who you are. I am still a registered Republican. But when you chose and then backed Trump as your candidate, you lost me. Watching how you have all toadied to the orange menace has been horrifying. You provide no checks, no balances, no accountability. The only sane conclusion is that you are all as CAF (ask an intern if you don't know what that means).

If you have any shred of decency left, you will all admit that the ACA can be fixed by listening to experts and working with the Democrats to create a more workable, effective solution. If there are any sane members left in your Party (Senators McCain, Collins and Murkowski perhaps?) then you will move forward with impeachment and removal of the illegitimate grifter occupying our nation's highest office.

Sincerely,

Ann Sullivan
Former Republican

name. My mother told INOVA that I would declare bankruptcy. They conceded and put me on a payment plan. I was now paying monthly to INOVA and had already been in the situation that we were scraping the funds together for me to attend Tech.

Somehow, I survived. I graduated with a BS and an MS in Civil Engineering from Tech. My platelets are now normal. My first job out of Tech was a very good Engineering job in NJ and when my now husband proposed, we found jobs in a town back in VA where we would start married life. So I left my job and paid $3,000 a month for three months until my new health insurance with my new job would start. I knew enough not to let my health insurance lapse, especially given my pre-existing condition, and the cobra insurance company made me pay dearly for my desperation to stay covered. I put most of it on a credit card, knowing that we could be frugal newlyweds and pay it off. It annoys me to no end when politicians so cavalierly say "all you have to do is not have a lapse in coverage". They make it sound like all you have to do is make sure you stay up on your paperwork - cobra coverage is financially crippling!!!

In the end, all ended well. But at several junctures, I could have easily found myself uninsured, still sick, and debt ridden from medical and college costs, without a degree with which to get myself on my feet again. This is a very real story of medical coverage for college students, yearly maximums, lack of ambulance coverage, access to good doctors, the struggle to pay for college, the high cost of private insurance, the high cost of prescriptions, pre-existing conditions and the gouging of cobra coverage - all rolled into one.

This is America...and it can happen to anyone.....please put a stop to this nonsense.

Erin Lawrence, P.E

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Erin Lawrence [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My Healthcare Struggle - A Northern Virginia Kid's Story

To Whom it May Concern,

I wanted to share with you my health care struggle...as an American whose family has been in this country since the Civil War (and likely the Revolution, however, I'm still in the process of the collecting the genealogy), an American whose parents both had college degrees, an American who was born and raised in northern Virginia (Class President, 11th in my class, 5 varsity letters), an American whose grandfather fought with Patton in the Battle of the Bulge, and American female who had just begun her engineering classes at Virginia Tech.....I had the American spirit in my sails, I had done everything "right", I had no reason to not succeed....and yet, my struggle with healthcare altered my life forever.

In order of events:

1) As I started classes at Tech, I had to get an extra dose of the MMR vaccination due to a clerical error in my medical paperwork for Virginia Tech. By January of my freshmen year, unbeknownst to me, I was developing a condition called ITP (my body was eating my platelets - likely caused by the MMR vaccination). I was trying out for the Tech softball team and felt fine, but had many bruises. I visited a good friend at UVA who was concerned and made me pinky swear to go to the infirmary Monday when I was back at Tech. She saved my life. A simple blood test at the Infirmary caused the staff to scramble. I had no platelets...none. I was admitted to Montgomery Regional Hospital and confined to a bubble bed that very night. I wasn't even allowed to get up an go to the bathroom because it was too dangerous - and I had been on my way to softball only hours earlier.

2) I stayed at Montgomery Regional for 11 days with many specialists trying to figure out how to treat my condition. My academic advisor visited me from Virginia Tech. He told me I was the sickest student he had ever had and he held my hand and said I should drop out until I had stabilized. I told him I could not. My parent's were divorced and my father's health insurance would only cover me as long as I was a full time student. My mother was a single parent who had her own bookkeeping business, but had to leave all her clients to stay with me in Blacksburg. She paid extremely high rates for the private insurance for herself and, as a family, we didn't have much in reserve for astronomical bills. She found an oncologist/hematologist in Northern Virginia who would take me as a patient and he signed a release that I was in his custody once I got in an ambulance in Blacksburg (other doctors wouldn't assume the risk). My mother wrote a personal check for the cost of the ambulance (which wasn't covered under my father's plan) for $8,000. We didn't have that money, but she had to get me to INOVA Fairfax.

3) Once at INOVA, my new doctor was amazing. He had a plan and he even thought I could make it back to Tech in few weeks. Wonderful news! My treatments of IVIG cost $7,500 a session, and I was on the highest dose of prednisone my body could handle, but I made it back to Tech right before Spring Break - on an 8 hour ride on a Greyhound bus (my mother couldn't afford to leave her clients again - debt was looming - she eventually liquidated her 401k to recover). Privately, I cried every day that spring semester at Tech. I was so incredibly behind in an already demanding academic program. I can not tell you how much stress my body and my mind and my soul were under. I stayed up until 2 or 3 am every single day to catch up. I spent Spring Break assigning one subject for each day so I could do whatever possible to regain my academic losses. I only took breaks to take a cab to Montgomery Regional to check in with them to make sure my platelets were at least at 35,000, otherwise I would have be readmitted...and start that entire horrible process of waiting for another costly ambulance ride back to INOVA. I started developing hives on my days where I would have to check in - the stress literally made my body feel numb. Through absolutely extraordinary effort, and the miracle of medications, I caught back up in my school work and my platelets stayed at around 35,000 (for reference your platelets should be 150k to 450k).

4) As I started my summer, I prepared for the splenectomy that would be the only way to truly get my platelets to above 150k. Because I could bleed out, my stomach had to be cut open wide enough so that two surgeons could get their hands in my abdomen, one to perform the splenectomy and one to physically hold on to the arteries into my spleen. It worked. My platelets have been in normal ranges every since. However, I had sailed past my yearly maximum on my father's health insurance. INOVA billing was on the phone with my mother saying she had assets, she had a house. By the grace of God, and since I had started this drama on my own in Blackburg, I was 18 and had all the bills in my

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hilario "Larry" J. Carrillo [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I urge you to improve healthcare for all Americans

The GOP plan is tantamount to unaffordable health care.

The Republican's latest plan to repeal and replace the ACA could cause millions of people to lose their healthcare coverage. Obamacare is making a life-changing difference for actual Americans.

Trumpcare has been dismissed by Democrats, Independents, doctors (ADA, AMA), nurses (ANA), and hospitals (AHA), insurance associations, Medicaid administrators in all 50 states, and to date even by several in the Republican party.

"The GOP has forgotten how to do the slow, arduous work of governing. Perhaps it's worse than that. This is a party, in many ways, that has built its majority upon a contempt for the compromises, quarter-loaves, and tough trade-offs that governing entails." It's current iteration of Repeal & Replace is nothing more than a token gesture driven by a concern to appease powerful donors.

I urge all members of Congress to work in a bi-partisan fashion, following traditional means of legislation, to make medical care affordable for all Americans. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Hilario J. Carrillo

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marcia Wick [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Start listening to the people. Stop playing politics with lives!

Women, infants, children, seniors, the disabled – we are all only human after all. I am blind. I depended upon SSDI as a single parent with a disability to enable me to work and live up to my parenting responsibilities. You men are so righteous about the right to life for the unborn. What about the living? You force women to bear children by taking away their choice to affordable health care yet you ostracize, stigmatize and abandon those same women and children, forcing them into a life of poverty. There but for the grace of God go I. What about your mothers, wives, sisters and daughters? Stop playing politics with our lives. We want universal health care for all. The healthcare industry is completely destabilized because of your ignorance and refusal to listen to the people, not a narcissistic maniac!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Gabriel Thullen
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kelly Dunshee [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE no on Graham-Cassidy - Protect Medicaid

Dear US Senate,

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

cc Senator Warren (Beth_Pearson@warren.senate.gov) and Senator Markey (Nikki_Hurt@markey.senate.gov)
Kelly Dunshee,
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hal & Joan Lewis [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

I have a close family member who has stage 4 melanoma. Without the affordable care act, she would be dead. Please do not take away access to health care!!

Sent from Joan's iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Stankiewicz [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:59 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy is terrible

The Graham Cassidy "healthcare" bill is a disaster.
Only a heartless 1%er politician would consider removing insurance protections from 32 million Americans, mostly the already disadvantaged. It particularly targets women, which is not a surprise with the current terrible administration, and the bill should be defeated with a resounding NO to protect people.
Universal healthcare is the only answer- how about a proposal that helps people when they are sick- or even better- is designed to help maintain health instead of lining insurance CEO pockets betting on illness?

Please be rational and look at systems in Sweden, Norway, and Canada for an actual solution to healthcare issues in the US. The current Congress and "President" are embarrassing.

Vote no on Graham Cassidy enactment.

Jen Stankiewicz

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mangurian, Christina [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Save ACA

I'm both a doctor working at a public hospital and a mother of a child with a pre-existing condition. This bill will be terrible for both of these populations. Please do not destroy the ACA.
Thank you,
Christina

Christina Mangurian, MD, MAS
[redacted]

This e-mail is intended for the recipient only. If Protected Health Information (PHI) is contained in this email, unauthorized disclosure may subject the discloser to civil or criminal penalties under state and federal privacy laws. If you received this email in error, notify me and destroy the email immediately.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Milliard [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I have read the Graham Cassidy Bill, are you kidding me? You need a bi partisan effort on healthcare I have it through my employer but I realize not many are as lucky. You old men republican assholes need to NOT be re-elected you are a disgrace. You absolutely do not care about the elderly, poor, or anyone else. You focus on the pharmaceutical companies and the insurance companies because they spend millions to support your dumbasses in elections. You are pathetic MEDICAID for all and a single payer system is fair and just. You NEED to be on the Graham and Cassidy plan you NEED TO LOSE YOUR INSURANCE and be included in this sorry ass plan!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: MARGARET RODERICK [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Amazing

How do you people sleep at night when you are trying to make sure your fellow Americans (who,by the way elected you after being promised better lives, better government) lose their insurance,their homes, their lives because you want to undo everything President Obama did?

Obamacare has its problems but they can be fixed.

What you want to do is make certain that people lose everything while you just keep getting richer,eh?

Americans will remember in 2018 who you are and what you stand for.

There will most certainly be a special place in [redacted] for all of you with a huge throne for #45.(Donnie John).

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: mitzi holyk-mccabe [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA repeal.

I work in a pharmacy I see people break down daily because they can't afford medicines. They talk about needing care for loved ones that they can't afford. Especially if they are just getting by. The very poor seem to get care, the very wealthy of course too. The middle class and lower middle class are left out in cold. I am guardian of my 62 year old uncle. He's totally non verbal, gets grand Mal seizures, is severely autistic, and is over 6 feet tall. How could I care for him. My disabled husband and I could never his care. ACA is not without problems, but preexisting conditions, children on policy til 26 are fabulous ideas. Don't throw out the baby with the bathwater. Fix it or better yet, let's have Medicare for all, like virtually every other civilized, non 3rd world country on the planet. Why should corporations profit by basically betting on your health, which is what insurance is. I'm 60, many people near my age are able to retire, but can't due to health insurance, or 1 spouse has to keep working to insure them both. If they could retire and get out of the labor force, it would open up more opportunities for younger workers. While you're wanting to get rid of stuff, how about the electoral college???

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: bruce slater [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Guess

So because the Koch brothers and Mercers promised you 300 million dollars to shove this abortion, pardon the reference, down our throats, how many of you will be brought up on charges for accepting bribes???

Oh that's right you all are above the law, and we pay your benefits too. What a racket.

Can't WAIT til 2018!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Roscelli [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: health care

To whom it may concern,
I realize that those who are reading this email will be exempt from the health care bill that is up for a vote. Doesn't that say it all? If YOU do not want the proposed horrible coverage, why would I? Treat your constituents with respect and VOTE NO on this travesty of a bill.
Thank you,
Nancy

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Schafer[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on repeal ACA

It is unethical and undemocratic to vote on the Graham Cassidy bill without hearings, CBO score, and discussion by the people impacted by this bill.

As an MD, I know people will die due to lack of access to care, spending caps, and the ability to refuse to cover pre-existing conditions.

Sarah Schafer, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barb Svetlick [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Don't Repeal of ACA

I am sure that you are receiving thousands of emails from American's who have medical problems but there are millions upon millions who have genetic diseases, who have reached an age where their bodies no longer can handle going through life without medical care and prescriptions and for so many who have conditions that are constantly referred to as "pre-existing". A pre-existing condition is labeled that the minute you talk to the doctor and ask about some symptom[s] you are having, They are labeled that as soon as a prescription is written or you end up in the emergency room with an unexpected problem, even a vehicle crash puts you in that category.

The states have proven that they can not carry the burden of creating fair and affordable health care laws nor should it be put on their backs. Medical coverage should be the same for every single American.

Whether the Congress can find a balance is questionable but it is very obvious that if they do not include every single Senator and Congressman in the creation of solving our out of control medical costs and insurance coverage. This is a big problem and requires the input of everyone from the law makers to the citizens. The new proposal takes away coverage from too many Americans and does nothing to reign in medical costs and insurance premiums.

Thank you for listening.

Barbara Svetlick
Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Janetlawrence131 [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Imperative

That we stop the Graham/ Cassidy bill to protect children , elderly ,mothers and fathers , grandmothers and grandfather;hard working citizens is America who deserve and have a right to health care. Since when did this country stop caring about people. I have grown used to the leader of the free works 3rd grade vocabulary but I will never grow complacent or vote for anyone without a soul or the knowledge of the constitution.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lacey Mullins [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Repeal

The Graham-Cassidy bill would have detrimental effects to everyone; causing people to become bankrupt for having diseases such as Bipolar Disorder, Juvenile Diabetes, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Cancer, peanut allergies, etc. Diseases that can't be cured with a simple over the counter medication such at Tylenol or Advil.

Removing the clause for preexisting conditions will allow insurance companies, currently covering individuals, like myself with Bipolar Disorder, to suddenly become un-insurable without a higher premium or deductible. Allowing the insurance company to choose not to cover me because I have a disease that can't be controlled without therapy and daily medications. Those with Diabetes require medication daily, sometimes more than once a day; those with peanut allergies are required to keep an epinephrine injector at school, or on their person at work, who pay an exorbitant amount of money for these auto injectors -WITH insurance- and have to renew this yearly in case they come into contact with peanuts, or other allergens, that may cause anaphylaxis or death.

This bill is sentencing millions of people to death. Please, please, please reconsider this bill. This is genocide, and we don't need a repeat of World War II.

My family is one that has preexisting conditions. My husband has Diabetes, I have Bipolar Disorder and Anxiety, my son has Asperger's Syndrome. We all use the insurance we receive through my husband's employer to provide daily care for ourselves. My husband and I require daily medication. He takes 7 pills a day for his Diabetes, Heart Disease (hereditary), cholesterol, and high blood pressure. I take 3 medications daily to help alleviate symptoms from my Bipolar Disorder, anxiety and insomnia. My son has seen a benefit from weekly and monthly therapy sessions for his Asperger's Syndrome, currently just called Autism.

Thankfully, due to my husband's insurance, our insurance is reasonable. We pay less than $50 a week for our coverage, but if this repeal were to pass, we could see our coverage decrease, our premiums increase, our deductible increase, and our weekly payment go up.

Again, I beg of you, to reconsider this bill. Not just for me, but for the millions in this country who struggle with mental illness, childhood diseases, Cancer, and those who can't afford insurance otherwise and receive state aid.

Thank you,

Lacey Mullins

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Dowdell [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Please vote no on this inhumane bill.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Katina Wright [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing to you with grave concerns about the Healthcare bill that is currently being jammed through the Senate. We are talking about millions of lives here. If the bill cannot have a completed study by the CBG, then how can you possibly vote yes on it? If you look at all of the medically supported groups: AARP, United Cancer Society, etc. that have come out against this legislation -- groups that are populated and run by educated people in the medical profession, then how can YOU possibly vote yes on it? Where is the bill posted so that the electorate might review it? If you don't feel confident enough in what is in it that you can't publicly post it, then how can YOU possibly vote yes on it?
If you cannot allow the normal procedures of debate on this bill, then how can YOU possibly vote yes on it? Are you voting for politics or for health care? If you are voting for politics, then SHAME on you, when so many lives are at stake. This needs a bi-partisan review, and women need to be in on this discussion. If you can't let the other party contribute and come to a compromise of some sort, then how can YOU call yourself participating in democracy? You're not a child. You're adults. It's really time you start acting like it.

If you cannot do this thing right, then don't do it at all. Time to grow up.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Wright

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: grimbobbles [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

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

My story with health insurance is that I have been paying for my own individual health insurance since the age of 25; I have rarely needed to use it, and just for minor things. Now that I am 62, and have faithfully been paying premiums for almost 40 years, I have just learned that my insurance company is no longer covering individual policies.

My husband is on disability for a neurological disease, and we are on a fixed income. If pre-existing conditions are no longer covered, I am afraid to go to the doctor now for what may be a serious condition, and no longer covered after December 31. It would wipe out our life savings if I am diagnosed with a serious disease, and insurance would not cover it. This seems to be a very unfair way to treat people. I would like to see a Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Gabrielle Zeiger

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Charlene Martin [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Please do not pass Graham Cassidy. This is a sham bill that will not help Americans. Republicans have lost all respect of the majority of Americans. We know this bill will bring back no coverage of preexisting conditions. Sick people will have no options but to declare bankruptcy. Forget this bill and work together to improve ACA or consider single payer.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Liz Shaw <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill - NO

Please do not pass this bill. Your constituents need health care now and through out their lives. This would be the first step towards the end of humanity if it is passed.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pam Calhoun [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am just one of millions of American's that will suffer devastating medical & financial consequences if this bill becomes law. I'm sure you're receiving many long and lengthy letters/emails detailing the harm that this bill will cause so I will just simply ask that you please just say no?

Thank you,
P. Calhoun

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Peggy Souder [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stick with AHCA

The AHCA may have its faults, but **please vote against the proposed plan** by Graham & Cassidy. This country needs **better** health care for its citizens, not less.
Peggy Souder

There will be a time when you believe

everything is finished. Yet that will be

the beginning. ~~Louie L'Amour

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ed Crasnick [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Keep The ACA

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with affordability is that my 12 year old daughter is very sick and was in the hospital. Because of my coverage with the ACA, she was able to be treated with quality medical care. Otherwise her life would be in jeopardy. If anything; I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Edward Crasnick

[redacted]

Always remember that you are absolutely unique; just like everyone else.
Margaret Mead

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Victoria Persiano <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Save the ACA

Work together to fix the ACA. More people should have healthcare not less.
Make it work for the country.
Vickey Persiano

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:41 PM
To: gchcomments

Prior to the Affordable Health Care Act, I was one of the "uninsurable" in this "great" country. I raised my children to be patriotic and proud. How mistaken I was once I found myself at 50 years old unable to get health care and refused health insurance all because of greedy insurance companies, greedy politicians. NO to Republican greed!!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: John H. Day [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Senators,

This bill is blind to what the United States stands for. It represents the worst human intentions. To willfully turn away the poor, the infirm, the elderly, is an affront before God. The majority of you have run espousing your Christian values, but when greed whispers in your ear, you give it your soul.

"Don't take advantage of the poor just because you can; don't take advantage of those who stand helpless in court. The Lord will argue their case for them and threaten the life of anyone who threatens theirs. (Proverbs 22:22-23)"

During WWII, Nazi Germany murdered the infirm, the old, the poor, and anyone else who didn't fit their ideals. This bill is a step back towards the concentration camp and the death houses. Voting yay for this bill is voting to knowingly and willingly murder citizens of the United States of America.

I need not question those of Muslim faith, as I know they will make the correct vote because "Indeed, Allah is with those who are righteous and those who do good. (Al quran 16:129)"

I have to ask myself "why would any elected official not vote the will of their constituents or act in compassion towards them?" Greed, avarice, and disdain are the only answers I have.If these are truly the reasons, then ask yourselves if you really do value your religion? Are you a false prophet?

Again, I beseech you to look within your own hearts, find compassion, and vote nay.

Hashivenu Yah elecha v'nashuva.

John H. Day

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: JStreuber [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

Please do not approve this new bill that was introduced by Senators Cassidy and Graham. It is a horrible bill that will hurt and possibly kill people. Fix The Affordable Care Act - do not repeal or replace.
A very concerned American citizen,
B. Streuber

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: susie ps [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

Dear Senators,
My family's health care is so important--my husband has diabetes, blood pressure & thyroid issues as well as scoliosis. It's imperative financially to keep our current insurance which is why I oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill. Please work on a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve NOT REPEAL the ACA.
Thank you so much for your consideration of this request.
Sincerely,
Susie Stevens

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Scott Larmand [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:42 PM
To: gchcomments,
Subject: graham casdidy

Hello,

How embarrassing and very ridiculous that I need to write this email. I have basically always been an independent, but now that the Republicans are trying to rip apart our country I will always and forever be a Democrat! What you are trying to do to our country and Our healthcare system is disgusting! First of all you should work to fix what is already there not replace it with your awful unfair proposal! It has been defeated so many times we do not want it! Move on to something else or better yet move on to helping our country instead of this continued embarrassment in lack of leadership and compassion for your country! Stop protecting the rich and elite and help everyone!
I doubt you will read this – but I have to have a clear conscience that my voice will be heard!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Facher [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to the Graham Cassidy bill

I am opposed to the Graham Cassidy bill.

This bill is bad for the American people.
Block grants for Medicaid jeopardize equitable access.
I urge you to expand medicaid, not cut it. Expand who is eligible, don't restrict it.

This bill reduces subsidies, whereas subsidies are essential to access to care.

Mandates are important; without mandates, we only have the sick to insure, not the healthy, and the risk pool becomes imbalanced.

NO to the Graham Cassidy bill.

Nancy

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Janice Carolan [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Bipartisan effort please!

Please do what's right and just for the American people. Work together in a bipartisan effort to

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: CATHY [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repealing ACA

Senators:

I think you have heard from many of the healthcare organizations and professionals concerning the devastating effects that the bill being considered would have, so I do not come to present this from a vantage point of the nurse I am but a friend and family member who have obtained insurance under ACA. All of them have paid premiums, but commiserate with their income. They all have some pre-existing condition including leukemia. How can you sleep at night knowing those that pay your salaries won't be able to afford the care you yourselves have at our expense?
No one should be without healthcare - it seems if you would stop the partisan approach you could figure it out! We pay you to do this!
A concerned citizen

Catherine Jones

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Leslie Hannon [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham-Cassidy bill

As one with lifelong asthma. I rely on my healthcare. I do not want to have to move to a different state if my state makes poor decisions. And I know that state budgets are already hard pressed to serve the needy. I have worked in human services nonprofits for over 20 years and government funding has gotten less while programs that have proven outcomes have increased.

Putting more pressure on our states is not the answer. To work with the insurance industry, it must have the power of the federal government.

It is also ridiculous to play these games with timing votes before artificial deadlines and before time for CBO evaluation and thorough discussion. The American people are tired of these schemes.

Do your job for the American people and not the insurance industry. Pull this bill.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Paula Waltz [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Again we have the Republicans trying to repeal the ACA and replace it with a substitute that is so bad describing it as "poor" doesn't even come close. At this point they are just trying to get a bill through with NO thought, and NO regard to what this will do to real life people. The ACA definitely has problems (starting from the beginning when the Republicans refused to approve the funding that would have insulated insurance companies), but it should be improved upon, not repealed, and certainly not replaced by a sham of a plan that would devastate millions of people in this country - particularly those with pre-existing conditions. There is NO WAY IN HELL this bill should be allowed to pass.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margaret Riley [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No on Graham-Cassidy

I am a Senior citizen and am very concerned that Graham-Cassidy will pass and do so much damage. Most seniors are on fixed incomes and cannot afford higher premiums. Most of us in our 70s have pre-existing conditions. Do not take that away.
Lindsey Graham, you should be ashamed of yourself. You have always been one of my favorite senators and I am a true blue Democrat. I am so disappointed in you. And Cassidy lied on late night. So did Trump , saying he wouldn't sign anything that doesn't include pre-existing protection. You all must think we are stupid out here and not paying attention.
Work with the democrats. We are not a federalist society. Keep this bill away from Paul Ryan.
Do your jobs. Fix Obamacare and fund it.
By the way, tell Tom Price to stay off private jets. Save the money for Medicaid.
Margaret Riley
Gray Panthers of New England

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rogers, Susan [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care bill

As an elected official for the people, I would like to inform you that I am registered independent voter and have voted in elections. I am approaching Medicare age and have paid into the system for years, and now have a pre-existing condition that due to the Cassidy-Graham bill may lose coverage as my state may opt out. I ask that for any family members or friends of your family may they be in the same boat as me if this passes which I doubt it will. Please use your talents and ensure that we have coverage as a Dr. I am totally disappointed in this approach and the posturing you continue to to foster on behalf of citizens that placed you in office.

Sincerely, please I pray this bill does not pass.
Susan Rogers

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: ugliestbaby [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Is Not a Good Bill !!!

Don't hold a vote on a bill without a CBO score.

Humans do not choose to have "Pre-Conditions" to their health.

Cutting Medicaid ??? Seniors and Disabled will first lose their money and then their health.

Graham Cassidy Bill is HEARTLESS and MEAN.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Wendy Cosin [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I strongly oppose the Graham Cassidy bill. We need a bi-partisan effort to fix health care.

Wendy Cosin

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rowena Ballard [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

To those concerned:

Please stop wasting time trying to pass something just for the sake of saying you did something.

Dear God you look like silly fools running around like this was something you thought about.

Show some integrity and sit down with Democrats and work together. You and I mean all of you are only concerned about re-election and you look like fools.
Stop playing games and stop trying to appease Mr President.

One fool is enough we don't need 50 more.

Rowena Ballard

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jamie [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

No, No, No to the Graham-Cassidy health care plan (which more aptly should be called a death plan).
Every insurance company, doctor organization, patient advocacy group, Medicaid director and, most importantly, the majority of the American people are AGAINST THIS PLAN.
Why aren't you listening? It seems to be pure politics that's driving this. You seem to care NOTHING for the needs and wants of the American people. We know you promised to repeal and replace the ACA. But since making those promises, your constituents have changed their minds. They LIKE THEIR INSURANCE UNDER THE ACA.
Yes, everyone recognizes there are issues with the ACA. But most agree those could be EASILY FIXED.
FIX THE ACA. Stop this foolishness of repeal and replace. Stop the Graham-Cassidy Plan. Like previous Republican plans, this plan is shameful, irresponsible, indescribably and incredibly cruel and heartless. It will literally kill people.
NO, NO, NO TO GRAHAM-CASSIDY!
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathleen <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: As A Physician I Urge You To Oppose Graham Cassidy

Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Kathleen F. Thurmond, M.D.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christine MacLellan [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham-Cassidy Bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Though we are now a financially stable family, if Graham-Cassidy were to pass, we may be denied coverage for the pre-existing conditions we suffer from. We would then have to choose to either live without the medical help we need, or risk bankrupting our family in order to seek treatment. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Christine MacLellan
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: KENNETH W HOPE [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Vote Against Graham-Cassidy

To the Senate Finance Committee:
We urge you to vote against the Graham-Cassidy bill, which has not yet been scored and will apparently leave millions of Americans without adequate insurance. The bill cuts Medicaid drastically, leaving some of the most vulnerable Americans, including seniors and the disabled, with crippling costs. We can find no justification for the bill beyond the raw political motivations of Republicans who over seven years of blather have failed to develop an adequate solution to health care. Indeed, all they have done is to make the problem worse.
Thank you.
Kenneth & Cheryl Hope

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stephanie Jones [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: HEALTH CARE

Dear Graham Cassidy,
It is appalling how you play games with people's lives.

The health care bill you are presenting would not look at all like it's current status if you had to live by it.

It should never see the light of day & you should not be in congress.

Stop trying to kill people to satisfy your wealthy donors!!!!

Fix the plan in place & respect the people you represent. NOT JUST THE CASH COWS.

Thank you,
Stephanie

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Trudy [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Vote

Please vote no on this disgraceful attempt to deprive American citizens of their healthcare! It is heartless, cruel, and solely based on partisan willfulness to destroy anything Obama. These nasty Republicans should be ashamed of themselves. People before party. Vote NO!!!
Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tom Sickler [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on the new Healthcare Bill

Hello,
Please stop trying to replace the ACA until you can pass a bill that makes it illegal for representatives to take money from anyone but citizens, with a cap of 1000 per social security number.
I want my voice, and that of my neighbors, heard before Pfizer, Big Pharma, or any other corporation.
We the people of the United States are tired of the politics and payola at the expense of our citizens.
Single payer...and YOU all should be part of whatever program you replace the ACA with. If it's good enough for US it should be sufficient for people who work less than 200 days a year and are overpaid by taxpayers to supposedly represent us.
You are failing us all, and no amount of Gerrymandering or Russian hacking is going to save your jobs if you continue to suck so bad.
Have a truly miserable day.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Diane L [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No Graham-Cassidy Bill

Please don't pass the Graham-Cassidy bill. Since you don't really care about people's lives, let me put it a different way. Uninsured people will end up costing the system WAY more in emergency care, higher crime rates, and unstable workforce.

Diane

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tally Behrens [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

Dear members of the Finance Committee,

I am contacting you to ask you to not go forward with the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill. It is hugely unpopular even among Republicans. The majority of Americans now believe that adequate and affordable healthcare is a fundamental right.

Please show your love for our great nation and do not go forward with this bill.

Sincerely,
Tallulah Jackson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Vi Ernst [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: What Health Care Means to Me, Ms. Vi Ernst, of Maineville OHIO

As a single woman who taught for over 30 years while contributing to a state retirement system AND to Social Security while working part-time jobs, health care is an increasingly concerning segment of my life. I rely on health care to help me pay for my regular medical checkups and two prescription medications. So far, I am fortunate in not having any major health issues. But, I had to select another supplemental insurer last year because the one with my retirement group required the use of ALL of my annual deductible before covering any expenses. EVERY MONTH I pay for Medicare, supplemental Medicare through Mutual of Omaha, Silverscript prescriptions, VSP vision, Met dental, Mutual of Omaha long term care, UTAIC cancer diagnosis insurance, UTAIC cancer treatment insurance, and MASA ambulance and air transportation insurance.

I have tried to be a responsible citizen and carry insurance to cover any unexpected costs, in case my savings would not be adequate. However, now that this monthly investment in insurance has risen to almost one-third of my monthly retirement income, I AM VERY CONCERNED. If I am facing financial concerns, others will be in much worse straits. Even with working part-time jobs in my retirement, it will be difficult to anticipate the medical insurance and medical costs increases.

The other shock for me when I retired was the huge drop in my Social Security retirement, which was always quoted at about $1,000 monthly during my work life. After the Windfall Elimination Provision was applied, due to my state teachers' retirement pension, I was given $208. After I went on Medicare at 65, that amount decreased to $86. It just seems that the application of the WEP to people who earned salaries like mine is inappropriate. My highest annual salary was @ $65,000, and that was with a bachelor's degree, a master's, a principal's license, and some doctoral coursework. I really think that the rules for application of the WEP need to be revised, especially for public servants, such as police, firefighters, and educators. Most firefighters do not live to retirement age, and police risks are well-known. For many teachers, the investments in continued education for licensures really absorb income, as do teaching supplies which are often not covered by school districts or inadequate tax deductions.

The Finance Committee of the U. S. Senate should be planning to provide help for American citizens, not wealthy companies or people who have organized donor networks to put pressure on politicians to pass legislation which is deadly to the lives as well as the budgets of American households. It is unacceptable that insurance companies have posted billions in profits all during the recessions while ordinary Americans were losing houses, jobs, and loved ones to illnesses. Now is the time to be expanding our social programs. Find better options for health care than the Graham-Cassidy bill. End the domination of our economy by Big Insurance and Big Pharma. LIFT THE CAP on Social Security and examine the application of WEP. The current health care crisis needs financial solutions which will STOP THE CONSTANT FINANCIAL THREATS TO AMERICANS' SECURITY.

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Fred Sallee <[redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy health bill

Please hear the heart of the people. Obamacare is a disaster. But any new bill has to substantially cover pre-existing conditions without penalty - including a rate hike. And folks who have catastrophic illness are the least able to survive a cap on life-time expenses.

Please, please don't punish people like my God-grandson who was diagnosed with a brain tumor at 18 years of age, an intelligent young man who graduated close to the top of his high school class just two months before diagnosis, who has had two brain surgeries and multiple other hospitalizations. Who is now a diabetic and has lost a significant part of his vision. Who is disabled by the profound side affects of exogenous steroids needed to keep him alive. While the tumor was benign, it has a high incidence of recurrence because of it's nature. Increases in premiums and life-time caps doom him to an existence of "just getting by." He is a brilliant young man who is coping with all of the residual damage and returning to college.

Or, like my niece who was diagnosed with Stage 4 metastatic breast cancer in her early 30's when her only child was just two years old. Health care providers offer her a potential life span of 10 - 15 years...hopefully enough to see her son graduate high school. But, only if she gets the enormously over-priced medications monthly for the rest of her life.

The system is broken but punishing the least able to withstand the financial onslaught is not the answer. It's time to look at how the rest of the civilized world operates with some form of single payer care and move forward.

Respectfully,

Anna Sallee, PhD, RN, CCRN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laura Farren [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Laura Farren
Subject: G-H bill

I would like to see bipartisan participation in creating our health care bill. I am especially concerned about the poor and elderly as well as pre-existing conditions being covered. Laura Farren

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: G Mulholland [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

I'm writing as a physician to oppose the Graham-Cassidy plan to repeal the ACA. My clinic is paid for by our local Catholic hospital to serve the uninsured low-income members of our community. Far too many times, I've seen what lack of health insurance does to people-- basically, advanced stages of disease that never needed to get that far. I've seen people who never got treatment for concerning symptoms that turned out to be cancer because they couldn't afford the biopsy, people who have terminal cancer that could have been caught at stage one. I've seen people diagnosed with diabetes one year and going on dialysis the next year because they actually had diabetes for years, destroying their kidneys, but they didn't think they could afford a checkup. As someone who actually works in health care, I don't understand why the Republican Party seems hellbent on subjecting millions of Americans to this kind of experience, to unnecessary pain, to disability, to untimely death. The ACA needs to be improved and expanded, not rescinded.

Gráinne Mulholland

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rob Chilton [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Take it to Referendum

Hello,

My name is Rob Chilton and I reside in Fishers, IN. I haven't read the bill but have researched and heard enough about it to know that this is not good for the citizens of The United States of America.

Instead of continuing with the sabotage of the ACA, we the people prefer you fix it's problems. If you truly feel that Graham / Cassidy is the will of your constituents why not launch a special referendum? Of course you won't entertain that option and will parrot the old "elections have consequences" blather. You ALL know that the American people would vote it down in overwhelming fashion.

I hope Senator McCain leaves his balls to science so at least you people will know what a pair looks like.

Best regards,
Rob Chilton
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hans Bulteryst [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Block Graham Cassidy bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I wish to express my STRONG opposition to the Graham Cassidy bill to repeal the ACA.

This bill is not in the best interest of the people, young, old, rich or poor. This bill represent GOP frustration fighting for more than 8 years to repeal ACA.
Our senators should be working on increasing the number of people insured, lowering the health care costs (look at all the European countries, Canada, Japan,....) and improve basic coverage.

A system that will benefit ALL Americans, regardless their age, health status.

DO NOT LET THE GRAHAM CASSIDY BILL PASS, it will result in millions of uninsured Americans and thousands of deaths.

Sincerely,

Hans Bulteryst

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: susan McCrary [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Please do not pass the Graham/Cassidy bill. I have a grandson with diabetes, a daughter with previous melanoma, a husband with heart disease and I have hep C. My children rely on help from the government to buy their insurance. This is a death bill.
Thank you,
Susan McCrary

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Donna Hampton [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GrahamCassidy Bill

I don't believe that this bill will give coverage for those that need it most. I think the Republicans are just trying to get any bill passed just so they said they did. Why not work with the whole congress to get a bill passed that will be right for all Americans?

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Leslie Lussier [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE no on Graham-Cassidy - Protect Medicaid

Dear US Senate,

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

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

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Melinda Strauss[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Dear Sir/Madame,

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. It's a crues and heartless bill. It's irresponsible to vote on this bill before the CBO score is finalized. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Melinda Strauss

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Fink [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA story

Good afternoon,

Let me tell you briefly, about my health insurance journey. In 1991 I was pregnant & got laid off so I went on COBRA. Not a cheap option. When open enrollment happened I selected a private insurer for my baby & I as my husbands company did not provide ANY health coverage to either of us. I always thought the dependent child should be covered because as an adult I could get a job that had health insurance. Over the years from January 1992 through May of 2008 I paid higher & higher premiums for less and less coverage. I could no longer afford the premiums in May 2008 because of the real estate crash (Hubby is now a realtor) and the economy (I am a self employed photographer). The recession was devastating to our household finances but we muddled along.

In September of 2014 my daughter became ill with what was later to be diagnosed as Chron's disease. Kaiser Permanente (our previous health insurance company) took excellent care of her for 6 months before she had to either buy coverage or go on MediCal. Without the ACA my family would have been bankrupted AGAIN, though no fault of our own. She has a job that provides medical coverage but her hourly wage is so low (despite a 4 yer degree) that she cannot afford the co-pays and most certainly cannot afford the $6500 bi-monthly infusion of medicine to keep her Chron's in check. NOW you want to take away the 1 thing that allows her to be a productive adult citizen just so you can placate your base and donors!?!

It's shameful. You had 8 years to learn how to govern and you failed. It's time for you and the administration to show true leadership, work with Democrats and fix whah's truly messed up in our country.

I'll help you out. STOP fighting over abortion. Instead, fix our educational system so that we get an excellent return on our investment including college (public or private) so that when our young adults graduate they aren't forced into low paying jobs that don't cover the basics.
Second, HONESTLY work on our economy. Anyone older than 45 knows that Reganomics or the trickle down theory doesn't work. Figure out what will. With a stong economy, higher return on educational dollar investment, abortions will continue to decrease, crime should decrease and THEN you can work in immigration reform. None of these issues are easy and they ALL need to be dealt with in a BIPARTISM way. Please recall the flag salute ONE NATION, INDIVISIBLE with Liberty & justice FOR ALL!!! Not 50 states out to do their own thing and screw the other 49. That's not why we're a country.

IF you'd like more help on a way forward, just ask. I may not be the smartest person in the country but I've run a business, family & household for the last 28 years, so I have lots of practical experience.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Fink
Business owner, Mother, Wife, True American Citizen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Bill

Tell me, why do you hate this country? You do everything you can to push us, YOUR CONSTITUENRS and your fellow citizens, further down and it seems it's so you can climb higher on our backs!
This bill will KILL MILLIONS! Why don't you care?
I certainly hope you don't consider yourselves to be Christians!

Get Outlook for Android

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathy Price [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Defeat Graham Cassidy

I encourage you to vote no on the GrahamCassidy healthcare bill. As a registered nurse for over 30 years I am deeply concerned on the impact it would have in our country. When the AMA, ANA, and insurance companies agree that it will have a far reaching negative impact please listen.

Thank you.
Kathy Price

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mr. Ron Piretti [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: "32 Million Americans could lose coverage, radical change to Medicaid and diminished funding for every state, 90 seconds of debate? If you want to keep your campaign pledges start by keeping your pledge not to touch Medicaid benefits. Reject this bill."

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