

# DEFICIT SOLUTIONS MUST PRIORITIZE THE NEEDS OF AMERICA'S FAMILIES

## MOMS SPEAK UP FOR MEDICAID!



### STORIES FROM THE FRONT LINES OF MOTHERHOOD:

MomsRising members share their personal experiences  
and thoughts about Medicaid

[MomsRising.org](https://MomsRising.org)

# MomsRising.org

Dear Members of Congress and the Obama Administration,

Recently, MomsRising asked our members to share their personal stories and thoughts about Medicaid in order to educate our leaders and the public about the need for this program to remain strong. These stories speak of the impossible choices, struggles, and sometimes improbable triumphs of mother and fathers to care for their children, parents, and themselves with the critical help of Medicaid.

Why should you read these stories? Frankly, the stories from the front lines of motherhood rarely make the front pages. Yet the work that moms are doing on these front lines to raise the next generation of Americans and often simultaneously care for the older generation is certainly heroic. And listening to the voices and wisdom of mothers is essential for building a healthy and prosperous America.

There is overwhelming support for Medicaid that is evidenced by recent polls from the Kaiser Family Foundation, First Focus, and our own MomsRising members who have sent in nearly 20,000 letters in the last few weeks to Congress to oppose cuts to Medicaid.

When you think about it, it's hardly surprising. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, about half of Americans say they or a friend or family member has received Medicaid assistance at some point, and a similar share say the program is important to their family.

Right now a number of proposals are being discussed that would arbitrarily cut Medicaid and shift a fiscal burden to the states. Ultimately, the proposals would transfer the burden to seniors who depend on the program for long-term care, people with disabilities, children, and families.

Such harmful cost shifting that you should oppose includes: (1) Converting the program to a block grant; (2) Setting a cap on overall federal spending that inevitably results in drastic cuts to the patients and health care providers who rely on Medicaid; (3) Rolling back protections that currently ensure health coverage is not diminished under Medicaid and CHIP (the "maintenance-of-effort requirements" or "stability protections"); and 4) Simply deeply cutting Medicaid and CHIP.

These cost-shifting proposals have little or nothing to do with containing health care spending. Rather, they simply shift the risk to states as health costs go up – and subsequently move the burden onto the shoulders of those who are least able to bear it.

Ironically, many proponents of cutting Medicaid are also proposing new tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires. This doesn't add up! Our nation must invest in allowing kids and adults to thrive so they can be the economic engines of our future.

As you debate deficit reduction proposals, please remember that our nation deserves real deficit solutions that reflect our true family values.

Sincerely,

Kristin Rowe-Finkbeiner

*Executive Director*

*MomsRising.org*

MomsRising.org is a multicultural online and on-the-ground grassroots organization of more than a million people who are working to achieve economic security for all families in the United States. MomsRising is working for paid family leave, flexible work options, affordable child care, and for an end to the wage and hiring discrimination which penalizes so many mothers. MomsRising also advocates for healthcare for all, toxic-free environments, and breastfeeding rights so that all children can have a healthy start. Established in 2006, MomsRising and its members are organizing and speaking out to improve public policy and to change the national dialogue on issues that are critically important to America's families. In 2010, Forbes.com named MomsRising's web site as one of the "Top 100 Websites For Women"

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### MomsRising Members Share How Medicaid is Helping Their Families



#### **Barbara, Austin, TX**

I had a perfectly healthy pregnancy and followed guidelines to the letter.

More than half the time babies are born early, there is no reason ever identified. My daughter was born at 25 weeks gestation and weighed 2 lbs.

Premature birth can happen to anyone. And when it does, Medicaid has been there to help shoulder the financial burden of saving a baby's life while the parents shoulder the incredible emotional and physical burdens like we did.

PLEASE continue to be there for families whose dreams of a full-term baby are shattered suddenly by helping sustain the medical care required to save their baby... their future.



#### **Jennifer, New York City, NY**

When my daughter was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor at 15 months of age, I had to quit my job to take care of her while she received chemotherapy and IV meds literally around the clock as an inpatient.

Due to the loss of my income our family could no longer afford to pay

for insurance for all of us so we applied to Medicaid for my daughter.

Medicaid saved us financially, and covered LIFE SAVING chemotherapy medication that our insurance would not have covered anyway. My daughter is now over 4 years old and thriving.



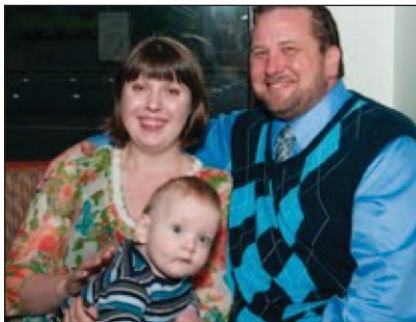
#### **Rolanda, Lexington, KY**

Being a single parent of two wonderful kids, medical coverage would be out the question for my kids. My place of employment doesn't offer medical insurance unless you are an full-time employee. The payment for the insurance would take most of my



*MomsRising members bring health care stories from around the nation and pacifiers to Congress to deliver the message that "We won't be pacified until the health care needs of our children and families are met!"*

check just to have it all with the co-pay payments for each visit. I have another job that doesn't offer medical insurance at all. Without Medicaid me and my children wouldn't be able to have the medical attention that is needed in case of injury and everyday well-child check ups. Medicaid is needed in my households for us to be able to productive citizens.



### **Jeanette, Everett, WA**

When our son was born he was diagnosed with cranial synostosis. He required major cranial surgery to allow his brain to grow and develop normally. We had insurance, but it only covered a portion of his extensive medical bills.

I am a stay at home mom. My husband is a social worker, helping to feed the homeless in our community.

Our household income was barely enough to keep us above water and when the medical bills began to arrive we almost lost our home. Without Medicaid we could have become homeless ourselves!



### **Sheila, Watsonville, CA**

My mother, Sharon, is an amazing person. My father had a disability and was unable to work when I was growing up, so my mother worked two jobs as a nurse to support our family. She cared for so many people, but sadly, now she is the one who needs to be cared for. My mother has Multiple Sclerosis and it has ravaged both her mind and body. She no longer can do the simplest things like prepare her own food and needs round the clock care.

Medicaid has been a lifesaver for our family. It has allowed our fam-

ily to care for both my mother and raise our daughter without having to give up the jobs we need to support our family. Without Medicaid, the cost of my mother's medicine and care would bankrupt us.

For the sandwich generation, my story isn't unusual. Medicaid helps so many families like ours who are caring for children and someone who is elderly or has disabilities. In fact, Medicaid is the primary payer for 64 percent of all nursing home residents, 11 million people with disabilities, and more than one in three children.



### **Lisa, Philadelphia, PA**

The day my son was born it was supposed to be a moment of joy. When they whisked him away the joy was quickly replaced with fear. He had respiratory distress syndrome. His little lungs were not ready yet. At 10 days old I held him, nursed him for the first time.

If it wasn't for the quality care he received this world would be a little less light and little more chilly. Because our insurance and Medicaid covered his care, we were able to focus on getting him better and getting him home instead of worrying with each day how we were going to pay for it all.

This family is incredibly grateful and honestly believe that the care we received will impact us in ways we will never know since we will be busy counting our blessings and loving this life!



### ***Chantal, Oakland, CA***

Health care was so important to my family. I was in graduate school when I had my son, and I had no health insurance.

Luckily, I was able to obtain healthcare coverage through Medi-Cal, which was essential to the well-being of my unborn child. I received quality care during the remainder of the pregnancy and for a couple of years after birth until I finished graduate school.

Health care was crucial in my son's case because he had a number of respiratory problems, which led to bronchitis, pneumonia and asthma. He even had to see a pulmonary specialist. He now is free of all respiratory ailments thanks to the health care we received.

I'm so glad that health reform will extend health insurance to millions of people in the U.S. and that my son will not be denied coverage because of his prior respiratory problems. No child should be without health insurance!



### ***Gail, Sandy, UT***

I knew something was wrong in my breast, but I had no insurance. I knew that even if I could scrape together enough money for a mammogram, I couldn't pay for treatment. It would be a pre-existing condition if I got insurance later. So I tried not to worry for 2 years. Finally, my husband heard something on TV about free mammograms for low-income women from the Health Department, so I went in.

Yes, it was breast cancer. Yes, it was invasive. And yes, treatment was paid for by Medicaid. Medicaid literally saved my life. My cancer was stage 1, treated by surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, and hormones.

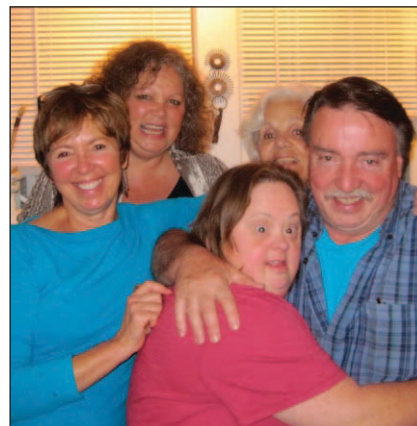
It's now been 9 years since my diagnosis. I'm grateful to be alive. I would never have chosen my own treatment over house payments. My family is more important than my life. Today I'm grateful to have both.

### ***Jessica, Morganton, NC***

My youngest sister has Down's Syndrome. She is a wonderful active person who is 46 years old, but she has had some health problems.

She lives with our 83-year-old mom in the home we grew up in. They both live on Social Security, and our mom is deeply in debt due to increasing living and medical expenses. I am so thankful for Medicaid, which helps pay for many of my sister's medical expenses.

I'm a student and work part-



time. My husband lost his job and we have two kids in college so we are not able to help much financially.

Medicaid has helped my sister live a healthier, more independent life. It's an important program that helps many, and I hope and pray that it continues.

### ***Shailyn, Lehigh Acres, FL***

My six year old daughter is autistic. She was diagnosed when she was four. If we had not had Medicaid for her she would not have been able to get that diagnosis and we would have no idea what was wrong with her.

She would not have been able to get the treatment and therapy that she got and continues to receive that has brought her as far as she has gotten today. She was unable to even sit unsupported until she was a year old, she did not walk until almost two and then still had physical issues inhibiting her mobility. She received physical and occupational therapy for that.

Now she is a very high functioning child, the only way you would know she is on the spectrum is by hearing her speak.

While she loves to talk, she is not quite able to talk yet so that anyone other than her family understands her. And this is very frustrating for her. But she is getting therapy for that and it is improving everyday.

Without Medicaid that would not be possible.

She is so amazing and intelligent but I just know she would not be where she is today in her functioning abilities without the therapy she has received. Because of Medicaid.



### **Kari, Austin, Texas**

My youngest son, Isaac, was born at 28 weeks. That's 12 weeks early. He spent the first 8 weeks of his life in the neonatal intensive care unit. Very expensive.

As a micro-preemie weighing only 2 pounds 5 ounces, Isaac was at risk for many, many life-threatening challenges. We were lucky, though, that he seemed to dodge bullet after bullet.

However, when he was five-and-a-half-months old, he caught a cold and abruptly stopped breathing. After receiving chest compressions and being intubated in the pediatric intensive care unit, it was determined that he had a malformation of the trachea. Isaac received a tracheostomy (a tube in his neck so that he could breathe) when he was six months old.

After a month in the hospital, we were allowed to take him home, but only with private duty nursing and enough medical equipment to turn our home into a mini-hospital. Last August, he underwent surgery to reconstruct his trachea. As a result, he is a fairly typical two year old but the permanent damage to his lungs means that he often requires oxygen and close monitoring at the home or hospital.

Our insurance - along with Med-

icaid (through a waiver program for medically fragile children) - allowed us to have Isaac at home, with nursing care. This allowed my husband and I to work, to pay taxes, to be productive members of society.

My son is a two-year-old who came into this world fighting, and who deserves the same healthy future as every other child. Cutting Medicaid will not save money in the long-term but, instead, do serious damage to families, their financial capabilities, and their children's health and future livelihoods.

Isaac has to fight to breathe; he should not also have to fight to get the medical treatment he needs.



### **Emily, Takoma Park, MD**

When you are the mother of a child with severe disabilities you can't help but worry about what's going to happen to her once you are gone. When she is your only child, and you have no obvious relatives who are likely to survive you and care for her, it feels perilous. You really hope your society has a good social safety net. That is one reason I am moved to speak up against the proposed cuts to Medicaid.

My daughter, Freya, is 17 years old and has severe intellectual disabilities and moderate physical disabilities. She needs assistance with nearly every aspect of her life, from changing her diapers to eating to getting around the community. Helping her meet her needs has been transformative and enlightening, and also deeply

challenging. Medicaid has helped immensely.

I had my daughter when I was 20 years old, a sophomore in college. As a single mother of a profoundly disabled child, I completed my undergraduate degree and a Ph. D. in physics. I am proud of that, and I could not have done that without Medicaid to provide for my daughter's medical expenses.

Freya was on Medicaid shortly after she was born, because no insurance company would sell a policy to a newborn baby, and she was not eligible to join my policy. At 6 months old, I was able to purchase her a private policy that I have paid for out of my pocket for the last 17 years. But she stayed on Medicaid, thank goodness, which paid for the things that the private insurance didn't. I had no idea how much that would be until she needed open-heart surgery just a few weeks after her private insurance coverage began. There were so many co-pays and deductibles and non-preferred provider charges, we really could not have managed them.

I now work as a physicist part-time, while Freya is in school. My income is high enough that she is no longer on Medicaid, but now gets her secondary coverage through another government program, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). She is supposed to gain medical coverage through Medicaid when she turns 18 in a few months.

As Freya's mother, it keeps me up at night. For those of you who are reading this, please do not allow our leaders to balance the budget on the backs of the disabled. Medicaid is the main source of care for people like my daughter and seniors. She and others like her are deserving of a long and dignified life. Thank you for your support!

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## ALABAMA

### **Brandy** **Bridgeport, AL**

My husband and I were both laid off and I am a diabetic. Both our girls have severe allergies and poor immune systems. If we weren't able to get Medicaid, we would be in serious trouble. I could even die without it!! Don't take Medicaid away!

### **Shannon** **Slocomb, AL**

My sweet boy was born at 30 weeks and was in the neonatal intensive care unit. He is now seven but he is on breathing medications daily. Sometimes he doesn't need the fast-acting inhaler and sometimes he does.

He was a whole 3 lbs 10 oz and my one and only. He had to come early because I had Pre Eclampsia, HeLLp Syndrome, RH thing, and my whole pregnancy was really horrible. I've never been so sick in my whole life. But I love my sweetie and he needs his Medicaid. I just wish I had it! Since my pregnancy I found out I have an enlarged heart, as well as super high blood pressure.

But anyways please don't cut or change Medicaid unless your going to cover more things like the allergy medicine my son HAS to have to keep his asthma from flaring up because he has allergy induced asthma. He has a learning disability too.

### **Minnie** **Hoover, AL**

I work for a Medicaid funded waiver program. We provide services such as homemaker, person-

al care, respite, companion, and home delivered meals to the elderly and disabled. This helps the clients stay in their own home and out of nursing homes. Most times it is a lot cheaper to provide these services, a few times a week than to place a person in the nursing home. Of course, it is a great emotional benefit for the client to stay in a familiar setting.

Due to cuts in the State of Alabama's budget, we will be losing almost a thousand slots next year. That means that we will not be enrolling new patients and may have to cut some that are already on the program. This is a travesty. These clients benefit so much from the program.

We may be the only ones that can give them a bath, keep their sheets clean, prepare them a meal, or give the caregiver a chance to go grocery shopping while knowing their loved one is being cared for safely. If they lose these services they could end up in a nursing home, which will cost the government a lot more than our services.

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"If they lose these services, they could end up in a nursing home, which will cost the government a lot more than our services."

*Minnie, Hoover, AL*

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I don't think the politicians are looking at the big picture. There are consequences to their actions that will end up not only destroying these families, but costing more in the long run.

### **Ursula** **Hoover, AL**

I am a mother of four. Fortunately, my children all have private insurance. But I have heard so many stories of those that need and depend on Medicaid. One never knows when they might need assistance with medical cost, however. We should continue funding those things that are important to our children.

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## ALASKA

### **Debbie** **Kenai, AK**

My sister was recently diagnosed with breast cancer. She had insurance with the company she works for, but when she had to stop working because of chemo and surgery, her insurance benefits were cut off. Her only recourse to get the medical help she needed to fight the cancer was Medicare.

If not for Medicare, she would be left on the sidelines to die. This is what happens to folks who live in developing countries. In the U.S. it seems as if some of the politicians want to move us backwards into the past when crimes against humanity were numerous and commonplace.

Please think about what it must be like for so many folks who may



or may not have insurance. Even for those who have insurance, it's not a fail safe. It's really inhumane to decide that it's okay to allow folks to suffer and die, but to continue to provide huge tax cuts for the rich.

**Melissa  
Fairbanks, AK**

My mom and our family are very appreciative of Medicare. She is in relatively good health at 82 years old. She is thankful for her doctors and so are we in keeping her in such good health. There is no way she or we could afford medical health insurance at her age.

Why are we talking about cutting this program? It works! Other countries have such a system for ages. Our medical system is too expensive, with too many hands in pot, such as the administrative overhead in tracking medical bills, and billing codes. Cutting Medicare is not the answer. There are other spending cutting issues that need to be addressed first!

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**ARIZONA**

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**Erika  
Phoenix, AZ**

It doesn't feel great to talk about this sometimes, because I'd like to be an in-charge progressive activist and not think about my disability or how I've been discriminated against. I was born with cerebral palsy and Medicaid (AHCCCS here) helps pay my attendants, currently my mother, so I can do many things able-bodied people take for granted. In-home supports like that keep people like me from being institutionalized.

**Emily  
Phoenix, AZ**

My mother just got approved for disability and Medicaid three days ago. Now I'm reading that

# MEDICAID PROVIDES HEALTH COVERAGE WITH REMARKABLE SUCCESS TO 60 MILLION OF OUR NATION'S MOST VULNERABLE CITIZENS

Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, "Key Questions About Medicaid and Its Role in State/Federal Budgets and Health Reform" (January 2011). <http://www.kff.org/medicaid/upload/8139.pdf>

Congress is trying to drastically cut benefits to people that need it the most. My mother has COPD, mental health issues, serious back pain, diabetes, and now there is fibrosis forming in her lungs. She can't even walk to the bathroom without gasping for breath. How is it fair that right after she is approved she can lose precious benefits?

She needs to see a doctor for various issues AT LEAST twice a month. There is no way she can work and with only \$900 a month in SSI payments, how is she supposed to afford her medical bills if she can't even afford supplemental insurance?

Why is it that our government is constantly trying to slash benefits to the people that need them the most while giving the rich breaks all the time. America is not the country it used to be. I used to be proud to be from the USA. But these days, I'm not so sure.

**Randi  
Mesa, AZ**

My son also came into this world struggling. He was born at 31 weeks, 2 lbs 13 oz, after my 6 week hospital stay and total 10 weeks bedrest. He remained in NICU for 9 weeks and unfortunately contracted RSV. He spent the first 4 months of his life in the hospital. I wasn't able to return to work part time or temporarily while he was in

the hospital or I would have lost my medical benefits. Because of that I was off work for 6 months without pay and had to pay full price for my medical insurance.

It was a devastating time for us and we could have used some help. Ben is grown now but I am writing this in hopes that others won't have to struggle as we did.

**Kamille  
Mesa, AZ**

My son has been a recipient of Medicaid. He suffers from seizures and food allergies. My husband is currently in graduate school to become a Physical Therapist and I'm a stay at home mom. Because of Medicaid, we have been able to get my son the help that he needs through doctors and speech therapists. Medicaid is an important program and our children need it!

**Brenae  
Tucson, AZ**

When my daughter Rhyn was 10 months old, she became very ill with RSV. She stopped eating, became dehydrated, and had trouble breathing. Because she was covered by Arizona's Medicaid program, we were able to admit her to the hospital for a few days and she recovered completely.

She is now a happy, healthy two-year-old with no lasting ef-

fects from her illness. I am a graduate student, supporting a family of four on a teaching assistantship that pays less than \$20,000 a year, along with student loans. Paying the premiums to put my husband and children on my student health insurance plan would cost more than a third of my salary.

Without Medicaid coverage for my children, we would have had to choose between risking Rhyn's life by not taking her to the hospital, or potentially having to quit school or go bankrupt and lose our house and our investment in my education.

**Samantha  
Tempe, AZ**

I am also a person who has Medicaid. I am 27 years old and am a chronic pain patient. I have the back and neck of a 60 year old women. I have been a chronic pain patient for 5 years, since I was 22 years old. It makes it very hard for me to do daily activities. I have three small children and it takes a lot of energy to even take them to the park. I have to see my pain doctor once a month and fill medications.

Without my medications, I would not even be able to get out of bed and move around to go to work or take care of my children. I work full time so that I can take care of my children and cannot afford insurance through my work. If I was able to afford the insurance through my work, I would not be able to afford the 8 prescriptions that I have to pick up per month or my doctor office copay. Again, without these prescriptions I would not be able to get out of bed. Even with my prescriptions, it is very hard to move around.

Without Medicaid, I don't know what I would do. I live paycheck to paycheck and losing Medicaid would be a huge financial burden on me. Also my son is 7 years old, he has had severe asthma since he

was born and also is on many medications. I would also not be able to afford his medications which he needs to be able to breath everyday.

Medicaid has helped my family in many ways. I really do not know what i would do without it.

**Patricia  
Goodyear, AZ**

My Mom is 84 years old. She suffers from Parkinson's Disease and can no longer live alone, she is too weak, and can not remember to take medications, etc. She also would not eat correctly if left alone.

My sister and I take turns caring for her. She is happy to move between our homes, here in Arizona, and alternatively in California, with my sister. She takes several kinds of medications, eight times a day. She is very happy, and feels loved, which she is. We are happy to still have her with us, and can't imagine what her life would be like if she didn't have Medicaid. We would never be able to afford the medication.

**Anonymous  
Phoenix, AZ**

Don't veto Medicaid. Many people need it so badly if they don't have the money. I know one family who have no job or money. It helps a lot to them. Their grandma or mother could not afford to help all the time. Father could not work due to bad asthma. Social security refuse to reimburse him and his family. What a shame!

**Mary  
Mesa, AZ**

My family depends on Medicaid. My husband is self-employed and my job does not provide health insurance. My husband injured his back a month and a half ago and

has been unable to work since then. Without the help of Medicaid, we would be unable to get him the medical help he needs and I don't know what we would do. Things are tough enough, not having his income, but at least I know we can get him fixed and back to work before we lose everything we have.

We CANNOT cut these programs that are the foundation of our society. When you take away the most basic needs of a society, that is when societies fail. Cut anything but this. This is a most basic human need. It should be the last thing to go.

**Iris  
Scottsdale, AZ**

My friend's mother and her brother lived together in her home. They both are in their 80s and have physical problems as well as the mother having Alzheimer-type problems. She owns two buildings which the government said they would take to sell so that the mother and her brother could live in a nursing home where they will be cared for and safe.

My friend even moved from the East Coast to the Midwest to care for his mother but he is terribly frustrated because he waits for the government to let him know whether his mother and uncle will be able to stay in the nursing home.

**Karen  
Vail, AZ**

On the street! That's where I'd be if it wasn't for Medicaid! First I ran out of COBRA, then I ran out of my savings, then I sold my home and moved in with my daughter. I am 75 years old, with insulin dependent diabetes – living on \$800 a month. Without Medicare and Medicaid I wouldn't be able to



cover my medical bills. With no coverage I would be on the street or, more likely, jumping off a bridge!!

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## ARKANSAS

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**Melissa**  
**Jacksonville, AR**

I have two disabled daughters and not a lot of money. Without Medicaid, they would not be on the level developmentally that they are now.

**Don and Lou**  
**Lamar, AR**

Surely you folks who have been elected by the common people of America want to do what is best for those common people. Search your hearts, pray even, and see if the best thing for them would be to give tax breaks to the wealthy, pay billions and billions of dollars in subsidy to the giant oil entities, continue unnecessary defense spending that does not help protect us, and cut Medicare and social security that not only keeps our vulnerable afloat but allows others to be our economic engines rather than constant care takers. We are counting on you.

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## CALIFORNIA

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**Steven**  
**Elk Grove, CA**

My mother stayed at home and raised six children and a host of nephews and nieces. She lost her right hand in a laundry accident when she was only 17 years old. Even though she was too disabled to enter the "work force," she kept an immaculate home, cooked three meals a day and kept up with six children.

My father ALWAYS worked; sometimes two, if not three, jobs. He worked in a foundry, around molten metals and asbestos, nearly

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"If it had not been for Medicaid, my mother would have suffered a great deal in her later years, widowed and living alone."

*Steven, Elk Grove, CA*

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everyday of his adult life. He died when he was 59 years old. Four of my siblings were still living at home.

If it had not been for Medicaid (and Medicare), my mother would have suffered a great deal in her later years, widowed and living alone. With the assistance of Medicaid, she was able to live to 85 years, experience her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and a reasonably healthy life.

**Diane**  
**Descanso, CA**

My husband has Parkinson's disease and the senior provision giving the rebate will help with prescription costs. Also he has to have a colonoscopy routinely because of a family history of colon cancer and this new program will help us as we are on a fixed income and cannot afford the expensive co-pays.

**Sheila**  
**Watsonville, CA**

My Mother, Sharon, 64 years old, has multiple sclerosis and has been unable to care for herself for the last 15 years. It is because of Medicaid that we have been able to care for her, mostly in home. We know at some point she will need to be cared for by a nursing home and

with out the support from Medicaid there will be no way to do it.

My husband and I are both full-time wage earners with one child, but with the cost of care for a full time patient, we can't do it without the help of Medicaid.

**Jessica**  
**Fulton, CA**

Both my mom and brother have HIV and are currently receiving help from Medicaid. Otherwise they would be without help as they are poor and don't have income, except help from the state. My other 15 year old brother has epilepsy and without Medicaid he would not be able to afford the prescriptions to keep him from seizures and possible death!

**Kassandra**  
**Twain Harte, CA**

My son was born at 40 weeks and 6 days. I expected a completely healthy normal baby when he arrived. Instead I got a baby with blood sugar issues and possible NEC. I watched as a new mother as my son was poked and prodded, had x-rays and many other tests done. Ten days later he was given a bill of good health and allowed to leave the NICU.

Those were so very scary days but it would have been even worse had I not had Medicaid to help our already struggling new family. His bill for those 10 days was over 30,000 dollars. My husband and I both work but that would have broken us. Financially, emotionally and physically trying to work like a dog to pay it off month by month. We are forever grateful to Medicaid for helping us bring home a happy healthy baby and not putting us into debt.

**Katya**  
**Lake Forest, CA**

Jim and Cheryl are a mentally ill couple who have struggled

with homelessness and the effects of their illness most of their lives. They have been in institutions and jail and finally they have been able to settle in a housing situation that has stabilized their lives for the benefit of all of society. T

he only way they have been able to maintain this living situation has been with the assistance of Medicaid. Without this benefit they would not be able to maintain their live sustaining medications and would be at risk of death or incarceration.

Unless we want to become a society that does not care about the most vulnerable among us, we need to take a hard look at our values and how we allocate our resources. There but for the grace of God go we all.

**Barbara  
Fresno, CA**

I am a Public Health Nurse working with under-served mothers and children, the majority of whom utilize Medicaid funded services. If this de-funding proposal goes through, these families will be greatly impacted.

These actions will ultimately have a greater negative impact on society by costing more both financially and socially.

**Kim  
Folsom, CA**

I had two preemie babies. My first one was born in 1988. Ryan was born at 27 weeks and weighed 2 pounds 2 ounces. We struggled as he fought for his life. He is now 23 years old and has lived a healthy life so far. I pray nothing shows up later in life.

My second preemie is Jesse. We were on vacation visiting my husband's family in Hawaii. I was 23 weeks pregnant when we flew there and a few days before we were supposed to fly home my wa-

# AN EMERGENCY ROOM VISIT IS 234% MORE EXPENSIVE THAN A DOCTOR VISIT



American College of Physicians – American Society of Internal Medicine. "No Health Insurance? It's Enough to Make You Sick!" 2000

ter broke. I was airlifted from Maui to Honolulu where I stayed for 2 weeks before a bad infection set in and they delivered him by emergency C section just like Ryan. He was born at 26 weeks and weighed 1 pound 9.9 ounces. We were in Hawaii for 7 and a half months before we could bring him home. He was on oxygen but soon was able to go without and breathe on his own. He is now 8 years old and very healthy.

While I did have medical insurance I cannot imagine how anyone would be able to give their child the medical care they need if they had no way to pay. Medicaid and other government programs have saved so many lives... young and old.

Nobody should ever have to decide to get on not to get medical attention because they cannot pay the bill. Everyone deserves health-care! It should not be the government's decision!

**Ali  
San Jose, CA**

I am a single mother of four children. Two of my children are special needs: ADHD, speech delay and mental health. It is important that they are helped throughout their early years as they become adults. I was not able to provide a respon-

sible health care coverage due to the fact that I did not have a job that would provide this. I was a part-time worker. I always relay on Medicaid for help.

Medicaid has been my support and given my children the opportunity to be healthy and happy, in addressing any mental health problems and physical problems. Cutting medical will affect children with mental health problems and will affect our society.

If we can address these mental health issues at an early age, we will be saving money in the long run because these children will be able to adapt to this world. They are more likely to have less health problems and be a productive member of our society, not a person who constantly needs help to survive.

**Marlene  
Highland, CA**

I can't tell you thankful I was that Medicare was there for my grandson. He was extremely under weight, born 5 months early. Why is it that all other nations have coverage for all of their citizens? Are we the primary leaders of the world or is it about politics as usual? As a human being and citizen of the United States I just don't understand.

All people should be granted equal rights to accesses of medical benefits. I am not talking about botox, or some self-satisfying surgery, just the basics to live a productive healthy life. I plead with you to leave this benefit alone for the sake of our youth and their future.

**Sue  
Encinitas, CA**

I've been an RN since 1972, specializing in 'maternal-child' settings of the hospital. I've spent many an hour with the high-risk mom



before she delivered and then in then Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, aiding the child born with special needs – preemie or congenital and at times aiding in the pediatric wards with these children when they grow older but still often have special needs.

It is important for society that state and federal funding is available to aid in their care, inside and outside the hospital setting, keeping the family bonding intact and family together to function as a whole.

**Jennifer  
Rossmoor, CA**

My son Charlie was born at 27 weeks (almost 3 months early) weighing only 2 pounds, 10 ounces. Because of the amazing high-quality medical care he received at Children's Hospital of Orange County, he is now a healthy, thriving 4 year-old exceeding all of his developmental milestones.

I am so grateful and only wish all parents and children the same results. Don't cut funding to our teeniest, most vulnerable citizens!

**Misty  
Fullerton, CA**

I have a serious liver disease, and because of Medicaid and Medi-Cal I was diagnosed and treated and it has improved a bit. There is hope that I will live a long life if I keep up the treatment but without it I would probably die a painful death.

**Emmeline  
La Jolla, CA**

My husband is a PhD student at the #1 bioengineering program in the country. We WILL be putting plenty of money back into the system when he graduates. In the meantime, our two children have been insured through Healthy Families (CHIP) and Medi-Cal (Med-

icaid). I am personally a cancer survivor, and I know the importance of having medical insurance.

The expense of having to pay full-price for medical insurance for our children would break our budget right now, and it would force my husband to drop out of his program.

But thanks to CHIP and Medicaid, he will receive a degree that will benefit many other people, and allow us to pay back that money many times over in future taxes. Right now, we just need a little help, and so do many other children. Please don't cut these programs.

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"Thanks to CHIP  
and Medicaid, he  
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back that money  
many times over  
in future taxes."

*Emmeline, La Jolla, CA*

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**Jennifer  
Simi Valley, CA**

Without family and my husband as a legal immigrant and actor who lost SAG coverage – we would not be able to afford normal medical coverage.

We have had to take our kids to the emergency room for stitches multiple times and it's so helpful to know we don't have to worry

about covering the expensive costs – all thanks to Medicaid. Please do not cut funding!

**Thea  
Berkeley, CA**

I have seen the help that Medicaid has provided for many elderly without sufficient funds and no family to take care of them. Please continue the government support of these needy people.

**Griselda  
Aptos, CA**

I'm a 33 year old mom of a 15 year old girl named Denise. Between both of us we can be considered miracles. First, she was diagnosed with a heart defect at the age of two, PULCA. Had to have open heart surgery immediately. She is well now and has no problems.

I was diagnosed with epilepsy at the age of 22 and had lived with it for over 15 years until 2009 when I had brain surgery and now have been seizure free for a year and a half!! Prior to my surgery, Denise had FIB TIB surgery. She broke both her tibia and fibula bones at her right ankle playing soccer. A year later she is back on the field playing the sport she loves.

I want to let people know that without health care none of this would have been possible. I had wonderful doctor's that performed miracles. I believe that everybody should have a miracle. Life is too precious to put it on the line over politics. We are all human and deserve the same chance at life.

Our government also needs to understand that by providing health coverage to people that are in need will help doctor's discover cures for health problems that have not been possible.

**Marcia**

**Pittsburg, CA**

My family cannot afford medical care. My son, because he is disabled receives Medicare. Despite being 'insured,' he does not receive equal medical care as someone with private insurance coverage. He has little choice when it comes to choosing a doctor, getting medication, and has to wait months to see a specialist, if it is approved! WHY? Why is he being treated like a second class citizen!!

**Jazzie**

**San Francisco, CA**

My story is that I'm living with HIV and cannot afford to pay for my medication without Medicaid help. HIV medication are too high right now. Cutting Medicaid would and will hurt so many Americans. That means that no one will be covered and will die on our streets across this land. The cuts will not balance the budget.

**John**

**Lincoln, CA**

I have a 94-year-old mother who lives with me and her healthcare is covered by Medicaid and Medicare.

**Kimberly**

**Stockton, CA**

Working with children in social services has brightened my perspective on children's service. Every day I see the positive effects of services for children who are chronically ill. The impact has always proven to be rewarding to both parent and children.

It would not be beneficial whatsoever to risk financial support for medical services and support to children who are chronically ill.

**Summer**

**Moreno Valley, CA**

My grandson Seth is covered by SSI -Medi-cal. He has had three

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"Not everyone knows what life will bring them or how it may change things forever. My father was a good provider and never in a million years did my parents think they would become so poor they would have to have help from the state and federal government."

*Susan, Auburn, CA*

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open heart surgeries as well as many other procedures. If he did not have Medicaid / Medi-Cal he would not be covered. We are a hardworking average income family. We would be devastated by the medical bills if he was covered under a regular plan through our jobs and even more so if he was not covered. I do not believe that he would be with us today.

Please do not let children DIE unnecessarily. We need your help. If the government is not in place to help its people then what is its purpose? Please ask yourself the question: what if it were my child?

**Christy**

**Petaluma, CA**

It is too important and impacts too many people in need. DO NOT CUT IT!

**Susan**

**Auburn, CA**

My mom passed away on 12/13/10. Mom had no finances except for Social Security from my Dad. My parents lost everything in the 80's because of bad decisions of my Dad. My mom had not worked since 1938. During the last months of my mom's life Medicare, Medicaid and social security paid for her nursing home care.

If not for those programs she would not have been able to pay for any type of care. The costs averaged \$6,000 per month. Those programs were designed for people like my mom, who stayed home, raised children and was not able to work.

Not everyone knows what life will bring to them or how it may change things forever. My father was a good provider and never in a million years did my parents think they would become so poor they would have to have help from the state and federal government. My father died young because of the shame of it all. My mom lived to be 93 and thank god for those programs.

**Marion**

**San Ramon, CA**

I really don't have a story, just want to voice my concern on this important matter.

**Amy**

**El Cajon, CA**

My mother was raising three children ranging in age from 7-14, when my grandmother had a stroke which left her paralyzed on one side and unable to speak or care of herself. She also had stage-3 cancer.

With the aid of state and federally funded programs, my mother was able to stay home and take care of both my grandmother and



us. This would not have been possible without the aid and host of support staff and nurses that came to house for therapy, etc.

State and federal funded social programs like these are critical and must remain in place. With the rising employment rates and skyrocketing cost of living, life is a continuous struggle. Taking away programs like these would make it impossible to stay afloat.

### **Carol Mountain View, CA**

I come from a long line of short-lived people. My parents paid for social security all their lives, just as I have since I started working in 1966. None of us has ever collected a penny of Medicare. But we all had the pride of living in a country that took decent care of its poor and elderly. At least, we were able to tell ourselves that was true.

My father was disabled by emphysema in his early 60s and applied for disability – but Reagan was in office at the time and Republicans were squeezing the entitlement budget to make more defense contractor millionaires (and thus, more contributors to their personal ‘war chests’).

After wrestling his pride and asking for help, and then being turned down by his government, Dad served his country one more time by settling down to die. He was gone within a year. That’s what Republicans these days ask of the citizens of this country -- shop or die. It’s a sad end to what was once a decent political party.

### **Lupe Woodland, CA**

My mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s 3 years ago. In January 2011, she was determined to be at end of life and placed under hospice care.

She and my father raised their

family in the same house for 40+ years. Throughout their lives mom and dad worked hard to care for our family. They raised 6 kids and helped with grandchildren and even some nieces and nephews. Additionally, Mom provided care taking services to friends and family members struck by illnesses while they were in their homes.

Her one constant message to us was that if anything ever happened to her she did not want to die in a nursing home. Over the last several years, we, her family have tried to honor that request. Several of us have actually displaced our families and lives in order to accommodate her desire. And we all do what we can to insure that she continue to be at home. We all work full-time and have families so we couldn’t help mom without the help of caregivers and hospice.

If Medicaid is cut or reduced I’m afraid that we would not be able to honor her dying wish, to die in her own home surrounded by the memories of her lifetime.

My mom and dad were hard-working people that paid their taxes and never asked for assistance. They believed that SSI and Medicaid would take care of them in the later years. Please don’t let their hard work be in vain.

### **Heather Eureka, CA**

I worked hard to accomplish the things that I believed would create a financially secure life for myself and my family. I attended college, and obtained degrees in Social Work and Sociology. After graduation I began my career in social work – working primarily in the fields of child protection. At 27, I collapsed as my now-ex-husband and I were hiking at the beach. That was the culmination of a year filled with mysterious illness that simply did not go away – and throughout which I continued working (and

had just started a second job in the evenings to squirrel away money). I have never recovered, and am now 40. I have a cluster of unusual diseases – autoimmune disorders – that have filled my life with exhaustion, chronic intractable pain, illness, and a multitude of secondary infections.

It has been very hard to have my life pulled out from under me, and try to not only re-define who I am, but to be living in poverty, with no real hope of my body getting well so that I can have a job that might pull me out of poverty.

One of the saving graces is that I have had the medical care that I have needed to be able to treat secondary infections as they arise, and to treat some of the awful symptoms of my illnesses. There is not much that medicine can do to heal my illnesses (so far!) but the relief of some of the worst conditions that these illnesses create has made it so that life is bearable at least.

If I were to lose Medicaid and MediCare, I do not know what I would do. There is very little room in my financial life to pay for anything more. I am scraping by as it is. I have not had a cost of living adjustment increase in my Social Security Disability payments for several years now – although my rent is raised every year (like clockwork!), the price of food has skyrocketed, and gas in my area costs well over \$4 a gallon.

My home is many miles from a bus-line, and I am unable to rely on walking or bicycling because of the limitations of my body due to my illnesses. And I have a young child (who – besides my relationship with God – is the light and joy of my life, and the reason that I hold on to life at all) who cannot walk long distances and needs transportation. Losing Medicaid and/or Medicare would have a devastating effect on my life.

# **EVEN A 5% CUT IN MEDICAID SPENDING WOULD MEAN A LOSS OF \$13.75 BILLION IN FUNDS FOR US STATES**

2011 figures. <http://www.familiesusa.org/resources/publications/reports/medicaid-cuts-hurt-states-findings.html>

I worked hard at various employments since the age of twelve. I completed University degrees. Many times in my life I have worked two or more jobs to keep it all together. When I had to retire from work, I received the second highest SSD payment available in my state because I had wracked up so many 'credits' from working so hard by the time I was 27! I worked hard and life still handed me a situation in which I am stuck in poverty, and fearful every day that something will be taken away leaving me without the ability to meet my material needs for housing, food, medical care, heat, clothing, and transportation.

Please, all of you who hold the power to make sure that our society's safety net stays in place, make sure that I am not left without the ability to meet the needs of life. I, and many people in similar circumstances, am depending on you making compassionate and circumspect decisions so that I can keep body and soul together, and have SOME measure of dignity, security, and decent quality of life. Please don't make life harder for me.

**Francesca  
Sausalito, CA**

My mom worked as a nurse her

whole life and did not really have care for herself in her later years. I have worked in childcare over twenty years and as a senior have to continue to support myself. If I did not have the Medicare and Social Security I have earned (and have to supplement) I could not sustain myself! I am in perfect health and pay into the healthcare system!

Will it be there for ME when I really need it? How much does America really care for it's elderly population (patriots-citizens)?? We will soon see won't we!

**Monica  
Santa Rosa, CA**

Don't solve the country's financial problems on the backs of our most fragile citizens!

**Elaine  
Richmond, CA**

We will vote you out of office if you vote out Medicaid and SSI. Period.

We are a two career household, have K-12 children and cannot afford to buy a house, buy private health insurance, pay for private school, buy into a good public school area, and certainly cannot afford 24/7 care for my father, who

worked as a successful attorney all his life, but with Alzheimer's, now pays \$9,000 per month for a full-time care facility.

I'm proud of a country that puts its people first. I'm not proud of the current scoundrels who pick apart a country's Medicaid.

**Erin  
Encinitas, CA**

Elders are living longer. Heart and blood pressure medication, heart surgery, pace makers, you name it, keeps us going. Maybe too long.

My Mom has entered an assisted living home near her house. Despite having 5 children, we could not continue to assist her at her home. Managing her was too hard. We are so fortunate that both my Dad (who is deceased) and Mom had great pensions. Medicaid does not pay for this. We are a fortunate family. I hear stories from many of my friends that are not so fortunate.

The longer our parents live, the more dependent they become on the family. It is financially devastating for some of my friends that are raising young children.

We are assisting elders to live longer by feeding prescription drugs to them (for years!). This is an ethical conundrum.

Give our elders the consideration they are due. Our capitalistic society keeps them living; our consciences should nurture them and keep Medicaid available until we think of a better solution.

**Vivenie  
Long Beach, CA**

As much taxes we pay, the American people should not have to suffer for the misjudgments of politicians.



**Nathaniel**  
**Los Angeles, CA**

My brothers are stretched to the limit to support their families, I'm on disability, and my Mom is spending her last savings to stay on Kaiser. Obviously, Medicaid is going to be crucial in our future. I know many other families with the same situation. We need to stop spending trillions on wars overseas and tax breaks for the top 1%, and put the money where it's needed most.

**Lynne**  
**Lakewood, CA**

My father is being charged a ridiculous amount by Medicare since my mother passed away. Every time he turns around he is being charged an increase in premium. He didn't choose to be a widow, but Medicare choose to penalize him. This Healthcare in the United States is SHAMEFUL!!

**Tonia**  
**Redding, CA**

I am an working parent of four children. I am also a caregiver by trade. I understand the elderly and the poor needing care. I pray the Medicaid program is allowed to stay in a position to continue to help those who need all their services.

I work for a non-profit organization that is consistently offering free services to those we can (which is precious few). We love too here that the government does not let some down that are in need of care but could not possibly help themselves, financially or otherwise.

Please consider the millions of the poorest Americans who will continue to require assistance with their activities of daily living, medication assistance, and other medical needs.

Don't make a tragedy occur by cutting funding that is a lifeline to so many.

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"If this program is cut, families will suffer, and more families will go under and file for bankruptcy."

*Tamee, Davis, CA*

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**Eve**  
**Los Angeles, CA**

My 84-year-old mother has lived in Phoenix for many years with rheumatoid arthritis. Her disease continued to ravage her body and eventually her mind as she slid into dementia. Her family believed she would not last much longer. We moved her into a reputable 24-hour assisted care facility and steeled ourselves for her death. Instead, she has slowly but gradually regained some physical abilities, like writing and handling a TV remote and using a walker to travel around.

Best of all, her wonderful mind has returned to delight and engage with us and those around her. None of this would have been financially possible for us without her small Social Security Disability payment, some support from the state of Arizona, and the Medicare benefits she receives.

I will always be grateful that our country is there for its citizens when they need help. I deeply hope that never changes, and I am very opposed to any legislative changes in the coverage or payments for Social Security, Medicare or Medicaid.

**Mary**  
**Berkeley, CA**

I know people who are struggling to live on \$1,000 a month. It is terrible.

**Tamee**  
**Davis, CA**

When I opened my email this morning I was struck by the irony that I received a message from a woman named Sheila asking for support to speak up for saving Medicaid. Her father was disabled growing up and her mother worked two jobs to support the family. Now her mother has Multiple Sclerosis and can no longer take care of herself and needs around the clock assistance.

The irony here, is that MY mother's name is also Sheila, who also has Multiple Sclerosis. She was diagnosed when she was 25. She turns 65 next month. My mother could not work when I was growing up so my father supported us as a farmer. In 2000, they had to file bankruptcy because farming could no longer pay the medical bills. Four years ago, my mother had to move to a nursing home because my father could no longer care for her on his own.

Now my father is selling the remainder of their farm to make ends meet. He works at the nursing home 3 days a week, which basically covers the cost of his gas to get back and forth.

Medicaid has been there for my mother and our family to help carry the financial burden of caring for her. Without it... I honestly don't know what we would do. Her annual healthcare cost is approximately \$175,000/year!

And for anyone doubting the legitimacy of the program, thinking it might be set up for freeloaders... there are no frills! EVERY penny given by Medicaid goes directly to the care, medication, therapy, etc. My mother has no extra money to buy clothes or other basic needs. Our family: my aunt, uncle, brother, me and husband all contribute monetary funds to help cover additional living costs. I know we are not alone.

Medicaid is a basic need. The purpose of our government is to protect its citizens. If this program is cut, families will suffer, and more families will go under and file for bankruptcy. I don't think this is the way to stimulate our economy. Can we please stop spending our hard-earned dollars in other countries and bring it back home to care for the people of this country?!

I want to thank Sheila for writing her story to inspire me to write my own. I believe together we can make a difference and be heard. We have to try!! Also, thank you Mom for representing at least 40 years of determination! I love you.

**Joni**  
**Monterey, CA**

Without Medicare my parents would have been warehoused in nursing homes. I can only wish I will have as good of care.

**Elayne**  
**San Rafael, CA**

My parents need Medicare too. We are living longer and healthier lives but we need this benefit. Also our government officials will get old like the rest of us. Until we have a better or more affordable system available to us.

**Jeanette**  
**Murrieta, CA**

I'm older and the older I get the more my body no longer functions as well. I have been hospitalized twice in one year. Each time there is something that is not covered anymore. The stays are limited in skill facilities and hospitals. Some of the services are limited and lousy. Short of staff is mostly the problem (budget cuts). This includes doctors, nurses and technical staff. Most of the staff are poorly trained or tired and don't care anymore. Cost is sky high. You can't afford to live and you can't afford to die. Yours truly, Suffering.

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"If you think we  
have a homeless  
crisis now, just  
repeal the  
Medicare Act or  
reduce its benefits  
and you will see  
homeless problem  
on a scale  
exceeding the  
Great Depression."

*C. Wayne, Alameda, CA*

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**Nancy**  
**Los Gatos, CA**

Thank God for Medicaid! I don't know what we would have done without it! My mother developed dementia and destroyed her finances and went deeply into debt with poor decisions before we even knew what was happening. This is quite common in early Alzheimer's. Finances are the first clue.

We relied on Medi-Cal (CA's Medicaid) to provide long-term nursing home care for her when we could no longer keep her safe in her low income apartment. We couldn't afford private help and couldn't quit our jobs to care for her ourselves.

It was grueling because the Alzheimer's created such difficult situations and safety issues. Her care was intense. She could wear out three shifts of professional caregivers all by herself!

Mom died June 1st, 2011 after 5 years in a nursing home. Medicaid beds are hard to get. There are waiting lists. We were lucky to get one in an excellent facility.

**C. Wayne**  
**Alameda, CA**

I would like to remind members of Congress that the reason we passed Medicare in 1965 was to protect families from financial bankruptcy because of escalating medical costs.

If you think we have a homeless crisis now, just repeal the Medicare Act or reduce its benefits and you will see homeless problem on a scale exceeding the Great Depression.

**Michele**  
**Salinas, CA**

If it were not for Medicaid, my 80+ year old mother would be in the streets living with so many others who, like her, have mental health issues and dementia. Our father and family could not even begin to provide her with appropriate care, even in the short term. My father is in his eighties and a social security recipient.

Myself and my siblings would destroy our own families financial structures within a year and end up on the streets with our parents should we even try to provide for our mother's care needs. Please do not cut Medicaid and place my mother, my father and family in the streets.

**Melek**  
**Encinitas, CA**

My parents, now 69 and 73, are self-employed and rely on Medicaid to survive. Even if they wanted to, they could not afford to retire. When my mom got really sick two years ago, my family would have been bankrupted if not for this coverage.

Where does Congress expect regular people to get the money to pay for health care? That's what I'd like to know.



**Alejandra  
San Francisco, CA**

My daughter has Medicaid and we would not have access to pay a private insurance otherwise. We worry about getting old and not having any medical attention. Elders and children should have medical care as a Constitutional right, also the mid aged population that have a low income.

No more cuts on health, and stop using all the budget for military actions. Millionaires can afford losing money with their taxes, they have so much already. It's not that much that they will loose.

**Ruth  
Folsom, CA**

Fortunately, I am able to be financially independent in retirement, but my closest friend and also my sister rely on Medicaid for basic living. If they did not have this financial help, they would be asking for help from me. I cannot support them and myself and so the three of us would struggle.

Now that they can rely on Medicaid, our relationship is independent and loving. I'd hate to think what it would be like without Medicaid support. Please Congress, don't drop the Medicaid domino.

**Dana  
Clovis, CA**

My mother, then in her late 50s, took my 89-year-old grandmother into her home after discovering she was going without food when she felt too tired to take the bus to the grocery store. My grandmother had been too proud to want to ask for help from her children, but she needed around-the-clock care.

For the next five years, my mother cared for her without help, without respite, on her own. The only entity that helped her was Medicaid, making it possible

for them to pay for my grandmother's medical care in the last few years of her life. When my mother couldn't care for her any longer, she was able to enter a nursing home and receive professional care.

PLEASE DO NOT GUT MEDICAID, if you care at all about American families. We need these programs to survive.

**Lynne  
Sebastopol, CA**

Both of my parents have worked very, very hard all their lives. Now they are both semi-retired and it's time for them to be able to count on Medicaid because they are both getting older. They are both in their 80s and I want to see them get back from how much they've put into their hard working lives.

My parents deserve to be able to count on Medicaid in their later years. They deserve to get the funding and support from Medicaid when they need medical help!

**Gina  
Campbell, CA**

My mother had a stroke in 1995 and lived for almost 12 years with the disabilities that followed the stroke. We had to exhaust all her money and home; my siblings and myself pitched in to subsidize her living expenses in a 6-bed home and then in a nursing home.

Thankful to Medi-Cal for taking care of most expenses while in the nursing home. I'm an OT and I went from full-time work to part-time to help care for her along with my sister who had her own kids and husband that depended on her.

Without Medi-Cal and a little social security, we could not have done it financially and try to finance our own families. She passed away in 2007 before the economy took a turn for the worse.

**Elizabeth  
San Jose, CA**

My mother-in-law worked very hard for forty years, raised five children the best she could. In her later years she had nothing to show for all her hard work. Her children were struggling to take care of their own families. She finally came to live with my husband and my family.

If she did not have Medicaid to pay her doctors, her medication, and surgeries she needed, we would have lost her long ago. She passed away at age 88. She was a very special woman. I can't imagine for those who need Medicaid services can not get it, that would be a very sad day in America.

**Lynn  
San Diego, CA**

My 93-year-old mother who had Alzheimer's ran out of money and we had to sign up for Medicare. Thank goodness for that support. Without it I don't know what we would have done.

**Judith  
Los Gatos, CA**

I don't think any of us could have survived my mother's death without the wonderful services of Hospice, which were paid for by Medicare. It made my mother's last months so much easier and more comfortable and probably saved my life along with it.

Caregiving and living with dying are the two most difficult jobs on the planet. Hospice knows how to guide families through this process; a service which most of us would never be able to afford without Medicare.

**Alicia  
Moraga, CA**

My 45-year-old brother has had severe and chronic mental illness his entire adult life. He has been

fortunate enough to live on his own and not in an institution. His lifeline is Medicaid. You can imagine \$700 per month does not go far, but we are grateful for the services and medical care he has, given the struggles he lives with on a daily basis.

Only a cruel world would make such a vulnerable person live on less while allowing billionaires to pay almost nothing in taxes.

**Carla  
Placerville, CA**

I am on disability with Medicare and Medi-Cal/Medicaid. Since cuts have been made already, I cannot afford to go to my dentist, or any other without having to pay cash out of my pocket. I am on a fairly limited monthly income, and some of what Medicare does not cover, Medicaid may, or may not.

I cannot even afford to go to my eye doctor without having to also pay cash out-of-pocket since Medi-Cal/Medicaid has stopped paying for some of those services as well. It really angers me, that in some dental offices, Medi-Cal/Medicaid will pay for tooth extractions but won't help pay for 'preventive' dental services.

And whom of us poorer citizens can afford to buy 'private insurance'!? There are some companies who offer certain 'Discount Benefit Plans', and for a fee of course. But even with discounts, depending on the amount(s), patients will still have to pay cash that they still cannot afford! This entire mess is so ludicrous, it absolutely sickens me! And no thanks to our controlling government, to say the very least!

Making these types of 'cuts' to well needed people and services should not be allowed! The 'cutting' of spending needs to be in our own government as well as all the big corporate operations, and all their 'Secret Societies'!

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"She didn't know about investments or saving to retire...

Now that she is old, she does not ask for much, only for the benefits to be collected for her hard job."

*Maria, Corona, CA*

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**Maria  
Corona, CA**

My Mom has been a hard worker even when she was a homemaker, always managing to save for her family. When my dad died 27 years ago we lost our home and gained debts, my mom managed to work and survive and provide for us, even though she had never worked before. There was no plan savings or plan B, only survive.

She didn't know about investments or saving to retire. Working-class people did not have these opportunities to be educated in this matter. Now that she is old she does not ask for much, only for the benefits to be collected for her hard job. Leave Medicaid for old people they deserve.

**Lisa  
Oakland, CA**

I have an older sister who has high blood pressure and diabetes. She is a single mother and desperately needs the help of Medicaid in order to stay off the streets. Unfortunately, there are many people like her that need some help. We, the working people, have a responsibility to help those less fortunate, it's just the right thing to do.

**Estrella  
Laguna Hills, CA**

I am a single parent with a 14-year-old daughter. My mother is an 80-year-old widower with Alzheimer's. What it means is that I could leave my daughter at home and know that she will be okay, she will be able to make herself some food and take care of herself; but my Mom, no. She does not remember if she ate breakfast, less if she took her medicine and if she does not see me around she falls in this state of anxiety and despair. She always thinks that something is happening to me and I am not ever coming home and that she is left alone.

Please do not take away the only little help that my mother can get to allow me to take care of her at home.

**Samantha  
San Anselmo, CA**

My father has macular degeneration and needs to get injections in his eyes. Each shot costs \$2,000. He has a heart condition and needs medication. He has an enlarged prostate and needs an operation to have part of it removed. His medications can cost \$700 a month. Even with insurance the costs are high – without Medicaid my family (all working) would go bankrupt paying for his medical needs.

We must remember that government is FOR the people BY the people, not for big businesses to gross billions at the expense of the people.

**Jacqueline  
Monterey, CA**

Lynne is the 50-year-old daughter of a friend of mine. Lynne has muscular dystrophy, which worsens over time. Lynne receives essential care through a program funded



by Medicaid. I don't know what would happen to Lynne without this care.

We cannot abandon the disabled and the aging (myself included at age 78). I do not oppose paying more taxes to sustain programs so that even the vulnerable 'may have life and have it abundantly.'

We cannot allow profligate spending on wars and criminal lack of restraint (read lack of sensible lending regulations that brought on the housing crisis) to prevent our caring for our own vulnerable.

**Phoury**  
**Los Angeles, CA**

I have no valid story; however I support in this matter.

**Thuy**  
**Huntington Beach, CA**

I'm don't actually live in the U.S., but my mom does. She and my step-father are immigrants from 1994 in the U.S. They tried to work hard. But one day my step-father happened to lose consciousness and was found down. It was caused by liver cancer. He died just after 2 weeks.

My mother became alone in the country far from her home and she had a stroke, losing the ability to move a half of her body. While we stayed here in Viet Nam, we felt useless and could do nothing to take care of her. But in God's will, the Medicaid program helped her and saved her life. Now she can do exercises every day in the swimming pool thanks to Medicaid. S

he loves America and she usually says that she owes America and she is in shame because she didn't contribute well in her new country home. I feel that way too, and I am grateful that Medicaid helped my mom while I am staying far away. I believe that there are many people like her who are expecting help from the Medicaid program.

And we, people who live in a poor country, are wishing that there was a program like that to help the unhappy children, the lonely elderly.

**Marny**  
**Rancho Mirage, CA**

I am very grateful to have the opportunity to share my personal family story that currently represents numerous families today.

I am a 44-year-old woman serving multiple roles in our family. I am first and foremost a wife and mother of two active daughters,



# MEDICAID IS THE PRIMARY PAYER FOR 64% OF ALL NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

Kaiser Family Foundation, [statehealthfacts.org](http://statehealthfacts.org),  
Distribution of Certified Nursing Facility Residents by  
Primary Payer Source, 2009, available online at  
<http://www.statehealthfacts.org/comparebar.jsp?ind=410&cat=8&sub=97>, accessed on April 6, 2011.

ages 9 and 11. I am also a daughter and primary caregiver to my 84-year-old mother Nieves who lives with us. I count my blessings for my ability to care for my loved ones everyday; however, I have become more and more concerned about the future of rising health care costs.

My concern is especially for my mother who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's 6 years ago and has

been living with us for the last 3 years. My mother is on Medical/Medicaid and Medicare. She is completely indigent and depends on us for all of her expenses.

Recently, I've noticed a huge increase in out of pocket expenses for routine doctor visits. For example, our last MD office visit charged a co-pay of \$20. As if this was not enough, we also received a bill in the mail for \$20 for the same appointment. Please understand that this was a routine visit. There were no unusual treatments or procedures performed. I have noticed these medical expenses increasing within our own family and insurance plans. Our costs per doctor visit is a \$40 co-pay. Remarkably, this is the same for my indigent mother on Medical and Medicare. How can this be?

Our seniors have both paid for and earned these Medicare benefits. The current presidential administration has already re-vamped Medicare through the Obama care program, and will phase it out. Most have warned about what is to come. Ironically, the same vulnerable persons that Obama care marketed to, is the same audience that is being targeted with these extreme health care costs.

In addition to being a wife, mother and caregiver, I am also a working registered nurse who sees the devastating effects these costs have and will continue to have on families. We need to work together to preserve Medicare and Medical/Medicaid for the most vulnerable of Americans, our seniors. The burden of these costs will eventually have an effect on all of us.

Thank you for allowing me to be a voice for my mother and other seniors. I hope more persons will share their story in an effort to not only preserve these crucial health care programs but revert them back to pre-Obama Care.



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## COLORADO

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### **Carrie Lakewood, CO**

I'm a single parent with a 9 year old. Solomon was diagnosed with autism at he age of two. If it wasn't for Medicaid I would not have been able to afford his therapies. Early intervention of autism helps reduce symptoms dramatically and reduce the level of care these individuals require throughout their life.

That translates into huge savings in more intensive care over a lifetime. It is money well spent for the taxpayer – and it has allowed me to continue to work and pay taxes too. Don't cut Medicaid for kids with disabilities!

### **Renee Alamosa, CO**

I am a mother of three and have always had Medicaid when pregnant, and my children have always had Medicaid. I am on CHP. I am so very thankful for this as my daughter has asthma and has been able to receive the best treatment possible for her.

If we did not have Medicaid, we could not afford other insurance and we would have to make some really tough decisions about when to go to the doctor. Please do not cut this program, it is essential for my family and many others.

### **Stevan Aurora, CO**

I am a single father of two children. At this time my children are covered under an insurance policy that is sufficient for the time being. At any point though if fate takes a turn, that could change.

For those less fortunate, they must sit idle and hope that everyone from the president to Congress and so on, come to realize where the priority lies. Our country needs to be saved from the incompetent

leaders that now decide where 'our' money is spent. My prayers to those parents.

### **Kay Ignacio, CO**

I am a single grandmother raising my three grandsons. I had to quit my full time job in order to take care of the boys, and because Bobby has Cystic Fibrosis and needs lots of meds and help, I am unable to go to work.

If Medicaid suddenly stops paying for his treatments, meds, etc., it would be a big hardship on all of us to be able to pay all the medical bills and the living expenses. His quality of life would definitely suffer.

### **Vanessa Englewood, CO**

After my freshman year of college, my appendix went bad on me. I required an emergency appendectomy. My bills were so big that I would have had to drop out of college to work to pay them. I qualified for retroactive coverage through Medicaid. It saved my college career, and I am now a special educator. Save Medicaid!

### **Doug Denver, CO**

As a kid, my dad did what most dads of that day did... he worked hard, left the matters of family to his wife, and we saw him less because he worked more outside of the home. I missed him, missed having a close connection with my father, and vowed to be a different type of dad. My son knows that I am integral to all aspects of his life as I put family before work and work closely with my partner to provide shared-care parenting.

I am THE GRATEFUL DAD, helping others moms and dads collaborate in the common care of kids. And when my own father became

ill, and showed early signs of dementia, and had no one else to care for him, I moved my father from Florida to Colorado where I live, and now see him daily and handle all of his needs... thanks in no small part to programs of the federal government. Please preserve these vital programs.

### **Doug Denver, CO**

As a kid, my dad did

### **Tiana Westminster, CO**

I have made friends in a nursing home where my grandmother resides, and some of the residents are on Medicaid. The care that is provided to these residents is essential, and the amount paid by Medicaid helps to make their care possible. There is no possible way that these residents could care for themselves.

Cutting Medicaid will reduce the level of care in nursing homes, where staffing is frequently minimal, as it is. Staff is overworked, and residents have long wait times for care at times. Please do not cut this essential program.

Medicaid is very valuable for many of the elderly and those with disabilities, as well as for millions of children, who have no say in the matter.

### **Susy Denver, CO**

My mother's Medicare is signed over to Kaiser Permanente, and so basically she has Medicare. She is in good health at 87; however, she was diagnosed with aorta stenosis in Dec. 2010. Last March she was able to have her aortic heart valve replaced at Cleveland Clinic in Ohio with minimally invasive surgery; this meant a 4" incision instead of an 8" incision down her chest.



At her age that was crucial so she could recover in less time with less pain. This surgery would have cost in the area of \$100,000 for which she did not have. Without the surgery her health would have declined and in 2 years she would have probably died. Today, she is bright, healthy and busy leading and incredible life! Keep the Medicare going strong for you and your loved ones!

**Nancy  
Dolores, CO**

As a nurse, I can tell you that our health assistance tax dollars will actually save our country money in the long run. If a health need is cared for in a timely and appropriate way, the chances are better for that person to have a productive life, care for him/herself without further aid.

If the health needs are neglected, the person has need for lifelong public support. 'Saving tax money' is misdirected if it means neglecting our health care assistance – it's really greed and selfishness in disguise.

**Ellen  
Littleton, CO**

A friend of mine was recently denied coverage by Kaiser after being a paying customer for over 20 years. She retired because of budget cuts and is not old enough for Medicare.

**Sharon  
Ignacio, CO**

I have been sick with Hepatitis C since 1981. I had to have surgery to remove my thyroid due to precancerous growths on it caused by the HepC. I had Interferon treatments for 4 years on and off to treat the HepC including a transjugular biopsy to see the damage to my liver. The treatments helped fight the HepC but caused extreme anemia,

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“As a nurse, I can tell you that our health assistance tax dollars will actually save our country money in the long run... If the health needs are neglected, the person has need for lifelong public support.”

*Nancy, Dolores, CO*

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then blood transfusions for that.

I then discovered the tendons in my foot and both my hands started dissolving due to the large amounts of Interferon I had injected into my body for 4 years and I needed surgery to fuse my joints together in my hands and cut out the dead tendon and reconnect and add new tendon pieces in my foot. I pray that the dissolving of my tendons will stop and not progress to other areas of my body.

I also thank God that I have Medicare, if I didn't I wouldn't be able to walk or use both my hands and would most likely have a cancerous thyroid and be unable to continue to treat my Hepatitis C which has kept me alive.

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**CONNECTICUT**

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**Ann  
Woodbury, CT**

My husband, Roger, has severe dementia and ALS. We care for him at home and we are very fortunate to have some resources to do so.

But when we have exhausted those resources, we need to know that we can turn to Medicaid to fund his care. Roger worked hard all of his life, he is a good man and contributed a lot to society.

He, and so many others like him, need to have the security of a Government safety net. There is enough money for Medicaid and other social and humanitarian programs – it just needs to be distributed in a way that befits a humane and just society.

**Kristi  
Thomaston, CT**

My son was born 9 weeks early and had to stay in the NICU for 6 weeks. I have Crohn's Disease and had a really hard pregnancy. If we had not been on Husky I don't know what we would have done. I can not afford to lose my Husky insurance. I work full time and I am a single mom. I do not get any child support from my son's father and I can not afford health insurance on my own. Without Husky my son and I would have to go without health care and right now that is not an option!

**Jose  
New Britain, CT**

As a single father Medicaid and C.H.I.P. provide a much needed help. Without these services my daughter will not be able to get the health services she needs.

**Nancy  
Waterford, CT**

My husband and I have health insurance and do not need Medicaid or CHIP. That is exactly why we need to keep these programs viable for everyone that may need it. There are no disposable people! We must have health care for everyone and a single payer option should be available.



**Holly  
Northfield, CT**

I have been in nursing as far back as I could remember and my mom has always been there as my personal fan club, but just within the last seven years, my mother's health has been on a constant decline.

My mother currently is on Medicaid and Medicare, but even the changes have caused my mother to give up services that she once depended upon. Well last year I became a statistic for a single mom and I myself depended on Medicaid to cover my daughter and I, but my mother's mental health began to decline some more, her psychiatrist fired her and she needed to find a psych doctor quickly. But during this time my daughter played a role in making my mom feel good again.

My mother found self worth through caring for my daughter. My daughter is 8 months old and full of angst but my mother still remains happy to be around my daughter. Medicaid found a new therapist and psych doctor for my mother, but still the care falls way short for any healing.

But when my mom is around my daughter, nothing in the world matters, and my mom will tell anyone who will listen that grandmas lil angel Ardyn Sophia is better then any drug out there and that Ardyn saved her from just wasting away to nothing.

**Frederica  
Westport, CT**

Both my mother and my only sister ended their days in nursing homes which they had entered as paying guests and, after their assets were reduced to zero, where they could remain until they died, thanks to Medicare. I work full time and did not live in the vicinity of either my mother or my sister.

If it were not for Medicaid, I

cannot imagine what would have happened to either of them. They could not have lived with me since I did not have the resources to provide for them in my home or in a comparable facility near me. Medicaid enabled them to end their days without the trauma of a major move when they were so fragile and so near the end of their lives.

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"What is wrong  
with this country  
when a family  
faces bankruptcy,  
foreclosure, and  
the choice  
between  
buying groceries  
and buying  
necessary  
medications?"

*Laurel, Wilmington, DE*

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**DELAWARE**

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**Nancy  
Potsdam, DE**

In 1989, I was in a car accident on my way home from work. My arm was broken in half. Luckily, I had car insurance which paid my costly operations. However, I was left with no car and no job and a three year old girl. I was devastated because I had always worked. I was forced to go to the county and accept Medicaid and AFDC.

The great news is, I was accepted into SUNY and completed a B. S. in Sociology and Education and

graduated Magna Cum Laude! I then went and got a Master's degree in Counseling. I have worked and paid taxes in New York State ever since and have been proud to do so!

I just wish more taxes could go to provide for families like mine! I know I have repaid what I was given, but I am forever grateful.

**Marilyn  
Rehoboth Beach, DE**

Nancy and Bill, friends of mine, could not afford good health care insurance. Nancy is 52 and she became very sick with cancer. She literally became bed ridden and unable to work. Bill became the care giver and was not able to work full-time. Medicaid is helping to cover the costs of the treatments, without it Nancy and Bill may not even been able to get the treatments for Nancy.

**Laurel  
Wilmington, DE**

My husband is completely disabled and requires at-home visits by nurses and aides. Because he cannot take care of himself, I do it for him. The good news is that I'm a writer and can work from home. The bad news came at the beginning of this month because April 2011 was a good month in terms of freelancing income (always uncertain at the best of times). Even though I provided the Medicaid office with documentation showing minimal income over the past six months, including \$0 in December 2010 and January 2011, they still took the April income and extrapolated it over 12 months.

My two sons and I were immediately removed from the Medicaid rolls because 'we make too much' to qualify for Medicaid. Can someone please tell me how we



are supposed to afford monthly prescriptions for me (\$940+) and our sons (I'm just too scared to call for prices yet)? I can't work full time and care for my husband, and working part time while keeping below the magical number pretty much means that I'll be working for peanuts and social interaction. Whoopee.

I love my husband and take 'in sickness and in health' seriously. I do not sit at home with my feet up. I do stay awake nights wondering when we will have burned through our savings... and what will happen to us then. What is wrong with this country when a family faces bankruptcy, foreclosure, and the choice between buying groceries and buying necessary medications?

I am nearly paralyzed with fear for my family and have nowhere to turn for relief. And please don't kid yourself that my story is an anomaly. Many families are in the same dire straits or may find themselves there in the blink of an eye. Members of Congress are covered for life when it comes to medical care. What about those of us who actually make the country run? Don't forget us, please.

**Ivette**  
**Newark, DE**

I was only 19 when I was pregnant with my daughter. A single mom trying to make it on her own. Concerned about my future but most of all about my daughters needs. One of the things that worried me the most was how I could afford health care on a \$7.50/hour job.

I was a teachers assistant at a daycare center where I was blessed to have been given a job through some difficult times. Yet we had no health care so I had to rely on Medicaid. It was another great blessing and I didn't feel so bad knowing my taxes were helping me contribute towards it for me and others like

# 1 IN 7



## THE ODDS AN UNINSURED CHILD HAS NOT SEEN A DOCTOR IN MORE THAN TWO YEARS

Kaiser Commission on Key Facts, Medicaid and the Uninsured, January 2007

myself. Although expensive we now have great coverage through my husbands policy but others are not as fortunate.

Please help keep Congress aware of how important it is for those in temporary need of insurance and those with permanent needs for. I truly hope the hear our voices and realize how many strangers care about each other's well being. Don't you think you should too?

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

**Carmelita**  
**Washington, D.C.**

I was a passenger in a car riding on a main avenue when a truck came off a side street totaling me and the car I was riding in. As a result of a head injury, I was diagnosed months later with MS. I was put on SSDI, 2 years later received Medicare. I was put on Medicaid when I could not pay the 20% or buy my meds. Prior the accident I held down jobs and had medical coverage for more than 25 years.

The difference in other countries and America is that we take care of people who can't do for themselves. If health benefits change I don't know what I'll do.

### FLORIDA

**Susan**  
**Gainesville, FL**

Not enough money without the funding assistance that my mother receives now to keep her alive. Could you look your mother in the eye and say 'I guess you'll just have to lay there and die, they have cut your health funding coverage.' They need to look through the eyes of the patients and families in need before making such drastic, life-altering discussion that I help to fund by working daily and paying taxes.

**Theodore**  
**Cape Coral, FL**

Hope Life Cares saved my mother from being left with no way to live. She has outlived all of her money and only has Social Security. She uses a walker and is losing her memory. Her shared apartment costs \$2,100 per month, soon to \$2,168. That is more than her SS check.

**Deb**  
**St. Augustine, FL**

Barely making it... have to choose meds or food often.

**Kathy**  
**Sarasota, FL**

If I didn't have Medicaid for my daughter, I never would have been able to send her to Manatee Glens for drug rehab. She was snorting Oxycontin. She is now drug free and just finished Pharmacy Tech school at the Job Corps.

**Terri**  
**Melbourne, FL**

The day began with sunshine and smiles. It was Mother's Day 2002. I was reminiscing as mothers do on such a day and remember-



ing all of the joys my two children had brought into my life over the years. My daughter now grown with a child of her own lived far away. Time and space separated us but love and the telephone kept us connected.

My son however, still lived at home but this Mother's Day he was not feeling well which was unusual for him. He was very strong and healthy his entire life, a football player and a bass player in a band, he was usually full of energy. Two weeks earlier he came down with a fever. We rushed him to his doctor who put him on antibiotics and sent us on our way. We let the days pass but he did not get better. In fact, in the course of 30 days he went from strong and healthy to the emergency room on that fateful Mothers Day in 2002.

The nurses glanced my way and were concerned. The doctors came and went, several in fact, and then they were running, and as I watched in confusion to the events that were unfolding, I could not comprehend at that time how serious things were and how life changing a moment in time can be.

My son was 21 on that Mothers Day. Your children are near to your heart no matter how old they are, the years just make them more so. As a mother you breathe a sigh of relief when you make it through the teen years, you anticipate college and what your child's life will be like and hope that you did a good job of instilling morals and values to make their life easier. If only I could turn back the clock, 21 years old turned out to be a bad thing for me, my son was no longer a minor, the doctors and nurses could not tell me what was wrong with him.

As I stood there totally helpless and bewildered, I watched as my son was wheeled unconscious on a stretcher full of wires and beeping boxes past me at full speed down the hallways toward the outside

door where the Flight for Life helicopter stood waiting. Of course I screamed "What is happening?" and was told there is no room you can't go with him. He is going to Shand's Hospital in Gainesville.

I stood in the parking lot of the hospital looking up into the dark night sky until I could no longer see the light of the helicopter glow. I had no idea why they took him, I had no idea where Shand's hospital

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“‘There is a good chance insurance will not pay for it but it is your son's only hope for survival. Can you pay \$150,000 for the procedure so we can begin?’ What would your answer have been?”

*Teri, Melbourne, FL*

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or Gainesville was. I only knew on that Mothers Day in 2002 I was going to find it, and my son.

Three long hours I drove in the dark of night and I finally arrived at Shand's hospital in Gainesville, FL at 3:00 am. It took me another hour to find my son in this huge hospital. He was in the cardiac intensive care unit. The doctor came toward me and said 'the pneumonia that was in your son's lungs has moved into his heart and attacked it; he has less than 10% function and unless he is put on an experimental life support system he will not make it

though the night.

There is a good chance insurance will not pay for it but it is your son's only hope for survival. Can you pay \$150,000 for the procedure so we can begin? What would your answer have been? You know what mine was... what are you waiting for, save my son. Did I have \$150,000 for the procedure? Of course not, but just like finding that hospital in the dark of night I needed to give him a chance to live a full, happy life even if I had to work night and day for the rest of my life to pay that bill.

He was given life through that experimental machine. It became his heart, beating, beating non stop, pretending to be his heart until the pneumonia was clear and he was strong enough to withstand a heart transplant. For four months, he lived in that hospital room attached to the life line that kept him alive. Four months past and he became number one on the national transplant list, not the kind of list you want to be number one on.

He was given four days to live, as the machine did all it could do. On the third and final day, a perfect match arrived. My son received a new heart.

The story only really begins here; the gift of life can't be measured in dollars and cents. But it takes dollars and cents to maintain this gift of life. Without vital insurance all of the efforts of the doctors, nurses, drug companies, insurance companies, and the heart donor who lost their life to keep my son alive and the lives of countless others, will be in vain. My son lost his scholarship to college and he will live on a disability for the rest of his life with an immune system that does not allow him to be in contact with groups of people. He is not lazy or undeserving.

He is disabled and if this hap-



pened, by no fault of your own to you, how would you survive without insurance? How would you feel if someone else was allowed to make the decision for you that your life was not worth having the insurance needed to stay alive and to maintain a good quality of life? This could happen to you. It could happen to anyone at any time.

The decisions we make today could very well be life saving to us tomorrow. Choose your decisions wisely by being much more kind than is ever necessary and remembering everyone is going through something difficult in their life.

**Angie**  
**Santa Rosa Beach, FL**

My daughter's husband and both her children have been diagnosed with myotonic muscular dystrophy. Her husband is nearing the 'disability' category. Her infant son's condition warrants the need for occupational, physical and speech therapies so that he can walk and talk. Her daughter also has symptoms, albeit less severe, at least at this time. Her two children are now receiving Medicaid.

I don't know what she would do without it. She struggles so much now, just to make the medical co-payments for her husband, as these are astronomical just for him. They are right now at risk of losing their home as it is. If any of the Medicaid benefits were cut, it would be criminal.

**Melissa**  
**Sarasota, FL**

It's important that we help those that need it due to whatever unforeseen circumstances may put them in a position that they need maybe only temporary help.

**Lisa**  
**West Palm Beach, FL**

My son, Tobias, was born on May 8, 2008. He was very small at birth, only 5 lbs 4 oz at 38 weeks gesta-

tion, which was unusually small for a 'normal' baby. He was very cute almost immediately upon entering the world with his quiet voice crying out.

As a normal family, we had to spend a couple of days in the hospital after his birth. I was a first time mother, but I have always had the mothers instinct. I KNEW babies should have a bowel movement within their first 24 hours after birth, most have them very soon after birth. Tobias didn't have a BM and I was concerned. On top of the lack of BM, he was also vomiting each time I had been trying to nurse him and the nurses forced him formula thinking it was a latch issue. I was growing more and more concerned. The nurses tried stimulating a BM with a thermometer. That didn't help, when it usually does in babies.

Finally, 36 hours after his birth, they sent an x-ray tech to get an image of his belly. It was sort of pointless at that point, as they didn't have anyone even LOOK at the result for another 10-12 hours. By then, Toby was about 48 hours old and still hadn't been able to keep any formula or breastmilk down, and didn't have a BM.

Once they finally saw the x-ray, they noticed he had a blockage in his belly and immediately took him down the NICU. It was a Level III NICU, but they didn't have a surgeon on hand. The pediatrician in the NICU had to explain to us with our son hooked up to all sorts of wires and a tube down his nose into his belly, that they would need to have a Medical Helicopter fly him down to Miami Children's Hospital, which is about 85 miles from where we live. I was distraught.

We had no idea what was wrong with our baby. He had to have surgery to have part of his bowel plus the blockage removed at just 2 days old. MCH is an awesome hospital and I did not regret for ONE second that he was that far away,

even though gas was \$4 per gallon and we didn't have a place to stay locally, so in order to see our son, we had to drive to Miami and back daily.

Toby spent 26 days in the NICU. The day we got the call he was going to be coming home was one of the few days that we hadn't planned to take the trip down, but that quickly changed with that phone call. During his stay, we got a phone call from the local Cystic Fibrosis clinic and they mentioned that Toby's newborn screening was suspicious for Cystic Fibrosis and they would like to do further testing (sweat test) to get firm results.

Within Toby's first year of life, the papers that we got that showed the charges that were at that time, thankfully, covered by Medicaid, it would have tallied up to well over \$250,000. My medical at the time wouldn't have covered nearly half of that, nor would his fathers.

Now, 3 years later, Toby is just like a happy healthy, normal kid, LIVING with CF. He goes for his regular well-child pediatrician visits like other kids his age, but he also needs to visit the CF Clinic 3-5 times a year, see a Gastroenterologist, as he has gotten a g-tube permanently put into his stomach since he needs extra calories. He takes albuterol via nebulizer 1-5 times per day (depending on how his breathing sounds) and he also has a 'Vest' the helps loosen mucus up in his lungs. He takes special vitamins daily along with Pancreatic enzymes with every meal, snack and anything that has any calories, fat, nutritional value, or he doesn't absorb the nutrition like 'normal' people. His enzymes, vitamins, albuterold, and Enteral bags and supplies would be about \$2,500 per month or so without insurance. Co-pays would run about \$400 or so between doctors and medicines and medical supplies.



Knowing the risks of him being in a day care, I opted to stay home with him and give up my job, as my income wouldn't even cover the cost of insurance, co-pays and day care. Plus, if he got sick and needed to be admitted to the hospital, I wouldn't be able to be by his side. For most people, they look down upon me for my choice, but for my son and his health, it was the best and most important thing.

If it weren't for Medicaid, my family would be screwed, homeless, bankrupt and possibly even... Dead. Had Toby not gotten that surgery when he did at 2 days old, his body could have become toxic to itself. If Toby never got his g-tube put in, it would affect his health as his nutrition intake being increased will help keep his lungs in good shape. All of this would likely not be possible without assistance. I am not ashamed of having to be on assistance and those that need it for reasons that my family has it, I don't think should be ashamed either.

**Angela  
Oldsmar, FL**

With out Medicaid, I would be unable to provide health insurance for my children on my income. I am a single mother of three, and can barely pay my basic bills. I have been struggling to raise my children on my own, after leaving my husband who had addictions to both gambling and drugs. He has not paid me any child support in over 5 years.

I am so thankful that Medicaid has stepped in and provided me medical care for my children. They are now able to go to the doctors, speech and physical therapist and dentists.

**Mika  
Morriston, FL**

Our beautiful Angel, was born on 7/7/09 with down syndrome and congenital heart disease. At the age of 1.5 years she had open heart

surgery. The surgery and therapies would not have been possible without her Medicaid coverage. She is a vibrant and highly functioning little toddler. If she lost her Medicaid coverage, it would be devastating for our family.

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"My mother spent her life caring for others, working hard and trying to use her position in health care to ensure the best health care for others. It is my hope our policy makers will do the same for her."

*Jena, St. Petersburg, FL*

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**Yvette  
Miami, FL**

My mom has Alzheimer's and if it wasn't for Medicaid we would not be able to give her the great medical care and treatment she deserves. She has provided for us all her life and now she needs care. Please do not cut funds for the elderly!

**Sylvia  
Green Cove Springs, FL**

Esther and Stanley worked hard their whole lives, Esther as a teacher and Stanley as a postal employee. They saved money with a pas-

sion so that they would be sure to be independent in old age. Relying on others was not their style.

After Stanley's death and Esther's slow decline into dementia, she needed to be in a long term care facility. Very rapidly, all their hard saved resources were used up and finally with but pensions left, she needed to use Medicaid to supplement their pensions and remain in the facility. Her catastrophic care policy did not cover her, her long term care policy did not cover her.

It was Medicaid that enabled her to live her last years in a safe and nurturing place. For those who have dedicated their lives to others, contributed to society, and paid their dues, we owe them this kind of support at the end of their lives.

**Jena  
St. Petersburg, FL**

My mother worked her whole life, at times, two jobs raising our family. Most of the time, she worked in the field of health care. Rising from a secretary to hospital administration with only a high school diploma. She taught us the importance of hard work and caring for others.

All four of her children work in helping professions, as a result of her example. At 56, my mother was diagnosed with her first of several brain tumors. After years of successful surgeries, at the age of 66, my mother suffered complications from her final surgery and whole brain radiation. She now requires full time nursing care. Care my family cannot afford without the full support of Medicaid.

My mother spent her life caring for others, working hard and trying to use her position in health care to ensure the best health care for others. It is my hope our policy makers will do the same for her.



My siblings and I are the sandwich generation. We are raising children from the ages of 4 to 14 and we all work full time. Without the support of Medicaid funded care providers we would not be able to provide the care my mother needs and provide for our growing families. In addition, we would not be able to continue our work in the fields my mother is so proud of; legal aid (myself), refugee services (sister), teaching (sister) and guidance counselor (brother).

Full Medicaid funding affects so many people and the ramification of cuts to this vital program cannot be comprehended.

**Herbert  
Brandon, FL**

My daughter and my granddaughter are recipients of Medicaid. Without that assistance, they would have no medical care. I pray that the day will never come that we as a nation, turn our back on our citizens that need a helping hand.

When that day comes, we as a nation, that has already turned our back on God will collapse. Throughout the new testament, we read where Jesus showed compassion and concern for the needy. He fed the hungry and he healed the sick. Those that would vote to cut benefits to the truly needy are mean spirited and convey a total disregard for the example set by Jesus.

**Denise  
Fort Myers, FL**

I work full time – hours at the office and at home – around my three children and their needs. Since the cost of medical insurance has gone so high it costs hundreds for coverage I can't afford if we are to eat and have a roof over our heads.

My three beautiful children are currently covered by Medicaid

**13.3%**  
**THE PERCENT OF  
UNINSURED U.S.  
CHILDREN WHO ARE  
AFRICAN AMERICAN**

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation & Urban Institute, New National and State Estimates from the 2008 American Community Survey, August 2010: <http://www.rwjf.org/files/research/67668.pdf>

programs and as such, are often treated as second class citizens and 'looked down upon' by many in the medical field – IF you can find providers. So far they have thankfully been healthy for the most part and not in need of constant care of any sort – only in need of preventative care and an occasional antibiotic... but it KEEPS them healthy. Without it, I could not afford the preventative care. We don't chose to use this coverage – we have NO CHOICE!

We need to advocate the right of healthcare for all and we need to stand up for single payer healthcare. Would I pay weekly out of my check knowing we would all get healthcare?! Of course! I do anyway but it goes to money hungry insurance corporation who lobby against all of us!

Why has helping and sharing the burden become something to be ashamed of? I thought that's what America was all about. I'm 48 with three children under 8 years old. I want them to have a future. Let's work together to change our direction!

**William  
St. Petersburg, FL**

I'm a 59-year-old male who had a massive heart attack 11 years ago. At the time I had insurance which I paid \$230 per month for but 9 months after my two

**40.4%**  
**THE PERCENT OF  
UNINSURED U.S.  
CHILDREN WHO ARE  
HISPANIC OR LATINO**

surgeries the company who goes by the name mega health and life, refused to pay a good 95% of the claim. Anyway, I had to do a bankruptcy over the \$120,000 that they claim I owed. I'm unable to work today as I was over the road trucker, but now I can't pass a physical, so I'm on disability. And if it weren't for Medicare I probably would be dead by now. Simply put I can't afford all the Doctors and medications without it.

The real shame is I worked hard all my life to pay into the system only to find that the very same people who want to destroy Medicare, they themselves have the best healthcare money can buy and the kicker is you and I paid for it. Wake up America.

**Jean  
DeFuniak Springs, FL**

My Aunt Ruth had a stroke at the age of 52 and was in a Nursing Home in Alabama for many years. Without Medicaid she would have been left without a penny. Her husband was in bad shape himself but managed to stay at home, take care of himself, as best he could, and visit her whenever possible.

They had no children and had worked hard all their lives to



make a living. He at Avondale Cotton Mill and she raised chickens, sold eggs, had a cow, sold milk and butter to buy their feed and they always had plenty of fresh vegetable from their garden, which he plowed with a push plow.

It is such a shame they would cut Medicaid when people like this deserve to be helped. It is all the ones who are here that should not be who are getting much more help than they deserve or need. So please reconsider and leave Medicaid alone.

**Susan  
Casselberry, FL**

My sister and her husband are talented artists in their 50s. Their income depends upon their independent work, so they don't have enough to have health insurance. My sister has non hodgkin's lymphoma and is in remission. Her husband has stage 4 lung cancer.

Even with Medicaid my sister is unable to meet the monthly \$500 per month spend down. My brother-in-law has a smaller spend down, and some of his treatments have been covered.

Without any Medicaid both would have passed away months ago. With Medicaid they are still only receiving minimal care and services because they currently have no income. Their total spend down for both is \$500 + \$300 per month – \$9,600 per year.

This country needs to step up and make a commitment to take care of it's citizens regardless of income. Taking away Medicaid will sentence more people to 'death' because they are unable and ashamed to ask for care.

**Nyla  
Tarpon Springs, FL**

It is time to admit that we have not bankrupted this country by spending on Medicaid. We are

bankrupting it by spending on so called defense which has now become offense. Bring all the troops home.

If you want to aid other countries, give grants to private groups with proven track records who work directly with the people. The money we send to foreign governments does not 'trickle down'. If our government did that, we would not have to worry about funding health care.

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"She is so amazing and intelligent but I just know she would not be where she is today in her functioning abilities with the therapy she has received. Because of Medicaid."

*Shailyn, Legigh Acres, FL*

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**Shailyn  
Lehigh Acres, FL**

My six year old daughter is autistic. She was diagnosed when she was four. If we had not had Medicaid for her she would not have been able to get that diagnosis and we would have no idea what was wrong with her.

She would not have been able to get the treatment and therapy that she got and continues to receive that has brought her as far as

she has gotten today. She was unable to even sit unsupported until she was a year old, she did not walk until almost two and then still had physical issues inhibiting her mobil abilities. She received physical and occupational therapy for that.

Now she is a very high functioning child, the only way you would know she is on the spectrum is by hearing her speak.

While she loves to talk, she is not quite able to talk yet so that anyone other than her family understands her. And this is very frustrating for her. But she is getting therapy for that and it is improving everyday. Without Medicaid that would not be possible.

She is so amazing and intelligent but I just know she would not be where she is today in her functioning abilities without the therapy she has received. Because of Medicaid.

**Michael  
Lehigh Acres, FL**

I have never needed Medicaid but I am willing to give back my share of the Bush tax cuts and the middle east wars for those in need.

**Karaly  
Seminole, FL**

Right now I am so grateful to have Medicaid available to me. I am able to get some medical tests and treatments that are necessary to help me heal so that I may one day return to work. Medicaid is needed and used because I have no other options.

You see, until last year I was working full time, occasionally two jobs, to care for my family with my spouse who lost employment and has been looking for work to no avail for quite some time now. Because of a certain pre-existing condition I was unable to get health



insurance despite the fact that my job was willing to help me pay for it. (They were a small business with not enough employees to qualify for group coverage.) I paid for my prescriptions out of pocket because I had to. Our combined income was just not enough to be able to get other tests done that might have uncovered or prevented the damage that my condition caused. We made too much money to qualify for any other support.

I suffered through multiple strokes during this time that were severe enough to now limit my working abilities. I am unable to return to the type of work I did before and look at Medicaid as short term assistance in a long term goal, hopeful that this situation I am now living with will improve.

**Adriana  
Miami, FL**

I'm an immigrant who became a citizen. I had my dream of the American way of living... but things turn around and we can't afford to have medical insurance. This recession is very tough for my family.

**Regina  
Tarpon Springs, FL**

I am disabled. I need a walker to walk. I am on Medicare and could not get along without it.

**Maryellen  
Ormond Beach, FL**

My sister is going to need Medicaid in a few years. She has no resources and no one in the family will be able to pick up the slack.

**Marie  
Hollywood, FL**

My mother suffered a stroke nine years ago that left her paralyzed on the left side and unable to speak. I took her in after she was released from the hospital. Dad

had lung and prostate cancer. A chunk of his lung was removed and I also took him in to care for both parents as they have been married for 52 years. I have two children, a husband and we both work to care for the family. My parents depend also on Medicaid and Medicare.

Do we really need more added

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"...If it were not for the help of Medicaid, our family would not have the healthy, happy 3 year old we have today. Thank you for providing this assistance to needy families."

Ashlie, Gainesville, GA

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stress at a time where almost every family is trying to survive? We elected the members of Congress to be our voices and this is the time for them to deliver by not cutting Medicaid.

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## GEORGIA

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**Ashlie  
Gainesville, GA**

My family welcomed a healthy baby boy into our family when he was born at 37 weeks, or so we thought. Over the next several weeks he refused to eat, could not gain weight and began having terrible acid reflux.

The pediatricians sent us to many specialists and different doctors and if it were not for the help of Medicaid our family would not have the healthy, happy 3 year old we have today. Thank you for providing this assistance to needy families!

**Anonymous  
Nahunta, GA**

All my children do have Medicaid and my husband has VA. I have nothing because they say we make too much and yet we are a one income family making only about \$1,400 a month. Cannot do away with Medicaid and cut it. If anything it needs to be made to where people like me can get it.

**Monique  
Blairsville, GA**

I don't have a traumatic story but mine should still count. My girls are 6 and 9 years old and currently on Medicaid. If they weren't on Medicaid I would be able to afford medical care for them. My youngest daughter has asthma. I would never be able to afford the medications she needs without Medicaid.

**Anonymous  
Norcross, GA**

I adopted a child with special needs and he needs his Medicaid.

**Jyl  
Atlanta, GA**

I was born earlier than the child referenced in this article and weighed less than him at child birth. I was hooked up onto various machines for months after I was born, only able to receive my nourishment through a bottle from my mother.

If it weren't for the medical coverage readily available, that which



you are trying to cut back on, I would not be where I am today nor would the boy in this article. This hits home to me, as I'm sure the rest of the country. Keep the Medicaid and CHIP program where it is!!

**Olabisi  
Morrow, GA**

I used Medicaid to finance my children's healthcare because my husband is being taxed ridiculously. Thank you Medicaid for helping with our medical cost.

**Joyce  
Atlanta, GA**

In 1996, I had severe life-threatening pancreatitis and after 3 weeks in the ICU and 5 months recovering at home, I went into a very deep depression. I applied for Medicare, SSI, Medicaid. I was finally accepted and due to the depression was unable to work. If I did not have Medicaid, I do not know where I would be now as I am still on it, cannot work and am grateful every day that I am allowed money to live and see doctors. I cannot even think where I would have ended up or where my two young children would have ended up.

**Aleyda  
Atlanta, GA**

Right now, many in Congress are trying to massively cut health care coverage for children, people who are disabled, and the elderly. Do not! We must take care of our weakest and infirm. Do not cut funding that helps our babies get the help they need!

**Courtney  
Barnesville, GA**

I work as a hospice social worker and everyday I see elderly people and their families struggle with very tough decisions.

Many of our nation's elderly have very fixed incomes, and therefore very limited resources. Their children/families have their own strug-

gles, and providing care to parents is often a challenge emotionally and financially.

Medicaid has been a wonderful resource to those in the most need to ensure that older adults are cared for in the best way possible. Medicaid enables caregivers to have relief through programs like CCSP which keep older adults in their homes (saving taxpayers money for nursing care), and when that's not an option, make nursing home care a realistic option for those who need it.

Without Medicaid, caregivers would be forced to quit their jobs to care full time for loved ones, and would create a higher taxpayer



## FOR THE DISABLED MEDICAID IS THE MAIN SOURCE OF LONG-TERM CARE

Kaiser Family Foundation, [statehealthfacts.org](http://statehealthfacts.org),  
Distribution of Certified Nursing Facility Residents by  
Primary Payer Source, 2009, available online at  
<http://www.statehealthfacts.org/comparebar.jsp?ind=410&cat=8&sub=97>, accessed on April 6, 2011.

burden as that would be twice the number of unemployed people in need of services. Please don't harm our elderly and their families – please don't cut Medicaid.

**Catherine  
Forsyth, GA**

I work in a group home that serves children in foster care. These

children and youth rely on Medicaid for all of their medical and dental needs as well as for their medications. Shifting these costs to the state will only mean that other vital services for these children will have to be cut.

**Sonya  
Acworth, GA**

The Republicans in Congress seem bent on disassembling quality of life for the American middle class. I have an elderly parent. My husband and I are also trying to save for retirement while funding a college savings plan for our two young children. Yet, families are being increasingly squeezed and the most vulnerable among us sacrificed while the GOP keeps insisting on taxing the wealthy (including themselves – many are millionaires) at the lowest rate since Reagan was in office.

Americans need to wake up to what I'm viewing as a downright conflict of interest. In the meantime, I just saw a story on ABC News that billionaires like the Rockefellers are about to get hundreds of thousands of dollars – individually – in taxpayer farm subsidies. The GROSS disparities just do not end.

**Wanda  
Kennesaw, GA**

Our parents who are on a fixed income and have no medical insurance, need Medicaid to survive.

**Wanda  
Kennesaw, GA**

My Dad and Mom grew up during the depression and Daddy worked hard to take care of six children and put food on the table, clothes on our backs and pay the bills.

My Dad passed away in 1990 leaving my Mom alone as all the children were grown by then. She



did okay by herself for many years with the help of Senior Citizen Centers, etc. She has been diagnosed with dementia and possibly Alzheimer's and recently had to go to a personal care home as my sister who was caring for her in her home had to stop taking care of Mom because her husband had severe cancer and is still battling it.

If it were not for the Medicaid, Mom wouldn't be able to stay in the home and the remainder of the children are working full time or either too sick to take care of Mom.

Please don't let people like her fall through the cracks in light of the fact that many people making 10 times as much as anyone in my family who are paying their taxes to help take care of mom and those wealthier are finding loopholes to pay less than I. The elderly shouldn't have to suffer! After all if not for them none of us would be here today! Don't let them down, I beg.

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## HAWAII

**Edgar**  
**Honolulu, HI**

I am 80 years old and now retired. Some 60 years ago, I fought in the Korean War. I was lucky to come home alive, and to have my college education funded in part by Uncle Sam. Uncle Sam helped me in becoming one of now dwindling Middle Class American.

I am proud to say that for over 40 years I have been a productive tax-paying citizen. Similarly, I strongly feel that Medicaid is the life line for those who are disadvantaged. And, sure as the sun rises, these Americans will one day become productive, tax-paying citizens.

Now is the time for Congress to protect the Middle Class life line: Medicaid. Our national leaders must not be short-sighted. They need to be like our Founding Fathers who built this great nation!

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"Some 60 years ago, I fought in the Korean War... I am proud to say that for over 40 years I have been a productive tax-paying citizen. I strongly feel that Medicaid is the life line for those who are disadvantaged."

*Edgar, Honolulu, HI*

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**Virginia**  
**Honolulu, HI**

My grandchild was born with an overly fast heartbeat (tachycardia). Had my daughter not had Medicaid, we could not have corrected this condition, and instead of outgrowing this defect with the help of appropriate medication, my granddaughter would have been condemned to a life-long heart condition and an undoubtedly short life.

**Virginia**  
**Honolulu, HI**

I was born with a congenital defect, where my right leg had not developed to its normal length. Luckily, my mother was born into a wealthy family and they took care of all the necessary operations to prepare me for wearing an artificial leg. However, when I was 31, that support came to an end. Until I was eligible for Medicaid, I had to struggle with the enormous expenses

of purchasing and maintaining my prostheses (each one costing more than a new car with parts replacements ranging up to \$500 apiece!!), because insurance companies refused to cover congenitally caused loss of a limb.

Being able to wear an artificial limb has permitted me to be a contributing citizen all my life – I started working at age 12! and I continue to work full time at age 72.

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## IDAHO

**Diane**  
**Boise, ID**

I have been a special education teacher for 8 years and a regular classroom teacher for 12 years. I also stayed home for 10 years to care for my mother-in-law, who had Alzheimer's.

This wonderful woman had lost a daughter at birth, an 11-year-old son in a tractor accident, and another son committed suicide. We tried Assisted Living Facilities, but she was filthy, over-weight, and on 10 medications.

I quit my job to care for her, but needed the Medicaid she received to help. I have also seen the need with my students who are unable to work because their fathers were exposed to Agent Orange in the Vietnam War.

These are wonderful young men and women who depend on Medicaid to cover the expenses of their disabilities.

I am sick of the people who call themselves 'representatives' saying that we can not tax corporations and millionaires because they create jobs. They are not creating jobs in America, and didn't when Bush gave them tax cuts. They need to invest in America by paying the taxes!



**Kori  
Burley, ID**

I have a 12-year-old son with asthma and severe allergies. Without Medicaid, there is no way we would be able to afford to buy his medications, without which he would most likely die.

He is on a daily inhaled corticosteroid, a daily allergy medication, a daily nasal spray (which is approximately \$130 month!), as well as his rescue inhalers. He also has to have allergy shots weekly simply to keep his asthma under control. In addition, I have four children who all qualify for Medicaid because I am a low-income parent. Without the help, I couldn't afford to even take my children to the doctor, much less pay for any kind of medications they might need even in the course of every living.

Please don't cut this vital program! I hear all of the time that it takes a village to raise a child, and Medicaid is part of that village; don't let us down!

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**ILLINOIS**

**Roxanna  
Rantoul, IL**

I am the grandmother of four children. They were all born premature and had medical problems. Without Medicaid I shutter to think of the consequences. I

also work for disadvantaged populations. Cutting care for children or seniors is not an acceptable way to balance the budget. Seniors have paid into this country and deserve care. Children are our future and deserve the best we can give them.

I hope Congress is wise and values our seniors for their past contributions and children for what they can and will contribute to the future of our country. If there must be cuts cut foreign aid. What contributions have they made?

**Mary Ann  
Libertyville, IL**

My mother is on Medicaid in a state-run nursing home. She is completely immobile, has numerous chronic illnesses and needs 24-hour skilled care.

Without Medicaid, my 75-year-old father would be completely unable to care for her, nor could he (or his family) ever afford to hire 24 hour care for my mother. I am grateful every single day that Medicaid is available and my mother can be in a safe environment.

**Asya  
Palatine, IL**

I am the grandmother Dean was born through an emergency C-Section. I didn't have insurance but I had saved up enough money to have a home birth with a midwife and if needed a normal birth in a hospital. After more than 2 days of labour Dean's heartbeat started to get erratic and we rushed into a hospital where Dean was delivery by emergency C-Section. The hospital staff were wonderful and never did I feel like I wouldn't get the treatment we needed because of a lack of insurance.

Unfortunately Dean's APGAR score at birth was just 1! He was born not breathing and had to be resuscitated. His APGAR score after 30 minutes was 2 and then finally after an hour he went up to 4. These scores were very troubling and so he was rushed to the nearby NICU which was in Nashville Women's Hospital in Tennessee.

We hadn't budgeted for a week of NICU care for Dean! The financial staff there did treat us like welfare folks. It was pretty sad and rough. I was being pushed to feed Dean formula but I insisted I would only give him breastmilk. I signed myself out of my hospital over 1 hour away from Dean's hospital so I could hang out in the waiting room and be able to breastfeed Dean ev-

ery 2-3 hours. It was something I felt I had to do to help Dean become a healthy baby.

Finally a very kind young woman who was working in the social care office of the Hospital met with me one day about paying for our hospital bills. She was so sweet and friendly and told us we had the option of applying for Medicaid. We did it of course and I am so glad she was there to help us through this.

Dean is now almost 8.5 months old and his bills are all taken care of. I have also paid off almost 90% of the bills related to my own stay – as a non-American (I am Canadian) I couldn't be covered by Medicaid unfortunately. I love the U.S. and love that my son is an American. We are so proud!

**Brenda  
Riverdale, IL**

I am a senior and I pray that Congress will not cut budgets concerning medical benefits for children as well.

**Reba  
Chicago, IL**

I have type 2 diabetes and without Medicaid there is no way I could afford the medication I need. I am seen by a wonderful Doctor at least once a month for other medical issues as well and without Medicaid this would not be possible.

I do work but cannot afford health care coverage in this economy. Please do not cut this service for it is so needed among many.

**Genella  
Chicago, IL**

My son Joshua is 19. I received no government support for him until his 18th birthday. I struggled with his autism and seizures alone



without Medicaid, social service assistance or financial help until he reached 18, although now technically an adult, he is totally dependent on me for day to day survival and can never live alone.

The thought of his services being cut terrifies me and my situation is not the worst, many others have comparable situations.

**Jacqui  
Urbana, IL**

I am a disabled single mother who worked a public service job for 15 years before becoming disabled. My child is dependent on Medicaid for her medical care because of this. We barely have enough money to pay for basic necessities. I cannot imagine how we could possibly survive without Medicaid.

**Catherine  
Creve Coeur, IL**

My son had asthma. He had a ventilator. Medicaid helped to pay for him to see a specialist and to pay for his ventilator.

**John  
Burbank, IL**

My Mom has Multi-infarct syndrome dementia and she has incontinence. She depends on both Medicare and Medicaid for care, medicine and her supplies. If I could I would pay for all her needs but Healthcare is so expensive few people can afford care like she needs.

Please think of the progress we have made with these programs and the future of seniors in this country.

**Delores  
Chicago, IL**

Medicaid, it really does save lives. It extended my mom's days with us prior to her death in 2009.

**Muriel  
River Forest, IL**

I have had 3 surgeries as a result of a car accident (hit as a pedestrian). I would be bankrupt without Medicare and I know people who need Medicaid. I should add that without Social Security. I would be way below the poverty level.

**Valerie  
Evergreen Park, IL**

Because I am getting older and will probably need medical coverage for preventative medicines and illnesses.

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"If I could I would pay for all of her needs but health care is so expensive few people can afford care like she needs."

*John, Burbank, IL*

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**Gregory  
Moline, IL**

Greed and avarice and being self-centered and self-serving is going in the wrong direction and not a good premise to lead a country or society by. This would only serve to be your downfall and inevitably a country based upon such would be at each others throats and start to destroy itself.

Do not take away funding for disabilities, Social Security or any-

thing. Make the Rich and Corporations pay their fair share and all will be well.

**Phillip  
Chatham, IL**

A friend is a supervisor at the Salvation Army shelter. He has said that incoming residents usually have health needs that have not been adequately treated. Medicaid is their only option.

**Barbara  
Chicago, IL**

My husband and I are the typical sandwich generation. We have a granddaughter with Tuberos Sclerosis – a severe genetic condition with tumors in her brain that have left her unable to speak and with severe mental disabilities. Her medical cost continue to rise and she is not even 4 years old. What does the future hold for her?

My husband's parents are also in dire straits. My father-in-law is in assisted living with Alzheimer's and my mother-in-law in a nursing home with hospice care. We both work with full time jobs to assist both families and are afraid for our own future down the line.

There needs to be some assistance for all of us who have paid into the system all these years and now need assistance.

**Anonymous  
Lisle, IL**

Most of our Religious Sisters worked hard all their early years in Catholic Schools with pay only when the Sunday collection provided enough to give them a little for their expenses.

Now we have been blessed with the help of Medicaid to help pay our Medical bills. We need this service. Thank you!



**Anthony  
Naperville, IL**

My 94-year-old widowed mother will soon be dependent on Medicaid as her savings are almost gone and her pension and Social Security will not cover her assisted living home. My 26-year-old uninsured daughter is dependent on CHIP for the healthcare of her two small children as well as herself. I am a retired man on a fixed income and can only help a little.

**Miriam  
Aurora, IL**

My father who has been battling cancer for 10 years worked hard all his life including two jobs for a while. He never made enough to save for retirement and is entirely dependent on Medicaid, Medicare and social security.

My mom had a similar story but unable to afford health care hadn't been to the doctor for 15 years. She died of cervical cancer that had riddled her body and, if caught early has a very high cure rate. We didn't know she was ill and I breathed a sigh of relief when she turned 65 thinking 'now she will be covered' she died 6 months after her birthday and I miss her every day.

**Renee  
Champaign, IL**

My mom is currently on temporary disability due to open heart surgery. If Medicaid gets cut so will the disability because she is off work. She can barely pay bills with the amount she gets now. Once my mom goes back to work because she does not have 20-30 years of work her S.S. benefits will not be good enough to live on – she is currently 62. What is she going to do?

Something needs to be taken away from these billionaires to help the deficit, since they seem to get all the tax breaks.

**92%**   
**THE PERCENTAGE OF  
KIDS COVERED BY  
CHIP WHO HAVE AT  
LEAST ONE PARENT  
EMPLOYED**

Wooldridge, Judith, et al. Congressionally Mandated Evaluation of the State Children's Health Insurance Program; Final Report to Congress. October 26, 2005.

**Cheryl  
Chicago, IL**

Too many times I read about budget cuts over and over and I think about all the promises made to us during election. Already in my 50' and now the same taxes I pay, I won't be able to receive any for myself, God forbid something happens to me, that I need them.

I also see the misuse our elderly people go through just to get some type of insurance, especially to pay for medication. (I'm a living witness). Medicaid should first be used to help our elderly people more so, instead of being cut out and cut off. I feel Medicaid is deserved by them, to help in anyway possible. Insurance is too expensive.

**Karen  
Chicago, IL**

My mother, 82, can't afford it. She was told she needed a new roof, oil tank, new septic tank. By the third high expense, she simply asked her daughter to put a piece of plywood over the stinking mud. Her walker, her diabetes, her arthritis and her fear all weigh on her. How we treat the least powerful in our culture says the most about us.

**An  
Chicago, IL**

I am grateful for any public assistance I receive. When I was diagnosed with MS in 2001, I immediately became blacklisted from private insurance. When private insurance ran out, I stopped taking meds (bad idea for now I'm a cripple stuck in a wheelchair – public aid funded.) If no assistance was available I'd probably be 6 feet deep already. No biggie for me but not the case for my wife and two kids. I'm a DePaul University graduate with a BA in Information Systems and multiple IT certifications (what a waste.) I strive to assist others as much as I can knowing that for me it's too late.

**Barbara  
Chicago, IL**

My husband's uncle has always had trouble keeping a job and maintaining a healthy lifestyle because he was (in early terms) simple. He was diagnosed with diabetes and long-story-short landed in a nursing home in Bismarck, ND where he lived with his sister until her passing in November, 2010. If he did not have Medicaid, I do not know where he would have found housing. He is trying to live on \$456/month. Where would we put these people if we didn't have Medicaid to help them?

**Judith  
Chicago, IL**

Efforts to balance the budget must not be at the cost of our humanity. Are our elected REPRESENTATIVES really going to confine sacrificing the many in service of special interests and personal gain? We know the facts that have led to the disappearance of ethics and morality.

With no way to care for our elderly, will the next proposal be to institute mandatory age limits after



which the elderly are euthanized?  
This proposal is obscene.

**Roxanne  
Forest Park, IL**

I am a social worker and I see people in the community who need the support of Medicaid due to physical disability and inability to work. Without they would be homeless and that is a bigger social problem. Please continue to think of those who need this help.

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**INDIANA**

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**Sharon  
Delphi, IN**

I am a case manager for an agency that works directly with the aged and disabled. Without Medicaid providing in-home health services the majority of my clients would be residing in nursing homes with double the costs. Medicaid funding for HBCS is the most cost effective way to use the funds.

**Barbara  
Terre Haute, IN**

About 7 years ago my aunt had a stroke, which paralyzed her left side. She and my uncle have no children, and they had worked every day of their lives on their own business. My uncle is still working at 79.

The state of New York allowed my aunt to transfer what little assets she had to her husband, therefore allowing her to apply for Medicaid. She has home health care on weekends and while her husband is at work. During the evenings my 79-year-old uncle must help her with the most basic of tasks. If she loses Medicaid, I do not know what we would do to help her and my uncle.

My mother is almost 80 and lives unassisted; I have two school-age children and live and work in another state.

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**IOWA**

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**Krista  
Boone, IA**

My husband and I are young and had an unexpected pregnancy. Instead of considering an abortion or adoption, we decided we couldn't imagine any scenario but having our daughter. I was finishing up law school, and he's in veterinary school. We would never have been able to continue our education and have our daughter if it wasn't for the Medicaid and CHIP system.

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"I am working  
towards my goal  
to become  
self-sufficient for  
my daughter and  
I, but at this time,  
we are very  
grateful for health  
care provided  
through  
Medicaid."

*Laura, Des Moines, IA*

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We are educated young adults. We actually have private insurance we pay out of pocket each month; however, it was really a major medical plan and would have put us quite far in debt. We know we'll make considerable amounts of money later in life and will eventually have insurance that will cover child birth, but we just weren't in any position to pay at this moment.

**Yvette  
Muscatine, IA**

Working in four hospitals from Colorado to Iowa on a daily basis, I can see how vital Medicaid is to not just patients but I was curious and ventured out to see what DHS in Iowa does and I was SHOCKED!

I took on some challenging roles to work with a special non-profit organization that assists MR patients to live normal lives (shopping, living outside of a nursing home, etc) and even found neighborhoods where refugees were part of a program that was part of DHS here. It's not just for medical! Revamping Medicaid will NOT be the solution, but to carefully examine it.

There is a HUGE difference between the truly needy... and the ones that want a 'free ride'. THOSE are the ones that should be reprimanded, NOT the ones that truly have no option, i.e., the disabled, elderly.

**Anonymous  
Ames, IA**

My teenager has a mild heart condition that requires bi-yearly exams and daily medication. I am a graduate student with a very low income and can not afford her medication or her doctor visits without Medicare. Stop cutting taxes for the very rich! instead put the money BACK into Medicare and take care of our nations children and elderly!

**Laura  
Des Moines, IA**

I am a single, 32-year-old mom of a precious 2-year-old little girl. Soon after I had my baby, I went back to school to finish my Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education.

I am now 1 year away from completion, and during this time,



the fact that my daughter and I have been able to be on Medicaid has made all the difference for our health. If Medicaid were not available to us, I'm not sure what we would do when health problems arise. My daughter has three food allergies as well as eczema, and so we do have the need to go to the doctor every so often.

I am working towards my goal to become self-sufficient for my daughter and I, but at this time, we are very grateful for the health care provided through Medicaid. It's scary to think what our lives would be like without it.

**Lynn  
Fort Dodge, IA**

My brother is 54 years old and this last April became very sick while driving a load for the company he worked for. He was taken by ambulance to the nearest hospital from the cab of the semi he had been driving. He was severely ill with pneumonia. He ended up on a ventilator and the family was asked to decide whether to let him pass or keep him on the vent.

Thank God that we chose to keep trying because eventually he was able to leave the hospital and be transferred to longer care closer to his home in another state. He was only allowed to stay there briefly because he lost the insurance with his employer and his job. He can no longer drive semi for a living. He is at least temporarily disabled.

It has been a couple months now and he still can't get Medicaid so no physical therapy or respiratory therapy like he needs. He has always worked and now when he needs the help, it's not there.

**Jennifer  
Cedar Rapids, IA**

My son, Caleb, has autism which is a developmental disability that

severely impairs his ability to communicate. If treated early in childhood and intensively, the long term impact of autism can be mitigated and allow these disabled individuals to enter the workforce as fully functioning and productive adults. I don't claim that there is a cure for autism. These people will always be autistic. However, if they are treated early and appropriately as children, they can succeed.

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"These are  
needy children.  
Without these  
interventions,  
instead of being  
productive  
members of  
society, my son,  
like many other  
autistic children,  
will require life  
long care."

*Jennifer, Cedar Rapids, IA*

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Some of our brightest minds in the United States are autistic. These are frequently highly intelligent people. Identification and treatment of autism is an intensely expensive process. Private insurance only covers a limited number of the treatments that have been proven effective for autism. Under private insurance alone, we will max out our out of pocket maximum each year and still not provide everything he needs. My son has had Medicaid for disabled children in Iowa for the past year, which has

allowed us to give him speech and occupational therapy.

He has made tremendous improvements with the therapy program. Caleb is on a waiting list for a waiver that would open the doors to even more early interventions that will help him function despite his disability. Unfortunately, there are many children in Iowa that need this waiver as well and Medicaid is already underfunded. The result is that all of these children that desperately need early intervention are missing their best learning window due to funding deficits. These are children that already qualify for the program.

These are needy children. Without these interventions, instead of being productive members of society, my son, like many other autistic children, will require life long care. Where we could have an intelligent contributing adult, we will instead have a non-contributor that will be fully dependent on the state for care and supervision.

While the early interventions are expensive, the cost of supporting a non-functional adult for life is far greater. Please do not cut the funding for Medicaid further. My son's future depends on it. My future depends on it. Since these are the rising generation of Americans, YOUR future depends on it.

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**KANSAS**

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**Margaret  
Lenexa, KS**

Sharon, who worked 2 nursing jobs to take care of her children and disabled husband, deserves to be taken care of in return. Don't take away her Medicaid. So does my friend's mom. My friend is in college and her mom has been unemployed due to the recession for a year and four months. She applies



for jobs all the time, sometimes gets interviews, but gets turned down time and again. Her college degree means nothing. Well her COBRA ran out but she got turned down for Medicaid, told she makes too much money on her unemployment. Funny because even after recent bankruptcy she struggles to pay her bills. She just got turned down for a job after two interviews due to her bankruptcy. She needs medication to lower her blood pressure and keep from having seizures.

I have another friend on disability who could not survive without Medicaid. We need to raise the amount of money and income requirements so that more people can be on Medicaid or get some kind of insurance that they can't be turned down for. Stop spending money to help other countries and multi-billion dollar corporations and help the people here in our country who really need it!

**Marsha  
Salina, KS**

My mom and my friend both depend on Medicare to treat medical ailments. My mom injured her back after 25 years as a nurse lifting heavy patients and had to go on disability. Medicaid is the only insurance she has.

My very best friend was in a fire when she was a child and has been on disability due to her injuries. She raises her two children and Medicare is her only way to provide them with medical, dental, and vision care. I am sure if you think about it you have family or friends who will be affected by this.

**Valorie  
Bel Aire, KS**

Just over 7 years ago, on Father's Day, our son was born by emergency C-section. He was 7 weeks early and had stopped growing at 29 weeks. I had lost most of my amniotic fluid.

# FOR EVERY 1% DROP IN EMPLOYMENT 600,000 MORE KIDS BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICAID AND CHIP

Figures from the most recent recession. S. Dorn, B. Garrett, J. Holahan, A. Williams, "Medicaid, SCHIP and Economic Downturn: Policy Challenges and Policy Responses," Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured (April 2008).

(Most likely due to stress from my ex threatening to run over me – no he was never prosecuted because he has \$\$\$\$). The doctor delivered our 2 lb. 15 oz boy (15' long) and we got to see him for 10 seconds before they took him away to the NICU to be worked on. They also informed us that he had Down Syndrome.

Nothing prepared us for the diagnosis or the fact that our child might not survive the night. But survive he has – not to say that he doesn't have many issues and has had many surgeries and has many more to go. Without Medicaid our son wouldn't have had the health care and services he's received that has allowed him to not only survive, but he's thrived!

We are truly grateful for his coverage – it doesn't pay for everything, but it does allow for some OT and SP therapies. Do we wish we didn't need the Medicaid and that our son was a typically developing child? Of course but we're doing the best we can. We have other children as well, who are healthy – thank goodness – but they need our attention as well.

We are praying that you will keep Medicaid for those, like our son, who need it the most. If they ever come up with a cure for DS – we would gladly give up our coverage. Until then we implore you to keep Medicaid for all children like our amazing son, Chase.

## KENTUCKY

**Rolanda  
Lexington, KY**

Being a single parent of two wonderful kids, medical coverage would be out the question for my kids. My place of employment doesn't offer medical insurance unless you are an full-time employee. The payment for the insurance would take most of my check just to have it all with the co-pay payments for each visits. I have another job that doesn't offer medical insurance at all.

Without Medicaid me and my children wouldn't be able to have the medical attention that is needed in case of injury and everyday well-child check ups. Medicaid is needed in my households for us to be able to productive citizens.

**James  
Bowling Green, KY**

My daughter, Natalie, was born 10 weeks premature. She spent her first 45 days in the hospital. Forty three days under oxygen. Her lungs and corneas were not completely developed. She did pretty good until she was 14 years old. She was happy and attended church every Sunday. Then she was diagnosed with Schizophrenia Paranoia.

She graduated with her class



in 2004 with Who's Who-National Honor Roll and Governor's Scholar. She started in Special Olympics in December, 2005 and in September-October, 2007 was the point guard on Team USA Basketball in the Special Olympics World Games in Shanghai, China. They won the Gold Medal for the United States. She scored all five points for the team in the overtime of the Gold Medal Game in the win for Team USA. She has participated in other Special Olympic Sports.

She has been on more than 70 different medicines since she became sick in January, 2000. She has been in the hospital more than 15 times since she became sick. She had to go into the hospital again on Tuesday, May 17, 2011 because the medicine – clozaril – caused her white corpuscles dropped to nearly zero and they had to take her off the medicine and the withdrawal was so bad that she had to enter the hospital to monitor her and place her on a new medicine. If they take away Medicaid she will not have any money to pay for her medicine, hospital or doctor bills.

**Randy**  
**Lexington, KY**

My father had a slight stroke on Christmas Eve 2010 and went into the hospital, then had a massive one on Christmas night. Had to have surgery to prevent arm amputation at a local university hospital, then endured, rehabilitation, swallowing and speech therapy. This went on for two months as he continued to have small strokes and finally passed away at a local hospital. He received excellent care but my mother would never have been able to pay for all this without Medicare. I now see the importance of this useful and necessary service.

**Gina**  
**Lexington, KY**

I am a pediatric physical therapist and have served many children

who have Medicaid. Without Medicaid these children would not have had access to basic medical care or therapy services.

Through Medicaid I was able to order wheelchairs, standers and other devices to help children develop and make their parents' lives easier.

I never dreamed of the day that I would personally use Medicaid services for my own child. My daughter was admitted to the hospital when she was 9 days old with RSV and we spent 1 week at the hospital, and while we had private insurance we were unable to cover the remaining costs of her care. Our local hospital encouraged us to apply for Medicaid to cover the remainder of the costs. To our surprise she qualified and it appears that they will be covering the remainder of her expenses.

**Cindy**  
**Paducah, KY**

I'm only 52 years old and I'm on disability. I won't get my Medicare until Feb. 2012 and we all need to take a stand and fight for what's ours.

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**MAINE**

**Halcyon**  
**Bath, ME**

I worry what some of my staff and their families would do without Medicare. Although we provide health insurance for full time staff we simply can't afford to extend that to part time folks who may be caring for family, or become too ill to work. Medicaid would be their only lifeline. Don't vote to decimate it.

**Amanda**  
**Maine**

We are on Medicaid. There are few insurance options and the ones

they have are very expensive here in Maine. We need Medicaid to get health care for our family.

**Duane**  
**Buckfield, ME**

My father-in-law, a veteran of WWII, and a hard worker all his life, developed heart problems as a senior citizen. He was able to spend most of his last years at home, where he wanted to be, in part because Medicare and Medicaid provided some home assistance for him.

He would have died sooner without this help. People should not be allowed to die just because they are old, or sick, or poor.

**Kristine**  
**Portland, ME**

I work in social services and so does my daughter's father. We make very little money. In fact, we are able to live in our apartment because it is income-based. We just recently were told that because we make too much money – \$2150 a month after taxes – that we are not eligible for Medicaid anymore. We are on transitional, so we will be covered for six months, but after that me, my almost 3 year old and her father will not have this anymore.

No one in our household will be making any more money any time soon, so we are just stuck with the hand we have been dealt. Do not let more people lose Medicaid. It is a valuable resource that people need to survive.

**Amanda**  
**Bath, ME**

We can't afford to buy health insurance and Medicaid helps to fill that gap and get healthcare for our family when we need it. If we didn't have Medicaid coverage,



we'd have to skimp on preventative healthcare and only go in to the doctor when we were in a really bad place healthwise. I'm not sure how we would ever pay for it.

**Oliver**  
**Winthrop, ME**  
Medicaid keeps us alive!!

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## MARYLAND

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**Stephanie**  
**Baltimore, MD**

I'm a working mom who's been lucky enough not to need Medicare or the CHIP program – and with a little luck maybe I never will. But I willingly pay into the federal tax pools that support these programs and ask that our policymakers not slash them even though budgets are tight.

We can't build a stronger future on the backs of poor children and the elderly; ensuring access to an appropriate standard of care for these groups (our future and former tax payers!) should be a shared responsibility.

**Johanna**  
**Beltsville, MD**

When I had my baby I never thought that my husband would lose his job, and I did not have any worries about how would I pay for medical bills for my little one. My son is a healthy baby and I never have any problem but he still need his check ups, his shots, and visit the doctor because he was a newborn. With my husband losing his job at that time I did not know what to do, and my option was Medicaid, and I thanks God that he was accepted to have that benefit.

Thank God for Medicaid. If it was not for that benefit I do not know what I will have done. My little story is to give thanks for this benefit and I know there are a lot

of kids that needs this type of benefit in their life to go on, please don't take away that from our children and the joy of million of families.

**Nichole**  
**Ellicott City, MD**

I have been in graduate school for nearly a decade. I earned a MA in Clinical Psychology and I'm in the final stages of completing my PsyD. I worked PT and FT jobs doing contract work in the mental health field, typically working without any kind of insurance coverage for my-

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"I'm a working mom who's been lucky enough not to need Medicare or the CHIP program... But I willingly pay into the federal tax pools that support these programs."

*Stephanie, Baltimore, MD*

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self. I was able to pay for my own minimal medical needs. However, once I had my children, my income no longer proved to be sufficient.

The options were to leave school, find other employment, and obtain other health insurance or continue with my dream to become a clinical psychologist and provide my daughters with Medicaid coverage. I chose the latter. Without Medicaid my daughters would not

have had well-baby check ups, dental visits, or annual medical care. My daughters have been covered by Medicaid since they were born. They're happy and healthy; they are now 6 and 7 years old.

**Ingrid**  
**Silver Spring, MD**

I had undiagnosed pregnancy complication when Daniel was born. He was in the NICU for 90 days . He went home with feeding tubes and many medications and was on seizure precautions. I had insurance. I am on of the lucky ones. Daniel lived and we did not have to sell our house to save him. Many parents do not have this story to tell.

**Pamela**  
**Fort Washington, MD**

In America, it is so sad that people who were born in this country constantly fight for everything. My father served in the U.S. Army and fought for this country during the 60's and he is a Veteran. As his second out of five children, not only he, but we all should receive some benefit for just being a tax payer and Medical Insurance should not be such a battle in America!

Please support our 'American Citizens' who serve this country. I have ancestry that goes back to the beginning of the development of the U.S. and I hope that I can keep what was earned to me and my family. If illegal aliens are taken care of for just showing up, then definitely Congress should not bother our benefits (Medical/Dental/Home Ownership, etc.) for trying to stay alive and take care of our love ones!

**Cynthia**  
**Elkridge, MD**

It is truly unbelievable to me that we are at a place in our country of moving backwards. I firmly believe



in 'balancing budgets' and fiscal responsibility, but at what cost? It seems that everything is being taken away from the poor and given to the rich these days. Where is the compassion that America once embraced Republicans and Democrats alike?

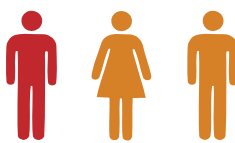
I personally lost my parents, however, my stepmother is absolutely dependent upon help from the government to make ends meet with Medicaid. After speaking with her last night, she is VERY worried about what will happen if this attack on the middle class continues. I stood with then Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and MomsRising in gaining the historic Affordable Health Care Act, and am prepared to do the same to stand up for Medicaid. President Obama is doing an OUTSTANDING job in light of what he was handed from former President Bush. Praying for President Obama and our country to hang on to the 'safeguards' we have and to not vanish away on the first Black President's watch for goodness sake. (Or is that what the Republicans were planning all along?) Kinda makes you wonder.

**Katharin  
Bethesda, MD**

My son, Tom, is moderately retarded. He is also musically gifted, sensitive, kind, and appreciative. He lives in an excellent group home in upstate New York, and he works part-time in a local veterinary's office, where he is much valued. None of this would be possible if he were not supported by Medicaid. As a good man and an American citizen, he deserves a decent life. Thanks to Medicaid, he has one.

**Lisbeth  
Baltimore, MD**

My mother Ruth was a nurse for over 30 years before she retired. At age 75, she was diagnosis with Alzheimer's. I took care of her for



**ONE THIRD  
OF ALL CHILDREN  
IN THE U.S ARE INSURED  
BY MEDICAID  
AND CHIP**  
(CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM)



**35 MILLION  
CHILDREN**

Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured,  
"Health Coverage of Children: The Role of Medicaid and  
CHIP" (February 2011).  
<http://www.kff.org/uninsured/upload/7698-05.pdf>

over 4 years before I had to admit her to a skilled nursing home. To cover the cost of her stay at the nursing facility, it takes her entire social security, her pension, my father's VA pension and MEDICAID to cover the cost of her care.

My mother Ruth dedicated her life to taking care of others. Now someone needs to help take care of her. Please help her and others out there that need support. I think its the right thing to do.

**Margaret  
Clarksville, MD**

My husband and I have been married for 50 years today. We have been blessed to be retired Civil Servants. My husband did have cancer but with good health ben-

efits we had no financial problems. I have friends who have had to use Medicaid and would not be alive today if they didn't have Medicaid. Please consider before you cut Medicaid and CHIP programs.

**Michele  
Waldorf, MD**

Single parenting is hard enough on its own with the juggling of the many duties, the missed time at work, and general lack of funds without the additional expense of taking care of your dear elderly parents.

My mother who took care of others as a nurse for over 30 years, also took care of my disabled father until he passed in 2009. Now she, a 78-year-old diabetic with pulmonary fibrosis, was struck down with pneumonia. Unable to take care of herself after she was discharged from the hospital and there were no beds available in the hospital's rehabilitation, Medicaid provided a walker and at-home visits from physical therapists and nurses to assist me with her at home care.

I am absent from work without pay which is allowed under the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) to take care of her. I would never be able to pay for the wonderful at home service my mother is getting under Medicaid. Thanks Medicaid! I hope you are around for my generation.

**Latisha  
Potomac, MD**

I share my story with you on behalf of all the families that strive very hard to meet the daily needs of their families. I am a Master's level social worker, assisting the public daily in meeting and maintaining everyday house hold needs. Low income families can not afford to pay rent and/or utility bills. There are families who must make the difficult decision between health care or going without water or electricity.

If Medicaid is cut there will be families living in the United States in a third-world state of mind. Medicaid helps struggling families maintain health care, without living in the dark, or going without water. The impact of cutting a service that is aid to so many families will drastically hurt the american people.

**Maria  
Potomac, MD**

My aunt has cancer, and it's been over 7 months STILL waiting for Medicaid. I can't imagine if there were even more cuts: We've already been waiting for her Medicaid and have put off seeing doctors as most will not see without 'some' form of payment. Her job laid her off in the first week of her finding out about the cancer. And she was 1 month shy of getting insurance; so, she doesn't qualify for SSDI. She has no income. She may die as she cannot afford care. Please no more Medicaid cuts.

**Anonymous  
Bowie, MD**

I am 27 years old. I have mild cerebral palsy, severe depression and post traumatic stress disorder. Please do not make this any harder for Mom and for the rest of America.

**Dianne  
Derwood, MD**

My mother-in-law is nearly 90 and has been paying into the system since she was 18 years old. Her departed husband was a WWII vet. She simultaneously cared for her two children and her own parents. She brought her aging parents into her home, I am now bringing into mine.

My family, which also includes two young children, cannot afford to take on the cost of her medical care. Without Medicare, our own finances would suffer, and we would be forced to substantially

cut back on other spending, thus affecting the overall economy. And I'm sure I'm not the only person in this situation.

We cannot abandon this generation of Americans in their time of need. They sacrificed for us.

**Nellie  
Arnold, MD**

I have Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriatic Arthritis and may someday down the road need help from Medicaid myself. I would hope after working hard all my life that I want have the rug pulled out from under me right when I need it. My husband and I right now have no insurance due to me recently having to leave my job.

Please do the right thing and leave these benefits in place. We need to take care of our country as well as we help take care of others. My mother always said, 'Charity begins at home.'

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"My mother-in-law is nearly 90 and has been paying into the system since she was 18 years old. Her departed husband was a WWII vet...

We cannot abandon this generation of Americans in their time of need. They sacrificed for us."

*Dianne, Derwood, MD*

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**MASSACHUSETTS**

**AnnMarie  
Springfield, MA**

This is an issue that is near and dear to my heart. My daughter Gracie was born at 26 weeks for reasons that are unknown. She was 2 lbs and 6 oz and 13.5 inches long. Fortunately, we received great care at a Children's Miracle Network affiliated hospital with an outstanding NICU. The NICU was my daughter's home for the first 2 and a half months of her life while she fought through brain bleeds, 2 heart conditions, a massive infection and where she learned to grow and eat and strive.

Gracie was fortunate to be born into a loving family with two working parents who have health insurance coverage. This is a privilege not all kids have.

That said, even with excellent health care coverage, there is no way that my husband and I could ever have paid for the extensive care she received. We benefitted from MassHealth (in MA) for the first year of life because of Grace's disability (prematurity). This was a lifesaver for us as the debt from her hospitalization and follow-up medical care would have crippled us financially for the rest of our lives (and would likely have continued to serve as a burden to her).

Because this coverage was available, we were able to do the best thing possible. We got to be present parents. We did not have to obtain additional work (beyond our 2 full time careers) to try to pay down this exorbitant debt. We could do what was best for her medically, we could learn how best to care from her and we did not shackle her to a life of debt from the start.

I am pleased to report that Grace is doing well and is a happy and healthy 2 year old. We will forever be indebted in our heart to



the great care she received and for the availability of such a program.

Fortunately, as she is doing well she no longer needs the program, however we are intimately aware of how crucial this coverage is for those who need it. Ending or short-changing this program will only result in loss of life, more permanent disabilities and more families broken down by the stress of this crisis and debt.

**Cheryl  
Foxborough, MA**

My granddaughter was born at 26 weeks and spent the first 3 months of her life in the NICU. Without the assistance of Medicaid all of her care and necessary follow up treatments would be unaffordable. Her parents are both employed and had medical insurance which was exhausted early on in her care due to the excessive expense of her care.

Today she is a happy healthy 2 year old due to the excellent care she received. Her parents are able to provide for all of her medical care now that they are not buried in debt from her premature birth.

Medicaid is essential for all of the catastrophic illnesses and events that take place so families can continue to work and care for their loved ones without being devastated by being hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt.

**Julia  
Gardner, MA**

I am unemployed, and am diabetic and on an insulin pump. I have Medicaid and it covers my insulin and pump supplies. If I did not have Medicaid, I would not be able to get my insulin or pump supplies.

Also, I am a single mother. My daughter also has Medicaid. If cuts are made to Medicaid, then I will not be able to afford to bring her to the doctor, or to get her pre-

scriptions. Please don't make any cuts to Medicaid, because people like me really need it.

**Yvonne  
Cambridge, MA**

As do many others. Medicare doesn't cover everything and what it doesn't cover is WAY too much since our country puts money before people.

**Sussi  
Templeton, MA**

I cared for my mother for over 3 years post CVA (stroke) during a time when she needed 24/7 supervision and complete care. I had to quit my job because we could not afford to hire someone. At the time my son was in college and we nearly lost our house because of the financial burden. Medicare helped pay for my mother's participation at an adult day health program as did a grant from the United Way so that I could get a few hours 2-3 days/week for much needed respite for myself.

Now Mom resides in a nursing home where Medicaid pays for the cost. The adult day programs are essential to providing families with the ability to care for aging parents at home, thereby relieving the burden of Medicaid having to pay for long term care in a nursing home sooner than necessary.

The difference in cost to the government and taxpayers is obvious by simply looking at the numbers. Both programs are a tremendous necessity to providing care for our elderly and frail.

Adding a more comprehensive system of respite at home to the mix would help prevent caregiver burnout and postpone the need for long term care saving the government and taxpayer even more money. Cutting these programs would be devastating on so many levels.

**Anne  
Attleboro, MA**

My close friends are a couple in their late 70s who have had multiple illnesses for several years. They have paid for help in their home to maintain their independence. After a recent mastectomy my friend spent several weeks in a rehab facility which Medicare has partially paid for. Now she is ready for discharge, but her husband, who has glaucoma and is very frail can no longer manage her care as she has been disabled by strokes.

They do not have money to pay for round-the-clock home care. They are applying for Medicaid to help with the cost of a nursing home for both of them. What will happen to people like this if Medicaid will no longer help them?

**Arlene  
Newton, MA**

I grew up on Welfare in the 50's and 60's and know what it's like to worry about not enough food on the table and not being able to pay the rent.

Over 25% of the children in this country now live below the poverty level while the top 5% in the country and the top oil producers are asking for more tax cuts and more tax breaks. We can't turn our backs on the most vulnerable among us and cut their support drastically. So many families are now struggling to feed and clothe their children and care for their aging relatives (many at home at a great savings to the government) in difficult economic times, through no fault of their own.

According to the Consumer Report Index, in the last 24 months, lower income people have lost more jobs than they've gained while affluent people are gaining more jobs than they've lost.

## MICHIGAN

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### **Kathleen Ann Arbor, MI**

I worked for 26 years with a educational program that supported babies who were born very premature or with health problems and their families. Medicaid was literally a life saver for these infants even when their parents had insurance. The cost of caring for a very sick infant is beyond private insurance as it stands now.

A child who spends their first month or more in a NICU, has to have Medicaid coverage. Until our country has some kind of national insurance to support these kids and families, do not take their Medicaid eligibility.

### **Sandra Grand Rapids, MI**

I am among the poor in Michigan and without Medicaid I would not have access to medications that I have to have to maintain life. I am diabetic, have high blood pressure, severe arthritis, severe GERD, etc., and have had 9 surgeries because of arthritis. I am thankful for Medicaid and know that many will die without it. Please don't take it from us.

### **Mary East China, MI**

I work everyday with people that need to visit St. Mary Catholic Church, St. Clair, MI food pantry. They are hurting people that need Medicaid service and still that is not enough to keep them from going broke every month. I cannot imagine how devastated people will be if they lose even a portion of their Medicaid. Save and care for the people.

### **Mike Troy, MI**

Over the past 12 years my wife and I have adopted six abandoned

daughters from China. Each is a blessing. Each is a beauty. They range in age today from 12 down to 5 1/2.

When we adopted the girls I was a well-paid executive with full health care. Over a year ago I became bedridden with a disease known as neurosarcoidosis. I am now unemployed and may need several more months before being again productive. Four of our six

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"I worked for 26 years with educational programs that supported babies who were born very premature or with health problems and their families. Medicaid was literally a life saver for these infants even when their parents had insurance."

*Kathleen, Ann Arbor, MI*

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daughters bear special needs for health care and educational services.

Many of the changes proposed by the wealthy in Washington would deny both my daughters and me the kind of help I have worked since since 1966 to fund. You see, I

am 63 and fully intend to work another ten years.

Please do not let the un-compassionate steal from those who have already paid the dues. Mike for Ami (Spouse), Quinn, Margaret, Pema, Norah, Lachlan, and Cassidy

### **Mary Detroit, MI**

I do not personally know of anyone that is being adversely impacted by cuts to Medicaid, but I can empathize with impacted parents of disabled children and the elderly.

### **Darlene Hillsdale, MI**

I live with chronic degenerative disc disease. Without Medicaid's help I would be in a wheelchair. I'm just too young to be confined to a wheelchair. I've already had one surgery on my back. As the years go by I'll have to have more. Without Medicaid I could not afford this. Please don't cut our Medicaid benefits.

### **Joyce Grand Rapids, MI**

I'm not going into the full story of my mother and father battle with financial difficulties as they aged and became ill. All I know is that America better wake-up and recognize any cuts, so called better changes in the Medicaid, Medicare program will be a disaster!!! AMERICA, PLEASE, don't let Congress and Administration officials ruin this most precious, most appreciated program. In memory of my parents: Earlie, 1926-2007; James Sr., 1923-2011

### **Sharon Comstock Park, MI**

My father-in-law had a stroke five years ago which made his



speech and fine motor skills difficult. He went through a lot of therapy to function in daily activities that most of us take for granted. Without Medicaid, he and his wife would struggle financially for medications and therapies. People who are older and not able to work need assistance in medical care. They should not be penalized by our government when this is the only means of support for them and their families.

**Madeline  
Grass Lake, MI**

My mother has worked multiple jobs since she was a teenager, growing up in Texas. She is one of the hardest working people I know, and also one of the most generous. She was always helping the more unfortunate members of her family, and so lived paycheck to paycheck with nothing extra for her retirement.

Now my mother is 87 years old, and has not been able to work for the past year. (Yes, that's right, she worked until she was 86 years old.) Her current income consists of her Social Security check.

She is unable to live by herself because of memory issues that cause her to forget to take her medication, or to take it improperly. She has already ended up in the hospital multiple times because of this. After her last hospital stay, her doctor prescribed 90 days in a rehab center, to help her overcome the residual physical effects and evaluate whether or not she could go back to living on her own. Her doctor decided she needs to stay in assisted living, but her Social Security check does not cover the expense.

We have applied for Medicaid for her so she can stay in the assisted living facility where she currently resides. This funding is crucial so she can receive the care that she needs.

**DeLane  
Hudsonville, MI**

My daughter is a disabled single mother who NEEDS AND HAS TO HAVE Medicaid in order to supply medical coverage for herself and her daughter! She struggles with just providing a home and food for her two very young daughters and has NO ROOM for medical expenses. She has several medical conditions that require daily medicine and doctors visits let alone the standard physicals and immunizations for her two young children. Plus dental for her young children to prevent any oral infections and possible surgery requirements with six month cleaning and x-rays.

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"Please help  
individuals like my  
daughter to lead  
as healthy a life  
as possible for  
themselves and  
their children!"

*DeLane, Hudsonville, MI*

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Please help individuals like my daughter to lead as healthy a life as possible for themselves and their children!! They are already limited by their disabilities – let's not take away more from them!!

**Jane  
Westland, MI**

My father passed away in 1972 at age 50. My mother was only 44. She raised three children without any type of medical insurance

coverage for any of us. Luckily, we were healthy children and there were very few medical bills for us.

Mom however, had high blood pressure and struggled to pay for her medicine. It became such a burden financially that she stopped taking it. Finally mom was eligible for Medicare – 18 years later! But damage was done to her health. Having the Medicare helped to defray the medical costs, but they were still difficult to cover. She had high blood pressure, cancer, carotid artery surgery twice, and Alzheimer's. The medical bills were high!

My mother spent the last 10 years of her life fighting Alzheimer's and the last 3 years confined to a nursing home. We kept her home as long as possible, but Mom wandered and it finally became an issue of keeping her safe around the clock. None of us children were able to provide the 24 hour care or funds required to make sure that she was safe.

Without the Medicaid along with Medicare we would not have been able to place her in an appropriate nursing home, I do not know what we would have done. Please do not cut the health benefits for our aging population. They have paid into the system for most of their lives and should be able to depend on the receiving all help they may need. We owe it to them, the government owes it to them.

**Kathie  
Ann Arbor, MI**

My daughter was diagnosed with juvenile R.A. at the age of 13. Nobody expected she would be able to lead much of a normal life or have children. She proved them all wrong, bringing two wonderful and healthy sons into the world. Unfortunately their father decided to end the relationship with her, although he is still a responsible co-parent.

She cannot work very much and

hasn't been able to complete training for a well-paying job and disability helps her to pay her monthly bills. Without the assistance the boys receive from CHIP, she would continue to be dependent upon me for many of their medical needs. Please keep these programs in place for elderly and disabled folks!

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## MINNESOTA

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### **Laurel Hutchinson, MN**

My son has autism. He will be 12 on Saturday and he is good at reading, spelling and math. He was first diagnosed and entered the special education system at the age of about 9 months. He received special education, occupational therapy, and physical therapy, 5 different appointments a week. These were covered through the Medicaid program, as I am a single parent and would not have been able to afford the services.

As a toddler, his teacher began teaching him sign language. They did not think he would ever learn to talk. Thanks to our wonderful teachers and therapists, and the Medicaid program which makes it possible, he now attends school with his peers. He enjoys watching Nascar and Monster Jam. He is reading above his grade level and no longer requires speech therapy.

### **Allen Blooming Prairie, MN**

It is amazing you have \$500 billion for wars. Money for oil companies. Which even tax breaks they should have to be in our country. But you don't have money for the tax payers. It is our money. You are suppose to work for us not special interest. What the hell is wrong with you people? There is so much waste. Get the waste out. You could solve the deficit. Do your job or someday you will regret it. Or leave.

### **Susan Minneapolis, MN**

I am a 63 year old lady who was beaten by my ex-husband who was a police officer and lost one child due to this. Also, I was born with epilepsy. I have had to pay for my own medications in my adult life because I was laid off two jobs. I cannot get disability pay because they tell me I do not have a limb missing or an eye missing or whatever.

I am looking to the future, yet it looks very doom because the REPUBLICANS want to cut Medicare, Social Security. I have worked all my life and have not had it easy like the many Congressman in Washington. Please do not cut my Social Security.

### **Mary Marine St. Croix, MN**

I have a lot of health problems. I am getting SSD and Medicare. I am so grateful for the help I receive. I truly feel I would not be walking without Medicare and Medicare. I did pay in and raised two girls that have always worked and paid in to SS. Please protect those on a fixed income PLEASE... I am so scared what will happen. Please do not hammer middle class americans and have them bear the brunt of the burden.

I pray for those less fortunate than myself. I also pray that someone in Congress could walk in my shoes. We could start with the retirement plans of Congress. Do politicians get lifetime medical? Please help us!

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## MISSOURI

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### **Bernetta St. Louis, MO**

At a time when I thought I had hit rock bottom it was Medicaid that stood as my beacon of light. I was diagnosed with Lupus and

didn't know what to do. Never being sick before I had no clue on how much medicine would cost. I would soon find out the cost of being sick. With Chemo treatments, co-pays, prescription costs there was no time to actually focus on me being sick. Then I was able to apply my Medicaid benefits to the total cost of treatment. What a life saver!

There was no way I could have made it worrying and stressing over how will I afford to pay for my care. It was Medicaid that stepped in. All the while I worked and paid taxes and did my duty to stay a productive responsible citizen of society. Medicaid is not for free loaders. No, Medicaid is designed to assist those in need of medical care who, otherwise could not afford it.

Currently I am not on Medicaid due to my recent marriage. We are blessed to have a primary and secondary but Medicaid was there for me when I had no one else in my corner.

### **Phyllis Marshall, MO**

I raised my two daughters on my own, receiving no child support or rather, a support check that bounced most of the time. Once, when my daughter was very ill, the doctor's nurse would not allow me to see the doctor. Thankfully, I had a compassionate M.D. and he called immediately and told me to bring my daughter in ANY time she was ill. (Would hate to hear what he told that nurse when he found out about her turning us away).

All children should be entitled to medical care. If we as a powerful country cannot do that, then shame on our system. There is something very wrong with it and it needs to be fixed immediately.



**Laura  
Springfield, MO**

To me it is un-Christian to cut these programs or take their funding away.

**JoAnn  
St. Mary, MO**

My Granddaughter was born with biliary atresia and had a liver transplant at the age of 10 months. The cost of the transplant was paid by Medicaid of Missouri. She is now 3 and doing well but her anti-rejection medicine costs \$3,000 per month. This, too, is covered by Medicaid.

Her parents both work, in fact, they each have a full-time job and a part-time job. Still, if not for Medicaid, they could not afford this medicine or the monthly checkups she requires. I also have a grandson who has just been diagnosed with Marfan's syndrome. He is covered by his father's insurance now. He is 16 and I fear for him at age 26, trying to buy health insurance. Can you imagine either of these children buying health care with a VOUCHER? No 'for profit' insurance will accept their vouchers. Health care in this country is only for the HEALTHY and the WEALTHY.

**Amanda  
Kansas City, MO**

I am an MSW student and it is our responsibility to assist our fellow brothers and sisters in need.

**Brenda  
St. Charles, MO**

I'm a 30-year-old graduate student. I have two small children, almost 6 and 2, and we have private insurance, but like most people, a huge deductible. We have Medicaid as a secondary insurance to help cover that deductible, and it isn't for Medicaid, my children would not get the care they do be-

cause I would not be able to afford the deductibles and copays.

My sons have both been to the ER, I have one with AD/HD and possibly Asperger's syndrome, and if it were not for the help we get right now, we could not afford the tests and therapy for him.

I will graduate next year and no longer need the help, but it has allowed me to get the education I need to provide the necessary care the future of my children and my family.

**Jessica  
Springfield, MO**

My son is 12 and half months old and since he was born he has been a recipient of Medicaid. I also received Medicaid while I was pregnant. Had I not received Medicaid, I wouldn't have been able to afford prenatal care, which we all know is vital to our growing child's health.

He has been to his well visits and is doing well, thanks to the amazing properties of my breast milk, but what if he wasn't doing well? I rest a little bit easier knowing he's covered by Medicaid, because even though I'm working and going to school full-time, I cannot afford to pay for his health care!

I am so thankful that he is well... But we have Medicaid to protect children and mothers and the disabled from being ill and without health care. They deserve to rest easy too!

**Debrah  
Kansas City, MO**

Our daughter Kym had an aneurysm approximately five years ago. She was found by her husband, who came home early from church that April 2nd and found her on the floor unconscious. It was touch and go for a time, but Kym is still with us. She has just recently had a bleed two months ago, in the same spot of her brain because of the po-

sition of the aneurysm it could not be operated on.

My son-in law had to leave his job three years ago to care for his wife. It would be impossible without Medicaid to assist him with her day to day life. At this point she is on a waiting list for home health care, which she desperately needs. The wait may take anywhere from six months to a year or more.

They live in North Carolina and we live in Missouri, you can only imagine the stress on all of our lives, but would be more on Kym if she were to lose the assistance of Medicaid. It makes her life bearable and as close to normal as she may get.

They have already lost precious time and hours stressing over bills, trying to put some type of normalcy in raising their family as best they can. Please do not take away Medicaid. If Kym is given a home health aide, my son-in-law and her husband would finally be able to obtain work or take side jobs away from the home so he could provide for his family once again.

We did not expect this to happen but it did and we are all dealing with it as best we can. Please rethink your decision. It not only affects seniors, but young families also. Thank you for listening!

**Stacey  
Parkville, MO**

My father's health significantly deteriorated when he was in his mid-50s. He continued to work as long as he could function, then lived on the proceeds of selling his home for a few years before applying for disability benefits to support himself. My father was divorced and did not have a spouse to help with caregiving. My brother and I each lived hundreds of miles away in different states, meaning that our extended family was not able to piece together adequate support for him to remain living in-

dependently, nor had circumstances which would allow him to live in our households.

The combination of my father's declining mental and physical functions meant that he needed placement in an extended care facility at age 60. Eventually, his resources were depleted and Medicaid paid for his nursing home expenses for a few years before he died at age 65.

I have known countless other middle and upper-middle income families whose family members have qualified for Medicaid in similar circumstances. There is such shame and stigma associated with Medicaid that these experiences are not openly acknowledged by most Americans.

***Jaqui  
Lee's Summit, MO***

My Dad was a retired Navy man who loved walking in the country and gardening, until Rheumatoid Arthritis, Diabetes, Leukemia and an Aneurism in his abdominal Aorta prevented him from walking any longer. Days after my father's death, my mother suffered a stroke.

She survived that only to find out that she had bone cancer that had metastasized and I lost her 11 months after my dad. I don't know what they would have done without Medicaid. I wish so much that they would have had the chip, constantly having to haul their medications around when they went to the hospital. It would be a life saver.

***Anonymous  
Florissant, MO***

Just want to support those who need it.

***Mary Ann  
Rolla, MO***

I was also someone who became very ill and had to go on disability,

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"Days after my father's death, my mother suffered a stroke. She survived only to find out that she had bone cancer... I lost her 11 months after my dad. I don't know what they would have done without Medicaid."

*Jaqui, Lee's Summit, MO*

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because I had to have one surgery after another. I am grateful Medicaid stepped in and picked up the additional charges that weren't covered by Medicare.

***Gloria  
Florissant, MO***

I have a 25-year-old grandson that is mentally challenged and unable to work. He was diagnosed with multiple mental illnesses before his 16th birthday.

Without Medicaid he would not be able to get the medications necessary for him to stay out of an institution that would cost taxpayers more than it's costing now.

He lives on his own now but only because of help provided through Medicaid payments that pay his medical expenses, counseling expenses, mental health expenses and other related costs.

Remember Medicaid also supplements elderly individuals that

do not qualify for Medicare because they only receive SSI.

Do not hurt or harm the disabled and elderly. It is society's responsibility to take care of these persons.

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**MONTANA**

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***Jennifer  
Great Falls, MT***

Without Medicaid my spouse and I would be bankrupt because my daughter and I were born with weak immune systems, premature lungs and asthma along with a ton of other health issues and our meds are over \$450 a month.

We can not afford to buy them and have a roof over our head without Medicaid, so if you abolish Medicaid be aware me and my family will be homeless due to the need for meds to stay healthy. I am sure we would not be the only family either.

***Rachel  
Missoula, MT***

Medicaid paid for the birth of my two children. Without Medicaid, I and my children would have seldom had access to healthcare. As a single parent, I have frequently had to choose between insurance that doesn't cover my health care, and no health care at all. CHIP was a great resource when I was working full time, but did not have enough money to buy family insurance.

Deductibles in a small state like Montana are usually \$1,000-\$2,000, anyway. It is like have no insurance at all. Single payer insurance would be the best solution, but failing that, Medicaid is a great resource.

***Eloise  
Billings, MT***

There is only one instances when I have seen misuse of Medicaid. Our



citizens need health care and by providing assistance in their home through Medicaid I guarantee this will cost the national budget less in the future. I know we need oversight but do not cut their Medicaid.

**Annie and Jon  
Missoula, MT**

Please keep Medicaid and CHIP active.

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**NEBRASKA**

**Connie  
Norfol, NE**

My father entered a nursing home about four years ago. He was losing his sight, had mobility problems and was showing signs of dementia. He had very little money set aside and had just household belongings. My brother had rescued the farm from foreclosure twenty years before and my father had lived on the farm. The house was literally falling apart and would have been condemned for living purposes if it had been inspected.

The first two years he lived in an assisted living part of the home but as the dementia increased he had to go to the nursing home. No, he wasn't completely happy there but neither was he when he had stayed with either of his children. I underwent back surgery and a couple of other surgeries while my father was receiving Medicaid housing. My husband would not have been able to take care of both us.

Without Medicaid I'm not sure how my father's life would have ended. A year ago he died in a hospice bed in a hospital. I am concerned about those in similar situations today and tomorrow. The rising costs of medical care and the lack of assistance for people in small communities are causes of concern for people living there.

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**NEVADA**

**Katrina  
Las Vegas, NV**

Yes I know I can take my kids to the emergency room without insurance. But what about the in-between times. I'm on my third baby and had I not had Medicaid, they would have all been medically neglected because we have been a low-income family for about 4 years now. I'm not looking for a handout. I just want to give my kids a better chance at survival through healthcare and timely checkups. If I didn't have it my kids who have lung issues would have perished.

No matter how fast I got them to the ER, they would have life long complicated issues had they not been addressed at well checks and sick visits. We all need the insurance so Congress think of our kids as your kids and let us have all the benefits for our babies.

**Mrs. B  
Las Vegas, NV**

I don't have a story, per se, but I am sick and tired of hearing these kinds of stories of American's suffering while Congress, especially the Republicans, can't send billions of dollars overseas fast enough to any and everyone for, whatever cause, while millions of taxpaying citizens here at home suffer.

I want these non-caring politicians to remember that those overseas can't vote for them and one of these days, we, the people will wake up and send them packing. Leave the Medicare, Medicaid, CHIPS and other programs alone.

**Jay  
Reno, NV**

My son Jordan has suffered for a dozen years (since he was seven) with an undiagnosed ailment that manifests itself as pain in his left leg and lower back. I have never been blessed long enough with

enough health insurance to be able to have him diagnosed completely to find the source of his misery. He applied for Medicaid and recently was approved so he can begin seeing the right doctors to establish a 'cure' for his pain. Thank the Dems for Medicaid.

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**NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**Erin  
Nashua, NH**

Health insurance for our family would cost me more than half my entire paycheck. With the rising cost of living, I would be forced to choose between gas, groceries or other necessities for my family. I am eternally grateful for the Healthy Kids/Medicaid program my children qualify for, saving our family money to be used for other essential needs. I don't know where we'd be without it!!

**Susan  
Sanbornton, NH**

I work with disabled, special needs students. After the NH legislatures most recent cuts, we lost 30 plus employees who deal with students at school. Next year will be much harder to do well by our students. I wonder how much harder it's going to get and how many more people we might lose. Especially if Medicaid/Medicare are lost to our sped students. What will happen to their lives at home and to their families lives?

**Diana  
Londonderry, NH**

My daughter was diagnosed with stage IV esophageal cancer within months of having her first child. Over the past several months, she has be in and out of the hospital continuously fighting to survive this dreaded disease so that she can raise her only child. S

he is a former Marine and probably contracted this dreadful disease from the burning pits while she served in Iraq. Her husband is also a Marine and has served in Iraq and Afghanistan. In fact, he was in Afghanistan during the last seven months of her pregnancy and when she delivered their first, and now only, child. Since my daughter is so ill, she had to resign from a job she loved. She had to leave her home so that we, her parents, could help her with her care and the care of her infant son. She is not eligible for any health insurance program through no fault of her own.

If her husband must leave the military, they will have absolutely no way to support her health care costs. Medicaid is essential for her, as well as so many former military families who are no longer able to work due to tragic injuries and illnesses. Please vote to save Medicaid in its current form so that all American citizens get the health care they deserve.

Please look for cuts where the money is expendable. I'm sure you'll find these places if you look. And I, for one, am more than willing to pay additional taxes if it will provide my daughter and others the care they so desperately need.

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## NEW JERSEY

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### **Angela Sayreville, NJ**

My twins sons, Peter and Michael, were born at 36 weeks. Although, it may not seem very premature, Michael was born with several dire health problems that required surgery when he was only two days old. Subsequently, he underwent three more surgeries and was in the NICU for a total of 11 weeks.

He was nicknamed 'Mighty Mike' as he was a fighter, even when doctors had given up hope. Medicaid provided the assistance we needed

such as home health care which was especially important to us as Michael required special care and I had to care for his twin as well. The stress level was extremely high and the help from the aide eased that stress significantly. I don't know how I would have coped if it hadn't been for that help.

Peter and Michael are now 22 years old and are doing well. I feel that if it hadn't been for Medicaid, things would have turned out differently.

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"Medicaid is essential for her, as well as so many former military families who are no longer able to work due to tragic injuries and illnesses."

*Diana, Londonberry, NH*

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### **George Cape May, NJ**

I've survived Obstructive Sleep Apnea, COPD, Congestive Heart Disease, Diabetes, Hyperlipodemia, Prostate Cancer, Diabetic Blindness, and went on to the Library Research to enable me to discover the Definitive Cure for all of these Diseases, because Medicare enabled me to do it.

This has given me the ability to work with hundreds of families who have children with Profound

Developmental Disorders. Without the present help from Medicaid, the future of all of the members of all of their families would be destroyed, and the Crippled Children would suffer hideously and die of neglect.

### **Kathleen Kearny, NJ**

My niece has a very similar story. Her daughter, Tara, was born weighing only 1.8 lbs. and had a very difficult journey ahead of her. Without the help of Medicaid it would have been an impossible burden to bear.

Luckily, with the help from Medicaid, Tara is now 9 years old and thriving. We HAVE TO CONTINUE MEDICAID, not only for our children, but for our seniors as well.

### **Diane Ocean City, NJ**

I am not directly affected by this need. I am a retired school nurse who has seen many families needing these services. I find it hard to understand how anyone can in good conscience deny medical care to ANYONE, let alone our most precious, vulnerable members of our society, our children. This is as unpatriotic as it gets when we think in terms of who is and is not worthy of care in our country.

### **Laura Lake Hopatcong, NJ**

My son is now 9 years old. Hard to believe. When he was born he was beautiful – an angel, really. He looked perfect, he had apgar scores to prove it. He was full term, all natural child birth, no intervention. He was breast fed and he thrived. But something was not quite right. Those beautiful blue eyes looked right through you. Then those beautiful blue eyes began to cross.



He could not lift his head off the floor at tummy time. He could not roll over nor sit up on his own. He was not meeting his mile stones.

Our pediatrician at the 9 month check up finally started to listen to our concerns and diagnosed my beautiful boy developmentally delayed, etiology unknown. His head circumference had also tapered off. Why was this happening? And so began our journey to one doctor/specialist after another. Traveling to other states, going to hospitals, looking for answers. All tests would come up normal and we were left with just more questions. Why did this happen? How did this happen? It went from bad to worse. My beautiful boy began to have seizures at the age of 2 years – 80 to 100 seizures a day. We lived in and out of hospitals trying to get the seizures under control.

Now with antiseizure meds and diet we have good control. He is a trooper and keeps on going even against all odds. He is happy and he is loved immensely by his family. He is non-ambulatory, non-verbal, hypotonic and has daily seizures. He is also a great swimmer, loves music – especially Andrea Boccelli, and plays baseball on a Challenger League. He is also a wonderful big brother to his two younger brothers, ages 6 and 4.

My husband is an electrical engineer and I am a homemaker. We have decent insurance but necessities for our son, such as mobility equipment or therapies, are either denied or very limited in coverage. Medicaid has come to our aid many times. Medicaid has paid for a wheelchair, a gait trainer, a stroller, bathchair, and a PCA.

Medicaid enabled us to give to our son the things he needs to progress and develop. Medicaid has allowed us to provide a better quality of life for my son. My son has many physical and cognitive challenges please do not put another road block in his path. Do

not cut Medicaid for Children with Special Needs!

**Yolanda  
North Bergen, NJ**

My family and I have problems, because Medicaid cut insurance. My children don't have insurance because I did not qualify because my husband's income and mine we surpassed by \$80. Please help!!

**Patricia  
Bayville, NJ**

If we could reign in Medicaid and Medicare fraud, millions more dollars could go to care without costing taxpayers more money. Fix the system!

**Jennifer  
North Caldwell, NJ**

My son Sean was born with a serious disability. Sean is now 7 years old, and our family relies on Medicaid coverage as a back-up to our primary medical insurance. Without Medicaid coverage, Sean would not have the equipment, supplies and nursing coverage he requires. Our family's financial resources simply would not cover his needs.

**Rene  
Dumont, NJ**

My dad worked his entire life to support our family. My mother's health began to suffer and without health insurance, they resorted to crisis care instead of preventive. After a twenty year battle with debilitating illness, my mother became bed bound and my father was her primary caregiver – until his stroke. They were immediately placed in long term care, where my father lived his remaining 10 years.

I shutter to think of what might have happened if those benefits were not available to care for him. The pressure of my mother's long

illness, combined with the stress it had taken on my father, was devastating to our family. We all suffered in some way. This story helps illustrate how society is paying for healthcare on the back end.

**Kathleen  
Dover, NJ**

My husband and I recently retired and six months later brought his mother to live with us. She suffers from Alzheimer's disease along with other health problems and needs full-time care and supervision. We finally have been able to get some help through Medicaid (a home health aide, adult day care, respite). This has made it possible for us to continue to keep her in a family setting. We know, however, that we may at some point need to consider a nursing home. I pray that Medicaid will still be available to cover this cost.

We are living on a pension and trying to insure that we have enough in savings to cover our own long-term care needs. If we had to pay the cost of Mom's care, we would be left with no resources for our own old age. I am very worried about the possibility of losing these benefits as I listen to the proposals not only in Congress but in our own state legislature.

Medicaid is a lifeline for us as it is for many families who care for elderly relatives. Please preserve the benefits for this population.

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**NEW MEXICO**

**Priscilla  
Albuquerque, NM**

My 87-year-old mother has spent the last 3 years of her life taking care of her 80-year-old husband. I am self employed and also care for my chronically ill son and have precious little time at the end of my work day to help my mother with her work load.

My step dad is in the final stages of dementia. He is contracted to the point where he cannot extend his legs and in order to change his diaper it takes 2 people with some strength to move him enough to pull out the diaper and then insert the clean one. Until just recently mom did this all alone.

Thankfully we were made aware of the assistance that Medicaid could provide. Now someone comes 3x per week to bathe and change him and that alone has been a godsend.

Mom is getting close to the time where she will need assistance in her personal care and I don't know how I or anyone in similar circumstances provide all the care needed just to provide the basics. Please keep Medicaid helping those who need it most.

**Deborah  
Los Lunas, NM**

I am a single mother of three children. Medicaid has helped me provide health care for my children. I work two jobs, have health insurance, but, Medicaid helps me pay co-pays and many services that my health insurance does not cover.

**Rebecca  
Santa Fe, NM**

My husband was laid off from his job in Jan. 2008 when our second child was 8 months old. It took one and a half years for either of us to land a full-time job with insurance benefits. He and I could and did work multiple part-time jobs in order to pay our bills. But with a baby and a toddler, we had to turn to Medicaid for insurance for the kids. By the way, my husband and I are both college educated. The jobs just aren't out there these days.

**Welcome  
Taos, NM**

During my first pregnancy, I was debilitated by a pregnancy-related

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"There is no doubt  
in my mind that  
without Medicare/  
Medicaid, my  
sister would be  
totally bedridden  
and immobile."

*Mary, Albuquerque, NM*

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illness that cost me all my savings and my job. My current pregnancy is, unfortunately, the same. Medicaid has saved my life in both instances, providing me with quality health care and health coverage for my child when I could not afford health insurance for myself or my child.

Also, Medicaid provides health coverage and aid to my brother, who has Down's Syndrome. Again, his life has been saved many times by the quality health coverage provided to him; coverage that would not likely be provided to him with private insurance providers considering the inherent health issues he faces.

Though I plan to be personally off Medicaid and on private health insurance within the year, I am grateful that my child(ren) is provided for and that I can have a safe pregnancy and delivery.

**Mary  
Albuquerque, NM**

My sister, Michelle, is the youngest of four children and was diagnosed with acute progressive MS at age 25. She had just graduated from college (which she paid for herself) and had her entire life before her. She is now 51 and living in a 24-hour care facility. She's been

there almost 10 years. The facility is paid for by Social Security disability, but her medical care is covered by Medicare/Medicaid.

The facility is clean and the health care providers are caring. Each medicine, device, procedure, or therapy she receives requires review and approval – most of which none of our family could afford to provide, nor could we care for her physically. She uses a lift to get in and out of bed and a wheelchair provides limited mobility. Medicare/Medicaid have provided the minimal quality of life she has and fortunately her personal needs and desires have never been excessive.

There is no doubt in my mind that without Medicare/Medicaid, my sister would be totally bedridden and immobile. Please continue to fund and support Medicaid. It is the only safety net available to many people in this country.

**Joyce  
Los Ranchos, NM**

I have two adult children with schizophrenia and one with autism. Two of the three have Medicaid. The other only Medicare. All are doing well considering their conditions. There is no way we could provide all they need on their own. Our son's progress seems miraculous as he takes part in community activities more and more: singing in the choir, playing French horn and piano (after years of not doing it), being on the board of NAMI-Westside, art and music programs.

This would not be possible without Medicaid which provides medicine, medical care, Home Health Care, Case Manager. Our daughter with autism has been helped a great deal by the Medicaid waiver program. She has a life in the community which she enjoys thanks to help for forty years, twenty with Medicaid.



Besides medical care and medicine, she has been helped to find employment after years of a search, Home Based Provider among other benefits. It is so important to keep these programs so that people with disabilities and develop their abilities out in the community and feel like the rest of us. **DON'T CUT THIS ESSENTIAL SUPPORT.**

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## **NEW YORK**

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### **Belkis New York City, NY**

I returned to school to pursue a graduate degree, and am in the process of finishing my Ph.D. I am the single parent of a toddler. If I could not be assured that my son's health care needs were covered by Medicaid, I would have to work full-time in order to provide him with health insurance.

A full-time job, plus being a single parent, means that finishing my Ph.D. – and a having a chance at a better life for myself and my son – would not be within reach. For my family, having access to Medicaid is a temporary, intermediate step that is critical in my pursuit of economic self-sufficiency.

### **Barbara New York City, NY**

I work as a Hospice Chaplain. I have many clients who are helped by Medicaid who have young children.

### **Kelly Woodbury, NY**

My son Andrew was born premature, 29 weeks weighing only 1 pound 6 ounces, he was in the hospital for 3 months, he had multiple surgeries, my husband and I were both working when my son came early but we were not able to manage the financial burdens that followed if it wasn't for Medicaid

stepping in to pay for his surgeries and NICU, he may not have lived.

Now Andrew is a healthy 12-year-old boy, excelling in school, thanks to the doctors and medical care provided at Schnediers Childrens hospital in Ny and to Medicaid. Please do not take this from the children, please!

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“She will graduate from college next year... This would not have been possible if she had to deal with debilitating health issues. Medicaid made it possible for her to function productively.”

*Sandra, Wilton, NY*

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### **Janet Philmont, NY**

We have an uncle and aunt, both in their 80s. He's had a stroke. She cares for him at home. Being at home is best for both of them. They are in a rural area. She can't drive.

Without Medicaid, they couldn't get the care he needs, nor the assistance she needs. If they were without Medicaid, he would be in a nursing home. That would be much more costly, and she would hardly be able to visit him.

### **Cathy Groton, NY**

We adopted our beautiful daughter, Zoe, at birth. She filled our lives with love. At the age of two and a half, Zoe was diagnosed with developmental delays, and later with ADHD, Tourette syndrome, and sensory integration disorder. Thankfully, we were able to qualify for services through Medicaid to pay for doctor bills and support services.

Zoe is thirteen now. It is clear that she will not be able to live independently as an adult, and as older parents we are worried about her future. Please make sure that Medicaid will be around to help children and adults like Zoe.

### **Patricia Scotia, NY**

I have MS and cancer. Without these two insurances I would not be able to pay for treatment. I would also not be able to stay at home. Home health aids are very expensive as are my cancer drugs. Please do not cut these programs. So many of us depend on them.

### **Sandra Wilton, NY**

My 26-year-old daughter has some common health problems which are controlled through medication and routine doctor visits. This care ensures she is a productive member of society. She will graduate from college next year with a degree in speech pathology. This would not have been possible if she had to deal with debilitating health issues. Medicaid made it possible for her to function productively.

### **Diane Suffern, NY**

My husband and I have payed for our own medical insurance since we got married at age 19. We are both 59 years old now. My hus-

band lost his business over a year ago and we are both unemployed. We have Healthy NY now that has just been raised to almost \$800 a month. We have gone through our savings and are about to run out of unemployment. We will have to cancel our health insurance and pray we don't get sick.

We have paid taxes all our lives and lived an honest life and now to be in this position at our age is a nightmare. We will probably need Medicaid one day soon and it will not be there for us. What else do you want to take away from us, while giving our money to banks, other countries, fight wars and spending foolishly in Congress. Please take a good look at what you are doing to our country and the poor and middle class people.

**Gail  
Staatsburg, NY**

I'm not on Medicaid but I know and love many people who are. I want to say that many people who aren't on Medicaid don't understand how broad a segment of our population Medicaid serves. Many others don't understand the difference between Medicaid and Medicare (which I am on).

People don't realize that a huge portion of Medicaid funds goes for elderly people in nursing homes, nor do they think about the children like Isaac. We're ALL in this together.

**Lisa  
Dix Hills, NY**

Medicaid is so very important to the families that use it and need it. Please don't cut funding to this truly important program. Thank You!!

**Judy  
New York City, NY**

The people who need it the most will be the most severely affected by changes in Medicaid funding.

Families who already cannot pay bills and are financially struggling will be choked. Please rethink this decision.

**Julie  
Bronx, NY**

My son has cerebral palsy, and he struggles daily just to have a decent normal life. In addition he needs therapy and he takes daily medication to survive. I think the government should really think about how these Medicaid cuts can affect millions of children like Jonathan, and can not only make things more expensive but also make the government have to pay more money on the long run. Rethink this cut.

**Diana  
Wallkill, NY**

I lost my health insurance when I graduated high school and couldn't afford to attend college. It had been years since I'd had a checkup before I found out I was pregnant. I paid the \$10 it cost for the doctor to confirm the pregnancy, and they directed me to a social worker they had on site. She helped me apply for Medicaid. I wasn't unemployed but I didn't make much money at the daycare where I worked.

Medicaid was a blessing to me. They paid for my doctor visits and most of my prescriptions. I didn't have to pay for my prenatal vitamins. I don't drive either so it was also a blessing that Medicaid paid for my medical transportation. If not for them I would've never been able to get to the doctor, let alone pay for it. About a week and a half after my due date we found out that my son was breech and there was no way I could deliver him on my own. I was scheduled for a C-section the next morning and my son was born healthy and happy.

My story doesn't end there though. A staple popped out of my incision and I had a deep hole in my

stomach. I needed home visiting nurses to come to my home every morning and change the packing they had to put into my stomach and re-bandage.

There is no doubt in my mind that Medicaid has saved both my life and my son's life. I can't even imagine how much I would be in debt without them.

**Alyson  
New York City, NY**

I am a special educator who understands the need for Medicaid supported programming for people with disabilities. Without these programs many of the children and families would have a complete reduction in their quality of life.

**Wendy  
Elmira Heights, NY**

Sadly I've been struck with several serious diseases and have been unable to work. I applied to Medicaid for years only to be turned down over and over. They thought because I was young when I first applied that I was faking. My health went down hill and I could only afford a few of my medicines and had to decide which ones I could take and then cut that in half or thirds. Then one day I got a letter saying I had been unjustly denied and I was getting Medicaid.

For me it was equal to winning the lottery. I was able to see a doctor that wasn't in a low income clinic and that actually started testing me to see what I had and where to go next. I've been able to have much needed surgeries and get medicines to help better my life and keep me alive.

I'm still very ill but now have doctors who will see me and treat me. There had been times in my past when the emergency rooms wouldn't see me because I had no



insurance and didn't have cash to pay or a credit card. Now if I need to I can go to an emergency room and they will treat me. This may sound silly but knowing that if I have to go back to the ER they will see me has taken a load of my shoulders.

This is just a small part of my own story but my mom (who has passed, luv u mom) also had to go on Medicaid. Medicaid saves lives, no doubt whatsoever. And cutting the budget on Medicaid is the same as killing some people! Please don't touch Medicaid!

**Mark  
Brooklyn, NY**

My wheel-chair bound step-mother, 87 years old, has two artificial knees, a heart pacemaker, one kidney, and Alzheimer's. She is now in a nursing home. I looked into home care and assisted living, but very quickly concluded that the only feasible option was long-term care and Medicaid.

I am her only immediate family member who can make medical and financial decisions for her, including selling a home, disposing of her possessions, and ensuring that she is content and properly fed. If it was not for Medicaid, bankruptcy and great stress would loom over me.

This is no position for the people of a great nation to be in. It sure seems that many of those in power are trying to force on us a ruthless business decision. But human beings are not units in their P and L statements!

**Leni  
New York City, NY**

My friend has ALS and cannot get disability or Medicare.

**Marci  
Bellmore, NY**

I need to work to support my

family and my aging mother. Medicaid allows my mom to get help in the house. Before she got Medicaid home care she fell 7 times a week!!

**Donald  
Amherst, NY**

Have we come to Fascism, with corporate rule and a lame government? When super wealthy could easily pay a fair share, there is no reason to break benefits for less fortunate. Perhaps, the problem is your reliance upon corporate sponsorship.

**Alison  
Brooklyn, NY**

I am a lawyer who works on behalf of people living with HIV/AIDS. Cuts to Medicaid would be devastating to huge numbers of my clients and their families. Health care for all is an ethical obligation of the state. If we turn our backs on our neediest and most marginalized, we lose our humanity, and any ability to claim moral authority on the international stage.

**Mikki  
Binghamton, NY**

As the mother of a disabled child I see many families struggling to provide care for loved ones. We see them in doctors' offices, therapist offices, therapy centers and hospital waiting rooms. In every single case they have made financial sacrifices in order to provide enough care.

Often, family members have to stop working altogether in order to provide physical care. To now punish such love and sacrifice by treating the disabled and elderly as throw away citizens in order to give the GREEDY rich one MORE financial break is frankly, disgusting and obscene.

**Sharon**

**New York City, NY**

We have benefited enormously from having had health insurance that was subsidized by New York State for our children. We are now at the stage of family life when our children have started college. Suddenly, not only do we have the financial pressures associated with sending kids to college but we are also losing their subsidized health insurance because they are about to turn 19!

The options of health insurance for low income Americans are terrible. Why cut off subsidized health insurance for young people at this stage in their lives and in the lives of parents who are having a hard time paying the costs of college so that these teens do not wind up with tons of debt? Child Health Plus has been a comprehensive insurance plan for our children. It paid for specialists, medicines, eyeglasses, preventive check ups and limited dental care.

We have been blessed but cannot afford to add our children to our current plan. The college insurance plan for students provides terrible benefits with no caps on how much a family may have to pay out of pocket. Very scary and not inexpensive. Even the best of plans we can find are not going to provide as comprehensive care as the one we have had under New York State called Child Health Plus.

**Karen  
Poughkeepsie, NY**

My mother has almost exhausted every penny of the substantial savings that she and my father built up over their entire married lives in order to pay for her care as she has aged. We are approaching retirement age ourselves and without the assistance of Medicare, we will all be thrown into a dire situation.

The cost of medical care is far too high for any aging middle class or poor individual to afford. The Medicare system needs close moni-

toring to avoid corruption, but it is vital for all but the most wealthy. Save Medicare for the sake of all Americans now and in the future.

**Carol**  
**Forest Hills, NY**

My mother died in 1991. She didn't want to go to a nursing home after open heart surgery at age 80 to replace two valves, damaged by rheumatic fever when she was a child before the days of antibiotics. Medicaid enabled her to have her final wish: to die at home.

My sister and I set up Hospice for her at her apartment for two and a half years with the help of Medicaid. She had a small pension in addition to Social Security, but it was not enough; some of her longest earning years preceded the establishment of Social Security.

She began supporting her birth family in 1923 at age 14 and worked full-time until her medical retirement at 62. A bright and talented woman, she never could finish school because she also worked to support 3 families during the Depression. I took over the major care-giving and the management of her financial obligations, and whenever the State of NY tried to throw her off Medicaid, and they tried, repeatedly, I had to beg to have her life-giving support services continue.

It is incredible to me that politicians who have no financial worries can think of cutting healthcare to the elderly and the disenfranchised...it is a sin. I do not like the growing chasm in the United States between the wealthy and the working middle-class and poor. If our elected representatives cannot fight for our rights as citizens, why should they benefit from our taxes? We need their steadfast support, not their political gamesmanship.

We need Medicaid and the basic social services established after

WW II. They saved my mother's life for many years so she could watch her grandchildren grow up.

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"My mother has almost exhausted every penny of the substantial savings that she and my father built up over their entire married lives in order to pay for her care as she has aged."

*Karen, Poughkeepsie, NY*

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**Jennifer**  
**New York City, NY**

When my daughter was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor at 15 months of age, I had to quit my job to take care of her while she received chemotherapy and IV meds literally around the clock as an inpatient. Due to the loss of my income our family could no longer afford to pay for insurance for all of us so we applied to Medicaid for my daughter.

Medicaid saved us financially, and covered LIFE SAVING chemotherapy medication that our insurance would not have covered anyway. My daughter is now over 4 years old and thriving.

**Gale**  
**East Setauket, NY**

My mother was on an HMO the last couple of years and will now be placed back on Medicare and

Medicaid as the HMO was a disaster. I'm sure Medicaid coverage will definitely help her in medical assistance, home health care, etc.

**Taryn**  
**Mount Vernon, NY**

My parents depend on Medicaid as will I in a few years.

**Catherine**  
**New Rochelle, NY**

It is wrong in every sense of the word to cut funding to help for people aging and in need. Don't even think about it.

**Frank**  
**Westbury, NY**

My mother needed help in her final year of life and my sister helped her as much as she could but needed to work. We got excellent nursing help for Medicare and Medicaid in her final months of life.

Please leave the Medicare program as is and try to save some money by getting out of our needless wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Also reduce the size of our Military expenditure. Maybe those two cost saving ideas will help us to keep Medicare the way it is currently working.

**Deb**  
**Cheektowaga, NY**

Please help those who've worked so hard.

**Bruce**  
**New York City, NY**

My Mother suffered a stroke 15 years ago, and since that time she has relied primarily on Medicaid/ Medicare. Without it, the costs would be astronomical and her quality of life would be greatly diminished!



**Linda  
Ithaca, NY**

My husband Kenny Ritter died in September 2009 of Multiple System Atrophy-Cerebellar, a neurodegenerative disease. For some unknown reason, the brain connectors begin to disintegrate. The brain generates the messages but the systems of the body do not receive them.

Long before his death, Kenny could not walk, speak audibly, digest food and his body could not regulate its temperature. He could not feed himself; if his head rolled off his pillow, he could not lift it to put it back. Like most victims of MSA-C, he suffered severe anxiety as well.

Luckily for us, we live in NY and Kenny was eligible for a Medicaid program called Long Term Home Healthcare. Medicaid paid for Kenny's Medicare premium, his copays and medicines, therapy and – thank God – aides to help me care for him a couple of hours a week. I had quit my job in the midst of his disease in order to take care of Kenny, and before the Medicaid kicked in, 100% of the care and raising our four children was squarely on me.

A wonderful social worker told me that 30 years ago, when she was studying geriatrics, the professors were talking about how we had to prepare for the time when the baby boomers became old. But now, we've discovered that the baby boomer generation is sicker than the previous generation. We have more cancers, degenerative and autoimmune diseases than our parents. In other words, we need Medicaid. During my Well Spouse days, I truly believed that the stress would kill me. The only thing that kept me going was knowing that my kids had already been through too much.

If I had not had the financial support of Medicaid, not only would Kenny have suffered more pain and debility due to our lack of decent care and equipment. But

I, too, would have been unable to continue to provide care by myself for him. How can these politicians talk about family values? Caring for the most vulnerable amongst us is a value that should be primary for them.

**Anonymous  
New York**

I'm a 61-year-old black woman and I have worked 45 years and I'm still working. I worked for a large company in the western part of NY. This company sold and resold the company. I lost all of my retirement and went to a medical institute that pays me only 1/4 of the salary that I made. I am currently living paycheck to paycheck, with most of my money going to medical insurance and everyday living expenses.

I will have to work until I'm 67 before getting medical and I afraid that when I reach that number there will be no SS or medical. I have earned my medical and SS. I don't want Congress to starting cutting SS and Medicaid. It's all I can do to get too my job daily. I think anyone who's worked 25-30 years they have earned every penny of medical social security.

**Rosalie  
Poughkeepsie, NY**

My mom is 85 years old and has succumbed to medical conditions related to aging. I would like to know how come Congress takes it out on the people who can least afford it when they need to cut corners.

My family, as well as myself, has contributed a lot to the system as long-time employees and tax payers. We count too because when we are able to work, our taxes help keep this big machine running. This is one of the richest nations in the world and I think it is a shame and disgrace the way our government rewards (I mean un-rewards) us for our efforts.

**Carolyn  
New York City, NY**

My daughter, Athena, also started life as a 28-week preemie. She also weighed 2-1/4 pounds at birth, and spent almost 3 months in the NICU after that. This was 20 years ago... and Medicaid-funded services have been supporting her in almost every phase of her life since then.

Unfortunately, Athena did not come through her difficult birth unscathed. She has cerebral palsy, which affects her whole body. She is unable to stand or walk, or even sit without support. She uses a customized power wheelchair for mobility. She needs help with all daily living activities, including getting out of the bed in the morning.

On the bright side, however, Athena's speech is unimpaired and she is very smart. She's great with languages, in fact, and is currently a sophomore in college, majoring in French. But as I described it to someone recently, her life 'runs on Medicaid.' \*So far\* we have excellent services here in New York.

Athena receives personal care services through 'regular' Medicaid. She is also in the Home and Community Based Medicaid Waiver program, through which she receives additional support for college, in the form of a 'Day Hab Without Walls' staff person. Medicaid helps to pay for her customized wheelchairs and other adaptive equipment. Medicaid helped to pay for years' worth of physical and occupational therapy.

As long as the Federal funding is there, and New York State maintains its current commitment to community-based services funded by Medicaid, then Athena will have an excellent chance of living and working in the community and becoming a contributing member of society. But without Medicaid funding for community-based services, Athena would be at extremely high risk of ending up in a nurs-

ing home, which would be a tragic waste of a young, vibrant life.

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## NORTH CAROLINA

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### **Sally** **Oak Island, NC**

In 2009, our son Caleb was diagnosed with Autism when he was almost three years old. He could speak but he could not meaningfully communicate, there was no eye contact or much interaction with the people around him. Caleb has many sensory issues and at the time, any small thing could send him into a tailspin of tantrums and dangerous behaviors. We were lost in where to start or how to help him.

As a family, we were lucky enough to qualify for Medicaid and it has been a lifesaver for him and us. He has needed continuous Speech and Occupational therapies. Through these dedicated therapists' hard work, he can now hold a conversation, dress himself, use a spoon and fork, draw letters and has even started to play with other children.

We have had insurance the whole time but we could not afford these therapies which would have been hundreds of dollars per month without Medicaid. We even have been able to take him to specialists that we never would have approached without Medicaid's help. These specialists have helped us to understand his growth and how to best help him going forward.

It is terrifying to think where we would be if this had not been an option for us. Caleb would still be locked in his overwhelming, uncommunicating world. Instead he has 'possibilities' in front of him which is a heavy word that parents of special needs children do not get to use or think about often.

I hope legislatures who are contemplating these changes think hard on all of the children, people and families this will effect. We un-

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"It is terrifying to think where we would be if this had not been an option for us. Caleb would still be locked in his overwhelming, uncommunicating world. Instead he has possibilities in front of him..."

*Sally, Oak Island, NC*

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derstand that this is a budget issue and very important to them... but this is our children's lives and there is nothing more important to us.

### **Holly** **North Carolina**

As a single mother of two, I was working as an IT Analyst for 3 years and my pay was great and I could afford medical insurance for myself and my kids. In Nov. 2010 my job migrated to India causing me to change job positions. Although I was thankful that I had a job, I also suffered from a 13K a year pay cut. This caused me to have a hardship. I could not afford to pay health insurance for me and my kids any more. My daughter was just a infant so she needed shots every few months and I was unable to pay for them.

Someone told me about Medicaid and I applied. Both of my kids were approved and my daughter is up to date on all of her shots and checkups. I don't know what I would have done if I did not have Medicaid for them.

### **Karen** **Bessemer City, NC**

My grandson Isaac was born with hydranencepholy. The frontal lobe of his brain did not develop during pregnancy. Medicaid is the only insurance that will cover him.

Without Medicaid, he would die. He has received great care and is doing better than expected. His mother has to stay at home because he requires 24 hour care. She is unable to have more children.

He has brought so much joy to his parents and to our family. Congress what are you thinking? Why would you want to cut services to the sick and the elderly? Cut your salary if you need money to balance the budget, not medical care for the disabled and the elderly.

### **Barbara** **Waynesville, NC**

I have a 31-year-old Downs Syndrome son that desperately needs his Medicaid. Without it he would suffer greatly. I am the bread winner at my house my husband is disabled and what money we get from my job and their checks we barely make ends meet. Not only does it help with his meds, he also gets CAP MR/DD services so that I can work.

Mark's step-dad has declining health problems so he is unable to help with Mark. That is why I am begging you please don't cut Medicaid. Medicaid has help in so many ways to make Mark's life is normal as possible. Please help us by not changing Medicaid.

### **Heidi** **Cary, NC**

Without the help of Medicaid, I would not have had the opportunity to carry my son safely to full



term. It is very necessary to provide Medical care to babies, and women who are pregnant. Please do not cut Medicaid; when are children and pregnant women need Medicare the most.

**Gloria  
Durham, NC**

I don't have a story, but I see families everyday in the community that struggle everyday to make it. And just the thought of them having to worry about this is down right A SHAME! We did not expect for you to cut the livelihood for people but to help save the people.

**Sarah  
Lumberton, NC**

Without Medicaid I don't know what I would do. I take about 10 medicines that would be impossible for me to get without Medicaid. I have acid reflux, chronic pain, bipolar, and sleep issues that I need medicine for.

**Doylene  
Hickory, NC**

My mother is 87 and has been in a nursing home for 4 years. She has had many trips back and forth to the hospital. She has congestive heart failure.

She, also, has lost most of her eye sight and hearing. She is being helped by Medicaid to get the care she needs. I don't know what we would do without this help.

**Douglas  
Chapel Hill, NC**

Medicaid is a critical part of the social safety net. A quality society can be judged by how well it treats those in need.

**Syble  
Wilmington, NC**

I have worked as an infant spe-

cialist and seen families financially devastated by the birth of a child with disabilities. I've also worked with the elderly and again saw families sacrificing their own savings and future retirement for the medical care and associated expenses for an elderly relative.

Unless you've personally experienced the choices, devastation and trauma these families experience it is hard to imagine. Cutting funding for medical costs is a penny wise and a pound foolish. Families want to be responsible but should not have to sacrifice their future to do it.

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"Medicaid is a critical part of the social safety net. A quality society can be judged on how well it treats those in need."

*Douglas, Chapel Hill, NC*

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**India  
Black Mountain, NC**

I could not afford my medications, I would not be able to sleep at night or eat with the anxieties that come with being an unemployed mother of two, and therefore be an even less productive member of society.

**Tabitha  
Zebulon, NC**

My whole family is on Medicaid and job does not have health cov-

erage. To cut this program would mean my son would never be able to go to the doctors and we could not afford my husband's breathing machine.

**Cheryl  
Fuquay Varina, NC**

My mother Ruth has had Parkinson's Disease for almost 20 years. She is 66 years old. At this time she is on Medicare, however I know a time is coming soon when she may need Medicaid.

My father is still working full time, he is 67 and self employed. With all of the medical expenses that they have had to face over the past 20 years, they have no retirement. My mom already needs a lot more care than what she is receiving and will probably have no alternative but to go into a nursing home at some point.

Without Medicaid that would not be possible and then I have no idea how she would get the care she needs.

**Jessica  
Morganton, NC**

My youngest sister has Down's Syndrome. She is a wonderful active person who is 46 years old, but she has had some health problems. She lives with our 83-year-old mom in the home we grew up in. They both live on Social Security, and our mom is deeply in debt due to increasing living and medical expenses. I am so thankful for Medicaid, which helps pay for many of my sister's medical expenses.

I'm a student and work part-time. My husband lost his job and we have two kids in college so we are not able to help much financially. Medicaid has helped my sister live a healthier, more independent life. It's an important program that helps many, and I hope and pray that it continues.

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## OHIO

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### **Glenda Perrysburg, OH**

I am a LPN who does private duty nursing care for children with special needs that is funded by Medicaid. These kids are precious and medically fragile. Without home care these families will not have the help they need to hold down their jobs and get the help they need to get their children to thrive and improve their health.

I see first hand how aide helps the whole family but especially the children. Their strides forward with improving health and accomplishing activities to help them become functioning individuals is so important and cannot be placed with a pricetag! This cannot happen without the care they need and deserve.

These programs cannot be cut! These cuts will also impact the caregivers that are needed to take care of these special children. I am asking you to please look elsewhere to trim your budget without taking away the lifeline for these children and their families.

### **Deborah Toledo, OH**

I have a Master's Degree in Social Work and my license. I am employed at a national agency, yet my income qualifies me for Medicaid. The blessing is that there is something out there for my children to be covered under so they can have regular check ups and things of that nature. If I didn't have this, my already meager income would be taxed that much more trying to pay doctor bills.

### **Allie Akron, OH**

I have been a nursing home social worker for many years and am very frustrated by all of the cuts and proposed cuts to Medicaid. It has dramatically affected our abil-

ity to care for our nursing home residents.

Our psych care is going down as the psychiatrist will no longer be reimbursed by Medicaid for their services unless they are actively working on discharge planning. This does not help my building as we are mostly long-term and have a behavior unit. As of July 1, 2011, my psych residents will not be able to receive the care that they are in such great need of if they are straight Medicaid. Something needs to change!!

### **Miranda Norwalk, OH**

My husband had some medical issues, and we didn't think we could have a baby together. He is an incredible dad to my daughters, but we decided to try for one together. We were both working at the time, but his company went out of business shortly after I got pregnant. I have insurance through my employer, but there was no way we could pay for daily expenses AND the cost having a baby.

With the cost of doctor's appointments and the delivery, we would have been bringing the baby home to a cardboard box rather than a home. Thankfully, we were able to receive Medicaid benefits to use as a secondary insurance. Without that, I don't know how we would have made it.

### **Brad Circleville, OH**

As an emergency physician I am face to face with the unspeakable pain and suffering of the uninsured and under-insured everyday. Come spend a shift with me in the emergency department, look into the eyes of those condemned to suffering and an early death by our profit-driven health insurance system and explain to them why we must have tax cuts for billionaires while cutting their healthcare.

### **Sheryl East Canton, OH**

The economy has certainly hurt our family. My husband is working (yeah), but he is still making the amount that he made on unemployment (which is barely enough to cover the bills for our family). I just had a still-birth last March. Had it not been for Medicaid, I would not have been able to pay the medical bills incurred due to that loss.

Three years ago, my daughter had a serious urinary issue. She had to have surgery to prevent future kidney infections. She was already down to 50% usage with her one kidney, and the other was starting to have damage too. Having Medicaid made it possible for my little girl to have the saving surgery. She is able to live a normal life now! Thank you!

### **V. Lynn Canton, OH**

I have been a nurse a long time and have witnessed the need for Medicare and Medicaid to provide the bare essential of health care to people of all ages. One such experience that has stuck with me for years is, as an oncology nurse, I helped care for a young mother on Medicaid. She was dying of a form of leukemia. I remember the oncologist saying this is a shame. She doesn't have to die but we gave her the best Medicaid would provide.

As her 4 year old wandered around the room, all I could think of was how Medicaid should have provided more and how could this be happening in a country that is so generous to others. We need to take care of our own so there are fewer motherless children. The people in Washington need to think about where they would be today if they had been a motherless child. Maybe then they will think of increasing Medicaid benefits, not reducing them.



**Sarah  
University Heights, OH**

My mother was diagnosed with breast cancer when she was 41. While she beat the disease, as a result of her intensive chemo treatments she now suffers from severe nerve damage and debilitating seizures. Mom is confined to a wheelchair and my father retired from his job early to help care for her. As her condition worsens, my parents will rely on Medicaid more and more.

I fear that all the years of hard work – saving carefully for retirement and playing by the rules as most middle-class families do – will be wasted if my family cannot rely on Medicaid to help cover the costs of her care. I urge Congress and the President to please preserve this important program.

**Davetta  
Cincinnati, OH**

I am one of a family of five. My husband and I both work full time jobs. Together our household income is less than 45K. He works for a company that doesn't offer medical benefits and I work for a non profit social service agency that can barely afford to offer me any. Benefits for myself alone equals more than 5% of my income.

I have a son who has a disability and requires lots of care. Because of Medicaid we are able to obtain the care he needs. Without Medicaid we wouldn't be able to afford the medical treatment and would be forced to live off of even less than what we make because one of us would have to stay home with him. This would add extra strain on the economy due to the need to apply for subsidized housing, food benefits and more.

But with his treatment that is paid for by Medicaid, he is able to go to school, camp, enjoy things other children his age enjoy and we are able to continue to work and contribute through our tax dollars

to the public service that helps us make it all possible. Please do not cut Medicaid. My story may not be the most compelling, but there are thousands of others that are.

**Michaele  
Toledo, OH**

I am, by no fault of my own, a dependent on Medicare and Medicaid. I have been a victim of a stroke since the age of four that left me paralyzed on my right side. There was no known cause as to why this occurred.

My parents had 'military coverage' as I was growing up, and my mother gave me the sense of keeping myself mobile so that I could grasp the closest things of life that made me as normal as any child. I got married, had children, and even sustain a job after Medicaid paid for a corrective procedure to extend the tendons of my right leg, that gave me freedom to walk, without assistance, for ten years.

Early in 2007, I was finding it difficult to do my normal duties, and was let go because I was considered 'lazy' and 'unreliable,' thanks to the paralysis, and an unknown medical problem that was slowly developing into what is commonly called Fibromyalgia. I was no longer 'able' to carry out duties I had done before because of the combination of the pain I was experiencing, and my right leg returning to its previously atrophied state. I have applied and now receive Social Security Disability.

Without the Medicaid I would not be able to live in a home, or pay utilities without considering what I would have to take my meager finances away from in order to pay for my medical bills and medication. It is a little known fact that when you receive Medicare, it only pays a portion of the medical bills you incur.

My Medicaid supplement allows me to breathe that much more

easier that I am not going deeper in debt for medical care, medications and supplies. Without Medicaid I am sure that I would seriously be looking at being on the street, instead of having a place to call home. Please keep Medicaid. It is very important to families of the elderly and disabled.

**Anonymous  
Kingston, OH**

We need to lead the charge for our former leaders who may be marginalized if we don't lead the way for our vulnerable citizens.

**Mary Jane  
Bedford, OH**

We paid into Medicare a long, long time and it helped my husband. And I sincerely hope that it will help me when I need it. And I do hope my children will also be helped by both. Adults and children desperately need that help. Oppose anything that changes Medicare or Medicaid.

Do all of you in politics think first about those you are elected to serve or just your own hide? And how many would be willing to share your 'Pot of Gold'? I am angry and sad that every day our papers find another 'public servant' who has been dishonest. Enough said!

**Michael,  
Toledo, OH**

Stop being so stingy with our American money, and start spending it on Americans.

**Janet  
Yellow Springs, OH**

I was born in 1940 to a hard working family in Ohio. I did what they taught me to do. I worked hard, did my homework and graduated from High School in 1957. After working hard in college and waitressing and babysitting and

doing all I could in the summers, in 1961 I graduated from a state college and in that fall, began teaching school.

Well, I have had many jobs and careers since. I have an MA in counseling and am a licensed social worker. Was married for over 35 years but am now a widow. We reared three children and helped in the lives of many more. This is NO big story. Simply put, I NEED Social Security and Medicare just to avoid being without health care and most certainly to continue to be able to live in my home.

I am 71. Because of the years that I was a stay at home mom and a caregiver to an aging grandparent and the years I quit working to care for my dying spouse, I still have a job and go to work.

This IS THE AMERICAN STORY for most women. Why would anyone want to end our benefits now?

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## OKLAHOMA

### **Rosalyn Shawnee, OK**

I am the mother of a disabled adult daughter. Medicare and Medicaid have been very important in her care. She is able to live at home and has not been hospitalized in several years. It is urgent that Medicare and Medicaid be preserved. It is much more cost effective than hospitalization and emergency room care!

### **Scherina Durant, OK**

As of right now no one in my family is in need, but I know other families that are in need and only pray they can continue to receive the medical services they require. I also would pray that in any case someone in my family did need these services the medical care would be there.

### **Melissa Edmond, OK**

My mother-in-law had a seizure at her new job, Walmart (after being at home for years), and did not yet qualify for health insurance (not even catastrophic insurance). She was diagnosed with 2 brain tumors, one benign, the other malignant. Without Medicaid, my mother-in-law could not have received any cancer treatment and the hospice care she will eventually receive.

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“Without Medicaid  
I wouldn't be  
alive today. Does  
that matter to  
those I trusted to  
represent me?”

*Naomi, Ashland, OR*

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### **Connie Wagoner, OK**

My husband suffered an aneurysm and then a stroke which left the left side of his body unusable. I couldn't take care of him at home. He was in the hospital four months. I stayed at the hospital also, and almost lost my job. In order for him to qualify for Medicaid, DHS said I had to sell all of my cows, and anything else that was worth selling. The cows were part of my livelihood, but I did as they said. After my husband passed away, I found out I could have kept my cows.

If Medicaid hadn't helped, I would have had to declare bankruptcy which almost happened anyway. I am just now recovering from all the bills. It was 4 years in May.

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## OREGON

### **Naomi Ashland, OR**

Without Medicaid I wouldn't be alive today. Does that matter to those I trusted to represent me?

### **Jennifer Portland, OR**

Sometimes I think people in Washington have NO idea what is going on with people in the U.S. This is primarily because our legislators are middle or upper class folk. And guess who they hang out with, and talk with? Other middle or upper class folk!! Rarely do the worlds of the lower working class and middle or upper class collide. Well, everyday I see these people in my clinic that utilize Medicaid and CHIP programs.

I am a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner at a Federally Qualified Health Center. I see people who can't go to the grocery store until their next pay check... can't afford their kids antibiotics for an ear infection... can't afford healthy food so they eat sugary cereal and Cheetos all day long. There are so many complex issues we face societally.... but please be apprised of REAL happenings with people who utilize these social safety net programs. Without them, we will all suffer – because of many reasons, the most important of which is that children need to be healthy in order to become healthy, productive adults. Less productive adults means a less productive society, which affects us all in the long term.

### **Michelle College Corner, OH**

My two son's were born with multi-handicaps: severe mental retardation, autism, Gamit, epilepsy, along with other delayed developments. My son's and our family de-



pend on Medicaid to help out with all the medical needs and treatment they require to lead some what of an atypical life.

**Martha  
Portland, OR**

I receive medical care and am currently seeking employment, after being laid off from my job in April of this year. In order to be able to work, I must remain healthy, but if my benefits were cut, I would not be able to pay for my medicines and testing supplies. I am going to be part of the July 30th organizing events (grassroots) which will be fighting to preserve these programs, which assist millions of Americans, especially children.

**Margaret  
Scappoose, OR**

After working in the health care industry for 8 years, I was temporarily uninsured. It was at this time when I required emergency surgery for a ruptured spleen. The costs of surgery and hospitalization were huge. Unable to pay this I was given the option of Medicaid for the one month of my illness. This provided such peace of mind and was instrumental in my recover and rapid return to work. I have never forgotten this 'gift'. Since then I have also never been without insurance!

**Lynne  
Ashland, OR**

When people marry each other they take vows, often they chose to include to stand by and love each other in sickness and in health. As children we do not make these vows to our parents. Rather most of us want to stand by our parents and grandparents in times sickness or disability due to the daily sacrifices they make while raising us.

For most Americans the costs of Health Care prohibit us from being able to do the right thing for our

families and loved ones and this why we need to support Medicare programs. Having to choose between a dignified life for your children over a dignified life for your parents is not the American values we support and pay our taxes to.

Unlike the fact that some unlucky marriages end in divorce, our Government and Health Care programs that I endorse ought not withdrawal from their legal responsibility to take care of our citizens in time of sickness or in maintaining their health.

**Maranee  
Portland, OR**

Health Insurance, Medicare and Medicaid was so important in caring for my mom with cancer when she could no longer care for herself. She paid taxes, social security and Medicare taxes all her life as I have. We should be able to have that help at the end of life or when ill and need support. Vote appropriately.

**Erin  
Portland, OR**

Please do not cut Medicaid funding. My mother, a retired teacher, is dependent on Medicaid for her healthcare. Without its protection, she would not seek / receive necessary care. As a mother to 8 children, a grandmother to 9 children, and a faithful teacher for many years to low income children, she should not have to worry about care and getting sick.

**Saren  
Corvallis, OR**

My mother passed away in 2007 after living in Assisted Living for five years and in Adult Foster Care home for the last 2 years of her life. She worked hard all of her life and when she needed help Medicaid came to her rescue. At age 85 she had only her small Social Security

check for income and could not afford the cost of living in Assisted Living even though her physician said she had to leave her apartment because it was no longer safe for her to live alone.

Without the monthly help from Oregon Medicaid her last years would have been very different. But due to Medicaid's help she died peacefully at age 90 with Hospice care and wonderful care in the Adult Foster home where she lived in in Salem, OR.

**Roger  
Eugene, OR**

What can a person do when they get older and have cancer in their bladder? All the astronomical costs involved demand that our country needs to help these people who have made America what it is today. Taking advantage of old people and cutting their programs and limiting their living expenses is inhuman. Would you like it if your mom or dad had these problems?

Please support those who cannot voice this enough for themselves. Helping our elders is compassionate sanity and is how we make their last years work for them. Elders have earned their right to be treated with dignity.

**Kitty  
Newport, OR**

It is hard for me to summarize here how necessary it is for some of my family members to receive Medicaid and disability payments without further cuts. There is a saying that you can judge a country better, not by what it does for its wealthy, but what it does for its poor and sick. If that is true, America is in big trouble.

I have a mother who is (and always has been) mentally ill; a brother who is retarded; and a sister who is functionally retarded. None of them can fend for themselves, and

one of my sisters (saint that she is) has devoted her life to their care – with only the meager payments from the government for support/help. My mother is now in a Nursing Home with Parkinson's Disease, and she cannot be left alone. They get by only because of Medicaid; our family cannot afford medical care for her ourselves.

We all work full-time, and we all barely get by with our own families. Our medical insurance is skyrocketing, costs of everything are up, and our wages have been decreased or frozen. Meanwhile, we have spent trillions on the Iraq/Afghanistan 'war' on terror; have given billions to corrupt bankers; have bailed out CEOs who got multi-million dollar bonuses (and still are).

Yet we are cutting the \$500/month my mentally ill mother gets and my retarded siblings get. Wow. What a country. Our politicians are crooks, and we are getting crooked by them. Who do we vote for who is NOT corrupt?

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## PENNSYLVANIA

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**Lisa**  
**Philadelphia, PA**

The day my son was born it was supposed to be a moment of joy. When they whisked him away the joy was quickly replaced with fear. He had respiratory distress syndrome. His little lungs were not ready yet. At 10 days old I held him, nursed him for the first time.

If it wasn't for the quality care he received this world would be a little less light and little more chilly. Because our insurance and Medicaid covered his care, we were able to focus on getting him better and getting him home instead of worrying with each day how we were going to pay for it all.

This family is incredibly grateful and honestly believe that the care we received will impact us in ways

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"This girl is a fighter.  
She had a chance  
because our  
Government gave  
her one. I'm proud  
to be an  
American, where  
my tax dollars  
support other  
Americans fighting  
to survive."

*Amanda, Parkesburg, PA*

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we will never know since we will be busy counting our blessings and loving this life!

**Colleen**  
**Levittown, PA**

My son has asthma, I would not be able to afford his medications and doctor appointments if we did not have Medical Assistance or CHIP. I have major depression which has been mostly kept in check due to medications that I cannot afford. If I did not have any treatment for my illness I would not be able to be a living citizen, much less a parent.

I have been unemployed for over 2 years now and have spent most of that time going back to college to get a degree in Accounting. I now have a part-time book-keeping job which does not afford me any medical coverage for my son or myself. Without services like CHIP or Medicaid, I don't know how I would keep us both healthy and able to be growing, productive citizens.

The cuts our governor is trying to get through are an abomination.

This is truly a war on the poor and sick while the rich help themselves get richer with new and appalling audacity.

**Anonymous**  
**Marcus Hook, PA**

I am single mom and there is no possibility that with my \$31,000 year salary I can afford health care for my son, without assistance from Medicaid / and or CHIP!

**Mardys**  
**Wynnwood, PA**

I have a 35-year-old daughter with a 22Q11.2 deletion. When she left home at 19, she received Medicaid. She was 21 when her father died and eligible to receive his Medicare. Without these insurances, she would be in trouble. What is more important, she is part of a mental health community program where most participants rely on Medicaid.

If you are mentally healthy, say a prayer of thanks. Mental illness is a devastating disease. Without Medicaid, most of the people will have services cut, many will end up homeless, many will die. How callous is any society that would dare to cut services to its most challenged people. Shame!

**Amanda**  
**Parkesburg, PA**

My daughter was born 14 months ago, weighing 560 grams. She spent over 200 days in the NICU. Medicaid covered her expenses while in the hospital, and has paid for her doctors appointments since coming home to live with us.

My husband is a Naval Officer, starting his medical residency in Pediatrics this summer. We are so grateful for the Government Programs which have allowed him to remain in medical school and fulfill



his life long dreams of becoming a doctor.

I have remained in school, taking classes online, and will hopefully receive my teaching certification for High School science this December.

Without Medicaid, my husband would have had to take a leave of absence from medical school and find a job that provided medical insurance for us. Even then, with coverage at 80/20, we would have been looking at hundreds of thousands of dollars in medical bills.

Our daughter is a survivor. She laughs, interacts and brings joy into our lives daily. It has been an incredibly stressful time, watching her struggle to overcome so much. She is fed through a J-tube, and still requires supplemental oxygen; nasal cannula while awake and CPAP while asleep. She gets therapy three times a week, and is making great improvement. She is sitting up, learning to use her hands, and is making attempts to get up on hands and knees. We know that she will be crawling soon, and before we know it, she'll be off and running.

This girl is a fighter. She had a chance because our Government gave her one. I'm proud to be an American, where my tax dollars support other Americans fighting to survive. (Her blog can be seen at [www.cak-micropreemie.blogspot.com](http://www.cak-micropreemie.blogspot.com))

**Candi**  
**Carlisle, PA**

I'm here for Issac. How can people even think about making choices like that? That little boy needs health insurance. Congress needs to put themselves in other people's shoes. Let it happen to them and it'd be a different story.

**Linda**  
**Pittsburgh, PA**

I work with adults with disabilities. They depend so much on

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"I never thought I'd need Medicaid, but it got us through a difficult spot. And I'm sure early intervention prevented much bigger health issues..."

*Jennifer, Pittsburgh, PA*

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the Medicare for all their medical needs. Most only have SSI and are on a very low income. They need this program. What will they do without it.

**Mary**  
**Scranton, PA**

When my older daughter was 10 she needed to get her tonsils out. She needed to get them out before the end of August as her state insurance was going to run out. Also school would start at the beginning of September and I wanted her well enough to start school with her class. The doctors were able to work with my schedule to do the surgery.

Everything fell into place and here she was healed by the end of August. Her pediatrician and surgeon both took Medicaid and made me feel very comfortable all the way around. Thank you.

**Janelle**  
**Schwenksville, PA**

Medicaid allowed me to seek medical attention when I found out I was pregnant with my baby girl. I

was unemployed and could not find a job at the time. It turned out I had an abnormality and had to go to Philadelphia (an hour to two hour drive) once per month to have ultrasounds done to monitor my baby's growth.

If it wasn't for Medicaid, I probably would not have had the care I did throughout my pregnancy and possibly even could have lost my daughter due to the abnormality I had.

**J**  
**Philadelphia, PA**

My husband and I have both worked in the food service industry for a long time, where employee health care coverage is rare. We have relied on CHIP and/or Medicaid coverage for our health insurance for years.

**Jennifer**  
**Pittsburgh, PA**

My son was born 6 weeks prematurely and luckily we had health insurance with good coverage for his 3-week stay at the NICU. However, he needed a year's physical therapy and later occupational/nutritional therapy to catch up his development and growth.

Without the help of medical assistance, those additional expenses NOT covered by our private insurance would have put our family into debt we can't afford right now. I never thought I'd need Medicaid, but it got us through a difficult spot. And I'm sure early intervention prevented much bigger health issues that could have developed.

**Harriet**  
**Haverford, PA**

My experience as a parent educator and a psychologist is that parents need the support that Medicaid provides when those impossible situations arise. As a nation with a history of caring, we can not balance the budget on the needs of

those who are caring for the next generation. Balancing the budget means raising taxes especially on those who are not paying their fair share.

**Lee  
Ridgeway, PA**

Owen Lee was born right on time. With weekly sonograms and stress test 6 weeks before his due date, all seemed to be fine. Days before a scheduled c-section it was determined that he needed to be born. He came into the world blue, struggling to cry. Owen was whisked from the room and had his first helicopter flight to Pittsburgh Children's Hospital where it was determined that he had a congenital heart disease called Tetralogy of Fallot, among other less critical problems.

He had his first heart cath at 4 days. His first open heart surgery at 10 weeks. He nearly died. Owens pulmonary arteries are too small and not growing and he is now oxygen dependent after developing pulmonary hypertension at 18 months. He will eventually need a heart lung transplant. He has had many hospital stays for complications from infections, 10 heart caths, and 3 helicopter rides to date. We have a long road ahead of us.

My insurance from my job alone would not cover the cost of his care either while here at home or in the hospital. His monthly medication, and he only takes 1 besides the aspirin, runs near \$1,800 for one month worth. Cutting his medical assistance would be cutting his possibility to continue living. Rental of the O2 concentrator and the pulse ox monitor, the blood pressure cuff and stethoscope. All these things were funded by his medical assistance. Without it, I do not know where we would be.

Please consider Owen and all the others when you consider cutting the funding for programs helping

families who are caring for someone with special needs. We need the help if not just for peace of mind knowing that they will be taken care of. Thank you for your time.  
Lee – Owen's Mom

**Rebecca  
Philadelphia, PA**

Both my husband and I have been unemployed (or underemployed) for two years. We have no health insurance. I was laid off from my job six weeks before I gave birth, and my health insurance was cancelled one week after giving birth. If we didn't have CHIP, we would have no health insurance for my son, which means he wouldn't get the necessary vaccinations and care all babies under two need.

**Ellen  
West Chester, PA**

I am 57 years old and my husband has been disabled and unable to work since 2003. He has mental and physical disabilities. Therefore, I am the breadwinner and have no choice but to work until I can't anymore. I'm beginning to think I don't live in the United States of America anymore.

When did this government stop working FOR the people? The only thing the government does now is cater to the rich and corporate and make new laws taking our cherished liberties away. Please do not cut Medicare, Medicaid or Social Security just to allow the rich to get richer. Obviously, none of the cuts will hurt them but will hurt the backbone of America, the middle class.

**Kate  
Philadelphia, PA**

Medicaid provided a comfortable place for my grandmother to live in her final years – she actually got healthier and happier after she entered a Medicaid-funded nursing home!

**Christy  
Huntingdon, PA**

My father had Alzheimer's disease and died in 2007 following 5 years in a retirement center. My mother is now in that same retirement home, needing care for her dementia. After a lifetime of savings, the savings has nearly been depleted and my mother will soon need to depend upon other sources. I will not be able to support her care without Medicaid assistance, and I fear what might be the result of her future.

**Allyson  
Manheim, PA**

My husband was laid off work two years ago and is now a full-time college student, striving to improve himself by furthering his education in order to obtain a good job to provide for his family. I work in the field of childcare, and I also have two small children. When he was laid off, we realized we were losing health insurance for the whole family and we applied for CHIP and were thankfully accepted.

I am so grateful to have such excellent health coverage for my children. One of them had chronic ear infections and required tubes; CHIP covered it. My other child had suspected heart problems and required several trips to a pediatric cardiologist and several tests; CHIP covered that as well. On our limited income right now, there is no way we would have been able to pay for any of that necessary health care.

In my work, I see how many other children are covered through CHIP, and therefore are able to receive excellent health care, keep current immunizations, etc.

On the other end of the spectrum, my father was recently moved into an assisted living facility. He is suffering from the horrible



effects of Alzheimer's Disease and his body is slowly failing him. In the next few years he will need to be moved to a nursing home. Medicaid will be absolutely invaluable to him and my mother then. There is absolutely no way on Earth my mother would be able to pay for those costs out of pocket.

Please don't take away funding for the young and the old of the country – they are the people who made us the way we are, and they are our future! Invest in them! There must be other options. If money is cut from CHIP and Medicaid there are many people and their families who will be made to suffer as a result. It's not necessary. Thank you.

**Marlee  
Sharon, PA**

I am a 40 year old single mother of three with a toddler grandson. My mother is 85 with Alzheimer's. She lives in a nursing home because I can no longer care for her because I have to work outside of the home.

**Kizmect  
Pottstown, PA**

I have had medical insurance for many years. I no longer enjoy the benefit of using the service because I make too much money; however the people who are eligible need help and they deserve to get the help they need!

Try cutting some of your own benefits then determine who needs what! Just because you pay for your own benefits doesn't mean that people who have paid into the system should suffer when they need it most!

**Barbara  
Philadelphia, PA**

My sister has been a single mom of four since 1986 when her husband walked out on their family. She always worked multiple jobs,

but never in a field where she could afford insurance for herself or her children. For years she played roulette with their health and hoped for the best, but when CHIP was put into place her kids FINALLY got the insurance they needed.

While she still does not have health insurance for herself, her children are now happy, successful adults who are making their own way in the world. Thank goodness she was able to keep them insured and healthy and not think twice about taking them to the doctors when they were sick, despite the many challenges and obstacles she faced as a single mom.

**Sandra  
Sanatoga, PA**

As a single mother who was assaulted by my sons' father, I had injuries that took years to heal. During my time of unemployment, my sons were on Medicaid... tough for me to accept with my pride. My sons were both ill, and without Medicaid they may have not made it through the years healthfully. It was a hard aid to accept but a necessary aid, thankfully.

I have friends whose lives depend upon Medicaid. It needs to be available for people who need it, and it cannot be simply lined out of a budget. That lineout would blacken the lives of so many who cannot live without it.

**Marie  
Philadelphia, PA**

The only healthcare available to me is Medicaid, because I substitute as an Instructional Assistant to children with special needs, I am only paid per diem and have no employee benefits.

**Judith  
Allentown, PA**

Medicaid is surely needed. As a nurse of over thirty years I have

seen it work wonders for those patients that could not afford help at home and in the hospital.

I worked in a big hospital in the New York area for many years in Management and was privy to what Medicaid could do for those who were on hard times. Our Children's Hospital had wonderful stories that made the paper headlines and indeed put us on the map. I witness these children's entire outlook change and a few were leaning towards the Health Field as they got older. How good can you get and it is Medicaid that was this impetus.

Our hospital and many others were not only able to save and change lives with the help of Medicaid but, afforded our hospital the means to develop new strategies (medication combinations for HIV and surgeries) to insure a better quality of life for those patients who would not have had this chance.

Yes, Medicaid needs to be looked at as do other programs.... but to touch the elderly (especially on hard times) who have given their dues is not the 'best practice' and to touch children is just plain immoral.

Government should (and this should have been implemented years ago) have a task force of nurses, M.D.'s, and good government health sector people looking at areas that fraud may be present in Medicaid (and believe it is out there) to eliminate what could be millions of dollars of abuse so that those who really need this help can get it. Government, I offer my help and I know that Mom'sRising does too.

**Becky  
Meadville, PA**

My mother is 82 years old and lives with my family. Twelve years ago she was diagnosed with stage two breast cancer. Also she has

been a diabetic since she was in her fifties. Her doctor told me when she got cancer that I would be lucky to have her for five years. Home care has kept my Mother alive. In a nursing home she would have had a death sentence because they can't give the one-on-one care that I give my Mom. I quit my full time job to take care of my Mother. I would never put her in a nursing home. My husband works full time and has agreed with me that the best place for her is with us.

A few years ago I heard about a program for family caregivers that would pay me for taking care of her. It has been a godsend since the economy has gotten so bad and prices are rising faster than my husband's salary. The cost of a nursing home is \$6,000/month in my area. I get paid \$1,200/month.

I don't see how taking away Medicare and Medicaid is going to help the government because people like me will have no other choice but to place their parents into nursing homes so they can work outside the home. My Mom and many others like her didn't make the deficit so why take it out on them. Make the people that make millions of dollars a year pay their taxes just like everyone else.

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## RHODE ISLAND

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### **Kayla Warick, RI**

My son Thomas was born at 34 weeks old. Luckily he was in good health, and a great weight. But had it not been for Medicaid we would not have been able to receive the health care that we did at the hospital. He was in the NICU for a week.

It is terrible that Congress wants to cut off Medicaid to the people that need it the most! Disabled, elderly, children, the sick, the dying, it is an atrocity. How can you

say you are proud of a government that does not take care of it's own people?

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"The first time I had to fill one of her \$90 a week prescriptions, I went to the back of the drugstore where no one could see and sobbed into my purse..."

*Susan, West Kinston, RI*

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### **Susan West Kinston, RI**

Two years ago my 38-year-old daughter returned home after living on the west coast for nearly ten years. She was indigent and homeless, living out of garbage bags; she had been homeless for the last 7 years. I worried over her day and night, sent care packages with food and a little cash whenever I could manage it, but being disability retired and living on 3 figures a month, not much is left after basic bills are paid each month.

I wanted to help her but had so little resource to do so. With help from another family member who paid her plane fare, I got her home and the real work began, trying to get health insurance for her to treat her brittle hypertension and substance abuse recovery. She was very thin and scary looking and I

sadly came to realize there was another diagnosis my daughter had: mental illness. I fought hard to get her state health insurance. They denied her twice and I appealed it. This took over a year, and during that time I was forced to pay for her medical care.

The first time I had to fill one of her \$90 a week prescriptions, I went to the back of the drugstore where no one could see and sobbed into my purse; I was spending part of my rent money and had no way to replace it. I had found a sliding scale community clinic to take her to and that was some help for both of us, but the meds were frighteningly expensive. It got to the point that I was fearful I'd be forced to choose between her care and my survival, the very roof over my head.

Please know, I aggressively pursued every possible avenue of getting help for her that is available in RI. I even borrowed money from friends to pay for her meds and care. Finally she was approved for Medicaid. She remained at home with me here for almost another year, but her mental illness escalated and required frequent hospitalization through last winter, four times to be exact.

She is now in residential treatment, something I worked diligently and hard to achieve for her. Medicaid pays for that. If she lost the Medicaid, she'd have to come back to live with me, and we'd both end up homeless. That's NOT a statement made for the sake of a dramatic point but a very possible potential. She is improving slowly, and I dare to hope now that some day she'll be able to live semi-independently in a special program that gives her a place to live, structure along with treatment and supervision.

If Medicaid is taken away, that entire healing process and all the



hard-won progress she's made would be yanked out from under her and we'd be back where we started from two years ago. It is a travesty to rob from the poor, from those least able to fend for themselves, least able to advocate for themselves.

I pray some semblance of sanity and stewardship returns to the collective consciousness of this country before some cataclysmic event wipes out an entire class of people. But then, perhaps that is precisely the objective: to get rid of America's poor by starving them to death.

**Carolyn  
Providence, RI**

I am not on Medicaid because I am a middle income person. But I gladly support Medicaid for those who need it because illness in our communities can spread, indeed will spread, from the poor to the rich. Illness anywhere endangers all of us. Hospitals engaged in helping the poor are not available for helping others who need it. We all much help each other to keep a healthy community.

**Linda  
Warwick, RI**

Sounds silly at our ages, but you see my little sister (15 months younger than myself) has been battling MS since she was in her 30s. Twenty years later the disease has won the battle. She has been in and out of hospitals and nursing homes.

At the young age of 54 she wants to go home, but she can not afford the care and the state will not pay. Recently, after being admitted to a different nursing home, as the one she was at refused to take her back after a brief hospitalization due to infections, we were told they dropped her Medicaid. After 5 days in this new Nursing home my little Sis, Nancy ended up back in the hospital. I ask that the

government, people, and God allow disabled people the dignity to live a life free from worries of being left without medical.

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**SOUTH CAROLINA**

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**Christa  
Greenville, SC**

My children are beneficiaries of South Carolina's SCHIP program. Although I hate 'being on the dole,' I hate even more that my self-employment income isn't enough to insure my sons. With them insured, it is one less source of pressure, and I am able to focus on growing my business to the extent that someday I'll be able to pay for all our insurance (my husband and I are still uninsured).

**Ben  
Blacksburg, SC**

I have been disabled for four years now. I am surviving on Social Security Disability for three of those years. If it were not for Medicare, I would have no access to health care at all. The proposed dismantlement of Medicare (that is exactly what it is) would not affect me as I would be 'grandfathered' in. The reason I highlight grandfather, is because I have four granddaughters and one grandson. If they are disabled or they reach old age, what will they do? Will they take the 'voucher' they receive to the insurance companies and beg for whatever coverage that they will offer?

By the way, I have read the entire so called debt reduction plan and NOWHERE is there any requirement for insurance companies to honor the voucher or offer anything other than catastrophic care. I have always believed that Conservatives all want health care decisions to be made between the doctor and patient, not third parties. I do not understand why any-

one calling themselves conservative would back this bill. Let us all join together to vote out anyone GOP or Democrat who would put the health of their constituents last.

**Brittany  
Easley, SC**

As a baby I was very sick with asthma and in the hospital all of the time. I received Medicaid until I was 18 because of my lungs being scared from such severe attacks. I have even been admitted into the hospital for a week every year at the same time for being sick.

I just had a beautiful baby son, which the doctors told me I would never have children. And with the problems I had as a baby, they say he might eventually get. I don't have the money to afford my own medicine let alone my son's being a single teenage mother. He is a preemie and does get sick a lot.

His Medicaid has helped me bring him to the doctors for all his problems, get his needed shots, and prescriptions for the medical problems he does have. I do not want my son to end up sick like I did with no help. He is all I have and his health is important to me.

**Joli  
Lexington, SC**

My daughter, Emily, was born 10 months ago. She is the sunshine of our world. Although she entered life with some difficulties like a congenital heart defect and Down Syndrome, she approaches life with a strong spirit and a bright smile. Medicaid cuts will greatly impact Emily's quality of life.

While we have private insurance, our insurance company does not cover all of Emily's therapy visits such as speech therapy, physical therapy, and occupational therapy. Since Emily attends these therapies at least weekly (sometimes more)

the number of yearly visits really adds up. Without help from Medicaid, Emily will not receive all of the therapies that greatly impact her learning.

Since she has begun all of her therapies we have seen vast improvements in both her cognitive and physical abilities. With the help of her therapist and a lot of hard work at home, she has learned to roll over, gain muscle strength, begin cooing and babbling, started to sit up unassisted, self feed herself with a spoon, and many more wonderful skills.

Please keep my daughter and family in mind when you begin making decisions to cut Medicaid funding. She is counting on your support. And I am too.

**Susie  
Charleston, SC**

Please, as a physicians assistant who works in Charleston, we have so many patients who rely on their Medicaid benefit for treatment for their cancer. They could not afford to receive treatment otherwise and would die faster or in more pain or without the benefit of drugs that are available to others.

Please do not take Medicaid benefits away. Do Medicaid folks not deserve to have basic dental care??? Why are their teeth less important than yours.

**JB  
Easley, SC**

DO NOT cut benefits... this is ALL some people have. They are elderly, sick and/or handicapped, NOT the freeloaders that some make them out to be. 'They' are my mother and my father who worked hard all their lives and raised four children. They paid into this system, this money and the benefits are theirs, not there for some young greedy hard-hearted politician to score political points.

The lack of revenue in this country lands solely at the feet of the Bush tax cuts and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. How much more do the uber wealthy need... let them pay THEIR fair share and give back to the people whose backs their fortunes were built upon.

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"If it were not  
for Medicaid,  
many if not most,  
dialysis patients  
in the country  
would die."

*Doris, Lyman, SC*

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**Doris  
Lyman, SC**

My 32-year-old son has been on dialysis since he was nineteen years old. If it were not for Medicaid, many if not most, dialysis patients in this country would die.

My son is a very important part of our family. Even though he can not hold down a job, he contributes to society in many positive ways.

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**SOUTH DAKOTA**

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**Sara  
Sioux Falls, SD**

I went back to school to become a history teacher. Without assistance I would be unable to finish my degree.

Why would we want to encourage low income families NOT to finish school?!

**Susan  
Sioux Falls, SD**

I have an elderly mom who is being helped through these programs. I believe the wealth and the goodness of a nation is determined by how we treat our least fortunate members.

**Dorna  
Strugis, SD**

My daughter and her husband were struggling with low paying jobs and no benefits. She is a college graduate with a degree in pre-professional biology. He works in construction or as a waiter as opportunity presents. They have two very young children. Because of Medicaid, they were able to get health care for their children while she continued her education.

Now she has a good paying job at a hospital in the medical laboratory and is paying taxes that she is glad to pay, hoping someone else will be able to take care of their family while getting the training and education they need. Medicaid made this possible for her. Without it, they would not have been able to pay for her schooling and care for the children.

**Claudia  
Spearfish, SD**

My mom needs Medicaid, too. And she's very embarrassed by it. She was a successful rancher's wife and had plenty of money when she was young, but when she was 80 and her health was failing, she spent all of her income on prescriptions, finally needing financial help from us to be able to keep taking her medicine.

Now, at 91, she needs even more medicine and without Medicaid she would not be able to afford her medicine or her care at an assisted living facility.



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## TENNESSEE

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**Jeannette  
Jackson, TN**

My two children are actually my foster sister's children. When she passed away in September of 2009 I took them both and with my limited income it was very difficult to get medical care for them. Once they were allowed to get on Medicaid they could receive medical care that I could not afford on my salary.

**Joan  
Shelbyville, TN**

I was on Medicaid three years ago. It enabled me to get to a hip replacement and keep me on my feet. Because we now make less than \$100 too much to qualify, we pay \$150 a piece for our Medicare and a supplement. Drops our co-pays but does not make major problems affordable.

I need a knee replacement and a shoulder surgery. So sad I fell Saturday, was unable to get around, knee messed up bad, did not go to doctor because knew she would recommend a surgery I can not afford, so i continue to live in pain daily. I lost my Medicaid. Now I wait to die.

Medicare helps but is not enough when your income barely pays the bills. Please help us or euthanize us. But to make people live in suffering is just wrong. Please help the American people.

**Nancy  
Greeneville, TN**

My grandparents only hope. The Medicaid is the only insurance they have because they can't afford any other insurance on their monthly income and they still have out of pocket money, and please don't take their insurance away... because they need their meds. Just like we do and they have worked all their lives and they deserve the Medicare.

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"Medicaid has been there to help shoulder the financial burden of saving a baby's life while the parents shoulder the incredible emotional and physical burdens..."

*Barbara, Austin, TX*

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**Janet  
Franklin, TN**

I have a 15-year-old son with autism who will need Medicaid assistance when he becomes an adult. Please don't make these deep cuts now, just as my son and our friends' children with autism are reaching adulthood. This would be devastating.

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## TEXAS

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**Ann  
Ingram, TX**

As a public school teacher of 34 1/2 years in Texas I had many children who would have had no insurance without CHIP and our special ed teachers had many children who were helped. This is an extremely important program to continue because many with very bad disabilities go on to be PRODUCTIVE CITIZENS!!

**Barbara  
Austin, TX**

I had a perfectly healthy pregnancy and followed guidelines to

the letter. More than half the time babies are born early, there is no reason ever identified. My daughter was born at 25 weeks gestation and weighed 2 lbs. Premature birth can happen to anyone. And when it does, Medicaid has been there to help shoulder the financial burden of saving a baby's life while the parents shoulder the incredible emotional and physical burdens like we did. PLEASE continue to be there for families whose dreams of a full-term baby are shattered suddenly by helping sustain the medical care required to save their baby... their future.

**Veronica  
San Antonio, TX**

My grandson had his one testicle removed, and if it was not for Medicaid/Chips I don't know if he would be around today. Not just for kids, adults as well. They pay rent, food, car expenses, do not have money for insurance.

What are we going to do? Let these people who cannot afford insurance just die? No!!! I pay taxes – lots of taxes. My husband is retired military and he fought for our Country for EVERYONE to have a better life. With his LITTLE pay...

**Christa  
Smithville, TX**

My daughter was born premature, and as such, developed asthma. I am a single parent going to school to get my first bachelor's degree and a teacher certification. Without the help of Medicaid my daughter would not get the medicine she desperately needs each month because it costs over \$150 per month!

**Elizabeth  
Leander, TX**

When I was pregnant at 26 weeks, we found out our daughter Vivian had suffered what was most

likely a stroke in-utero and over subsequent weeks we watched as the damage to her brain got worse. No one knew what she would be like when she was born, if she would even be able to breathe on her own. Luckily she was and after only 3 weeks ( and one major brain surgery ) in the NICU we were able to bring her home.

Sadly the stroke had resulted in hydrocephalus and this made for major brain damage. Right away we were presented with therapists and doctors galore, thanks to Medicaid. We would never have been able to provide these things for our daughter otherwise.

We have multiple specialists and therapists to this day, and Vivian will soon be seven. Yes, she is still very behind, but every time she reaches a new milestone the doctors say 'wow, we never thought she would be able to do that'. I know it is in large part to Medicaid being there for us and providing the doctors, therapists, and equipment Vivian needs everyday.

### **Sonya Rosenberg, TX**

Danielle was born 1 pound 3 ounces. She was fine with the exception of her small lungs. For the first 4 weeks she looked good. She was placed on a vent and all brain scans showed no brain bleeds. The goal was to get her to take a bottle and gain weight, and with time her lungs will become stronger.

On day 28 she developed a Staph infection (Staphylococcus) on her right wrist, then 8 days later it moved to her shoulder. This is when our nightmare began. It moved to her bowel, her lower small intestines and attacked it. She caught the 'NEC', Necrotizing bacteria and the surgeon couldn't operate until 1pm. They removed 30 cm of her small intestines and her Ileocecal Valve. That's when

she took her first hit to the brain, (hit = lack of oxygen to the brain). She then developed PVC, that was when we had our first talk about 'quality of life'. How are we to say what is best for any living human being?

Throughout our whole ordeal she would squeeze your finger, even after this surgery she squeezed it, it is her way to tell us, 'I am still here'. She was in the NICU for 9 months, during which time we had some hills and valleys with her. Including, getting a trachea, G-J feeding button, and, but not limited to her developing the rickets as a result of them taking the potassium and calcium out of her TPN. Which we found out on an accident. They had placed a Broviac catheter in her right femur and had to x-ray to check the placement. The X-ray technician found a mending fracture. So he decided to take a full body scan and found several mending fractures throughout her body. She also took another 'hit to the brain.' She crashed.

We thought we were going to lose her again, this was the first time we signed the DNR (do not resuscitate) only if she was brain dead. But Danielle was still there, even after that she would still squeeze your finger.

With the help of Medicaid and two private insurances we were able to take her home with nursing. We were paying over \$750 a month in premiums, not to mention all the other baby stuff you still have to buy out of pocket. Medicaid helped us pay for her home vent, O2 and not to mention copay on 5 sheets of Meds.

There is no way we could have done and still doing without it. Without this assistance one or both of us would have to quit our jobs to take care of her and we still wouldn't have the expertise to do so properly.

### **Stephanie Austin, TX**

I know Kari and Ike through my mama's group. They are amazing people. So proud they are standing up to fight the good fight. It is people like this who create real change in the world. My son is also on Medicaid, and I think all children need to grow up in a world where they – and their parents – don't have to worry about their ability to obtain healthcare.

### **Barbara Spring, TX**

I don't think you would like to have worked hard all your life and paid taxes and had funds taken out for social security and Medicare only to find yourself in need of benefits when you were older and the government is taking them away. Stop giving money that we don't have away to weapon manufacturers, Haliburton, the war machine, foreign aid, etc., and you won't have to take it away from your old, ailing citizens, who earned the money in the first place.

### **Lisa San Antonio, TX**

My daughter is on Medicaid because I have a disability and her daddy's employer doesn't offer insurance. I'm on Medicaid because of my disability. We'd be homeless and broke without it.

### **Cynthia Austin, TX**

My husband and I own a small real estate business. Our income took a big hit over the last year, while the combined insurance premiums for our family of three was approaching \$900 a month. I just got my daughter on CHIP last November, and then got a new high deductible health insurance policy



for the two of us that costs less than \$500/month. If it weren't for CHIP and our new insurance policy, I'm certain we'd be among the ranks of the uninsured.

**Porsche  
Odessa, TX**

Right now I am receiving disability for Major Depression and PTSD. It is hard for me to do everyday tasks. And I cannot be in public for very long. Medicaid is the only thing I have so I can see doctors for my mental health. Also I am 7 months pregnant and wouldn't be able to pay for doctors and the C-section I am going to have to have done.

There are people out there that really struggle and I don't think it is fair for anyone to take help away from them. Medicaid helps so many children and disabled and I think it would be wrong to take that away or cut back.

**Gena  
Fresno, TX**

My daughter Uma has Down's Syndrome. We would be lost without Medicaid!

**Kathryn  
College Station, TX**

My parents served their country and the rest of the world by going into public health, serving county public health services in this country and helping set up maternal and child health programs abroad through the Ford Foundation and Point Four. They never made much money doing it, and moved a lot so they had no equity in any housing.

When my mother had a stroke, she needed Medicare to cover her nursing home expenses. I am happy to pay taxes for the common good of Medicare and also for infrastructure of all kinds. Why else have government, if not for the common good?

**Linda  
Irving, TX**

I will soon be on Social Security and with that income plus a very small retirement income, I will just barely be able to pay my mortgage and utilities bills, leaving me with no extra money for the Medicare supplement coverage much less food. I hate the idea that I will have to request Medicaid help but I see no other way when the time comes when I cannot work any longer.

It must be nice to sit in Congress and know that your health care is taken care of for the rest of your life... unfortunately, I do not have that luxury and peace of mind. I would suggest that you stop paying for illegal aliens's health care and take care the American elderly and ill.

**Laura  
Sugar Land, TX**

Medicaid is vital to the stability of our country. I may soon need it for my elderly parents; and when my son lost his job recently, it has been a life saver for my granddaughter. Without it she would suffer and perhaps end up homeless.

Please consider those people in our country who are struggling with daily physical and financial needs that are so terribly difficult to meet. There are so many Americans who are not as fortunate financially as those in Congress, the House and other high positions in corporations. Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Gay  
Austin, TX**

I am concerned about what is happening with our country. The representatives we send to Washington are being controlled by their own self-interest and corporations that fund their campaigns. They only care about getting re-elected. We, grandparents, parents, must

take a stand and not allow our country and democracy to be dismantled. We allow them to spend billions trying to enforce democracy abroad while defunding everything that makes this country great. When will the electorate wake up?

We must protect our children and grandchildren by voting out the incompetent representatives, those that only care about corporations and power. It is a privilege to be a citizen of these United States and paying taxes is part of the privilege because without social programs our country will become a third world country. We all had better learn Chinese.

We cannot afford to police the world and democratize countries that do not want us or our protection. We need to bring our sons and daughters, fathers and brothers home. We cannot afford to continue the cost of wars and we need to recognize the financial debacle that deregulation has caused. My story is I am tired of the watching my country be destroyed.

**Mary  
Dallas, TX**

Please help the elderly and the children.

**Anonymous  
Cedar Park, TX**

I adopted a little girl from cps about 2 years ago. I would not have adopted her if she had not been covered with Medicaid until she was 18 years of age. If Medicaid is ever taken away from these kids, you will see a dramatic drop in people who do foster/adoption for these kids. I could not afford adoption on my own. She now has a happy home, is safe, and has a future.

**Mary  
Katy, TX**

My Mom is 90 years old. She never expected to live that long.

She raised six kids and then when the youngest went to high school she went back to work. She lives on less than 600 dollars a month now because of past cuts to social security and the short time she worked 15 years. Any more cuts would be heartless and cruel.

She is a good woman, a strong woman and is what leaders call the 'Greatest Generation.' So how 'bout we walk the talk.

**James**  
**Houston, TX**

I can't tell you what Medicaid has meant to my family. My mother is ninety and lives alone. She had a stroke and three major operations. If it had not been for her Medicaid coverage she wouldn't have made it. Can I just say without this benefit her life would have been over.

**Lisa**  
**Canyon Lake, TX**

I am a single mother of three children and although child support is court ordered, I have not received a dime of it in over 5 years. My children have received excellent care with the Medicaid program and now they are on the CHIP medical program as my income has increased.

I work full-time yet do not receive benefits from the small construction company I work for – one that is close enough to home so that I am accessible to my young children.

Without these benefits, my children's health needs and dental care would not be possible. I have not been able to afford a medical or dental visit for myself in 5 years.

**Cynthia**  
**Waco, TX**

I am relying on Medicaid for my daughter until I get through with school and find a job where I can

get her on health insurance. I think that what Congress is trying to do is just wrong. With so many people out of work right now why would they want to mess with something that is keeping the elderly and children with a way to get the medical attention that they need.

I am also taking care of my mom but she makes too much money to get Medicaid. I hope that enough people write so that Congress will not have a choice but to listen to the voice of the very people that voted them into Congress in the first place.

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"My mom is  
90 years old. She  
is a good woman,  
a strong woman,  
what the leaders  
call the  
'Greatest  
Generation.'  
So how 'bout we  
walk the talk."

Mary, Katy, TX

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**Edgar**  
**Lubbock, TX**

A friend of mine has COPD and can no longer get around very well. He has to use an electric cart every time he goes to the store.

I was just told that I've developed bad osteo-arthritis and may also need neurosurgery for problems caused by that and nerves being pinched by crushed disc.

**Shirley**  
**Missouri City, TX**

My husband has been disabled over 12 years due to diabetic complications. He is only 61. I was unemployed in 2008 and became the primary caregiver for my mom who has Alzheimer's, not to mention that we had a daughter in college during this period.

Due to the stress of unemployment with no benefits due to my self-employment status, I had no unemployment benefits and received no compensation. However, I turned 63 during this unemployment period and was able to file for my social security benefits. Thank God for small favors. It was better than zero.

The stress from this situation – balancing a family of four with a disability income and two social security benefits – was overwhelming as I struggled to maintain our home and payoff bills. In 2010, I developed Colon Cancer and now we have three medically disabled adults and a 24-year-old college grad who is unemployed.

My younger sister retired in 2010 and took in my disabled mom. So now we have a household with 2 medically disabled adults on SSI and a 25 year old working part time as she struggles to find work in her field of Print Journalism (she has no medical benefits). Thanks to SSI we are struggling but able to keep food on the table and roof over our heads. We could not survive if there are cuts in Social Security Benefits.

**Norma**  
**Grand Prairie, TX**

Before I became an independent mom, I had nothing, except for an old 1996 Toyota Corolla, \$500 a month in child support for 2 kids and the loving support of my, now deceased, father. My kids



had just started elementary school and needed to be seen by their doctor frequently because viruses and bacteria run rampant in ANY school. I don't know how I would have made it without CHIPS. I have since become a Certified Pharmacy Technician and have the kids on my insurance at work now. But there are mothers out there that are trying to succeed in life and need that same assistance and the same peace of mind. I urge you to support all the hard working mothers out there that need this type of assistance.

**Mary  
San Antonio, TX**

I do not have a personal story but I am a nurse who cares for many patients on Medicaid. Cuts to this vital program would leave them with no health care coverage. We would soon see the catastrophic effects of such an action.

**Ann  
Humble, TX**

My father, James Kirkland, was a brilliant man. He was an incredible father and a terrible joke teller. He'd laugh so hard he could never get to the punch line. He gave his life to others as he spent 50+ years in the ministry. He was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease but due to early detection, a proactive physician combined with a lifetime of clean, spiritual living, he was still showing very few signs of the disease after seven years.

Even after his diagnosis and retirement, he continued to work as a chaplain, continued to teach seminary and he and my mother continued their work with the homeless in the Highway 80 Rescue Mission.

One bad decision changed everything. Dad woke one morning, took care of his morning chores, planned a lunch date with Mom, and drove to the post office. Seven+ years diagnosed and still driv-

ing. When he returned, he told Mom he felt dizzy and he slumped to the couch. She called an ambulance to transport him to the hospital.

After several hours in the ER the doctor decided to admit him and while waiting to be admitted, he needed to use a restroom. The busy ER nurse told him to walk down the hall and use the one near the waiting room. Never one to question

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"Adequate care for Alzheimer's patients is extremely difficult to find and even more difficult to pay for. Without the assistance of Medicaid, I do now know what we would have done.

*Ann, Humble, TX*

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'authority' Dad followed her directions. With only Mom to assist him, he collapsed onto the concrete tile floor and suffered a four area brain bleed. We lost our father and Mom lost her husband that day. His body was still healthy, but the brilliant brain damaged and Alzheimer's unleashed.

Although my parents lived frugally, as a minister and school teacher with four daughters would, they saved for their future. However, either a catastrophic in-

jury such as Dad suffered or even the long journey through the hell of Alzheimer's disease would have completely bankrupted our family without Medicare and Medicaid.

Until you need it you never know how much of a hole Medicaid fills in the financial pit of long term medical care. Elder care is very difficult to fund. Adequate care for Alzheimer's patients is extremely difficult to find and even more difficult to pay for. We were fortunate to find a facility for Dad when he could no longer be cared for at home. Without the assistance of Medicaid, I do not know what we would have done.

We lost Dad in January, 2010 2 1/2 years after his fall. We would have never been able to care for him without these important programs. There is no doubt that without the assistance he received from Medicaid, the stress of his illness and the financial devastation would likely have taken our Mother as well. It sickens me that certain lawmakers would even consider cutting programs that provide life sustaining support to those who need it the most.

Few families in the United States could financially withstand a catastrophic illness or accident, even those who have insurance. Without the Medicaid net, the increased cost to families and the loss of loved ones would be devastating. This is NOT where to make the budget cuts. This is NOT what Moms believe is right for this country. Unite and fight for this safety net for American families.

**Patricia  
Houston, TX**

My 83-year-old mother was diagnosed with Colon Cancer in 2010 and had to have major surgery, chemotherapy, and many tests. If it had not been for Medicaid/Medicare, our family would be ravaged by the mountain of medi-

cal bills that was incurred by this debilitating disease. Thank God my mom was enrolled in a QMB program where Medicaid picked up the gap that her Medicare did not pay.

I now have two aunts and an uncle that have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and are in need of provider care. The Re-Coup program in Texas states that if a client does not meet certain exemption status, the state will come in and recoup all payouts over \$3,000 from the homestead of the client.

My God, why are our leaders trying to further decimate our elderly who are the backbone of this country? I implore the Legislative/Senate communities to rethink any cuts to Medicare/Medicaid because remember, if you keep living you will face this quandary when you become an elderly citizen.

Do not think that your current insurance will protect you because the very Insurance Companies you are protecting because they fund your campaign, will not give a flying fig about you when you face this issue.

**Marlene  
Lubbock, TX**

My brother and I both have Multiple Sclerosis (MS). Unfortunately, MS usually strikes when people are in their 20s or 30s and, being a degenerative disease, can leave the afflicted bedridden well before Medicare becomes available. My brother is one of those cases as he is much further advanced than I, and has depended on Medicaid for over a decade since he has been unable to work.

MS is not his fault nor did he choose to have it. He does deserve the basic human right to health care and Medicaid meets that need for him. I might be there before Medicare (if it still exists) and will need care too. Medicaid is needed.

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**UTAH**

**Gail  
Sandy, UT**

I knew something was wrong in my breast, but I had no insurance. I knew that even if I could scrape together enough money for a mammogram, I couldn't pay for treatment. It would be a pre-existing condition if I got insurance later. So I tried not to worry for 2 years. Finally, my husband heard something on TV about free mammograms for low-income women from the Health Department, so I went in.

Yes, it was breast cancer. Yes, it was invasive. And yes, treatment was paid for by Medicaid. Medicaid literally saved my life. My cancer was stage 1, treated by surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, and hormones. It's now been 9 years since my diagnosis. I'm grateful to be alive. I would never have chosen my own treatment over house payments. My family is more important than my life. Today I'm grateful to have both.

**Anna  
Woods Cross, UT**

I'm on disability so I get Medicaid. I fell and broke my hip awhile back. I live alone and it took two hours for someone to hear my calls for help. I was laying out in the rain all that time. I had lots of complications and was hospitalized three months. No way could I have paid for that on my monthly medications. I'm grateful for Medicaid. Also I'm raising a grandchild and without CHIPS he couldn't get medical services. Please don't take it away.

**Corinna  
Sandy, UT**

I have twins born 7 weeks too early. They were in intensive care for 7 weeks and after that for one year in intensive rehabilitation. Without the proper help, they would have died.

**Michelle  
Morgan, UT**

In my family, there are three children who have had serious autoimmune diseases. Two of them have had to rely on Social Security Disability benefits and Medicare/Medicaid because they were completely unable to work and care for themselves. Fortunately, they had paid into the fund for years as hard-working, responsible American citizens, and were able to use some of the funds they'd helped create!

Additionally, my sister gave birth to a little boy with hypo-plastic left-heart syndrome. He would have died immediately had it not been for the intervention of the Governor's office in Nevada to help him get the care he needed through Social Security and Medicaid.

My family's story is not unusual. There are millions of families who would be homeless and devoid of any income without the help of Social Security and Medicare/Medicaid. Additionally, my family also works in the health care field – and has for generations. My sister is one of the gifted nurses who cares for the elderly and infirm who have been relegated to nursing homes because they are completely unable to care for themselves. What would happen to all those human souls who are so fragile and vulnerable if their Medicare and Medicaid benefits were stripped from them? They already have little or no voice – and they have NO financial reserves to speak of. These are usually people who have worked their ENTIRE LIVES contributing to the Social Security and Medicare funds, knowing that they may have to rely on those funds at some point in their lives.

Are our Senators and Congressmen so completely out of touch with their constituents that they really are not aware of the needs of



the people they have sworn to represent and protect? I would like an accounting of every dime that was 'borrowed' from the Social Security and Medicare funds. I would like to know the names of the borrowers, the dates, the amounts and where that money went.

This fund would be completely stable had those funds not been siphoned off for some patch up of the economy – and now my hard-working parents, my generation and future generations are in jeopardy of losing the support we've worked so darned hard to maintain. That was the American Taxpayer's money – my money, your money, my parent's money and my grandparent's money – and it has been squandered and stolen!

I deserve to know how and where that money went and how it's going to be repaid!! I don't hear any talk about how we're going to replace that money or how to fix the problem. All I hear is a Republican grab to dismantle the whole program because they don't want to answer the tough questions and be responsible for their actions!

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## VERMONT

*Willow  
Bristol, VT*

While my partner and I have always had strong employment, our four children have always been eligible for Medicaid Coverage. I have been so thankful for this coverage in so many capacities since I started my family. Medicaid Insurance ensured that I had excellent prenatal and postnatal care. Medicaid Insurance ensured that my children were birthed in an excellent medical facility, of which we were very thankful when complications were unexpectedly experienced with one birth.

Medicaid Insurance ensured that my children received all the health and wellness checkups necessary, which is a huge preventative prac-

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"The United States  
hosts some of the  
finest medical  
systems in the  
world but,  
unfortunately,  
without  
federally funded  
health insurance  
coverage,  
access to this  
system would be  
beyond the reach  
for over 90% of the  
people..."

*Willow, Bristol, VT*

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tice – not only preventing disease, but definitely promoting health. My children being able to receive all their immunizations and have health situations responded too before they escalate to serious conditions was never taken for granted, and certainly enabled them to all be successful in other areas of their life.

It would be difficult to pick one time when I was most thankful to have such comprehensive health insurance for my children, but one situation that definitely rises to thought was when our youngest son was unexpectedly diagnosed with a brain tumor at age eleven and a half. This experience immersed our family into the medical world like we had never known before.

Medicaid Insurance ensured that our son had the best of care, access to the newest and best technology and one of the best pediatric neurosurgeons in the country. No words can properly express our gratitude

and gratefulness. The United States hosts some of the finest medical systems in the world, but unfortunately, without federally funded health insurance coverage, access to this system would be beyond reach for over 90% of the people living in the United States. Dismantling of Medicaid would be a horrific step backwards for American Society.

**Solveig  
Brattleboro, VT**

My mother's name is Mia. She recently moved to our town in order to help take care of our 2-year-old daughter, Lotte (and soon, our second baby will be here too!!!).

My mom helps us in a million ways. She gives me time to work, she helps with the dishes and she provides her wonderful wisdom and emotional support. She gives my daughter the kind of attention that only a spectacular grandmother can. She is essential to the well-being of our family. I truly don't know what we would do without her.

When the time comes I want to be able to provide her with the kind of love and care she deserves. Without Medicaid, I'm not sure how we will do that. Hopefully, by the time my mom needs care our children will be old enough that we can all pitch in but what if something happens before I can properly care for her?

If I still have two small children I don't know what we'll do. We'll need help from Medicaid. Maybe that won't happen but it's not a risk I'm willing to take.

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## VIRGINIA

**Sharon  
Harrisonburg, VA**

Medicaid has been a real blessing for my daughter. She is due with a baby girl in June. In April they found she isn't growing at

the rate they would like her to grow and so is on constant watch. Without Medicaid who would pay for the twice weekly exams, stress tests, ultrasounds, and other tests? And without those tests the worry would be tremendous and unhealthy.

All is well, as we pray it will continue to be, and the relief of not having astronomical bills on top of everything else is a relief. If Medicaid is removed so many people will suffer. Of all ages and walks of life.

**Sharon  
Hampton, VA**

Exactly 3 years ago I was stricken with a rare, debilitating neuromuscular disease. I had to resign my position at work and, after a long period of hospital confinement, was transferred to a nursing home. My prognosis was poor and my finances dried up to nothing.

Miraculously, I have managed to survive, but I require care day and night. Obviously, I cannot pay the expense and would be in desperate straits without both Medicare and Medicaid. I know there are many others like me who would be left to the fickleness of chance without these vital programs. Medicaid for me is more than a subsidy, it's my lifeline!

**Tanya  
Falls Church, VA**

I have multiple sclerosis, and I don't make enough money to be confident about my financial future once I am no longer able to work. My employer has been wonderful about letting me work from home on a regular basis, but as the disease progresses, it may become difficult and then impossible to continue full-time employment. Once I am forced to leave the regular workforce, I have no confidence that I will be able to afford the medications I need to control my disease and treat symptoms, nor do

I know how I will be able to purchase a wheelchair or other assistance devices.

As my mother, who is in her 70s, ages, I worry about her future care, if I cannot provide financial and physical help. To cut funding for the aged and disabled is a terrible betrayal of generations who have contributed our tax dollars on the understanding that the government would use that money to care for needy taxpayers when the time comes. I feel betrayed and frightened.

**Cheryl  
Williamsburg, VA**

My oldest daughter has three children, the youngest two born with spina bifida. My daughter and her husband both lost their jobs this past year, lost their home to foreclosure and MUST rely on Medicaid for their children's medical care.

Without Medicaid and the incredible doctors at Children's Hospital in Denver, Colorado, my granddaughter would not be alive today. She had to undergo a life saving surgery within hours of being born. And another critical major surgery within two weeks of being born. Without Medicaid and the care of skilled surgeons and staff at the hospital, this beautiful baby would not have survived.

**Susan  
Arlington, VA**

My mom and dad are still with us. In their mid 80s, mom is failing fast and dad is unable to take care of her properly. Unfortunately, dad is absolutely NOT going to look into assisted living options. The only way they can afford assisted living is with a combination of their social security benefits, the tiny pension my dad receives from his work and dad's VA benefits. If he won't go into assisted living, mom has no option of help at this very

sad stage in her life.

The one and only option now is that we put mom in a nursing home or skilled care facility (alone) that accepts Medicaid. If this benefit is reduced, mom has nowhere to go. This is a very frightening situation and not one that we are facing alone.

**Jen  
Midlothian, VA**

When my husband and I began having kids in 1995, his health insurance coverage for our family through IBM, his employer, was only about \$60 a month for us; IBM paid the rest. Family coverage included 2 or more kids, all at the same rate. We went on to have more kids, but our out-of-pocket prices per month for coverage were soon up to \$250, and then around the time we had a fourth baby, the policy changed that we had to pay per child. This brought our monthly insurance bills exponentially higher all of a sudden. Our coverage grew worse, and the cost grew higher and higher.

By the time we had our fifth baby, we were looking at paying very close to a thousand dollars per month for family health insurance coverage, and this didn't include steep co-pays on the asthma meds and other monthly prescriptions.

We began to have to choose between paying our mortgage and our health insurance each month. We came terrifyingly close to losing our home to foreclosure at one point. Finally it occurred to us that perhaps our kids would qualify for the state SCHIPP plan. We looked into it, and we fell well within the parameters to our surprise. It has been an unspeakable relief to not have to struggle between keeping our kids' health insurance and paying our mortgage – my husband's income has not come even a little



bit close to keeping pace with the cost of living, gas prices, insurance fees, food prices, etc., and we were truly going to end up homeless or completely without health insurance had our kids not been granted access to the state program.

Had either of those things occurred – either losing our home or our health insurance – we would have become a bigger drain to our local economy for sure. We would have become the fourth home in our cul-de-sac to go into foreclosure, bringing the value of all the homes in our neighborhood down substantially. Or, had we kept our home and not our insurance coverage, we would have ended up at the local ERs every time we needed more asthma meds or Rx filled or anytime we had a case of a childhood illness needed attention from a regular pediatrician.

We are tremendously grateful that our kids can be covered in this way. We don't take it lightly, and realize it's tax dollars that pay for their coverage. We hope to be able to get them back on private coverage at some point in the future when (?) our income begins to keep pace with the costs that have skyrocketed in recent years.

**Paul  
Alexandria, VA**

I have a number of friends I have visited at LNRC in Leesburg, Va. for more than ten years. Essentially all of these people are indigent and dependent on Medicaid to pay all of their nursing and medical bills. Without such support, I don't believe any of them would be alive today.

The most notable of the group is a quadriplegic friend who has lived more than 20 years with this condition. He has a reasonably satisfying life style and with the aid of scientific advances can do many things for himself with his motorized wheel chair and voice activat-

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*Jen, Midlothian, VA*

ed electronic system. No one could provide him the care he requires without medical coverage.

**Jean  
Annandale, VA**

I have a 32-year-old nephew with mental illness. He is now a functioning member of society because of Social Security disability and Medicaid. Medicaid not only pays for all his medication, without which he would not be a functioning member of society, but it also pays for his transportation to a work center where he takes classes on job skills and job search skills.

During one of the Congressional budget impasses, Medicaid funding was cut. As a result, Medicaid said they could no longer pick up transportation costs to the work center. This seemed incredibly short-sited to me because it was those classes that would enable my nephew to get a job and get off of Medicaid.

So Congress is willing to cut funding to Medicaid for people who have no money and yet decrease taxes to the wealthy? It makes absolutely no sense, it is so unfair, and it makes me very angry.

I say increase taxes on the wealthy so social programs such as Medicaid and Social Security can continue to help America's disadvantaged and, in my nephew's case, enable him to become a functioning member of society so he no longer needs Medicaid and Social Security disability. The wealthy 1% of this country don't need more money. The disadvantaged of this country do.

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**WASHINGTON**

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**Lisa  
Seattle, WA**

I have practiced medicine for over 30 years in Washington state. Every day I see patients who benefit from Medicaid. I also see people without any health insurance.

Medicaid may not be as good as it could be, but it's far preferable to not having any health insurance. I have to tailor my management decisions to these financial issues, rather than to the patient's medical condition. We should be expanding and improving Medicaid, not disbanding it!

**Sarah  
Olympia, WA**

I want to encourage you to continue to fund Medicaid to protect everyone who is and everyone who might become eligible for this vital support. Thank you.

**Elena  
Seattle, WA**

I am a single mother of two children. My son Leo is eight years old, and my daughter Olga is 5 months old. She was born under difficult circumstances. I was planning a home birth, but had to undergo an emergency C-section. I did not have enough money to pay for the expensive treatment and room at the hospital, so the nurse told me

about this program that will pay for whatever my insurance does not cover.

Medicaid surely helped me out in a hard situation, so I am thankful that it exists and I do not want it to face any cuts. I know there are many women out there with a similar story, and I am worried about our future generation. America needs healthy and happy children who will make the country prosperous.

**Linda  
Renton, WA**

I have an adult daughter who I worry will end up homeless and without services. Please keep services for all.

**Deirdre  
SeaTac, WA**

Both of my children are covered by Washington state Medicaid and I really don't know what we would do without it! My 17-month-old son was diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis shortly after birth and if we didn't have Medicaid, we would be in serious financial distress due to all the doctor visits, tests, and medication he requires. My children and others on Medicaid should not suffer while the rich are given a break.

**Tracy  
Auburn, WA**

My children benefit from Medicaid. My oldest son was diagnosed with Autism, and my second son was born with club feet, my twin girls who are now 10 were born prematurely in 200. I feel that it would be a shame to have Medicaid cut, because without it my children would not be able to be treated for all of their illnesses.

I'm a single parent who has been putting into the system, I pay taxes, and am in school. I worked for 30 years before I was laid off in April, 2011. I worked in the health-

care industry, and I know that people will suffer if there are no alternatives to Medicaid. With the need for affordable healthcare, no person should suffer due to people who want to line their pocket, and not help the ones in need. Please reconsider. Don't cut or do away with Medicaid/CHIP.

**Lydia  
Longview, WA**

I know what it is like to be pregnant and struggling. Yet even with the struggles I had, I still had great care for when I had my son. I had no income, was on state insurance, and went into premature labor.

I can truly say God was the one whom saw that I had been able to have the kind of care needed for both my son and I to stay healthy and strong. I realize that too many women throughout the world do not have much help to see them through to a full and successful delivery, for the safety of the baby, and themselves. It is about time for all Moms, and women in general to stand up and fight for this need.

**Kristy  
Redmond, WA**

Like any grandparent to be, I looked forward to the day my son would become a father. When his child was born with serious health problems, my dreams of babysitting, taking her for the weekend, or even hearing her speak were forever shifted. From having MRSA in her lungs at one month, being on lung bypass for two weeks, and at Children's Hospital in Seattle until 11 months of age, I watched these new parents grow and give everything they had to provide for their daughter.

Without public support, there is no way they could have afforded the costs to get her to where she is nearly four and living at home with nursing support, attending a pre-school and growing into a beauti-

ful and smart child.

What kind of society are we that can afford so much material stuff, but are even questioning the rationale of supporting our most vulnerable?

**Rebecca  
Kirkland, WA**

When my daughter was 4 months pregnant with her now 8 month old daughter, she had an ultra-sound that detected several severe heart defects in the baby. She was given the option to terminate the pregnancy; however, because she was on Medicaid and had access to some of the best cardiologists in the nation she chose not to.

If it were not for Medicaid, she/we would not be able to afford the extremely high medical bills from all the medicines, surgeries, and many doctor visits required for the babies health. The baby is now recovering from her second open heart surgery and doing wonderful!

All children should have equal access to quality health care, regardless of socioeconomic status. Do not take away my granddaughters chance at having a normal life.

She will need more surgeries as she grows and with the cost of health care who can expect a normal middle class family to afford such things? Stop stealing from the poor and giving to the already rich!

**Jeanette  
Everett, WA**

When our son was born he was diagnosed with cranial synostosis. He required major cranial surgery to allow his brain to grow and develop normally. We had insurance, but it only covered a portion of his extensive medical bills.

I am a stay at home mom. My



husband is a social worker, helping to feed the homeless in our community. Our household income was barely enough to keep us above water and when the medical bills began to arrive we almost lost our home. Without Medicaid we could have become homeless ourselves!

**Kristin  
Bonney Lake, WA**

Both of our daughters have received Medicaid as a secondary insurance and it has been the difference between each of them receiving care and not receiving care, as the services they have required would have either bankrupted us had we had to pay even just the copays of our primary insurance, or we would have had to forgo the much needed help.

Our oldest daughter, Maren, has Asperger's Syndrome. She has required – and benefited greatly – from almost 9 years of various therapies such as speech, occupational therapy, counseling, and psychiatric care.

As a single-income family making less than \$45,000/year, there are many services that we would not have been able to give her if we had to pay each of those copays on our primary health insurance. Her medications are also covered by both insurances, and it has made a significant difference in her functioning to have her on the right medications, unhampered by what we can and can't afford to pay for.

Our daughter Elaina was diagnosed with ulcerative colitis 2.5 years ago. At almost 8 years old, she just had her fourth colonoscopy yesterday.

Every time I receive the EOB's in the mail for her pediatric GI visits or various labs and tests like this, I thank God that we have Medicaid to help us out. Our family would literally have to decide between buying groceries or paying for

tests and medication if it weren't for Medicaid. This is a lifelong disease for her, and it's not going to get less expensive, as we have almost reached the point where oral meds don't work and she will have to do monthly i.v. transfusions. I can only imagine how costly that will be.

I have a bachelor's degree and my husband has a master's. We are smart, hard working, honest people. My husband works for the Federal Government, but we still qualify financially for the Medicaid program. We are incredibly grateful for the countless ways this program has allowed us to seek the medical care and treatments that our daughters have needed, and shudder to think what will happen to our family's finances and to our girls' health if this support is taken away from us.

Healing the Future – that is what Medicaid does for our family and our country. My daughters are very bright – no, seriously, Maren's IQ at age 7 was 140 and she gets straight A's (4 of 6 are gifted classes). But, if it were not for the endless therapies and doctors we have seen over the years, I think she'd be getting in the way of herself a lot more, and I don't believe she would be thriving like she is.

If there is a way to help kids like her overcome their mental and physical obstacles, it really is in our country's best interest to do so...I have no doubt that she and others are our inventors and scientists and healers. Please continue to give them the chance they deserve to be their healthiest selves so that they can soar closer toward their amazing potential!

**Terrie  
Seattle, WA**

I was an awesome, talented but poorly paid childcare worker when my son was born. While I was working, my son would have gone with-

out medical care if I hadn't been able to receive medical benefits. I would have been caring for other family's children while forced to neglect the medical needs of my own child.

Later on while working with families experiencing domestic violence and homelessness, my income increased (but not a lot... I was almost out of poverty) and because of CHIP, I was again able to maintain medical coverage for my son. Low income workers are often the ones with less ability to take time off from work and some have no sick day benefits.

We need our children to be well for their own sake but also so we can go to work.. And we are often in professions like homecare, nursing home care, aid work, childcare, hospital food service, etc. – the jobs that require us to be extremely dependable.

**Samantha  
Bellevue, WA**

My daughter was born at 37 weeks and had multiple problems. She had to be in the NICU for 13 days. She had pulmonary hypertension of the newborn and her lungs wouldn't inflate properly. They weren't sure she would live.

Her strength and Medicaid made it possible for the amazing staff at UW to save her. We never would have been able to afford the care she needed. I am ever so grateful that Medicaid saved her life.

**Laura  
Seattle, WA**

My mother has bipolar disorder. She requires a group home situation for her and my children's health and safety. Without Medicaid, the state mental health agency and social security, my mother would be one of those delusional homeless people on the street instead of the safe, clean, secure

person she is today.

Medicare is not a luxury to be cut. It is essential. How about ending the wars in Afghanistan and Libya and getting U.S. Corporations to pay their fair share of taxes instead of balancing the budget on the backs of the helpless?

**Marlene  
Bellevue, WA**

I have relatives who planned well – stock investments, insurance, etc, and yet they saw stocks fall, costs rise, never knew cancer would hit them and are grateful for the help of Medicaid. What would they have done without it? Borrow from their children who are struggling in a difficult economy? Or, maybe they could have sold their car and taken the bus? What would you have had them do? I am afraid to know.

Please find other means to cut for the economy. I can suggest, if you want. However, for this point, let's not cut Medicaid. Thank you for all those who need it.

**Ursula  
Redmond, WA**

My mom has multiple health problems and it is not an easy task. I love my mom and feel that without Medicaid, it would be nearly impossible to give her the medical care that she needs. Please do not cut Medicaid. Thank you.

**Chris  
Seattle, WA**

I'm 62 and have worked all my life beginning in the 1960s but my salaries have all been minimal. I know I'll need help from Medicaid. Since the economy crashed the transfer of wealth has grown more rapid and working class and poor people's money is filling rich people's pockets at an even greater pace. This isn't right. Please protect Medicaid.

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"We have  
relatives who  
planned well...  
and yet never  
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and are  
grateful for the  
help of Medicaid."

*Marlene, Bellevue, WA*

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**Gail  
Enumclaw, WA**

My sister, 94 years old, after having spent all of her investments for assisted living care was threatened with eviction because she had to go on Medicaid. The Assisted Living facility only wanted private pay residents. After legal intervention, she was finally accepted for the remaining months of the facilities contract with Medicaid, which has been a godsend.

If she lives past that date, she will be forced into a nursing home. There are many other seniors out there with the same issues. In addition to the benefits of Medicaid, there also need to be laws to prevent facilities from throwing out those who depend on that resource.

People are living longer and have run out of money for private care. Medicaid is a wonderful fallback for those folks.

**Betty  
Vancouver, WA**

My husband and I have both worked all our lives and were lucky enough to work for government so we have income of social secu-

rity and pensions. Neither of us held high paying positions so our monthly income is not high but is adequate for our needs. I have severe asthma and congestive heart failure so I end up in the doughnut hole very early in the year and my medication costs would be prohibitive if we didn't have savings to draw on. Even then, I try to economize by not always taking prescribed medication.

And then we have to help our kids. My daughter, who has heart problems and is unable to work, is on social security. She receives about \$450 a month. Her husband was recently diagnosed with early Alzheimer's so he requires a lot of doctor appointments plus medication. Doctor co-pays alone break them up in business. They borrow a lot of money from our savings which we know will never be paid back. We feel fortunate that he can live at home now, but he is rapidly deteriorating so I don't know how much longer he can stay out of a nursing home or how that will be paid for if he needs it.

One of my grandchildren is autistic and requires special therapy. Two of my grandsons have muscular dystrophy and aren't expected to live beyond their late teens. Another granddaughter was born with a colon disease that will shortly require extensive surgery. Another granddaughter just had brain surgery. We have had to supplement their income at times to keep them afloat.

My son, a skilled general contractor, has been unemployed for over two years and is living in an ancient RV in our driveway. His girl friend is unemployable. They survive by using local food banks and emergency rooms where they can't pay for the services. We have been so grateful for the government help our children have received. We have some savings and are con-



stantly asked to help with money by our families.

I can't imagine how anyone can think giving grants to seniors to try to buy insurance coverage will work at all. My granddaughter who has endometriosis has been totally unable to find any insurance that would accept her. Do the Republicans think we should just let our families die rather than take care of them? If we had privatized social security as Pres. Bush wanted, when the recession hit, none of us would have had any savings left to live on.

Part of our family who had some savings lost a third of their savings. Changes in social security could wipe out the individual accounts so that most people wouldn't even have an income. Just about every industrial country in the world finds it possible to provide health coverage to their families. Why can't the USA? I think it is sacrilegious that millionaires are given tax breaks while average folks are going hungry.

**Dennis  
Tacoma, WA**

Our government takes tax money and just gives it out to all the wrong places and things. All I can say is that the government is too big and we have a lot of people that should not be in government at all. I think they don't care about you or me – just themselves. We need to stop this now.

**Jennifer  
Port Townsend, WA**

I was injured severely in a car accident at age six, hitting the dashboard at sixty in a car without seat belts. I was unaware of the injury as it was a severe concussion with bleeding in the brain. I had no memory of it and no one told me it had happened. I just knew that I was desperately sick.

My mother, who was in probably in denial, didn't connect the accident with my change in health and behavior. In spite of it I was able to become an RN and worked for several years as a nurse and loved it, but my career was ended by another injury, this time an assault.

Finally, thirty years and three surgeries and a total and permanent disability judgment later, a cranial osteopath told me about the injury, as they are trained to assess skull damage in ways regular allopathic doctors are not.

By this time I was granted a permanent and total disability pension and Medicare. I persisted in wanting to work though and was rehabilitated as an artist, making a living for a number of years as an illustrator.

However, with age, my stamina has waned as I am still struggling with the vertigo and now have other issues with memory loss, probably due largely to the severity of the head injury. Cardiac issues, osteoporosis and constant fatigue. I reapplied for disability benefits only to face a wait that is at this point over a year long, and no end is in sight in spite of my engaging an attorney who specializes in disability cases.

My savings are very nearly exhausted and I have appealed to my senators for help in expediting the trial but am at this time days away from putting my house up for sale.

I am facing the prospect of losing virtually everything because of this accident in 1960 when I was six years old. I am living a nightmare and wake up every day in fear, feeling like a trapped animal and believe that as long as these things happen to citizens who have paid into the system and done their best, we cannot honestly call ourselves a civilized nation.

I keep recalling from those Sunday School days the words, 'Kindness is the greatest wisdom.' It pays off to give people a chance. Yes, there will always be those who will take advantage of the system, but in my view it is better to err on the side of caution and of kindness.

**Sandra  
Blaine, WA**

My mom had a series of brain bleeds which left her mentally impaired. She needed 24 hour care. She also had COPD which made it hard for her to breathe. Medicare and Medicaid helped pay for her care. She also used her social security to help pay the costs of her care. She died 5/31/11. However, while she lived she got excellent care.

I am a retired school teacher living on my pension and social security and would not have been able to provide care for my loved one without Medicare and Medicaid. I think health care is a right of every U.S. citizen and would urge Congress to protect both Medicare and Medicaid.

**Linda  
Everett, WA**

If not for Medicaid, I would have gone without desperately needed medical care while waiting for my Medicare benefits to come through. I ask those who propose to do away with Medicaid (or cripple it to the point where it would be meaningless): what do you propose to replace it, or do you even care?

To balance the budget, consider cutting corporate welfare and asking the rich pay their fair share before asking the poor and disabled to bear the burden, which in the case of Medicaid, means their lives. Some of us are paying attention.

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## WISCONSIN

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### **Diane Fort Atkinson, WI**

I'm in housing for the elderly and disabled, and current proposals include ending rent subsidies for the elderly and disabled. Without this, I will be homeless.

I receive services funded by Medicaid that enable me to live productively.

I experienced homelessness during the Reagan administration, and due to my health, I know that I won't have a chance of surviving on the streets now.

I have to cope with the possibility that I will die as a result of the Republican budget – and for no other reason than to ensure that the rich are given another round of massive tax cuts and handouts so that they, in turn, continue financing the careers of Republican politicians.

From de-funding vitally important scientific research to plans to end basic humanitarian food aid to impoverished American children, we are seeing the greatest bank robbery in the history of the United States, using a strategy that overwhelms the public with an onslaught of dangerous legislation.

To prevent the complete collapse of the U.S., it is absolutely necessary to STOP the budget process immediately, then start over, presenting each of the radical proposals to public scrutiny, allowing democracy to determine the fate of these policies.

### **Roberta New Richmond, WI**

My daughter-in-law is right now hospitalized on bedrest for the duration of her pregnancy. The baby is 25 weeks. We know she will be born prematurely, we just don't know when.

I can not imagine going through this stressful time and having to worry about paying the bills, especially once the baby arrives. We don't know what kind of healthcare needs she will have, we only know that she WILL have them. Please don't abandon them or others in the same situation.

### **Janet Saint Francis, WI**

As a senior and having struggled through cancer surgery, I know the value of having Medicare/Medicaid. Do not change it or take any of it away.

### **Gloria Sarona, WI**

My mother who is 98 years old and has very little income would be out in the cold without Medicaid. She worries about losing this valuable help. Should she at this age have to have this hanging over her head?

Let's think about putting all Congress on Medicare like the average American and see what changes would soon take place. I think many Americans feel this way and a few of those old rich boys are going to be in for a shock

when it comes time to vote. They haven't taken that privilege away from us yet! It's time to unite and demand!

### **Beshka Black River Falls, WI**

I am a single mom and college student. Times are hard enough for two-parent families. I can't imagine how my children and I would get much-needed medical care if we didn't have Medicaid. I have medical issues and a daughter with a medical condition.

Please remember those of us who depend on this program to stay healthy when considering what to cut in the budget. Defense spending is out of control. Tax cuts to billionaires is senseless. Don't make cuts to programs that help our most vulnerable populations when there are people who could afford to pay taxes and don't.

### **Deborah Madison, WI**

My parents, aged 90 and 91, both have Alzheimer's and soon will run through their life savings. It will be possible for them to remain in the quality memory care unit they are in if they can get qualified for Medicaid. Don't take that away from them. They both worked all their lives and should have the right to live out their lives in a decent facility.

*MomsRising.org is a multicultural online and on-the-ground grassroots organization of more than a million people who are working to achieve economic security for all families in the United States. MomsRising is working for paid family leave, flexible work options, affordable child care, and for an end to the wage and hiring discrimination which penalizes so many mothers. MomsRising also advocates for healthcare for all, toxic-free environments, and breastfeeding rights so that all children can have a healthy start. Established in 2006, MomsRising and its members are organizing and speaking out to improve public policy and to change the national dialogue on issues that are critically important to America's families. In 2010, Forbes.com named MomsRising's web site as one of the "Top 100 Websites For Women"*

MomsRising.org is a multicultural, non-partisan, online and on-the-ground grassroots organization of more than a million people who are working to achieve economic security for all families in the United States. MomsRising listens to our constituency and focuses advocacy where we can most quickly improve family economic security, including advocating for affordable, quality early care and education, paid family leave, flexible work options and for an end to the wage and hiring discrimination which penalizes so many mothers. MomsRising also advocates for healthcare for all, toxic-free environments, and breastfeeding rights so that all children can have a healthy start.

**MomsRising.org**