
"UniteOurVoices" Newsletter # 150

May 31, 2017 – My Birthday Wish- Please advocate for those with Disabilities

Dearest Advocates:

My birthday wish.... I turned 50 years old yesterday and ask you do this for me and all those families I am honored to represent in my advocacy efforts.....

Everyone take the time to understand why I'm so compassionate about disability rights and taking care of those that can't take care of themselves. If you even care a little about my son, Jacob (and all his friends with disabilities), please consider educating yourself on the issues and making a difference. PLEASE write, email, call, text/fax your US Senators and let them know this is personal and Jacob needs your help! I didn't understand disabilities until I had a child with Down syndrome and autism. I didn't understand childhood cancer, until I had a child with cancer. The reason why I post so much about our life with Jacob is to help YOU understand what we go through and hopefully help you understand why some issues are so important to so many and we need EVERYONE to get involved.

FACTS: Here is a summary of the CUTS to those with disabilities if the American Health Care Act (AHCA) is approved:

People with disabilities, especially those with severe disabilities, often rely on a complex array of supports across many areas of public policy to lead successful and productive lives in the community. Significant cuts include:

* More than \$600 billion in cuts to Medicaid, the health and community living program millions of people with disabilities rely on for medical care and social supports. This will impact ALL the waivers in Georgia - GAPP, Katie Beckett / Deeming, NOW/ COMP, CCSP, ICW, etc. This will impact all future spending of Medicaid and just increase the waiting lists more!

* Over \$72 billion cut from Social Security disability programs. Our children with disabilities can work, but they often only get part time jobs and need extra help.

* A \$47 million cut that would eliminate the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) program administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration. Today, in 52 programs across 44 states and 3 U.S. territories, thousands of students, parents, and clinical professionals are receiving interdisciplinary training to improve the health of children with disabilities.

LEND graduates have provided 81,167 diagnostic evaluations to children across the country with autism or other developmental disabilities, up from 55,777 just two years prior.

* \$35 million cut from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention efforts in the surveillance and prevention of developmental disabilities. (this also includes cuts to childhood cancer research)

* Nearly 20 percent cut from National Institutes of Health funding for research on the causes of and successful interventions to address disabilities.

* Funding to states for Councils on Developmental Disabilities, independent living services, and traumatic brain injury services would be eliminated, and replaced with a new grant program with less than half of the current funding levels for the three programs. I'm proud Governor Deal appointed me to the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD) and I'm currently on the Executive Committee as well. I see firsthand all the work GCDD are trying to do to make this world better for all. This is just one more way to cut our services.

AHCA WILL also eliminate key protections for people living with pre-existing conditions and allow insurers to offer skimpy plans that don't cover critical life-saving health services.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? Call your US senator in DC- (866) 426-2631 Block grants and per Capita Caps will have a VERY negative impact on individuals with disabilities. The AHCA will have a disastrous impact on everyone. There has to be a better way so that we don't lose necessary programs. Tell them why it is so important to you! Personal stories are needed.

Or you can text "RESIST" to 50409. It will look up your senators based on your responses to prompts, then allow you to type a message that will be faxed to their offices. It's very easy way to message our US Senators. We will NOT be ignored!

Please do not rely on others to communicate the concerns. We need every single voice. Current federal investments do not come close to meeting the needs of a growing and aging population of Americans with disabilities. Instead of investing to address this gap, the proposed budget represents an aggressive retreat from a decades-long, bipartisan commitment to supporting the health and independence of people with disabilities.

This is NOT a republican or democrat issue - this is a bipartisan issue! Please take a moment to educate yourself and help make a difference. Our government needs to do the right thing- take care of those that can't take care of themselves!

Thanks in advance for your support and feel free to forward this information to others in your network.

**When posting in social media, use these hashtags:
#NoAHCA #NoCapsNoCuts #SaveMedicaid #UniteOurVoices**

Information: For more update to date information, please go to:

<http://www.protectourmedicaid.org>

https://gcdd.org/blogs/advocacy-policy-alerts/3059-protect-our-medicaid-call-educate-senators-perdue-and-isakson.html?utm_source=&utm_medium=&utm_campaign=

http://kff.org/interactive/proposals-to-replace-the-affordable-care-act/?utm_campaign=KFF-2017-January-Major-Health-Proposals&utm_content=54967910&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook

I recently came across a couple of quotes from Martin Luther King, JR that I feel are appropriate right now as we struggle to do the right thing in the United States for healthcare....

"Commit yourself to the noble struggle for equal rights. You will make a greater person of yourself, a greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in."

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of convenience and comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy" - Martin Luther King, Jr.

"United - We Will Make A Difference"

Sincerely,
Heidi J. Moore

**Parent Advocate for Children & Adults with Disabilities and Cancer
Proud Mother to Jacob - 17 yrs. old with Down syndrome, Autism and a Cancer Survivor and his
Amazing Brother - Jared (Jacob's #1 advocate)**

For more information and to see previous newsletters and disability information, please go to www.UniteOurVoices.com.

Join Heidi on Twitter at www.twitter.com/UniteOurVoices and Facebook Group at https://www.facebook.com/groups/435101099921721/?ref=br_tf

www.UniteOurVoices.com

The material contained in this e-mail is for general information only. It is not intended in any way to provide or offer legal advice. To obtain legal advice, please consult with your attorney or a qualified legal representative.