

January 12, 2017

To whom it may concern:

This letter seeks your help to oppose the proposed repeal of the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid expansion. Any reduction in revenues would have dire consequences for nursing residents and other elderly people like me.

About a year ago, at the age of 80, I was living independently in my own apartment. My life changed in a single moment when I was trapped, fell, hit my head on the table and suffered a terrible neck injury. My fall resulted in quadriplegia. This means I'm paralyzed. I cannot (yet) walk, dress, groom or feed myself without help. I am on a catheter and require personal nursing care.

The journey from emergency room, surgery, spinal trauma center, rehab and more has been difficult. My recovery found a home at Menorah Park Nursing Home in Beachwood, Ohio. The staff are wonderful. Many treat me like I'm their family. My health care needs are extensive and they meet the challenge. Last week, I had a viral infection that made me comatose. My children worried for my life. I'm back feeling better and engaging with people because of the excellence of the medical and nursing team.


Here's the point, any reduction in clinical, medical or health care puts my life in jeopardy. Medicaid cuts would lower the number of staff available which meets my needs from cleaning me after a bowel movement, helping me eat, bathing and much more would be at risk.

My well-being is in the balance of Politicians squabble. As an elected official you can preserve the dignity of those who cannot travel to meet you in person. Please visit me. Take a look around. You will understand why this issue is so important.

I've dictated this letter to my son for you today. My family and friends want me to be around for many years. You have the power to keep my family together.

When you debate the necessity of the ACA and Medicaid- remember all the worried people (like me) living in the nursing home. Please help us.

Very truly yours,

  
Elaine Miller