

July 10, 2017

The Honorable Senator Marco Rubio
8669 NW 36th Street, Suite 110, Doral, FL, 33166

Dear Senator Rubio –

I am writing on behalf of The Florida Voices for Health coalition and the concerned people of Florida. Our coalition represents ordinary Floridians – working families, children, individuals with disabilities and seniors – the people who stand to lose the most under the current Senate health care plan. We urge you to act on behalf of Florida and your constituents like Michael Phillips, rather than partisan politics

Michael Phillips, suffers from spinal muscular atrophy and receives support from Medicaid. He breathes with a vent, requires around-the-clock care, and utilizes assistive technologies in order to communicate. His mother cares for him at home for less money than if he was in an institution. A Medicaid waiver is the only reason Michael is able to stay at home with his family.

Yet the current version of the Senate health reform bill would leave Michael's health and his family's financial security in question, and he's not alone. The number of uninsured Floridians would rise to over 3.4 million by 2022 including 258,000 children.¹ The BCRA would cut Florida's Medicaid funding by \$8.6 billion², making it much harder for the state to provide essential programs and services. It would also slash subsidies that lower premiums for low- and moderate-income families by more than \$400 billion, burdening these Floridians with new costs they just can't afford. Under the BRCA, seniors in Florida could see their premiums rise by \$4,792 a year.³ All of this just to finance tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans. This is not the reform Floridians need.

We appreciate your statements this past weekend acknowledging that the bill cannot pass in its current form. As you consider proposals moving forward, we think that any legislation should meet the same basic principles. **We ask that by July 14th you publicly commit to rejecting any bill that:**

- causes Floridians to lose coverage,
- caps and cuts the Medicaid program, or
- threatens critical protections for Floridians with pre-existing health conditions.

There are many ways for Congress to come together to strengthen our markets, but this bill is not the answer. It's clear that it cannot be "fixed" without addressing its major structural issues and deep cuts to Medicaid.

Your public commitment to these basic standards will go a long way towards opening up a dialogue between all sides of the issue. We look forward to working with you and your office as we all try to fix health care together.

Sincerely,

Scott Darius, Executive Director
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