

March 21, 2017

Dear Congressman,

My name is Kim. My mother, Anita, and I are constituents in your district. The Affordable Care Act changed our lives, and my mother and I are urging you to vote “no” on the American Health Care Act this week, because of what the law would mean for our health care.

I was diagnosed with Lupus in 2006 and also live with a rare disease that I have had since I was two years old. Several years ago, I had to stop working due to my declining health. I am very lucky New York State chose to expand Medicaid, because that’s how I received health insurance when I could no longer work. My conditions require frequent trips to the doctor and very costly medications. Without insurance, these costs would be unaffordable, and it’s likely that I would have to rely on frequent emergency room trips for my care.

Because of my disability, I now have Medicare after waiting the required two years. Medicaid was a lifesaver for me during those two years, and it’s very upsetting that the American Health Care Act would end that expansion for New Yorkers like me.

I attend a local support group for people who have my same rare disease, and we are all very worried about what this bill will mean for us and our ability to afford the care we need. My support group members and I worry most about the cost of our prescription drugs. I am very disappointed that the American Health Care Act does nothing to bring down the soaring cost of medications in the United States.

My mother also has Medicare now, but that was not always the case. Anita lost her job and was receiving health coverage through COBRA, which cost a whopping \$1,000 a month. My mother struggled with this expense, and she simply could not afford these costs. The Affordable Care Act solved this problem, because like me, she was able to enroll in Medicaid when it expanded. This allowed my mother to see her doctors and fill prescriptions to control her blood pressure and cholesterol. Anita had Medicaid for two years before she turned 65 and enrolled in Medicare.

My mother and I are both so happy to have Medicare, because it makes such a difference in our lives. We don’t have to worry about going to the doctor when we need to, and we know we will have health insurance when we need it most. That’s why it’s so troubling to us that the American Health Care Act takes money away from Medicare to give tax breaks to very wealthy people. We paid into Medicare our whole working lives, and we do not think Congress should take away from Medicare to give more money to the very rich.

When you are voting this week, I hope you will think about us and about the people you represent. We need you to vote against the American Health Care Act, so that we can continue to afford the health care we need.

Sincerely,

Kim and Anita