

Hello Committee members:

I first want to thank you for allowing me to share my story and how (B)CMH helps me and my family. I am a 31 year old who has Cystic Fibrosis. I was first diagnosed when I was 3 months old. I have been very fortunate to always qualify for the help that BCMH provides. When I was younger I never knew how lucky I was, but now that I am an adult, I see how vital this program is. This program helps me to remain an active member of society and ensures that I do not have to worry about how all of my bills will get paid. I am employed full time a social worker for the Early Intervention program, formerly known as Help Me Grow and, my husband works hard loading chips in a warehouse. As many of you know, social workers do not make much money, and although my husband works hard, we aren't exactly rich.

I have my own health insurance through my employer, and I feel that it is great coverage, however I am guaranteed to spend at least \$1500 dollars on all of my testing and medical procedures plus another \$30 any time I see my specialist, which is at least every two months unless I am sick which then means it's more frequently. I am on 15 different medications that I take daily. My co pays ranges from \$2-\$200 for those prescriptions. If I did not have (B)CMH I would pay upwards of \$500 for those meds , not included any oral antibiotics that might get prescribed and my over the counter meds, plus the durable medical equipment it takes to maintain my medi-port that is needed access to a vein since I cannot have any PICC lines due to the damage in my veins from the many hospitalizations I have had. Over all for one month, my prescription medication cost is around \$550 and on a yearly bases I would pay over \$3000 for anything related to my health care.

When I was younger, (B)CMH covered all medical co-pas costs related to my health care and allowed me to remain healthy enough to go to college and obtain my degree so that I could become a working member of society. Now that I am an adult, my coverage through (B)CMH has changed, and only covers prescription medications and durable medical equipment. Even though it does not seem like much, I am far grateful to have this extra help. The extra help it provides allows to me to remain on the the proper medical regimens prescribed by my specialists and remain a productive self sufficient working adult. If (B)CMH is changed as proposed I would lose my coverage and might be forced to make drastic decisions to ensure that I get the medical coverage I need. I could potentially be forced to quit my job, divorce my husband so that I can qualify for programs such as social security disability, Medicaid , and Medicare which then would force the state to cover ALL my medical costs, which would be around \$35,000 a month. I would hate for this to happen because I love my job and am proud that I can be a working adult that contributes to the system versus living off of it.

Thank you for your time and for listening to my story. I hope that I have created a clear picture of how (B)CMH helps me maintain my health and stay a working and productive adult.