

To those who have been elected to represent ALL of us in the great State of Kansas:

I have been lucky to have ALWAYS been covered by insurance, either from my husband's job or from my own. I can't think of anything much scarier than being sick and knowing there is nowhere to go for help. Last year, my son-in-law lost his job and their family of five had no insurance for several months until he got a new job and waited for the required time to get on new insurance. My grandsons have asthma (which has run in the males for generations in our family) and one suffers from chronic sinus infections that required surgery 2 years ago.

All of that would be bad enough, but can you even imagine what it would have been like for a member of their family to have been in a car accident or a playground accident at the grade school and not have any coverage?

My husband and I served as foster parents for 10 years. One of the children that we had from birth to 1 year has been in touch with us throughout his life. The family he was adopted by did not always have insurance and it was heartbreaking to know that he couldn't get medical care when he needed it. He also suffered from asthma and more than once, we paid out of our pocket for him to have a Dr. visit. You might think "well then, he was taken care of." And he WAS on occasion, but everyone doesn't have someone to "pick up the tab."

There are a lot of things we don't "need" in this State, but medical care is not one of them. I am so blessed that my family is all relatively healthy. I don't need respite care from a chronically ill family member or one that is mentally or physically challenged to the point of needing constant attention. But I am aware that there are many in Kansas who now are SUFFERING from the decisions made by those who are supposed to have our best interests at heart.

Maybe the saddest thing about all of this for me is that it seems that those who want to deprive so many of basic necessities are those who call themselves "Christians." I believe Jesus would be disappointed. The Bible is full of references to taking care of the women, children, the sick and the poor. Where is your compassion? It's time to step up and represent ALL Kansans, not just the rich and lucky. Expand Medicaid "even to the least of these."

Many of us are suffering from buyer's remorse.....and we vote! We will be watching.

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