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My name is Sonja Willms. I am a 43 yr old mother, wife, writer, organic gardener and I am disabled. At the age of 14 I was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. I did the best I could with my health, as I was labeled a "brittle" diabetic from the beginning.

At the age of 38 and after some difficulty with my health I became pregnant and I chose to do my best during the pregnancy to keep my baby. I carried my son until he was delivered by emergency C- section 3 months early. He weighed 3 lbs. and 11 oz.

During my last month of pregnancy I lost my eyesight. I was placed on strict bedrest and constant fetal monitoring. I was hospitalized for 40 days trying to stay well enough to keep my baby well and for him to continue to grow. Can you imagine a 40 day stay hospital bill? There was of course specialists, testing and 24 hour care. I lost consciousness the first night I spent in the hospital.

I worked right up until the day my obstetrician admitted me to Stormant Vail. After the birth of my son, he was sent to the NICU for two weeks until coming home at just 5 lbs and 4 oz. During the two weeks I was sent home without him. I contracted pneumonia and was placed in an adjacent hospital, due to Stormant being full. Another hospital bill. Without Medicaid and the services that my son and I still receive to this day, I literally do not know where we would be. I chose to have my son and with the continuing

benefits afforded to us through the program, myself and my son receive proper care.

I am truly grateful as are many others to receive prescriptions at a lower cost.

Recently I have had a double transplant, both kidney and pancreas. Some of my anti-rejection medications are as much as \$4000 a month. I am currently taking 26 different medications daily. I feel that I would not be here, my quality of life would be jeopardized had I not had the benefits of Medicaid. Medical care should be a right all Americans have access to, not just the privileged few. We need to keep and EXPAND MEDICAID for all Kansans needing a hand up. Thank you.