

I was diagnosed with fibrocystic ovarian disease in Arizona in 1979. I was diagnosed with fibromyalgia the first time in Washington state in 1994, the second time in Oklahoma in 1998, and the third time in Arizona in 2000. I was diagnosed in 1994 in Washington state with polycystic ovarian disease. I was diagnosed with moderately severe bilateral carpal tunnel syndrome in Arizona in 2000, had surgery on both wrists. I was diagnosed with polycystic ovarian disease in Arizona in 2000, but the gynecologist recommended against a hysterectomy due to the difficulty I had with recovery from the carpal tunnel surgeries. I was diagnosed with chronic bilateral carpal tunnel syndrome in 2001.

The interaction of these three chronic diseases cost me my job at the end of 2001 and I lost my health insurance. I attempted to attend college as a returning student but my health issues prevented me from graduating. I moved to Kansas in 2007 but was unable to work until 2010; at that time I obtained a job as a private caregiver for my neighbor. It would have been a very easy job for any healthy person, but it strained me to the limits of my physical resources. She died in 2013 and I have been unable to work since then.

I have had no medical care since 2001. Because anti-inflammatories and caffeine act as blood thinners, I can take no over the counter medications at all without causing continuous hemorrhaging from the polycystic/fibrocystic ovarian disease. Because the fibromyalgia remains untreated, I cannot sustain any kind of physical job. Because the carpal tunnel syndrome keeps my wrists weak and my fingers numb, I cannot sustain an office job.

Because I am only 57, I cannot qualify for Medicaid.

Because I have no income, I cannot qualify for healthcare through the ACA in Kansas.

Because I cannot get healthcare, I cannot work.

Because I have three moderate disabilities, rather than one severe disability, I cannot qualify for SSDI or SSI.

Because I have not worked enough quarters, I will not qualify for Social Security retirement benefits nor for Medicare.

In order to rejoin society as a productive working adult, I need healthcare. I need the medications which will control the bleeding, the pain, the nerve damage. I need the physical therapy which will give me back my range of movement, my strength, my stamina. I need to be able to function so that I can make a living.

The Medicaid expansion will do that for me. The Medicaid expansion will give me back my life and let me go back to work.

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