

Dear Legislators,

My name is Jessica Cecil. I live in Lawrence, Kansas with my almost 3 year old daughter and husband. He works for the University of Kansas and is the sole support for our family of three. His job offers health insurance for all of us, but because of his low wages, and the type of plans offered, our daughter is on KanCare, and I still remain uninsured.

I do not qualify for KanCare because I am unemployed and not seeking employment, nor pregnant. I am unemployed and not seeking employment at this time because childcare cost would be equivalent to me going back to work.

I worry about being uninsured. I have suffered from depression and anxiety since 16 and I was able to take care of that when I had access to health insurance, whether it be through my dad's insurance or going into the workforce and acquiring my own. But since losing my job in 2014 the only time I have qualified for KanCare was when I was pregnant. 2 miscarriages and going on and off KanCare was a headache, but worth it by the time I had Anne. Ever since she was born, however, I haven't been able to gain access to health insurance. It's a hardship, it's out of our reach when it comes to budget. A reliable car is a more practical thing to spend our money on.

My lack of access has prevented me from seeing a doctor. The last time I saw a doctor was in January of 2018 when I had a mental breakdown from postpartum depression. The bill was over \$10,000, luckily the hospital had a charity program in place that we qualified and it was 99.99% covered. But I never want to take that chance again of putting my family in that kind of medical debt. I do schedule small visits like flu shots, I recently had a women's wellness exam that cost us \$150, among other things, but all of these are planned out visits that we have to budget and save for. When it comes to emergency care and mental health care for myself, I'm basically out of luck.

I have vision insurance and utilize that because I do need to see. I also have dental insurance, but just recently acquired it. I am terrified to utilize it and go the dentist because I know I'll have to have work done and who knows what out of pocket cost that will take. Every year we talk about me going, but there's always something else we need the money for.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I appreciate your work on this issue.

Jessica Cecil & Family