

James H. Puckett  
1073 Sugar Grove Rd SE  
Lancaster, Ohio 43130  
October 2, 2012

The Honorable Shelly C. Chapman  
One Bowling Green  
Courtroom 621  
New York, New York 10004-1408

Your Honor:

I am writing to explain what the loss of our pension and health care benefits from Patriot Coal would do to my husband and me. We are both in our mid 60's and live on Social Security Disability and his pension from Patriot Coal. My husband had a stroke 7 years ago while working for Patriot Coal. I am a registered nurse but had to quit working several years ago due to my severe Rheumatoid Arthritis. My hands are affected the most and now I even need help tying my shoes.

My husband had worked for Peabody Coal from 1973 to 1990 and for Patriot Coal from 2002 to 2005. While working for Patriot he stayed in W.Va. and would drive home to Ohio on his days off. He knew if he could get his 20 years in we would have a pension and health benefits. Having these benefits have helped us to stay in our house, since my husband has had many stays in the hospital. We would have not been able to afford our part of the medical bills. Since 1988 he has had 7 stents put in his heart and now has a clot in his heart that he takes Coumadin to control. He has also had hospital stays for a major stroke and several TIA's. With his first stroke he was in the hospital for 3 weeks, then to a rehabilitation center for 4 weeks, home rehabilitation for 4 weeks, and then outpatient rehabilitation for many weeks after that. This included speech therapy, physical therapy, and occupational therapy. His speech is still affected from the stroke and the TIA's that he has had.

Without our health benefits I know we would have lost our house. We live a very modest life. My car is 8 years old and my husband's truck is 14 years old. Our house is worth about \$90,000. Since his stroke we don't go on vacations. In today's economy we barely make it. The cost of utilities, food, and gas has gone up so much that we have to stretch every penny, neither of us smoke or drink. If we have to get a secondary health care plan I don't know where the money will come from. Probably we would just have to limit our doctor visits to only emergency care since we will not be able to pay the deductible and co-pay for routine care.

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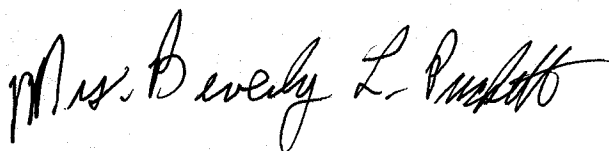
Page 2

My medicine so far this year has been \$15,875.19. The shots I take for my arthritis are almost \$2,000 a month, which is paid for through Patriot & Medicare. So far this year my husband's medicine cost has been almost \$3000. His doctor already wants to schedule a ECHO in a couple of months with a possibility of a cardiac catheterization and or a pacemaker. I know without our health benefits my husband will not have these things done. Each of these test would be several hundred or even thousands of dollars.

God has always seen us through the hard times, when my husband was off work for 2 years after a man- trip ran over his leg and crushed it. His leg is now fused so he can't bend it at the ankle. He was also off work when his spleen had to be removed after he fell at work. His right eye still waters all the time from when someone dropped a crowbar on his face. But even after he saw a man electrocuted, he still returned to the mines. He loved the work and thought his retirement was safe but now we just don't know what will happen.

I know we will survive with God's help and I am praying for you and that you will make the right decision about these hearings. May God Bless You and guide you during the proceedings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mrs. Beverly L. Puckett". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Mrs. Beverly Puckett  
For Mr. James Puckett