

Oct 4, 2012

From: Debra Muller
6755 Horse Creek Road
Morrisville, N. Va. 25565

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

Judge Chapman,

On Dec. 4, 2008, I was diagnosed with Breast Cancer. I was a 48 mother of three grown children, two of which was married. Life was good for me, I had a wonderful loving husband, children that I love dearly, and expectation of one day becoming a grandmother. When I received the call from the Doctor and he told me I had Cancer my world stopped. For many days later my mind was filled with many questions, "am I going die" How will my family go on without their mother, I am never going to know what being a grandmother feels like. So many emotions are involved, anger, sadness etc..

(2)

Once I could wrap my head around exactly what was happening, and talking with the Doctor who informed me that I would be facing a surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation my mind began to think about the cost of all the treatments, and how this would bankrupt us. I had made my mind up that I could not do that to my family, and I would take whatever would come my way. I had been very fortunate in my life that I had never experienced anyone close to me that went through cancer.

My husband has worked since he was 18 years old in the mining field so we had insurance, but I had heard of so many insurance companies who put a cap on cancer policies. I assumed ours would be the same. Much to my surprise when I took our insurance coverage book and began to read it my heart regained hope for a future I thought was gone. Our insurance had no limits on cancer treatments. I was able to receive all I needed and I am happy to say that I am 3 years remission, and a grandmother. All this would not be possible

without the wonderful care I received due to my insurance coverage. As I said my insurance was through my husband who had worked 6 days a week for over 30+ years in the mining field. Many times when contract times would come and my husband would be laid off or striking, they would agree to take a much less pay increase just so they could be guaranteed insurance for their families and the retired who paved the way for them. Now we have Patriot Coal Company who is wanting to take away our insurance, that which was promised to these men and women in a signed contract. How is this fair? Our miners keep up our end of the bargain and made billions of dollars for these companies and now they want to strip away the very thing they poured their blood, sweat and tears into. Coal families are a proud people, we do not want anything we are not entitled to, or have worked for. We are not asking for a handout or a bailout, we just want what our people have worked for, and died for.

(4)

I cannot imagine how different things may have been for me if I did not have U.M.W.A. insurance. I have had many complications due to the cancer, but my insurance has always eased the burden.

I humbly ask you to reject Patriot Coal request to drop retirees insurance. We are still a vital part of society, and we deserve to have health care that we have worked for. Please give us a chance of life.

Sincerely,

Drema D. Miller