

October 3, 2012

The Honorable Shelley C. Chapman

One Bowling Green

Courtroom 621

New York, NY 10004-1408

To Whom It May Concern,

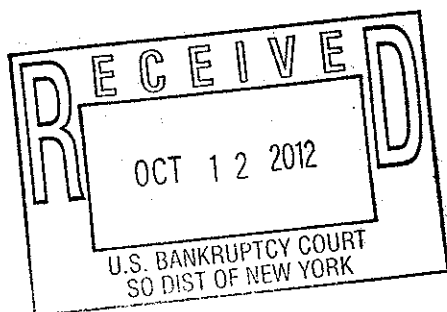
My name is Belvia Meade and I'm writing to you regarding the Patriot Coal Company Bankruptcy Law Suit. My Husband has been a coal Miner nearly all of his life and is soon to be eligible to retire soon. This case has the potential to leave me and my family without medical coverage. I suffer from high blood pressure, arthritis, sarcoidosis, borderline diabetes and recently have had bilateral knee replacements. I have also been treated for depression since my son was lost in a vehicle accident at the age of 21.

Sarcoidosis is a disease caused from an abnormal immune response that results in cells clumping together and forming granulomas that build up in the organs and eventually lead to organ failure. I have to go for regular checkups to monitor and manage the disease. There is no cure, only treatment to manage symptoms. I currently have routine breathing treatments, chest x-rays, CT scans, and lab tests. I also require repeating lung function tests and biopsies. I'm on a multiple medications and inhalers that get very expensive even with insurance. In the future this disease can worsen my eyes and leads to cataracts and glaucoma, eventually causing blindness. The granulomas will build up in my brain and spinal cord leading to paralysis. As I age and my disease progresses, the buildup in my organs will lead to liver/lung transplants.

My medical expenses and medications are already a struggle to cover every month. I can't afford to lose my medical coverage. Please, on behalf of myself and all of the other families that are at risk of losing their health insurance, don't allow them to take away the security that our husbands, fathers, sons and friends have sacrificed so much for so many years to earn for us. I appreciate your time and consideration in this matter. Thank You.

Sincerely,

Belvia Meade
Belvia Meade



Mrs Belvia Meade
P.O. Box 112
Ocean, W.V. 24870

304-682-6828