

October 4, 2012

Honorable Shelley C. Chapman

I am a 53 year old widow of a coal miner who worked for Peabody Coal for 25 years.
I have Type One diabetes. My life depends on my insulin pump and the durable medical equipment needed to control my diabetes.

I monitor my blood glucose approximately 8-10 times per day, using a meter, strips and lancets. The pump requires that I change the infusion set and reservoirs every 2 days.
I depend on this rigorous schedule to prevent further diabetic complications such as loss of eye sight, heart problems, stroke or amputation.

I am also on a daily medication for blood pressure and to prevent kidney damage due to the diabetes.

We also have a grown son who has Down syndrome.

He suffers from low blood pressure and is on a daily medication to keep his blood pressure regulated.

I do not work as I give 24/7 care to our son.

I am a 27 year cancer survivor. I am ordered by my doctor to have yearly mammograms.

We could not possibly do all of this without our medical insurance.

I do not have additional medical coverage, such as Medicare, Medicaid, or any supplemental insurance.

Our insurance is very important to our daily survival.

We also depend on our U.M.W.A. retirement income, as I do not work outside the home.

We desperately need to keep them to survive.

Thank You for your time and consideration.

Melony Diane Lee