## TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE KATHY A. SURRATT-STATES

My husband worked for 32 years underground for the coal mines, 28 years was with Peabody Coal Company.

The last day he worked was Febuary 25, 1999. The next morning, Febuary 26, 1999 he was in the hospital with a major stroke. This stroke left him paralized and unable to go back to the mines or do any other kind of work. It paralized his whole left side. After all of the rehab my husband is walking with a cane and he wears a leg brace, he will always be weak on the left side. He can not do any kind of work. He can't even do anything around the house.

Since this major stroke, There has been other medical problems, he has had two mini strokes, back surgery, open heart surgery (4 by passes), and he is a diabetic, the diabetes has cause him to have three eye surgeries and he can't hardly see out of his right eye. My husband is on 14 prescription pills a day, 5 of these pills are for high blood pressure to keep him from having another stroke. Being a diabetic he is taking four shots of insulin a day, he also gets testing strips to test his sugar two to three times a day. If this healthcare is taken away from us, i don't know what we will do. Medicare only pays 80%, were will the other 20% come from to meet all of the medical bills and buy his medicine.

My husband worked 28 years for Peabody Coal Company, so that in our retirement years we would feel secure with pensions and good healthcare. My husband was 53 years old when he had the stroke. He is now 67 years old and i am 68 years old. We have raised two good boys and we have 5 grandchildren, over the years this healthcare has been a blessing to us. My husband and i are not able to come to St. Louis and i thank you for letting us write you a letter, and in some way i hope that this letter will help us keep our healthcare.

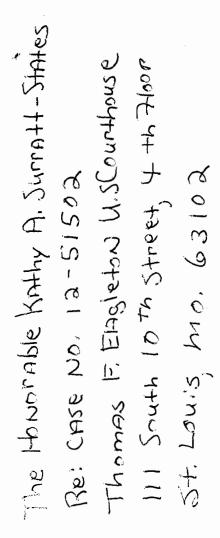
From a retiree of Peabody Coal Company

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