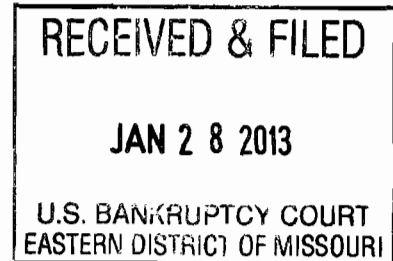


# John and Rhonda Leach

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January 24, 2013

Honorable Kathy A. Surratt-States  
Re: Case No. 12-51502  
Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse  
111 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
St. Louis, MO 63102



I appreciate the time you are taking out of your busy schedule to read this letter about our personal situation. I can not imagine the stress you are going thru with the decision that you have been asked to make! The only thing we could possibly compare it too is the time in our lives when we had to make the decision to unplug our oldest child's life support. So many lives are at stake and regardless of your decision, one side or the other will not be happy. All I am praying for is that god will guide you in your decision according to his will. May God Bless you.

My Husband and I are the parents of 3 mentally and physically challenged children, the oldest, Dena, passed away in 2001. Unknown to us, we were the carriers of a very rare gene- undetectable at birth. All 3 were born before this was diagnosed. The last child was 6 weeks old when we were told what the diagnosis was. John was an employee at Peabody Coal for 23 years working at both underground and surface mines until the age of 50 which according to the contract locked the insurance in for life.

Our family attended the United Mine Workers of America Union meeting in Evansville, Indiana to learn the fate of not only our immediate family but that of thousands of others that depend on Blue Cross and Blue Shield that Peabody, Patriot and Arch has promised insurance too for the rest of their lives. This bankruptcy situation carries with it the ability to either destroy or devastate the lives of retirees, widows and anyone who has worked in the coal industry with the idea and promise of permanent health care. Husbands have passed away thinking their wives at least had the peace of knowing their years of service would provide them with free health care during their final years!

Back in 93, our oldest daughter was in the hospital off and on for nearly a year. They finally diagnosed her with a very rare condition. The bill totaled 168,000.00 and our miners insurance paid it. I ask you, how many ordinary

working people could afford such a bill?

Our 2 remaining children, Elizabeth age 27 and Christopher John 30 are in wheelchairs and diapers. Chris is on a feeding tube due to his inability to swallow properly. It is only a matter of time until Elizabeth will require a tube to sustain her life. All 4 of us require allergy injections each week. The diaper bill alone is almost 200.00 a month and the pads they sleep on are 45.00 a month- all out of pocket. It would take John's entire social security check to cover the cost of insurance should we lose ours. He has worked very hard over the years for what he was promised and it is a shame to make the taxpayers have to pick up the bills for the coverage that this company has promised to provide. These folks are going to have to have some type of help. From a personal standpoint, this decision could destroy our family finances. Our very lives depend on having the benefits that Patriot and Arch are trying to deny us by filing bankruptcy. These coal companies have enjoyed the fruits of labor-the very labor that was supplied by the UMWA. On January 21, 1972 the General Superintendent said "work and retire with insurance for yourself and family for the rest of your life". Years ago we were assured we would have these benefits and the workers mined the coal and these companies prospered all the while.

My family and I wanted to share a little bit of what a day for us is like in our situation. Should you have any questions or want any more information you can reach us at the numbers above.

Sincerely,  
John Leach  
Rhonda Leach

Christopher John Leach

My Mom gets me up everyday and brushes my teeth. Sometimes she stands there while I do it myself but she has to operate the water facet. I like to pull the drain up and play in the water. One time I fell in the floor because I forgot to put on my seat belt.

She has to pick out my clothes- I try to fold them. She washes me off and gets me dressed and puts a patch on my pressure spot. She brushes my hair and shaves me. On Sundays Dad Shaves me because Mom says he does a better job. We go to Church on Sundays. On Wednesdays Mom takes me to the wound center for my Pressure sore. It takes a lot of time for that part of my care. She has to fix my tube feedings. I take 3 cans during the afternoon and 3 at night while I am asleep. On Tuesdays and Thursdays I ride therapeutic horses. Mom teaches a lot of wheel chair and challenged people to ride. She and Dad take us and the others (riders) camping in Illinois during June. She, Dad and others (volunteers) pick me up and help me on the horse. My balance is so bad, I have to have side walkers hold my legs but I can sit up by myself. I ride in challenged horse shows. My horses' name is George and he is very tall. Mom looks around the house for jobs I can do to help her out with the house work. She does lots and lots of my laundry. I fold a lot of clothes but I get so sleepy on those tube feedings I sometimes nap.

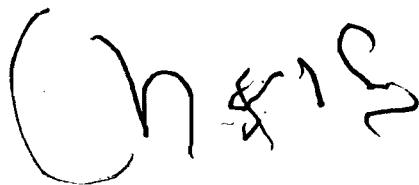
Mom changes me when I soil myself. If Dad is home he does it or if Mom is in town getting supplies.

Mom gets up in the night to check on me cause sometimes I accidentally unplug myself and fill the carpet full of feeding solution. She has to take the shop vac and suck up all the stuff in the carpet, sometimes it goes into my sleeping chair instead or both.

It takes both my Mom and Dad now to give me my bath and I sometimes have to change clothes 3 times in a 24 hour period.

I am here 24 hours a day. Most of the time she stays with me or is only out side mowing the yard. Dad helps a lot and goes with us everywhere especially when Mom takes both my sister Elizabeth and I to Wal-Mart.

Dad has to push my chair when I get tired.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized, with a large loop for the 'C' and a trailing flourish at the end.

Elizabeth Ann Leach

When John retired we were required to write a letter for social security. I have included this to give you an idea as to why insurance is so important to our family. Elizabeth is our "baby". We did not know our children were affected like they were until I became pregnant with her. She was 6 weeks old when the Doctor diagnosed our children with spino cerebellar degeneration or Fredericks Ataxia which is what the first diagnosis was. We offered a blood sample for research and found out there was only 1 other family in the USA whose symptoms matched. They declined the sample. We think it has mutated into something that has yet to be diagnosed fully. Death usually occurs 20 years from onset. Elizabeth is now 27 years old with an 80 or so IQ. Our insurance is vital to our family's existence.

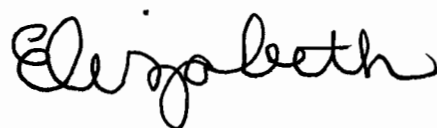
My Mom helps me when I get up in the morning. Dad helps when Mom has to do something else. If I do not wait for her to help me out of bed I usually fall trying to get up. Then she has to pick me up. Sometimes, Dad has to help her. I am still able to wash my face and brush my teeth and take my medicine by myself but I am 3 years younger than my brother. Mom helps me get cleaned up. She helps me put on my undergarment and pull my pants up. She brushes my hair. She has to pick me up and slide me onto the tub chair. She has to help me wash my hair but I can still wash myself pretty good.

She helps me out of the tub. She fixes my breakfast because we have steps into our kitchen and my chair will not go down into it without help. I can help her cook and run the mixer but she does all the rest of the food prep.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays they take us up to the indoor arena for therapeutic riding. She and others lift me up on my horse and I can still ride by myself. She drove our truck to Ill and took our group camping this past summer.

Mom has to change me a lot- sometimes 2 or 3 times a day. I use a lot of clothes. She shops for my food and all the things I need. Mom and Dad take us to Church.

She gives us chores to do and says If you do not make your bodies work you will lose whatever strength you have. We do all we can to help her and Dad.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent loop at the end of the word.

J. Leach  
819. W.D. Leach Ln  
Beaver Dam, Ky  
42320

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2013 JAN 28 AM 10: 22

The Honorable Kathy A. Scott - States

Re: Case No. 12-51502

Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse  
111 South 10th Street, 4th Floor  
St. Louis, Mo 63102

CLERK, U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI-MR

wrong date d

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2013 JAN 27 PM 11: 14

CLERK, U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI-MR

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