

October 2, 2012

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

Your Honor,

I am writing this letter, not for myself so much, but mainly because of my wife, Ruth Ann. We have been married over 33 years and she has been a real blessing to me. She has been suffering abnormally for a person of her age, she is 53, and was diagnosed about 3 years ago with both Rheumatoid Arthritis and Fibromyalgia. Her doctor has tried several different medications to both give her relief from her symptoms and to try and slow or stop the progression of these diseases. She came home from her doctor yesterday and told me that the medications weren't working well enough and that she was going to have to take shots for this, once they were submitted and approved by our insurance.

These shots are very expensive and we cannot afford them without our insurance. I am retired on disability and I have Medicare, so the loss of this insurance isn't as crucial to me as it is for my wife, for this is the only insurance that we have, or thought that we would ever need. Without these shots, her doctor has told her that she could become very crippled and unable to perform most of her normal activities because of the pain and the damage to her body that these diseases can cause.

I worked for Peabody Coal for over 35 years as an electrician and I am retired on disability due to an injury at our mine, Federal #2 , Miracle Run, Fairview, WV. They installed some equipment and to use it, we had to perform some very dangerous duties. I warned them that someone could easily get hurt in the performance of these duties and I was ignored. After I was injured, and they were forced by the company to submit pictures and an explanation of what happened, the company's safety department made them redesign the way this was done.

So although I worked over 35 years, am retired mainly because of some bad decisions made by company personnel, I am now told that I may lose my insurance.

Also, I live close to the mine and still attend a bible study that was started quite a while before I had to retire, I see and hear of a lot of "company" positions that have been created since I left their facility. So if they are in such financial difficulty, why aren't they doing something about this 'topheavy' management where they are paying out much more than they have at any time in the past. I guess it is easier to take away from those of us who are no longer present than to look at the financial waste that is right under their nose.

Sincerely,

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