

HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA NOW!

1825 K Street NW Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20006

October 19, 2009

Ms. Karen Ignagni (President and CEO)
America's Health Insurance Plans
601 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
South Building Suite 500
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Ms. Ignagni:

America's Health Insurance Plans is holding its 14th annual State Issues Conference at the Capital Hilton on Thursday Oct. 22. It is our understanding that you will be attending the event. We – the undersigned - are representatives of seven families harmed by the health insurance industry; we will be at the same hotel that afternoon; and we request the opportunity to meet with you.

Our families are or were customers of the major health insurance companies represented by your lobbying organization. We believe it is important for you to hear firsthand the ways in which the entities you represent have disrupted our lives.

We have lost siblings who could not get health insurance coverage due to pre-existing conditions. We have been overcharged, only to have our policies cancelled when our health care needs became less profitable for your members. We have been given the runaround in the midst of hospitalization and been forced to declare bankruptcy due to medical bills that your companies refused to cover. We have had to move back in with parents as medical expenses swallowed up our salaries and our savings.

While only seven of us will be at the Hilton on Thursday, we speak for millions who cannot obtain health insurance or who have coverage but still cannot get needed medical services.

Ms. Ignagni, we are not simply claims to be denied. We are siblings and parents and survivors who believe you should look us in the eye, hear our stories, and understand what you are lobbying against.

We plan to be at the Capital Hilton Hotel at 3pm on Thursday and hope to see you there. Please understand that we are not interested in discussing these issues with a representative or spokesperson. After everything our families have endured, we feel the least you could do is participate in this meeting personally.

Sincerely,

David and Kelly Arellanes, Little Rock, Arkansas
Stephanie Beck Borden, Cincinnati, Ohio
Courtney Jenkins-Atnip, Nashville, Tennessee
Georgeanne Koehler, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Sharon Lantz, Wilmington, Delaware
Elretha and William and Kevin Scott, San Jose, California
Susan and Warren Pearl, Fort Lauderdale, Florida