

From: Carol Richardson <richiecb@charter.net>
To: Lt. Governor's OfficeLtGov@scstatehouse.gov
Date: 7/11/2018 2:11:27 PM
Subject: Medicaid Wellcare Insurance Co.

Hi Lt Governor Bryant.

My family has been a big supporter of yours since your first run for office. My granddaughter is Tori Sizemore of whom I know you know well.

The reason for my email is that I need your help for my daughter, Kelly Richardson, who is totally disabled and on SSI and Medicaid. Before Obomacare took affect, Kelly had private insurance, but lost her insurance and had to go on Medicaid as she had become totally disabled during this time.

Kelly is very obese (360 lbs) and really sick. She started two years ago seeking Bariatric Surgery and was referred to Dr. Adam Beall of Anmed's Bariatric program. In August of last year she began the program to qualify for the approval by Wellcare of SC under Dr. Beall's direction, her Primary Physician, Psychiatrist, Nutritionist and Pulmonary Physician. At the end of April, Dr Beall submitted all necessary documents to Wellcare for approval. On June 13, Wellcare denied her surgery. We have Appealed their decision.

Below are all the illnesses Kelly has that is caused by her obesity:

Co-Morbidities due to Morbid Obesity 1. Obesity Hypoventilation Syndrome which requires oxygen 2. Type II Diabetes 3. Peripheral Neuropathy 4. Agoraphobia 5. Umbilical Hernia which cannot be repaired until drastic weight loss 6. BMI is greater than 50 7. Hypertension 8. Sleep Apnea 9. Recurring attacks of Shingles and Skin infections 10. Paranasal Inverted Polyp - cannot be removed until weight loss due to high risk. 11. COPD

As you can see, she is really sick, is on oxygen, has been emergency hospitalized 2 times since October last year due to Respiratory Failure and Pneumonia and is mostly home bound and really requires the weight loss surgery to regain her health. Two years ago when she first met with Dr. Beall, she went on a very strict diet, but has lost only 40 lbs and all this time, her diabetes and lungs have gotten worse.

I have a Hugh problem with Wellcare of SC of how terrible they treat their patients. I have contacted our state Medicaid office seeking help in getting all the information that we need from Wellcare of which I haven't been able to get concerning all information we need for the appeal we've filed. I've been working on this since June 15.

The most important issue for Kelly is getting Wellcare to approve the surgery on the appeal and if there is anything you can to do help in this situation, we would be so grateful. Thank you for being our Lt. Governor and thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Carol B. Richardson, Representative for Kelly.

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