

To the Honorable Shelley C. Chapman,

I am a former employee of Patriot Coal. I spent almost 30 years in the coal mines, the last 22 with Hobet Mining at Julian, WV. I depend so much on the health care that is provided by my UMWA coverage. I was determined to be disabled in 2005 and have not worked since 2004. I have had 4 surgeries on my back, 2 full knee replacements, 2 surgeries on my foot, 1 surgery on each hand. I have also been diagnosed with severe rheumatoid arthritis. The medicine alone for me is about 3,000 dollars a month. My wife suffers from acute pancreatitis and her medicine bill is quite high, too.

Without our healthcare, I don't know what we would do each day. I trust that you will make the right decision concerning this issue.

Yours truly,  
David + Pam Bowman  
Julian, WV

